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IRAN'S REPEAT ASSAULT ON KUWAIT, BAHRAIN DRAWS GLOBAL FURY



Here we go again!

War jitters return as Trump pulls the plug on ceasefire

Iran is a rogue state ... dealing with it harshly is the best move

AFTER several attempts, US President Donald Trump finally realized that the Tehran regime is deceitful.

At a press conference in the Turkish capital, Ankara, Trump stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with Iran is over. He added that he does not want to waste time with them, because Iranian officials are sick and troublemakers.

"Better late than never." However, this rule does not apply to a bloody terrorist regime like that of Iran. Therefore, the United States and the whole world should have dealt with the current Iranian regime in a realistic manner.

America and the world should have heeded the statements of Gulf and Arab officials that this regime does not seek peace and stability, as it rather seeks hegemony through any means. Iran intends to turn back the clock and revive the idea of the Persian Empire, which dominated the minds of Iranians for about 1,350 years, and the dreams of revenge for Hormuz who was defeated by the army of Khalid ibn Al-Walid at the Battle of Chains.

The goal is not to dredge up the past, but rather to highlight the reality that has continued to shape Iranian culture since ancient times.

Iran has been characterized by treachery for centuries, not only towards the Arab region, but towards all nations it has dealt with. The Iranians have always exploited negotiations to exhaust their adversaries and achieve their goals. Historically, Iran has never won a single war in two centuries, but it always sought to prolong exhausting negotiations.

Hence, when I refer to Iranian treachery, it is a realistic and contemporary observation of events we have witnessed for decades, not just with the current regime, which toed the path of political blackmail and terrorism, hiding behind sectarian religious slogans to establish proxies that corrupted the region.

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KUWAIT CITY, July 8, (Agencies): The Kuwaiti Armed Forces announced Wednesday that they successfully intercepted two hostile ballistic missiles and 13 hostile drones that entered the country's airspace early in the day, with no casualties or material damage reported.

Ministry of Defense spokesperson Col. Staff Saud Al-Otaibi said the Armed Forces remain on continuous operational readiness and are fully prepared to carry out their duties with efficiency and professionalism to safeguard the country's security and ensure the safety of citizens and residents.

Following the interceptions, the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy said debris from the attack damaged several overhead power lines. The ministry confirmed, however, that electricity services were not affected.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned the latest Iranian attack, describing it as a violation of Kuwait's sovereignty and international law that undermines regional and international efforts to de-escalate tensions. It reaffirmed Kuwait's legitimate right to take all necessary measures to protect its security and stability.

Kuwait also condemned the repeated Iranian attacks on Bahrain, calling them a

flagrant violation of the kingdom's sovereignty and a clear breach of international law. The ministry stressed the importance of respecting international law and UN Security Council Resolution 2817, while reaffirming Kuwait's full solidarity with Bahrain and support for all measures taken to safeguard its sovereignty, security and stability.

Qatar condemned the repeated Iranian attacks on Kuwait and Bahrain, describing them as blatant violations of both countries' sovereignty and international law. The Qatari Foreign Ministry emphasized the need to shield the region from the consequences of the unjustified attacks, continue dialogue and diplomacy, and build on the gains achieved under the memorandum of understanding. It reaffirmed Qatar's full solidarity with Kuwait and Bahrain.

Oman also denounced the attacks on Kuwait and Bahrain, as well as incidents involving Saudi and Qatari commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. The Omani Foreign Ministry warned that escalating military tensions threaten regional security, maritime safety, international trade and global energy supplies. It urged all parties to exercise maximum restraint, halt further escalation, prioritize diplomacy and implement existing understandings to preserve regional peace and stability.

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His Highness the Prime Minister chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday. PM Diwan photo

Kuwait dips into reserves to cover KD 7.14 bln gap

Cabinet okays accounts, speeds digital drive

KUWAIT CITY, July 8, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Cabinet, chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, approved on Tuesday a draft decree-law adopting the state's final accounts for the fiscal year 2025/2026, which concluded with an actual budget deficit of KD 7.14 billion (approx. USD 23.28

billion). Following the routine weekly session, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sharida Al-Maousherji announced that state revenues reached roughly KD 16.45 billion (approx. USD 53.64 billion) against public expenditures of KD 23.59 billion (approx. USD 76.92

billion), according to the cabinet-approved draft decree.

Under the approved draft, the entire KD 7.14 billion (approx. USD 23.28 billion) fiscal shortfall will be covered via drawdowns from the General Reserve Fund (GRF).

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Photos by Samer Shiger
Officials and guests from Kuwait and Portugal during the presentation ceremony of two art pieces gifted to the Museum of Modern Art.

Two Portuguese artworks find new home in Kuwait

By Bassam Al-Qassab
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: In an initiative embodying the depth of cultural relations between Kuwait and Portugal, the Museum of Modern Art hosted a ceremony for the handover of two prominent art pieces by Portuguese artist Miguel Rodrigues and the late photographer Manuel Correa – gifts from Portugal.

The art pieces are considered a valuable addition to the collection of the museum, reaffirming that art is one of the most important bridges of communication among peoples and cultures.



One of the art pieces gifted by Portugal.

Present at the event were representatives of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), along

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Grid hit, power held

No more blackout

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy announced Wednesday that several overhead power lines went out of service due to damages caused by shrapnel from the interception of the Iranian attack on the country.

The ministry affirmed that this did not disrupt the electricity service, adding that its emergency teams, in coordination with the security authorities, immediately started assessing the damage and carried out the necessary repairs.

In the early morning hours Wednesday, the ministry confirmed the damage to some power transmission lines, which led to power outage in many areas. It indicated that emergency teams implemented the approved emergency plan to determine the causes of the power outage and worked hard to restore electricity as quickly as possible.

It also urged the citizens and expatriates to obtain information only from official sources and to ignore rumors or unreliable information.

In another statement, the ministry confirmed the restoration of electricity to a number of the affected areas, while the emergency teams continued their work to quickly restore service in the remaining areas.

It then expressed its appreciation for the cooperation of the citizens and expatriates, and affirmed its continuous monitoring of the situation until full service is restored.

The ministry previously announced the restoration of power to Khairan, noting that the outage was caused by an emergency fault affecting some overhead lines connected to the Khairan (AZ) main substation.

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Oil slump ups revenue fears

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: Kuwaiti crude oil prices have experienced successive and significant declines in recent weeks, falling sharply from a peak of \$124 in mid-May to \$69 in yesterday's trading.

Amid these rapid developments and forecasts by US banks that oil prices could drop to around \$60 per barrel by the end of the year, the daily raised a number of questions about the current state of the oil market.

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Ahmed Ibrahim Mahmoud Khatib takes home KD 1 million in Gulf Bank's AIDanah Millionaire



KFH organizes the largest honor ceremony for top high school graduates

Cargo plane wreckage found off Pakistan's coast

ISLAMABAD, July 8, (AP): Civilian and navy searchers off Pakistan's coast Wednesday located and recovered wreckage of a cargo plane that disappeared while approaching the southern port of Karachi, and a search continues for five missing crew members, officials said.

The aircraft operated by the pri-

ate carrier K2 Airways had departed from Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates and reported a navigational system problem before losing contact with air traffic control late Tuesday.

The Pakistani navy and civilian teams in planes and ships found the wreckage after about 12 hours of searching in the Arabian Sea, Paki-

stan's Airports Authority said in a post on X. The search continued for five missing people who were aboard the aircraft.

Three officials familiar with the search operation, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the incident, said the vast search area in the Arabian Sea and rough monsoon seas

were posing significant challenges to the search-and-rescue operation.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed sympathy with the families of the five crew members, according to a statement from his office, and directed the government to deploy all available resources for the search effort.

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HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

The king who abdicated the throne for a woman

He was crowned after the death of his father, King George V

A natural transfer of power turned into an unprecedented constitutional crisis

A divorced American woman changed the history of the United Kingdom

The king was not only the head of state but also the head of the church

It was unacceptable for the king to marry a divorced woman

He entered history as a king who chose not to rule and to live freely

A ruler wanted to marry off his only daughter but was unsure who to choose

The ruler's wife suggested sending his soldiers to the mosque at night

They hoped to find a young man who preferred worship rather than to sleep

A thief decided to rob the mosque and found the doors locked

He climbed the walls and fell inside the mosque. He then heard footsteps

The soldiers saw a young man praying in the dark night

My God, You made me a prince and granted me the king's daughter through a false prayer

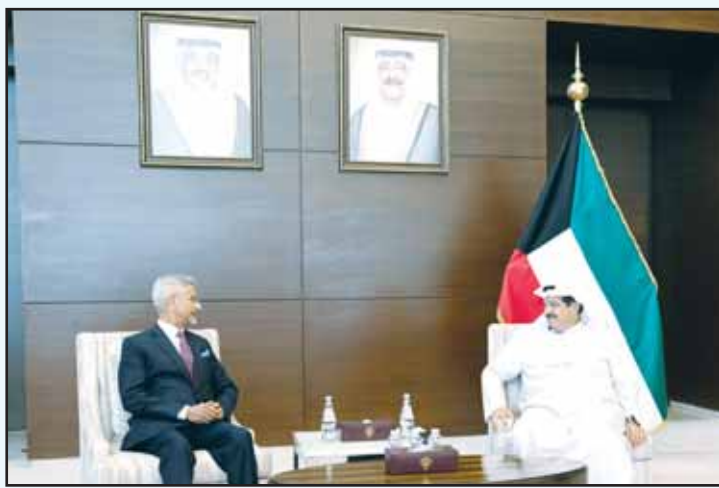


Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:21 Asr 15:27
 Sunrise .. 04:55 Maghrib .. 18:51
 Zohr 11:53 Isha 20:22



Crown Prince Diwan photo
 HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives India's Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar.



PM Diwan photo
 HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives the Indian Foreign Minister.



KUNA photo
 Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets his Indian counterpart Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

Kuwait's Crown Prince, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister receive Indian FM

KUWAIT CITY, July 8, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Wednesday India's Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar, and his accompanying delegation on occasion of official visit to the country.

The meeting reviewed the longstanding bilateral relations between Kuwait and India and discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation across various fields, in addition to exchanging views on issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Chief of the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and senior officials.

Prime Minister

His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received India's Minister of External Affairs, Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, and his accompanying delegation on Wednesday during his visit to Kuwait.

The meeting reviewed bilateral cooperation between Kuwait and India and discussed ways to further strengthen ties. The two sides also exchanged views on the latest regional and international developments.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Acting Chief of the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikh Khaled Mohammad Al-Sabah, Kuwait's Ambassador to India Mishal Al-Shamali, and Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Nawaf Al-Ahmad.

Foreign Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met with Indian counterpart Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, and his accompanying delegation on Wednesday during his visit to Kuwait.

The meeting reviewed "historic" bilateral relations and means to further them, as well as latest regional and international developments, read a ministry statement. A luncheon was held in honor of the Indian top diplomat.



PM Diwan photo
 HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives the CEO of Brookfield Corporation Bruce Flatt and his accompanying delegation during his visit to the country.

Strengthen ties with global firms for investment – PM

KUWAIT CITY, June 8, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Wednesday the CEO of Brookfield Corporation Bruce Flatt and his accompanying delegation during his visit to the country.

The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation with global companies and encouraging foreign investment, which contributes to advancing the country's development and business environment.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs

and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdulatif Al-Meshari and Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem.

Also at the reception were Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, KDIPA Assistant Director General Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Humoud Al-Sabah, Acting Chief of the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikh Khaled Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and Kuwait Investment Authority CEO Sheikh Saud Salem Abdulaziz Al-Sabah.

MC member lauds PAS backing to establish Kuwait bicycle park

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: Municipal Council member Alia Al-Farsi expressed her appreciation to the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) for supporting her proposal to establish the Kuwait Bicycle Park, which she submitted three years ago.

In a press statement, Al-Farsi emphasized that the support of PAS is a significant step towards implementing the project to serve various segments of society.

She said the project is a comprehensive vision that combines promoting sports, preserving the environment, stimulating domestic tourism, and supporting the local economy.

She explained that the park will be the first specialized and safe recreational space for cyclists, aligning with the direction of the country towards improving the quality of life and providing modern sports and recreational facilities for the public.

She revealed that the project opens the door for the private sector to participate in developing and operating facilities, in addition to providing spaces to support

small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in order to create investment opportunities and invigorate economic activity at the park.

She indicated that over the years, she has been following up the project with various government entities, and conducted a comprehensive visual presentation on its components and objectives in one of the committees at the Municipal Council.

She stated that she had a series of meetings with the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), the relevant tourism authorities and PAS, affirming that all of them expressed support for the project.

She added that the letter from PAS is a manifestation that it believes in the project's importance, particularly its assertion that the Kuwait Bicycle Park is a significant step towards creating a healthy environment.

She is hoping that the necessary procedures will be completed soon to kick-start the implementation of the project, making it a valuable addition to the recreational and sports infrastructure of the country.

'No need to display cam stickers'

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: The Ministry of Interior confirmed that private homeowners are not required to display warning stickers indicating the presence of surveillance cameras within their property boundaries, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry clarified that this requirement applies only to commercial and government establishments and public buildings, in accordance with Law No. 61/2015 on the regulation and installation of security cameras and monitoring devices and its executive regulations.

In a press statement, the General Department of Public Relations and

Security Media at the Ministry of Interior explained that private homeowners have the option to display the warning sticker or not when installing surveillance cameras on their properties, based on the provisions of the law and its implementing regulations.

The department urged the public to exercise caution when sharing information related to laws and regulations and to rely on official sources to avoid spreading inaccurate information.

It also advised those seeking clarification on the law's provisions or further information to contact it exclusively via WhatsApp at 25580888.

FM meets counterparts on NATO Summit sidelines

ISTANBUL, July 8, (KUNA): Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met Finnish counterpart Elina Valtonen on Tuesday.

In a statement, Kuwait's Foreign Ministry said the meeting took place during Sheikh Jarrah's visit to Ankara to lead Kuwait's delegation participating in the ministerial meeting of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative countries and NATO member states, held alongside the NATO Summit.

The two ministers reviewed bilateral relations between Kuwait and Finland and discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation across various fields.

They also exchanged views on the latest regional and international developments.

Germany

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met German Foreign Minister Dr. Johann Wadepuhl on Tuesday.

In a statement, Kuwait's Foreign Ministry said the meeting took place during Sheikh Jarrah's visit to Ankara to lead Kuwait's delegation participating in the ministerial meeting of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative countries and NATO member states, held alongside the NATO Summit.

The two ministers reviewed bilateral relations between Kuwait and Germany and discussed ways to further develop and strengthen cooperation across various fields. They also exchanged views on the latest regional and international developments.

Kuwait FM meets Belgian counterpart on sidelines of NATO meetings

Belgium

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Development Cooperation Maxime Prevot on Tuesday.

In a statement, Kuwait's Foreign Ministry said the meeting took place

during Sheikh Jarrah's visit to Ankara to lead Kuwait's delegation participating in the ministerial meeting of Istanbul Cooperation Initiative countries and NATO member states, held alongside the NATO Summit.

The two ministers reviewed bilateral relations between Kuwait and Belgium and discussed ways to further develop and strengthen cooperation across various fields. They also exchanged views on the latest regional and international developments.

Poland

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski on Tuesday.

In a statement, Kuwait's Foreign Ministry said the meeting took place during Sheikh Jarrah's visit to Ankara to lead Kuwait's delegation participating in the ministerial meeting of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative countries and NATO member states, held alongside the NATO Summit.

The two ministers reviewed bilateral relations between Kuwait and Poland and discussed ways to enhance cooperation in various fields. They also exchanged views on the latest regional and international developments.

Romania

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met Romanian Foreign Minister Oana-Silvia Iu on Tuesday.

In a statement, Kuwait's Foreign Ministry said the meeting was held during Sheikh Jarrah's visit to Ankara to lead Kuwait's delegation participating in the ministerial meeting of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative countries and NATO member states, held alongside the NATO Summit.

The two ministers reviewed bilateral relations between Kuwait and Romania and discussed ways to further develop and strengthen cooperation across various fields. They also exchanged views on the latest regional and international developments.



KUNA photo
 Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah addressing an ICI-NATO ministerial meeting.

Kuwait to up NATO bonds

Pledge to counter threats

ISTANBUL, July 8, (KUNA): Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Tuesday affirmed Kuwait's resolve to bolster joint action with NATO under the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) to confront regional security challenges and explore new venues of cooperation.

Addressing an ICI-NATO ministerial meeting held on the sidelines of the NATO Summit in Turkey, Sheikh Jarrah said Kuwait's hosting of the NATO-ICI Regional Centre underscores the depth of the partnership and a shared commitment to constructive political dialogue.

He noted that bilateral cooperation has seen significant milestones, including the 20th-anniversary celebration of the ICI in New York in September 2024 and the inauguration of the Kuwait-NATO Political and Security Dialogue last January.

Turning to regional developments, the Foreign Minister reiterated Kuwait's condemnation of the recent Iranian aggression against its civilian and vital infrastructure, branding it a flagrant violation of national sovereignty and UN Security Council Resolution 2817.

While welcoming the US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding, Sheikh Jarrah praised the mediation efforts of Qatar and Pakistan. He expressed hope the accord would foster regional stability by addressing Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) concerns, particularly regarding good neighborliness and regional non-interference.

The minister clarified that this includes halting the activities of its regional proxies, dismantling its ballistic missile and drone programs, guaranteeing the unhindered freedom of navigation through the strategic Strait of Hormuz, maintaining the peaceful nature of its nuclear program, and ensuring that newly unfrozen Iranian assets are not channeled into activities that destabilize regional security.

Concluding his speech, Sheikh Jarrah proposed hosting a joint ministerial meeting between ICI countries and NATO allies in Kuwait in 2027 to sustain collective efforts toward enduring regional stability.

Other Voices

Corruption in co-ops, 'charitable societies'

By Ahmad alsarraf

DESPITE all the penalties, expulsions, referrals to the Public Prosecution, and public disclosure of violations, and despite the firm approach adopted by the Ministry of Social Affairs towards the boards of directors of various cooperative societies, particularly those managing large sums of money, some officials continue to misappropriate the funds of these societies.

Methods of misappropriation have become more sophisticated, and the temptation to steal has increased. Loopholes in the relevant laws have made it easier for some officials to commit violations.

Frequent changes in personnel and oversight mechanisms within these entities have also reduced the effectiveness of supervision. What motivates those who manage cooperative and charitable societies to make greater efforts to uncover corruption is the perception that these funds are not public money, but rather the small contributions of shareholders who pay little attention to how their money is managed.

Years ago, I had written about the scandal involving several charitable societies that obtained licenses to operate cafes, restaurants, flower shops, and gift stores inside dozens of hospitals and medical centers without paying rent or covering the costs of cleaning, electricity, or water.

It was later revealed that these locations, originally allocated to charitable societies, had been subleased for nominal amounts to certain members of parliament affiliated with their religious group. Their names were published in newspapers and recorded in the parliamentary proceedings. These contracts were later canceled and replaced with more favorable arrangements.

Just days ago, it became clear that leasing these locations could generate substantial revenue for the State Treasury. Caribou Coffee agreed to pay KD 906,000 annually to operate a cafe in the new Cancer Hospital. Al-Ghunaim Company, owner of the Coffee Bean brand, secured contracts to operate cafes at the Al-Rashed Allergy Center and the Farwaniya Dental Center for an annual rent of KD 406,000. The Kuwait Flour Mills Company obtained the right to operate a cafe at Al-Razi Hospital for an annual fee of KD 258,000. Coffee Bean also won the contract to operate the shops in the Ministries Complex for KD 1,254,000 annually.

It was therefore unsurprising that the Ministry of Social Affairs, which oversees cooperative societies, discovered that some cooperative societies had been leasing fast-food outlets and juice and beverage shops for as little as KD 1,500 per month. It was later revealed that the leaseholders had been subletting these premises to other investors for monthly amounts ranging from KD 8,000 to KD 10,000. This prompted the ministry to require the cooperative societies to file lawsuits against the subtenants and seek their eviction, as the contracts prohibited subletting. Where were the ministry's inspectors while these large-scale abuses, some of which continued for more than 14 years, taking place?

Millions of dinars have been lost by the shareholders of these societies, and the ministry may never be able to recover those losses. Most likely, no one will be held accountable for this negligence and failure to act.

The current system for managing and overseeing cooperative societies that handle large sums of money creates conditions conducive to corruption among their managers, making a comprehensive overhaul and more effective restructuring essential.



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HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



The king who abdicated the throne for a woman

SOMETIMES, a person needs a moment of peace, even if achieving it requires giving up many things that some consider important in life. Since humans are inherently political beings, this instinct is a fundamental aspect of existence. However, some individuals choose to give up such privileges in order to live in peace. Among them was King Edward VIII of Great Britain (June 23, 1894 – May 28, 1972).

Edward VIII abdicated the throne because of his love for an American woman, Wallis Simpson. He viewed ruling a great nation as nothing more than a constraint, and in 1936 he relinquished the crown in order to marry her, despite being the second monarch of the House of Windsor.

This is the story of Edward VIII, who was not a minor royal figure, but one of the most prominent heirs to the British throne.

Edward VIII was crowned on January 20, 1936, following the death of his father, King George V. However, what was expected to be a natural transfer of power quickly developed into an unprecedented constitutional crisis.

The crisis was caused not by war or a coup, but by Wallis Simpson, an American woman who was in the process of divorcing her second husband.

The controversy arose because the king was not only the head of state but also the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. At the time, it was considered unacceptable for the monarch to marry a divorced woman whose former husband was still alive.

This was not merely a personal decision; it was an issue that affected the delicate balance between the monarchy, the British government, the Commonwealth, and the Church.

The British government rejected the marriage, and the Commonwealth did not support it. This raised a crucial question - could

- He was crowned after the death of his father, King George V
- A natural transfer of power turned into an unprecedented constitutional crisis
- A divorced American woman changed the history of the United Kingdom
- The king was not only the head of state but also the head of the church
- It was unacceptable for the king to marry a divorced woman
- He entered history as a king who chose not to rule and to live freely
- A ruler wanted to marry off his only daughter but was unsure who to choose
- The ruler's wife suggested sending his soldiers to the mosque at night
- They hoped to find a young man who preferred worship rather than to sleep
- A thief decided to rob the mosque and found the doors locked
- He climbed the walls and fell inside the mosque. He then heard footsteps
- The soldiers saw a young man praying in the dark night
- My God, You made me a prince and granted me the king's daughter through a false prayer

the king remain on the throne while challenging this delicate balance?

On December 11, 1936, King Edward VIII signed the Instrument of Abdication. In a radio address to the nation, he said he found it unbearable to carry the heavy burden of responsibility as king without the woman he loved by his side.

Thus, Edward VIII abdicated less than a year after ascending the throne, entering history not as a long-reigning monarch, but as a king who chose not to rule.

His abdication was not merely the result of a personal romance; it was a historic event that completely altered the line of succession. His brother, George VI, succeeded him, and the throne later passed to his daughter, Queen Elizabeth II, who became one of Britain's longest-reigning monarchs. This historical path would not have occurred without Edward VIII's decision.

* * *

The thief's trick and the ruler's dilemma

A ruler wanted to marry off his only daughter, but he was deeply troubled. How could he find a suitable husband for her, someone who would treat her well and provide him with confidence in his daughter's future?

One night, his wife suggested that he send his soldiers to the mosque in the middle of the night, hoping they would find a righteous young man who had chosen to stand in prayer before his Lord, preferring worship over sleep.

That night, a thief decided to rob the mosque, but he found the doors locked. He climbed over the walls and fell inside. While searching for something valuable to steal, he suddenly heard footsteps and the sound of keys turning in the lock.

The thief became confused and frightened. The only way to save himself was to pretend that he was praying. When the soldiers entered, they were surprised by what they saw.

They found a young man praying in the mosque and assumed that, because of his strong faith, he had discovered the doors locked and climbed the walls in order to enter and worship.

The soldiers decided to wait until he finished his prayer so they could take him to the ruler. Out of fear, the thief began another prayer immediately after completing the first. The soldiers waited for a long time, then decided to seize him as soon as he finished praying, before he could start another one.

They brought the young man before the ruler and told him about his devotion, strong faith, and continuous prayers.

The ruler said joyfully, "Yes, this is the man I want as a husband for my daughter." He then asked the young man if he would accept becoming a prince and marrying his daughter.

The young man was shocked and said to himself, "What... a prince?"

He lowered his head and humbly prayed to his Lord: "My God, You have made me a prince and granted me the king's daughter in marriage through a false prayer. What would Your gift and honor be, O Lord, if I truly worshipped You with faith, sincerity, and contentment?"

And so, the young man was transformed from a thief into a devout worshipper.



KUNA photo
The Ministry of Commerce and Industry inspectors during the campaign.

11,000 fake goods seized, MoCI shuts down 8 shops

KUWAIT CITY, July 8, (KUNA): The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced on Tuesday the seizure of around 11,000 counterfeit clothing, footwear and handbag items bearing fake international trademarks and the closure of eight violating shops during a joint inspection campaign with the Ministry of Interior.

In a statement to KUNA, the ministry said the operation was carried out following prior monitoring and surveillance by the Capital Governorate Inspection Control Team in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior's Hawalli Governorate Criminal Investigation Department.

The campaign resulted in the detection of several shops involved in possessing, displaying and selling counterfeit products in violation of laws regulating intellectual property rights and trademarks.

The ministry warned that such practices harm Kuwait's reputation and international standing in combating counterfeit goods and protecting intellectual property rights, while also infringing on the rights of trademark owners.

It added that eight shops were immediately closed, the seized items were confiscated, official violation reports were filed, and legal procedures were initiated against those responsible.



KUNA photo
Director General of Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Maj. Gen. Talal Al-Roumi and Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Ambassador Sheikha Jawaher Al-Sabah, discuss several topics of mutual interest.

Kuwait backs women role in army institutions – KFF

KUWAIT CITY, July 8, (KUNA): Director General of Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Maj. Gen. Talal Al-Roumi and Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Ambassador Sheikha Jawaher Al-Sabah, discussed several topics of mutual interest on Wednesday while meeting with the first graduating class of female officers.

In a press statement, KFF said that this initiative supports national talent and reflects Kuwait's commitment in enhancing the role of women in military institutions, upholding the principle of equal opportunities, keeping pace with development trends, and strengthening the readiness and efficiency of the Fire Force in fulfilling its national mission.

No 'invasion' of gov't land

Campaign begins as deadline ends

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: The Kuwait Municipality launched its 'Kuwait is More Beautiful Without Encroachments' campaign on Tuesday, hence, it began removing encroachments on state properties in the six governorates, since the deadline given to violators to rectify their situations and remove the violations voluntarily has ended.

Sources revealed that Municipality teams started the removal operations Tuesday morning, in coordination with the representatives of the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Public Works, as per the comprehensive field plan covering the entire country.

Sources said the previous monitoring campaigns resulted in recording more than 10,000 violations in various governorates, indicating that a large number of violators took the initiative to remove the encroachments within the grace period.

They confirmed that the campaign will continue according to a schedule which covers all violating sites, emphasizing that there will be no leniency in enforcing the law, reclaiming state properties, and preserving public facilities and the civilized appearance of the country.

They added that the encroachments included the construction of walls, rooms, facilities and extensions outside the boundaries of the plots, illegal awnings, canopies, garages and parking spaces, temporary structures and diwanias (traditional meeting places) on state properties, and the exploitation of public spaces like sidewalks, walkways, squares and setbacks surrounding homes.

They stressed that the campaign aims to uphold the rule of law and protect state properties.

The campaign is for the removal of five types of encroachments – diwanias, concrete structures built on sidewalks and shared squares, walls and green netting used to enclose public setbacks and obstruct visibility at residential intersections, and haphazard wooden and prefabricated structures erected outside property boundaries.

The campaign includes removal of barriers blocking pedestrian walkways that impede access for emergency teams and infrastructure maintenance workers.

Former pilot jailed three years for sedition, Iran hits support

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: In its latest session, the State Security Court of Appeals issued several rulings in cases involving state security, incitement, spreading false news, and expressing support for the Iranian attacks, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The court upheld a three-year prison sentence against a former pilot convicted of inciting sedition and expressing support for the Iranian attacks. The former pilot had previously been convicted in other state security cases.

The court also upheld the acquittal of a former parliamentary candidate on charges of inciting sedition and the acquittal of a journalist accused of spreading false news.

In addition, it upheld the acquittal of a daily newspaper in a case filed by the Iranian embassy over the publication of reports it considered offensive to Iran.

The court upheld the rulings of non-sentencing for several Twitter users, including

a doctor. It also overturned a ruling of non-sentencing for another Twitter user and acquitted him.

The court overturned a three-year prison sentence against a blogger in a case involving the spread of false news, ruling instead for non-sentencing and upholding his acquittal on charges of insulting Gulf states.

6,355 appeals tackled: The Supreme Judicial Council revealed that the Court of Appeals adjudicated 6,355 appeals in June 2026, achieving 134 percent resolution rate, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement on Tuesday, the council indicated that the latest statistics released by the Court of Appeals showed that the appeals adjudicated last month are as follows: 4,477 appeals in the morning divisions, 679 appeals in the criminal divisions and 1,199 appeals in the evening divisions.

Al-Farhan praises verdict

Scribe absolved in fake news issue

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: The State Security Court of Appeals upheld the acquittal of journalist Saud Al-Farhan on charges of spreading false news in a case related to a news article he published on his X account, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Commenting on the verdict, Al-Farhan expressed his deep appreciation for the Kuwaiti judiciary, stating that the ruling reflects the integrity and independence of the judicial authority and

demonstrates the legal protections guaranteed by the courts.

He said the Kuwaiti judiciary will remain a strong safeguard and a reliable shield for both the ruler and the public, adding that the rulings issued reinforce confidence in the independence and fairness of the judiciary.

Al-Farhan also thanked Lawyer Abdullah Ahmad Al-Kandari for his legal efforts and support, and expressed appreciation to all those who stood by him.

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Agriculture off-target in anti-encroachment drive

Municipality scouts coastal strip for violations

By Bassam Al-Qassas

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: The acting Governor of Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Hawally, Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem, affirmed during a meeting with a number of governorate residents, in the presence of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Municipality Director Engineer Hamoud Al-Mutairi and representatives of Kuwait Municipality, that the state continues its campaign to remove encroachments on state property in accordance with the law, while remaining committed to addressing citizens' inquiries.



Governor Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Hawally, Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem, meets the areas residents.

inquiries.

Al-Mutairi clarified that the campaign focuses on removing encroachments and violations on

state property and does not target agricultural activities.

He explained that Kuwait Municipality regulations define the



Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate photos

required setbacks and permitted heights for landscaping. Removal measures include fences, trees, and other structures that violate regula-

tions. All encroachments are monitored electronically. The law is applied equally to everyone without exception, including individuals

with disabilities.

Al-Mutairi went on to explain that Kuwait Municipality continues to remove encroachments along the coastal strip, particularly in Abu Al-Hasaniya and Messila, in coordination with the relevant authorities, the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), and the Environment Public Authority (EPA) to remove neglected vegetation. The Ministry of Islamic Affairs is responsible for addressing encroachments within mosque premises.

Al-Mutairi pointed out that regulations governing the licensing of telecommunications towers are in place, granting companies a grace period to regularize their operations.

He called on residents to cooperate with Kuwait Municipality inspectors and comply with requirements to remove debris and dispose of waste in designated locations.

PAAAFR begins online service to distribute subsidized feed

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) announced on Tuesday that it will begin providing subsidized feed through an online system starting next Sunday, as part of its ongoing efforts to improve services, advance digital transformation, and facilitate access for beneficiaries, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Eng. Athari Al-Omair, Head of the Operations and Databases Department at PAAAFR, explained that the launch of the online subsidized feed disbursement service represents a significant step in the authority's plan to develop its services and automate procedures. The system will help speed up transactions, enhance transparency, and improve the experience of beneficiaries. The service is part

of a package of electronic projects and initiatives being implemented and developed by PAAAFR in cooperation with the Central Agency for Information Technology, aimed at establishing an integrated digital system.

Meanwhile, Rasha Al-Dhafaeri, Head of the Planning and Operations Implementation Department, affirmed that PAAAFR continues to implement its digital transformation plans through the development of electronic systems and the modernization of services in line with best government practices.

Al-Dhafaeri noted that these efforts align with the directives of Minister of State for Development and Sustainability Affairs Dr. Reem Al-Fulaij to accelerate digital transformation, enhance government services, and improve performance standards.

'Admission based on capacity, equivalent GPA, college criteria'

KUWAIT CITY, July 8, (KUNA): Kuwait University has set the minimum admission threshold for the 2026-2027 academic year at 70 percent for science stream graduates and 78 percent for arts stream graduates, Acting Dean of Admissions and Registration Dr. Fadhel Aziz said on Tuesday.

In an interview with KUNA following the announcement of high school examination results, Dr. Aziz said some colleges require higher minimum grades depending on their admission criteria, stressing that meeting the minimum threshold does not guarantee admission, which remains subject to competition, available capacity and college-specific requirements.

He said applicants must have graduated from secondary school within the past four academic semesters, urging students and parents to carefully review the university's admission and transfer

guide available on the Admissions and Registration Deanship's website before applying.

Dr. Aziz noted that Kuwait University takes labor market needs into account when formulating its admission policies through coordination with the university's planning sector and the Civil Service Commission to ensure academic programs meet national workforce demands.

He added that the university supports students in selecting suitable majors through guidance initiatives, including an admissions exhibition to be held at The Avenues mall from July 9-11, where prospective students and their families can obtain information on admission procedures, academic programs and labor market requirements from university officials and relevant government agencies.

The acting dean also highlighted the importance of the equivalent GPA, which incorporates academic aptitude test results for most colleges, as a key criterion in the admission process, while noting that admission to the Colleges of Science and Law is based solely on secondary school grades.

Dr. Aziz said Kuwait University continues to expand its electronic services by allowing students to submit applications and confirm admission online, in addition to providing official email channels for inquiries and student support.

He urged applicants to rely exclusively on the university's official communication platforms for admission information and invited students and parents to visit the university's pavilion at the admissions exhibition for direct guidance and assistance.



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KUNA photo
Minister of Commerce and Industry Osama Boodai receives Bahrain's Ambassador to Kuwait Salah Al-Maliki.

Kuwait, Bahrain eye boost in trade and economic ties

KUWAIT CITY, July 8, (KUNA): Minister of Commerce and Industry Osama Boodai met on Wednesday with Bahrain's Ambassador to Kuwait Salah Al-Maliki to discuss ways of strengthening bilateral relations in the trade and economic fields.

In a statement for KUNA, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said that the meeting reviewed prospects for joint cooperation between Kuwait and Bah-

rain and explored opportunities to further develop bilateral relations in ways that serve the shared interests of both countries.

The two sides also discussed a number of issues of mutual interest and ways to enhance cooperation in the trade and economic sectors, contributing to greater economic integration between the two countries.

PIFSS receiving applications from Article 18 employees

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: The Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) announced that it began receiving applications on Tuesday from employees whose citizenship has been revoked and who do not meet the eligibility requirements for a retirement pension, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The applicants concerned are those covered by the Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment's Decision No. 3/2026.

PIFSS confirmed through its X account that applications must be submitted in person at any of its branches, excluding the main headquarters and the West Mishref branch.

Applicants must book an appointment in advance through the "Meta" platform via the Sahel application. No applicants will be received without a prior appointment. The main required document is a valid civil ID card for the applicant, in addition to other documents that vary ac-

cording to the applicant's employment status.

Individuals working at government entities or wholly state-owned companies are required to submit a salary continuity certificate that includes their bank account number (IBAN), either certified and stamped or issued through the Sahel application with a QR code, along with a bank certificate containing the IBAN that matches the account details.

Individuals working in the private sector or non-state-owned oil companies must provide a certificate issued by the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) containing their IBAN number, either certified and stamped or issued through the Sahel application with a QR code, in addition to a bank statement matching the account number.

Unemployed individuals must submit a bank statement containing their IBAN number, either certified and stamped or issued with a QR code.

SACGC supports Kuwait Int'l 'Chemistry Olympiad' group

KUWAIT CITY, July 8, (KUNA): The Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity, affiliated with the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), affirmed its support for a Kuwaiti student delegation competing in the 2026 International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) in Uzbekistan from July 10 to 19, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

The center said in a statement on

Wednesday that the delegation comprises four students: Fatima Al-Mulla, Zahra Al-Haddad, Ali Yousif and Ghuzayel Al-Mutairi.

It added that the students completed an intensive preparation program combining theoretical and practical training, as well as an overseas camp at Eotvos Lorand University in Budapest, Hungary, to prepare them for international competition.

Geneva forum seen as platform for shared AI governance standards

Kuwait AI Association discusses cooperation with ITU

GENEVA, July 8, (KUNA): Chairman of The Association of Artificial Intelligence of Things (AAIOT), Sheikh Mohammad Ahmad Al-Sabah, affirmed the association's commitment to strengthening Kuwait's presence in international AI and digital transformation forums through participating in global conferences and strategic partnerships.

This came on the sidelines of the AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva, where Sheikh Mohammad met with International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin and Deputy Secretary-General Tomas Lamanauskas to discuss prospects for bilateral cooperation.

The meeting reviewed cooperation in artificial intelligence, Internet of Things and AI governance, alongside initiatives to promote innovation, digital transformation, knowledge exchange and joint projects with regional and international impact.

The Chairman said the association seeks to leverage its international network to support Kuwait's position as a regional hub for technology and innovation while strengthening



AAIOT photos
Chairman of The Association of Artificial Intelligence of Things (AAIOT), Sheikh Mohammad Ahmad Al-Sabah with International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin (left) and Deputy Secretary-General Tomas Lamanauskas (right).

cooperation with international organizations in line with sustainable development goals.

Participation in the Global Dialogue on AI Governance provides an important platform to discuss the



future of AI regulation and responsible use, he added, stressing the importance of Kuwait presence in such events to exchange expertise and contribute in shaping the future of technology.



KUNA photo
Kuwait's delegation to the first Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance held in Geneva.

He described the meeting with ITU officials as a first step toward institutional cooperation that could lead to joint initiatives, capacity-building programs and greater collaboration in AI and Internet of Things technologies.

Kuwait participated on Tuesday

in the first Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance and related events, hosted in the city of Geneva, Switzerland, from July 6 to 10.

The Embassy of Kuwait in Geneva mentioned in a statement that the Kuwaiti delegation will also partici-

pate in the related events, including the AI for Good Global Summit and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum, alongside high-level sessions and specialized events covering AI governance and digital infrastructure and policies.

Kuwait's delegation is headed by Director of Information and Communication Technology at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Qadeeri, including Head for Studies and Research at the Central IT Office (CAIT) Abdulkareem Al-Fouzan, CAIT Head of Digital Innovation Suad Al-Nassafi, CAIT Head of Support Service Sector Shouq Al-Wadani, CAIT Senior Marketing Coordinator Waleed Al-Fadhlah, and CAIT Marketing Coordinator at Ahmad Al-Noumas.

Kuwait's participation in this international forum enhances international cooperation in shaping the field of AI, setting governance frameworks and benefiting from the global practices to build a safe and inclusive digital future that balances innovation with accountability in the use of AI, the Embassy pointed out.

Continued from Page 1

Iran is

The attacks launched by the Revolutionary Guard on Kuwait and Bahrain on Wednesday, and since the beginning of the war, including the targeting of oil tankers at the Strait of Hormuz following the funeral of Ali Khamenei, were planned long ago.

The evidence lies in the threats issued by the leaders of the Iranian regime since the signing of the MoU with the United States, and their continuous attempts to prevent ships from passing through the Strait of Hormuz.

The Iranian regime also tried to impose a 'fait accompli' that contravenes international law and agreements signed with neighboring countries. Iran instructed its proxy in Yemen (the Houthi group) to block the Bab al-Mandab Strait and issue statements threatening Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states almost daily.

Events consistently reveal that diplomatic and political solutions serve as a lifeline for the Iranian regime, allowing it to regroup after each setback and return to its old habits.

Perhaps, the world understands today, more than ever, that prolonging negotiations with Iran is a waste of time, as it is a rogue state that violates international norms, agreements and laws. It is said that the last resort is cauterization. This is how the Iranian regime should have been dealt with. An Arabic proverb says, "Enduring an hour of pain is better than constant suffering."

Based on this, US President Trump's statements in Ankara, even if late, put things back on track. His denunciation of the memorandum of understanding with Iran, delivered from Türkiye—which, along with Pakistan, Egypt and Qatar, played a significant role in bridging the gap between the Americans and Iranians—sends a clear message, "Enough is enough". Tehran's malicious intentions are undermining everything. Perhaps, President Trump ultimately realized that treachery remains the main aspect of the Iranian regime.

No more

The ministry said emergency teams immediately began repair work to resolve the fault and restore power as quickly as possible. It had earlier announced the gradual restoration of electricity to the Mutlaa residential area in line with approved technical procedures aimed at ensuring the stability of the national electricity grid and the safety of the operational system.

The ministry later confirmed that power had been restored to all residential areas affected by the outage after the completion of restoration efforts.

Earlier, the ministry reported that electricity had been restored to several affected areas, while emergency teams continued working to restore service to the remaining areas as quickly as possible.

In a statement posted on its X account, the ministry expressed appreciation for the cooperation of citizens and residents and confirmed that it would continue monitoring the situation until full service was restored.

Two Portuguese

with a distinguished group of cultural and media figures, and members of the Portuguese community in Kuwait.

Dr. Mohammad bin Redha, who represented NCCAL and the Museum of Modern Art, emphasized that this initiative proves the importance of cultural exchange in fostering intercultural dialogue. He pointed out that the museum is a platform, which embraces global creativity and strengthens human connection between nations.

António Azevedo Campos, Chairman of the Portuguese Business Council in Kuwait and Regional Coordinator of the Council of Portuguese Communities, asserted that the gifts are not just part of a cultural initiative, but also convey a message of friendship and mutual respect between the two friendly countries.

He said art lends a human dimension to relations among nations and its impact extends far beyond words.

He explained that the two artworks grant Portuguese creativity a permanent place in the cultural memory of Kuwait.

He indicated that Rodrigues and the late Correa participated in art events and exhibitions in Kuwait, as well as contributed to workshops and cultural dialogues in collaboration with NCCAL, which means these pieces of art are returning to their place of origin.

The sculpture by Rodrigues embodies the spirit of contemporary Portuguese art, drawing inspiration from the Baroque school in a modern style. The photograph by the late Correa documents a scene from Portuguese folklore, embodying identity, heritage and popular memory.

The event organizers emphasized that this donation is an extension of the cultural initiatives that have brought Kuwait and Portugal together over the past years in the fields of art, music and cultural dialogue. They affirmed that such events enhance the status of the museum as a cultural beacon, which brings civilizations together and reinforces the values of friendship, peace and mutual respect between the two countries.

Oil slump

The questions focused on who is responsible for the sharp decline following the significant surge in prices that accompanied the Strait of Hormuz crisis.

In this regard, oil expert and analyst Kamel Al-Harami explained that US banks' forecasts of oil prices falling to \$60 per barrel by the end of 2026 are mainly based on market imbalances and global supply exceeding demand. This was the primary factor behind the previous decline in prices from \$123 to around \$71 per barrel.

The increase in oil supplies resulted from some countries raising production levels last month, including Kuwait and Iran, along with growing output from non-OPEC countries.

The decline will inevitably affect all oil-exporting nations, particularly Gulf states, where oil revenues will be directly impacted, potentially leading to expected budget deficits.

Gulf oil exports were severely disrupted during the Strait of Hormuz crisis. The decline in oil prices coincides with US policies aimed at lowering prices to reduce domestic fuel costs and ease the burden on American consumers.

Al-Harami said that the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) can overcome its financial challenges, caused by declining oil revenues, if US forecasts of oil prices falling to \$60 per barrel are realized, through two main options - borrowing to cover the deficit or moving forward with the privatization of certain sectors not directly related to sovereign oil wealth.

He noted that vital sectors are ready for privatization, including the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company, the Petrochemical Industries Company, and the three local refineries.

Al-Harami questioned why the Kuwaiti private sector is prevented from participating in the local refining sector while foreign partnerships are allowed in Kuwaiti refineries abroad. He stressed that recent amendments to the KPC establishment law provide sufficient flexibility to privatize some of its sectors.

Al-Harami warned that the continued decline in oil revenues will force most oil-producing countries to borrow to cover budget deficits and may push some to sell their foreign oil assets or pursue a combination of borrowing and asset sales.

He stressed that privatization remains the best and safest option for KPC, indicating that the current situation could force the corporation to reduce production, while other producers benefit from higher prices without bearing the costs associated with production cuts.

Cabinet okays

The draft decree-law has been referred to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for final ratification.

On a separate track dedicated to monitoring strategic national infra-

structure, the Cabinet evaluated an extensive executive progress report regarding the state's multi-billion-dollar cloud computing agreements with tech giants Google Cloud and Microsoft.

The presentation was jointly delivered by Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Saud Al-Omar and head of the committee overseeing the implementation of Kuwait's strategic digital agreements with major global tech companies Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Humoud Al-Sabah.

The brief detailed key achievements in rolling out robust digital infrastructure, establishing advanced localized data centers, elevating national cybersecurity frameworks, and seamlessly migrating public institutions to secure cloud platforms.

The Cabinet underscored that accelerating these implementation timelines remains a paramount national priority to anchor a fully integrated digital government capable of maximizing public service delivery and elevating institutional readiness during emergencies.

At the onset of the session, the Cabinet was briefed on high-level audiences held yesterday, Monday, by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah with Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabai and senior educational officials.

The leadership reviewed a final report on the successful completion of the grade 10-12 final examinations of the 2025/2026 academic year.

During the meeting, His Highness the Amir commended the dedication of the administrative and teaching staff, emphasizing that teachers remain the cornerstone of the education process.

The political leadership issued directives to continually modernize national curricula, upgrade facility infrastructure, and integrate artificial intelligence to foster student innovation while preserving national identity values.

Concurrently, His Highness the Prime Minister extended his heartfelt congratulations to the graduating top achievers and their families.

Shifting to geopolitics, the Cabinet voiced its vehement condemnation and denunciation of the recent Iranian attack targeting a Qatari commercial tanker transiting near the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

It branded the assault a flagrant violation of international law and a direct threat to global maritime navigation safety and international energy supply lines, reaffirming Kuwait's absolute solidarity with Doha.

It stressed the State of Kuwait's rejection of any practices that would destabilize the region's security and stability. The Cabinet also emphasized the need for an immediate cessation of all escalatory actions and adherence to the rules of international law that guarantee freedom of navigation and safe passage in international waterways.

The Cabinet similarly denounced the recent bombings that targeted the Syrian capital, Damascus, reiterating Kuwait's immutable stance against all forms of terrorism and violence.

It reiterated the State of Kuwait's firm stance against all forms of violence and terrorism, affirming its support for the sisterly Syrian Arab Republic in all measures it takes to preserve its security, stability, and the safety of its people.

On the domestic front, the Cabinet reviewed a presentation by Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tariq Al-Jalaha regarding the "Kuwait Youth and Sports Season" project, a national initiative designed to forge public-private partnerships to optimize the development and hosting of major sporting events.

Furthermore, the Cabinet expressed its profound gratitude to several local private sector enterprises for providing vital logistical support to state apparatuses following the onset of the Iranian aggression against the State of Kuwait on February 28th, praising their corporate social responsibility (CSR) during national contingencies.

The session concluded with the review and approval of various ministerial committee reports and minutes, with several outstanding files referred to specialized committees for further regulatory vetting and recommendations.

Cargo plane

In a statement, K2 Airways identified the missing crew as Capt. Muhammad Rizwan Idris, First Officer Faisal Jatoi, Flight Engineers Muhammad Hamid and Muhammad Arif Siddiqui, and Aircraft Loader Muhammad Taufiq Khan.

"We continue to pray earnestly for the safety of our colleagues," it said. Pakistan's Airports Authority said earlier on X that radar data showed the aircraft making a sharp change in heading and rapidly descending before radar and radio contact were lost at about 9:21 p.m., approximately 155 nautical miles (287 kilometers, 178 miles) west of Karachi.

Aviation expert Imran Aslam told local broadcaster ARY News late Tuesday that it remained unclear what caused the aircraft to disappear from radar. He said that even if an aircraft suffered an engine failure, it would normally continue gliding rather than plunge suddenly. He said the exact cause would become clear only after investigators gathered more evidence.

Here we

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Jaseem Al-Budaiwi strongly condemned the attacks on Kuwait and Bahrain, describing them as blatant violations of both countries' sovereignty, international law and the UN Charter. He said the attacks undermine international and regional initiatives aimed at promoting peace and security, while reaffirming the GCC's full solidarity with Kuwait and Bahrain.

Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Fahmy renewed his condemnation of the Iranian attacks targeting Gulf states, warning that the assaults threaten regional security and ongoing de-escalation efforts. He also denounced attacks on the Saudi crude oil tanker Al-Wudayan, the Qatari LNG carrier Al-Ruqayyat, and repeated missile and drone strikes on Kuwait and Bahrain. Fahmy stressed that Gulf security is an integral part of Arab national security.

Arab Parliament Speaker Mohammad Al-Yamahi likewise condemned the attacks, calling them a blatant violation of state sovereignty, international law and the principles of good neighborliness. He warned that the escalation poses a direct threat to regional stability and reaffirmed the Arab Parliament's support for all legitimate measures taken by Kuwait and Bahrain.

Egypt condemned the repeated Iranian attacks, describing them as a serious threat to Gulf security and stability and an unacceptable escalation that heightens regional tensions. Cairo reiterated its full solidarity with Kuwait and Bahrain, stressing that Gulf security remains an integral part of Egypt's national security and renewing its call for restraint and de-escalation.

Jordan also strongly condemned the attack on Kuwait, calling it a flagrant violation of the country's sovereignty, territorial integrity and international law. The Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates reaffirmed the Kingdom's full solidarity with Kuwait and support for all measures taken to protect its security and the safety of its citizens and residents.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun condemned the attacks on Kuwait and Bahrain, describing them as blatant violations of both countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity. He reaffirmed Lebanon's solidarity with Kuwait, Bahrain and all GCC states, stressing that Gulf security is inseparable from Arab and regional security, while calling for restraint, dialogue and diplomacy.

Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam also condemned the attacks, expressing solidarity with Kuwait, Bahrain and the GCC states. He likewise denounced the attacks on Saudi and Qatari commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, reaffirming Lebanon's support for all measures aimed at safeguarding Gulf security and preserving regional stability.

Separately, Lebanon's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants condemned the Iranian attacks targeting Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain. It described the attacks as blatant violations of state sovereignty,

international law and the UN Charter, warning that they threaten maritime security, global energy supplies and regional peace. The ministry called for an immediate end to the attacks, full compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 2817 and accountability for those responsible under international law.

European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas said the exchange of fire between the United States and Iran has further complicated efforts to end the conflict, stressing that Iran's attacks on Bahrain and Kuwait are "unacceptable."

In a post on X, Kallas said Tehran had committed under the memorandum of understanding to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, but its recent attacks on ships near the strategic waterway violate that commitment and threaten global energy supplies. She emphasized that freedom of navigation must remain unimpeded and announced that EU foreign ministers will meet with their Gulf counterparts next week to discuss implementation of the agreement and maritime security.

Meanwhile, Kuwait reaffirmed its commitment to regional security and stability during the 62nd session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen, said the council adopted by consensus a Kuwait-sponsored resolution reflecting growing international concern over destabilizing activities in the region.

Al-Hayen strongly condemned the repeated missile and drone attacks targeting civilian facilities in Kuwait and Bahrain, describing them as serious violations of international law and the UN Charter. He reaffirmed Kuwait's legitimate right to defend its sovereignty and national security, while warning that attacks on oil tankers, commercial vessels and navigation through the Strait of Hormuz threaten regional stability, global trade, energy supplies and international economic security.

He called on Iran to immediately cease hostile actions against neighboring states, comply with international maritime obligations, support ongoing de-escalation efforts and respect the sovereignty of states as the foundation for lasting regional peace and stability.

Elsewhere, President Donald Trump warned Iran on Wednesday that the U.S. was preparing for another night of strikes, just hours after he said the ceasefire was over following Iranian attacks on American military sites in the Gulf.

Trump threatened to strike Iran's civilian infrastructure, including electric plants and desalination plants, and to seize Kharg Island, with its oil infrastructure.

"We hit them very hard last night," Trump said when asked about a possible return to hostilities. "We'll probably hit them hard again tonight."

Trump made the remarks in Ankara, Turkey, on the sidelines of a NATO summit. He said the strikes are continued retaliation for Iranian attacks on commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz.

"They are behaving very badly," he said of Iran, accusing the country of launching drones and a missile at ships.

The latest exchange of fire raised fears that the war in Iran could reignite, and Trump fueled those concerns by saying the interim agreement to pause fighting was "over," although he added that he would allow negotiations to continue.

Attacks have repeatedly threatened the shaky ceasefire, but Trump's comments added new uncertainty, and oil prices shot up after he spoke. A renewed conflict could engulf the wider Middle East and would likely again halt energy shipments through the strait that are crucial to the global economy.

"For me, I think it's over," Trump said when asked about the status of the ceasefire. He added that U.S. representatives can continue negotiations, but he cast doubt on the outcome. "They can talk, but I think they're wasting their time," he said.

Negotiations to reach a final deal had been due to start after the dayslong funeral for Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed

Feb. 28 in the war's first moments. The funeral, which ends Thursday, was supposed to be a period of lower tensions.

The talks are meant to focus on the toughest matters, including fully reopening the strait and rolling back Tehran's disputed nuclear program.

"The era of bullying and extortion is over," Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf wrote on X. "It leads nowhere. We don't fold."

The U.S. military's Central Command said American forces launched strikes "to impose heavy costs for targeting and attacking commercial shipping crewed by innocent civilians in an international waterway."

It said it hit Iranian targets including air-defense systems, radars and over 60 small boats used by Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

Those boats have been key to threatening ships in the strait, through which a fifth of the world's traded oil and natural gas passed before the war. Iran's ability to bring shipping in the waterway to a near halt during the war proved its greatest strategic advantage. Rising prices for energy supplies, fertilizer and food put pressure on the U.S. to make a deal. On Wednesday, the price of Brent crude, the international standard, spiked over 5% after Trump's comments.

The U.S. military remains "prepared to hold Iran accountable when the agreement is not adhered to or obeyed," it added, saying this round of attacks had ended.

Iranian state media reported explosions in several locations, including in Bandar Mahshahr, where a Revolutionary Guard member was killed. It also reported attacks on Bushehr, home to Iran's nuclear power plant complex.

On Wednesday morning, both Bahrain, home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, and Kuwait, home to U.S. Army forces, sounded missile alerts. The Revolutionary Guard issued a statement acknowledging targeting U.S. military installations in both countries.

Kuwait said it intercepted two ballistic missiles and 13 drones launched by Iran. The Kuwaiti Electricity Ministry said a number of lines were out of service after shrapnel fell on them.

A similar spate of Iranian attacks on shipping and U.S. retaliatory strikes occurred late last month, which similarly drew Iranian attacks on Bahrain and Kuwait. Wednesday's strikes came as Trump was in Turkey for a summit of the NATO military alliance.

Anwar Gargash, a senior diplomat in the United Arab Emirates, called Iran's attacks on Bahrain and Kuwait "a clear indicator that Tehran remains incapable of committing to the requirements of de-escalation and turning the page on war."

Before the strikes, the U.S. had revoked a license that - for the first time in years - had allowed Iran to conduct oil sales openly in U.S. dollars, as part of the interim deal. Iran long had been suspected of selling sanctioned crude at below-market prices to China.

The revocation came after the strikes on shipping. One tanker was off the coast of Oman when it was hit and caught fire, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said. Iranian state television said the tanker came under attack after ignoring warnings but did not directly claim the assault.

Majed Al-Ansari, a spokesperson for the Qatari Foreign Ministry, said the tanker was carrying Qatari natural gas and called the strike an "unacceptable attack" on international navigation and global energy security. He said Qatar, which has been a key mediator alongside Pakistan in the talks, holds Iran "fully legally responsible."

Two other ships sustained some damage, but no one was injured, and both continued on their way, the U.K. agency said.

Iran and the United States agreed as part of the interim deal to allow ships to pass through the strait without paying charges for 60 days. But Tehran has insisted it must control the vessels' routes and vowed to later charge fees for passage. That would upend decades of practice in the waterway. The ships attacked Tuesday all appeared to be using a route close to Oman's shore, rather than one ordered by Tehran.

The U.S. and many Gulf Arab states say they will not agree to Iran charging for passage through the strait.

It's a righteous and beautiful mission: Hegseth

Democratic-led states face backlash over Nat'l Guard deployments in Washington

WASHINGTON, July 8, (AP) — A National Guard deployment to Washington, DC, has ballooned during the celebrations of the country's 250th anniversary of independence, bolstered in part by contingents from Democratic-led states.

That participation has sparked anger among some in the nation's capital who argue the troops are not just there to assist in securing the festivities but are being drawn into the Trump administration's ongoing, open-ended Guard deployment to the city.

A contingent from Minnesota sent for the 250th is set to depart early. On Tuesday, a coalition of think tanks and civic, labor and civil rights groups asked Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to withdraw the state's National Guard forces, saying they have been misused.

"Previous presidents have requested assistance from out-of-state Guard forces during major events in DC, and such requests would normally give little cause for concern," the groups said in a letter. "But there is nothing normal about the way President (Donald) Trump has used National Guard forces in the nation's capital."

The presence of National Guard members in Washington, DC, has been contentious since August 2025, when Trump issued an emergency order because of what he said was out-of-control crime.

The local National Guard was activated and deployed to the streets, along with hundreds of federal law enforcement officers and agents. Trump also took control, briefly, of the local police department. States, all led by Republican governors, sent members of their Guard forces, as well.

Over the months, Guard members have responded to medical emergencies, assisted with arrests, helped local police enforce the city's juvenile curfew and carried out beautification projects. The D.C. Guard helped with snow removal during a major storm in January.

While the deployment stayed consistently in the 2,300 to 2,600 range, in recent weeks the numbers increased to around 5,000 as part of the security plan for the Great American State Fair, the fireworks display on July 4 and other crowd-intensive events.

Democratic-led states were part of that surge, and their troops were originally expected to remain for weeks. Michigan sent roughly 160 troops. Min-



Soldiers from the Mississippi National Guard patrol along the Great American State Fair on the National Mall on July 6, in Washington. (AP)

nesota sent just over 100. Both of those states have joined other Democratic-led states in supporting a lawsuit challenging the ongoing deployment to the city.

Keya Chatterjee, executive director of Free DC, a group dedicated to achieving statehood for the District of Columbia and one of the organizations signing Tuesday's letter, said her organization has seen Michigan Guard members near metro stops and in neighborhoods "far from the Mall" despite a threat from Whitmer to pull them out.

Free DC has organized a network of people to monitor and chronicle overall Guard activities in the city. It protested at an event last week hosted by De-

fense Secretary Pete Hegseth meant to thank the Guard troops for their service in securing the city.

Officials there, including acting Attorney General Todd Blanche and top White House adviser Stephen Miller, spoke to the troops both about the crime in the city as well as security preparations for the 250 celebrations.

"It's a righteous and beautiful mission," Hegseth said.

The Pentagon referred questions to the Joint Task Force-District of Columbia, which did not respond to a series of questions on the deployments.

Chatterjee told The Associated Press that the Democratic governors who had sent personnel to the city were "pretending they don't know" that their Guard members could be used as part of the Safe and Beautiful Task Force, established through a presidential executive order last year and said to be fighting crime in the city.

Minnesota is set to withdraw its Guard members Saturday, earlier than the planned July 23 return.

In a statement, Air Force Maj. Nathan Wallin, deputy state public affairs officer for the Minnesota National Guard, attributed that to "the successful conclusion of festivities" and made no mention of activists' concerns.

A lone Kentucky Guard member was brought home before the main events began after being diverted to the task force "without the knowledge or consent" of the state's governor or its Guard command, said Scottie Ellis, Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear's communications director.

Michigan's deployment is due to continue through Aug. 31. But Whitmer has threatened to end it if there are more reports of the Michigan Guard being used in the ongoing law enforcement deployment. In a letter last week to the commanding general of the state's National Guard, she asked that the Guard's duties be limited to the 250 celebrations.

"I have not deployed - and will not deploy - the Michigan National Guard to support the D.C. Safe and Beautiful Mission," she wrote.

Elizabeth Goitein, senior director of Liberty and National Security at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law and a signatory to the letter to Whitmer, said the governors of the Democratic states that sent Guard members were placing their trust in the administration to limit the use of their guard forces.

Succession fight already underway as calls mount for Platner to drop out of Maine Senate race

PORTLAND, Maine, July 8, (AP) — Democratic nominee Graham Platner hasn't resigned from the Maine US Senate race following an allegation of assault. But the succession battle to take his place was already underway Tuesday.

The allegation reported Monday prompted a chorus of calls for Platner to depart the high-stakes race against Republican Sen. Susan Collins, which could decide party control of the Senate. Platner's long-time backer, Sen. Bernie Sanders, "recommended that he step aside."

Platner, who has denied all the allegations, has been mum on whether he'll step aside. And the Maine Democratic Party, charged with creating a process to pick his replacement, hasn't publicly announced their plans.

On Tuesday night, Executive Director Devon Murphy-Anderson released a video saying the party is developing an "open, inclusive, transparent and fair" process but won't disclose details until Platner withdraws. Platner's team has repeatedly tried to "put their thumb on the scale," she said.

"We have repeatedly reiterated to Graham Platner's team that they have no role in determining our next Democratic nominee for the US Senate, nor in determining what this process looks like," she said.

An official for the Platner campaign responded that it "has reached out to the party to try and understand what this process would look like" and "at no point has the campaign tried to 'put its finger on the scale.'" The official added that thousands of Maine residents voted and volunteered for Platner and they should play a role in the decision.

"While Graham wouldn't want to be a part of the process, he would want to make sure the voters and volunteers make this decision - not the political establishment," the statement said. So far, the succession battle has played out in a murky power vacuum. A growing number of candidates are teasing their entry into the race as a fight shapes up between the progressive wing and the

establishment camp of the Democratic Party.

Platner became a populist hero among the party's left flank, pulling far ahead of an establishment-backed candidate, Gov. Janet Mills, in the primary. Now, progressive groups fear that political ground could be lost.

"To the Democratic establishment: This is not your opening," said Joseph Geevarghese, who leads Our Revolution. The organization founded by Sanders backed and then withdrew its endorsement of Platner after the assault allegation. The group said Tuesday that it was "rallying behind" another progressive contender, Troy Jackson, who announced he's "exploring" a candidacy.

The pressure for Platner to withdraw from the Senate race has only increased given the short deadlines Maine law allows for replacing general election candidates. There is no mechanism for Democrats to remove Platner from the ballot, and the deadline to withdraw is 5 p.m. July 13. State law gives the authority to choose a replacement to the state party. Any replacement candidate must be named by July 27.

The lack of communication from Platner and the state's Democratic Party has contributed to some confusion about what comes next as candidates tentatively toss their hats in the ring.

Some are arguing that the next Democrat should echo Platner's progressive messaging, pointing to his success at rallying voters across the state. Others cautioned that having ties to Platner will only doom an already uphill campaign against Collins. Many are pushing for an open process even with limited time.

"No one's enjoying this experience, and it seems like the consensus step forward should be having a fair and open process that everybody feels is legitimate," said Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, a political action committee that backed Platner but now calls for him to suspend his campaign.



Democratic US Senate candidate Graham Platner speaks during a primary election night watch party after winning the Democratic nomination on June 9 in Blue Hill, Maine. (AP)



A boat rides in front of an iceberg at Disko Bay near Ilulissat, Greenland, on Jan 28. (AP)

Trump's demands upend NATO summit

Denmark's PM ready to defend Greenland

ANKARA, Turkey, July 8, (AP) — US President Donald Trump took aim at his NATO partners at a summit in Turkey on Wednesday, saying he was unhappy with the alliance for pushing back against his efforts to take control of Greenland and for not supporting his war in Iran.

NATO's European members plus Canada have scrambled to meet the increased defense spending targets Trump has demanded, as the US draws down the number of troops it has in Europe and insists that the continent take more responsibility for its own security.

But Trump reopened old wounds as he arrived at the meeting of 32 NATO leaders by insisting again that the United States should control Greenland, a semiautonomous Danish territory. He blasted some European countries for refusing to participate in the Iran campaign, singling out Spain as "a terrible partner in NATO" and renewing his threats to cut off trade.

Ahead of the summit, Trump said Greenland "is very important" for the U.S. but not for Denmark, declaring, "We need it for protection of the world, not just the United States."

But Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said her country is "ready to defend every inch of NATO including our own territory" in the event of an attack, and would



Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, center, is greeted by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as she arrives for the NATO summit in Ankara, Turkey on July 8. (AP)

rely on NATO allies to honor their commitment to defend each other.

"We hope that all, including all allies, will respect the Greenland people's right for self-determination," Frederiksen said ahead of the summit. "Greenland is of course not for sale."

Trump's criticisms have in the past drawn European countries closer together as they confront wars in Ukraine and Iran, a ballooning trade

deficit with China, and threats from Russia. However, that unity could be tested at the summit.

The president's renewed interest in Greenland could put at risk the entire future of NATO, which was founded in 1949 to counter the threat to European security posed by the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

The organization is normally focused on outside threats, not threats from within.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte sought to tamp down the president's ire by citing recent increases in defense spending from NATO allies.

"I would argue that without you in this chair, this would not have happened," Rutte told Trump as the two met Wednesday morning. "Grab the win. It's there."

Ahead of the summit, Rutte praised Trump for the series of U.S. strikes on Iran overnight, after Tehran struck three merchant ships in the Strait of Hormuz.

"I think what you did last night was absolutely necessary," Rutte said to Trump. "It was a very strong response, and I'm with you on this."

The U.S. strikes, as well as the revoking of a license allowing Iran to sell its oil on global markets, underscored the fragility of an interim deal to end months of fighting.

Le Pen to run for French presidency despite court-ordered monitor

PARIS, July 8, (AP) — Far-right leader Marine Le Pen says she'll run for the French presidency next year despite being sentenced Tuesday to wear a court-ordered electronic monitor for embezzlement.

The decision by the 57-year-old veteran of three presidential races sets up a fourth campaign like no other: potentially seeking votes while subject to monitoring and with a judge possibly deciding how, and for how long, the punishment is applied.

Le Pen said she will appeal the ruling to France's highest court and that the process will suspend the sentence that she be electronically monitored for a year.

"I will therefore campaign without an electronic bracelet," she said in a television interview Tuesday night. "Tonight, I am a candidate for the presidential election."

The appeals court ruling earlier Tuesday cleared the way for Le Pen by shortening a ban handed down by a court last year that kept her from seeking public office for five years.

But it also said she must wear an electronic monitor, a constraint Le Pen previously said would make campaigning impossible.

But after huddling for hours with other leading figures of her National



Far-right leader Marine Le Pen and far-right party National Rally president Jordan Bardella answer journalists as they arrive to visit a market in La Fleche, western France on July 8. (AP)

Rally party, Le Pen made clear Tuesday night that she believes she won't be subjected to monitoring at all, and that her appeal to the Court of Cassation will vindicate her.

"My hands are clean," she said.

The highest court previously said it would be able to rule before the presidential election, with the first round in April and a knockout round in May.

"I want to pursue all the legal avenues available to me so that I can defend my innocence," she said.

A similar situation arose in former President Nicolas Sarkozy's corruption case. An appeals court sentenced him in 2023 to serve part of his sentence under electronic monitoring. Sarkozy appealed to the Court of Cassation, which suspended Sarkozy's sentence pending its review before ultimately upholding the conviction.

Europe

Russian attacks kill 4 across Ukraine: Russian drones and missiles killed four people across Ukraine on Wednesday in attacks before dawn and at midday, as Moscow kept up its pressure on the capital of Kyiv in the latest phase of the over 4-year-old war.

Ukraine struck oil refineries in Russia's Saratov and Tatarstan regions, according to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who was in Turkey to meet with U.S. President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the NATO summit.

Several explosions were heard shortly after midnight in Kyiv. (AP)

Reform UK's Farage to quit as lawmaker: Reform UK leader Nigel Farage announced Tuesday that he will quit his seat in Parliament and seek reelection in an effort to clear his name over financial allegations linked to millions of dollars' worth of donations.

The unexpected resignation is an effort by the anti-immigration politician to preempt a standards investigation that could have seen him ejected as a lawmaker, and to present himself as the victim of a witch hunt by the media and his political foes.

"I have done nothing wrong. I have not broken the law in any way at all. I have not misused public money," Farage, a prominent ally of U.S. President Donald Trump, said in a statement broadcast by his party. Media outlets were not allowed to attend the



A rescue worker searches for victims after a Russian air attack in Kharkiv, Ukraine on July 8. (AP)

broadcast and he did not take questions. (AP)

Bus crash in Portugal kills 2: Two people were killed and 14 others injured, four of them seriously, after a Carris Metropolitana bus veered off the road and struck pedestrians on Tuesday morning in Sintra municipality, according to Portuguese civil protection authorities.

The Sub-Regional Command for Greater Lisbon of the National Authority for Emergency and Civil Protection (ANEPC) said the accident occurred at 9:42 a.m. local time on Rua Elias Garcia.

According to the Lusa news agency, the dead were two women aged between 30 and 40. (Xinhua)



An aerial drone photo taken on July 7, 2026 shows rescuers working at the site of a landslide in a village in Nanhe Township, Tanchang County, Longnan City, northwest China's Gansu Province. (Xinhua)

Asia

'21 forestry workers died in China landslide': A landslide buried and killed 21 forestry workers walking through a remote valley in the mountains of northwestern China, state media reported Wednesday after rescue operations ended.

Twelve others survived, seven with minor injuries, state broadcaster CCTV said. The team was heading out to clear and maintain forest land when the landslide struck shortly before 7 a.m. on Tuesday.

Footage on CCTV showed a swath of denuded mountainside that ended in the valley. The exposed earth contrasted sharply with the green, heavily forested slopes that angled up steeply on both sides under mostly clear skies.

The landslide was about 40 meters (130 feet) wide and covered roughly 5,400 square meters (58,000 square feet), Longnan city natural resources official Yang Yaonian said at a news conference. Excavators were used to help clear the accumulated debris, which was about 8 to 10 meters (26 to 33 feet) deep. (AP)

Typhoon remnants cause damage in Vietnam: Heavy rain and landslides triggered by the remnants of Typhoon Maysak damaged homes, farmland and infrastructure in Vietnam's northern provinces of Lao Cai and Cao Bang from July 4 to 6, with no casualties reported, the Vietnam News Agency reported

Monday.

In Lao Cai province, preliminary losses were estimated at nearly 6.3 billion Vietnamese dong (about 250,000 US dollars), with 73 houses affected, more than 67 hectares of crops inundated, hundreds of livestock and poultry lost, and multiple landslides disrupting traffic, the report said.

Floodwaters also swept away a wooden bridge, isolating 32 households in the Na Hang residential area of Che Tao commune. (Xinhua)

4 Cambodian soldiers wounded: Cambodia announced on Monday that an explosive device detonated along its border with Thailand on Sunday, injuring four soldiers on patrol.

Lieutenant General Maly Socheata, an undersecretary of state and spokeswoman for Cambodia's Ministry of National Defense, said the incident occurred on Sunday at 12:35 p.m. during a Cambodian patrol operation in a cashew plantation area of Chouk Kruos and Thma Don villages.

"The wounded soldiers are currently receiving attentive medical care from medical teams and relevant personnel," Socheata added.

Meanwhile, Thai Army spokesperson Winthai Suvarree issued a statement on Sunday, saying that at the time of the incident, Thai troops were conducting routine patrols on the Thai side and heard an explosion from the Cambodian side. (Xinhua)

Armed group leader killed by soldiers, police

Philippine VP Duterte expects to be 'bloodied but unbowed' by impeachment trial

MANILA, Philippines, July 8, (AP): Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte, who is being tried by an impeachment court on charges that include threatening the president, said Tuesday that she expected to be "bloodied but unbowed" by the public trial.

Duterte, who has declared her aim to succeed President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in mid-2028, was impeached by the House of Representatives, which is dominated by Marcos' allies, in May. The 48-year-old lawyer and politician has dismissed the charges against her as political persecution.

Her televised trial by the 24-member Senate, which acts as an impeachment court, started Monday.

On Tuesday it took up the first of four main charges, which accused Duterte of threatening in an online news conference in November 2024 to have Marcos, his wife and then-House Speaker Martin Romualdez killed by an unidentified person if she herself were killed as their disputes escalated.

A video presented as evidence showed the vice president uttering the threat and stressing that she was not making a joke and that the person she asked to undertake the killings agreed to her plan.

In another video shown during the trial, the vice president said she wanted to cut off the president's head.

"In this bloodbath and bludgeoning, I will be bloodied but unbowed," Duterte said in a news conference Tuesday at the Senate, where she briefly showed up in casual clothes and rubber shoes to meet her lawyers. She left before the trial resumed.

She refused to take any questions from the media, but in the past, she has denied all the allegations, which include amassing unexplained wealth, misusing confidential funds, corruption, committing bribery and inciting to sedition without providing specific details.

Duterte and Marcos were running mates in the 2022 elections in a whirlwind alliance that combined the vote-getting power of two of the country's most formidable political dynasties, but the union rapidly fell apart.

Duterte's supporters have accused Marcos and his key aides of politically



Philippine Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian, left, and Presiding Officer Senator Francis Escudero, right, look on at proceedings for the impeachment trial of Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte, at the Philippine Senate in Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines on July 8. (AP)

persecuting her and her senatorial allies to ensure her impeachment and block her planned presidential run.

Meanwhile three senators who support Duterte have been sidelined by other developments.

Two senators have been arrested and detained recently for alleged large-scale corruption and a third went into hiding after the International Criminal

Court issued a warrant for his arrest as a co-conspirator of former President Rodrigo Duterte, the vice president's father, for alleged crimes against humanity.

The charges stem from the killings of thousands of mostly poor suspects in anti-drugs crackdowns ordered by the former president between 2011 and 2019. Rodrigo Duterte, who is detained by the ICC in The Hague, will face trial on Nov. 30.

Justice officials and state prosecutors said the legal troubles of the three senators were based on strong evidence, unrelated to the vice president's impeachment trial.

Sara Duterte blames Marcos, her father's successor as president, for his arrest last year and his handover to the ICC.

Two-thirds of the 24-member Senate, or 16 votes, are needed to convict the vice president.

A conviction would be a lethal blow to her declared plan to seek the presidency.

Even if she's acquitted, Duterte could still face criminal charges similar to the impeachment charges, including large-scale corruption, which were being investigated by anti-graft prosecutors.

Also:

MANILA: A leader of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in southern Philippines' Mindanao Island was killed in a joint enforcement operation on Sunday, according to the military.

Local infantry said Ismael Abubakar, known as "Commander Bungos" and a leader of BIFF, was alone in his hideout and opened fire at approaching lawmen. He was later killed by soldiers and police at about 2 am local time on Sunday.

Abubakar had warrants of arrest for murder and destructive arson. Several of his subordinates have already surrendered to the government, according to the military.

Colombia president-elect suspends transition after Petro alleges fraud

BOGOTA, Colombia, July 8, (AP): Colombia's President-elect Abelardo de la Espriella on Tuesday suspended the transition process with President Gustavo Petro and accused him of planning a coup to stay in power, after the incumbent leader refused to recognize results of the country's election.

Petro said Monday that he refused to recognize de la Espriella's victory in the June 21 presidential run-off election over the Petro coalition's candidate Sen. Iván Cepeda, alleging fraud without providing evidence.

The conservative, Trump-endorsed de la Espriella said in a video posted Tuesday on social media that Petro and Cepeda had launched a plan to "cling to power at all costs" through "a coup d'état" by refusing to recognize his victory. He did not provide evidence to support the allegation, and Petro did not immediately respond to it.

"As president-elect, I call on Colombia's armed forces to honor their oath to protect the Constitution and democracy and to disobey any orders from Petro to the contrary," de la Espriella said.

He also called on the international community to monitor the transfer of power and urged his supporters



Colombian President Gustavo Petro addresses supporters at a rally he called to protest comments by U.S. President Donald Trump, in Bogota, Colombia on Jan. 7. (AP)

to "resist" until his inauguration on Aug. 7.

The presidential transition, known in Colombia as "empalme," in which the outgoing administration provides the president-elect with the information to prepare for governing, has been marked by mutual accusations between political rivals Petro and de la Espriella.

Germán Ávila, Colombia's finance minister and the Petro administration's transition coordinator, ordered his team to suspend the handover process in response to de la Espriella's suspension. In a televised address, he criticized statements by members of de la Espriella's transition team, and said that the president's team had "nothing to hide."

De la Espriella, a lawyer and businessman whose ventures include a clothing line, alcoholic drinks and a restaurant, earned US President Donald Trump's endorsement despite never having run for office. He was declared the winner of Colombia's June 21 runoff election, in which he defeated progressive lawmaker Cepeda by 1 percentage point, or more than 251,000 votes.

The result was effectively an indictment of Petro's government, whose policies Cepeda had promised to continue, including a largely failed effort to establish dialogue with multiple armed groups.

After the runoff election, a European Union observer mission praised the transparency and efficiency of the vote-counting process. The Carter Center said the results management system was "reliable, transparent and fully traceable."



This photograph released by the Kerala Public Relations department shows rescue operations after a landslide near Meppadi tunnel project in Wayanad, in the southern state of Kerala, India on July 7. (AP)

3 killed, 5 missing as landslide hits India's Kerala

Rescue teams in the southern Indian state of Kerala raced to find five people still missing a day after heavy monsoon rains caused a deadly landslide, officials said.

The landslide killed at least three people working near a tunnel construction site in Wayanad district, a hill region known for its lush forests and rolling green landscapes.

Seven workers were also injured

and are undergoing treatment in a hospital.

Authorities divided the area into zones as rescue crews, including disaster response teams and sniffer dogs, searched the region for missing despite heavy rain hampering operations, Devamanohar, a local police official, told reporters.

A video clip showed a huge mound of mud giving way in heavy

rain, uprooting trees and sweeping away metal and fabric barricades around the tunnel construction site.

Kerala's agriculture minister T. Siddique, who represents the area in the state legislature, told reporters it was "not a natural landslide but a man-made one caused by the unscientific dumping of earth" in comments carried by the Press Trust of India news agency. (AP)

Bid to prevent the country from sliding back into instability

UN officials urge Western nations to engage with Afghanistan

KABUL, July 8, (AP): It is crucial for Western nations to engage with Afghanistan to prevent the country from sliding back into instability that could have repercussions far beyond its borders, two top United Nations officials said.

"The lesson of (the) recent past is that ignoring Afghanistan is not a good thing to do," the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Barham Salih, told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday alongside the head of the United Nations Development Program, Alexander De Croo, during a joint visit to the country.

Although many challenges and difficulties remain, "it's wiser to engage, to support and promote the right type of policies to making sure that Afghanistan remains safe and secure," Salih said, speaking via video link. "Without it, I think we may well risk instability, with all the implications of that instability," whether that is drugs, extremism, criminal activity or the movement of refugees, he said.

After four decades of conflict, the impoverished, aid-dependent country is now buffeted by multiple crises, from natural disasters and climate change to the largest influx of returning refugees the world has seen in decades.



A boy and a girl collect water from a hose connected to a well at a mosque in Deh Mazang, Kabul, Afghanistan, April 2. (AP)

"In Afghanistan, there is never a crisis just on its own. It's always crisis on top of crisis," De Croo told the AP. "And that you see here."

Nearly 6 million people have returned to Afghanistan since 2023, the vast majority from neighboring Pakistan and Iran since those countries began a crackdown on migrants living there. Another roughly 2 mil-

lion people are expected to return this year, the UN officials said.

The returnees have strained local communities, many of which already have scant resources in a country where poverty is rife and malnutrition stalks the most vulnerable.

This has been compounded by massive cuts in international aid and a Taliban government that has sidelined

half of Afghanistan's population, denying women and girls education beyond primary school and banning them from the vast majority of jobs.

The country is also internationally isolated. No Western nation has formally recognized Afghanistan's government since the Taliban seized power in the wake of a chaotic withdrawal of U.S.-led troops in August 2021. Russia was the first country to officially do so, in 2025.

Last month, a delegation from the Taliban government traveled to Brussels to meet European Union staff for talks on diplomatic services and the return of Afghans from European countries. The meeting symbolized a small crack in Afghanistan's diplomatic isolation.

Yet despite the significant challenges, Afghanistan has nonetheless shown improvement in some areas, notably in security and combating corruption and drug production, the U.N. officials said.

"I wouldn't close my eyes to the fact that there is progress, and maybe progress that no one would have expected five years ago," De Croo told the AP. He said drug production was down by 95% in a country that was one of the world's major producers of opium and heroin.

Africa

Zimbabwe's prez signs law to delay elections: Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa has signed into law constitutional amendments that abolish direct presidential elections, postpone the next vote and extend his tenure, according to a government notice issued on Tuesday, despite strong opposition from critics.

Mnangagwa, already one of the world's oldest serving leaders at 83, had previously pledged to step down when his second and final term ends in 2028.

But his ruling ZANU-PF party, backed by some lawmakers from the fractured opposition, pushed the amendments through Parliament, making Zimbabwe the latest African country to amend its constitution in a way that allows an incumbent president to remain in office longer.

Parliament approved the amendments in June. They postpone the next election, scheduled for 2028, by two years, effectively extending Mnangagwa's tenure to 2030. (AP)

Violence escalates in South Sudan: A government-appointed county commissioner in an opposition stronghold in South Sudan's oil-rich Jonglei State was "assassinated" by opposition forces in renewed violence, the government confirmed late Monday.

Fighting in Jonglei has intensified in recent days, with an unknown number of casualties. The strategic county of Akobo has seen the appointment of both government-backed and opposition-backed county commissioners.

James Kueth Makuach, the government-appointed commissioner, was killed on Sunday when opposition fighters launched an assault on Walgak, a remote area in Akobo West, according to officials from both sides.

Makuach defected to President Salva Kiir's ruling party in April after being removed by the opposition's acting leadership earlier this year. (AP)



Mnangagwa

Kuwait oil price surges to \$71.67 pb

KUWAIT CITY, July 8, (KUNA): Price of Kuwaiti oil rose by USD 2.45 to USD 71.67 per barrel (pb) in Tuesday's trading, compared with USD 69.22 per barrel in Monday's trading, according to Kuwait Pe-

roleum Corporation (KPC) on Wednesday. In global markets, Brent crude rose by USD 2.2 to USD 74.16 pb, while US West Texas Intermediate rose USD 2.1 to reach USD 70.44 pb.

Business

Oil revenue drop widens Kuwait budget deficit

Kuwait posts KD 7.14 bln fiscal deficit for FY 2025/26

25/26 Highlights:

- KD7.14 billion fiscal deficit compared to last year's closing deficit of KD1.05 billion, an increase of 576.2%
- Total revenue down by 25.4% compared to last year's closing accounts
- Non-oil revenue up 6.3% compared to last year's closing accounts
- Total expenditure up 2.1% compared to last year's closing accounts
- Wages and subsidies: KD19.2 billion, comprising 81.5% of all expenditure.

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: The Kuwait Ministry of Finance today announced the State of Kuwait's closing accounts for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026. The State's accounts recorded KD16.5 billion in revenue, KD23.6 billion in expenditure, and closed with a fiscal deficit of KD7.14 billion. The State of Kuwait's fiscal year starts on April 1st and ends on March 31st.

Commenting on the results, Minister of Finance Prof. Dr. Yaqoub Al-Sayed Yousef Al-Refaei said: "The deficit reflects a 29.8% decline in oil revenue compared to fiscal year 2024/2025, partly offset by a 6.3% rise in non-oil revenue."

He added: "I want to thank the staff of the Ministry of Finance and the state's broader financial apparatus. They have shown real commitment and responsibility through a difficult period for the country, and have gone above and beyond to keep the work moving efficiently and in the country's best interest."

25/26 Revenue Highlights:

- Total Revenue: KD16.5 billion, down 25.4% from closing 24/25
- Oil revenue: KD13.6 billion, down 29.8% from closing 24/25
- Non-oil revenue: KD2.9 billion, up 6.3% from closing 24/25

25/26 Expenditure Highlights:

- Wages and subsidies: KD19.2 billion, comprising 81.5% of all expenditure.
- Capital Expenditure: KD1.78 billion, comprising 7.5% of all expenditure.
- Total Expenditure: KD23.6 billion up 2.1% from last year's closing accounts.

25/26 Fiscal Balance:

- Fiscal Balance: KD7,141 million deficit (KD7.14 billion), compared to a KD1,056 million deficit (KD1.05 billion) in the prior year's closing accounts — an increase of 576.2%

Closing Account Summary (KD Mil)

	Closing 25/26 (Ending in 31 March 2026)	Budget 25/26 (Ending in 31 March 2026)	%Change
Revenue			
Oil	13,589	15,305	(11.2%)
Non-Oil	2,868	2,926	(2.0%)
Total Revenue	16,457	18,231	(9.7%)
Expenditure			
Salaries and Wages	14,986	15,058	(0.5%)
Subsidies	4,235	4,428	(4.4%)
Capex	1,780	2,243	(20.6%)
Other	2,506	2,809	(7.6%)
Total Expenditure	23,506	24,538	(3.8%)
Fiscal Balance	(7,141)	(6,307)	13.2%

Non-Oil Revenue
+6.3%
Compared to last year's closing accounts

Wages and Subsidies share
81.5%
Of Total Expenditure

Revenue Breakdown (KD Mil)

	Closing 25/26 (Ending in 31 March 2026)	Budget 25/26 (Ending in 31 March 2026)	%Change
Revenue			
Oil	13,589	15,305	(11.2%)
Non-Oil	2,868	2,926	(2.0%)
Total Revenue	16,457	18,231	(9.7%)

Non-Oil Revenue
+6.3%
Compared to last year's closing accounts

Revenue (Historical, KD Bil.)



Expenditure Breakdown (KD Mil)

	Closing 25/26 (Ending in 31 March 2026)	Budget 25/26 (Ending in 31 March 2026)	%Change
Expenditure			
Salaries and Wages	14,986	15,058	(0.5%)
Subsidies	4,235	4,428	(4.4%)
Capex	1,780	2,243	(20.6%)
Other	2,506	2,809	(7.6%)
Total Expenditure	23,506	24,538	(3.8%)

Salaries, Wages, and Subsidies
81.5%
Of Total Expenditure

Expenditure Historical (KD Bil.)



In association with Markaz and Boubyan Bank

Strengthening digital value proposition

Zain Perks welcomes 4Sale to its growing network of partners

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: Zain Kuwait announces that 4Sale has officially joined the Zain Perks family, bringing exclusive deals from Kuwait's most recognized online marketplace platform to Zain customers. The new collaboration further expands the Zain Perks network, enriching the program's growing list of partners that are closely connected to customers' everyday lifestyles, needs, and interests.

Customers can now easily access and redeem 4Sale offers directly through the Zain app under the dedicated Zain Perks tab. The experience is designed to be simple, instant, and convenient, allowing customers to benefit from amazing benefits without the need for points, waiting periods, or complicated steps.

The Zain Perks network continues to grow through collaborations with leading local and international brands across categories that matter most to customers. By bringing together convenience, exclusive rewards, and digital lifestyle benefits, the program continues to evolve as an added-value platform that goes beyond traditional telecom offerings.

4Sale is widely recognized as Kuwait's leading online marketplace platform, connecting buyers and sellers across a broad range of categories, including cars, properties, electronics, services, and more. Its strong local presence and digital-first platform make it a natural addition to Zain Perks, especially as more customers seek seamless, app-based experiences that save time, offer value, and fit into their everyday routines.

The collaboration combines Zain's customer-centric digital ecosystem with 4Sale's strong marketplace presence, creating a new opportunity to deliver practical value to customers through offers that are both relevant and easy to redeem. It also reflects a shared vision between both brands to enhance customer experiences through innovation, convenience, and rewarding everyday interactions.

Zain Perks offers instant access to deals from a growing network of partners across fashion, sports and health, home and lifestyle, dining, online shopping, and more. Customers can browse available offers, select the deal they want, and follow the simple on-screen steps to redeem it instantly, whether online or in-store.

By continuously adding new partners like 4Sale, Zain strengthens Zain Perks' role as a dynamic platform that rewards customers while also creating new visibility and engagement opportunities for local brands and digital platforms.

Boursa Kuwait hosts the sixth edition of CODED Academy's UNICOD Program

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: Boursa Kuwait continued its strategic partnership with CODED Academy for the third consecutive year, underscoring its steadfast commitment to corporate social responsibility and its focus on human capital development as a fundamental pillar of sustainability. The bourse will host and sponsor the sixth edition of the Academy's UNICOD Program, a specialized educational initiative that aims to equip university students and recent graduates in Kuwait with advanced practical and technical skills, contributing to bridging the gap between academia and the needs of the Kuwaiti labor market.

Boursa Kuwait's partnership with CODED Academy forms part of its broader commitment to sustainability, financial literacy and the development of young national talent. Through initiatives that integrate financial knowledge with digital skills and entrepreneurship, the exchange continues to support the preparation of a new generation equipped to contribute to a technology-driven economy and participate effectively in the ongoing evolution of Kuwait's capital market and contribute to the diversification of its economy.

Preparing the youth for a digital economy

This year's edition is distinguished by its expanded scope and capacity, welcoming more young talent from various academic disciplines to deliver an integrated educational and practical learning experience.

■ Greater capacity: In its sixth edition, the program will welcome 400 university students and recent graduates from across Kuwait.

■ Intensive timeline: The program will run over four months, from September to December 2026.

■ Flexible training structure: The course content will be delivered through four consecutive cohorts to ensure quality learning outcomes and a strong focus on practical application.

■ Advanced technical tracks: The program will cover specialized tracks including Python programming with artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and web development.

■ New financial and technical integration: A new data science track has been introduced, alongside additional workshops in financial technology and artificial intelligence to meet the growing needs of the financial sector.

The program will be held with the joint support and coordination of Boursa Kuwait, CODED Academy, Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" and Boubyan Bank, who have agreed to cover the majority of the actual participation cost, ensuring that fees remain nominal and accessible to all students without barriers.

Reflecting the institutions' joint commitment to social responsibility, this expanded collaboration aims to widen access to technical education, promote entrepreneurial thinking among young people and equip them with future-ready skills that support the State's vision for economic diversification and the development of a knowledge-based economy.

Boursa Kuwait: An environment that inspires tomorrow's investors and entrepreneurs

Boursa Kuwait's contribution goes beyond academic and financial sponsorship, providing participants with an exceptional field-based learning experience:

■ Integrated hosting on-site: Boursa Kuwait will host the program's training sessions at its premises, offering participants a valuable opportunity to learn and train in a professional environment equipped with advanced facilities.

■ Logistical support: Boursa Kuwait's qualified national workforce will provide comprehensive logistical support to ensure the program is delivered with the highest levels of efficiency and excellence.

■ Exposure to a real investment environment: Hosting the program at Boursa Kuwait, the heart of the Kuwaiti capital market and its gateway to investment, adds an inspirational dimension to the learning experience. Participants will be immersed in the financial and operational environment they aspire to join in the future, strengthening their connection and encouraging the traders and retail investors of tomorrow to explore promising opportunities across capital markets, financial and banking sectors.



Naser Al-Sanousi



Ahmad Marafi



Ahmad Al-Falah



Saleh Al-Mansour



A national alliance integrating financial literacy with AI and fintech to empower 400 students and bridge the gap in the labor market.

Sustainability and contributions to the community

"Boursa Kuwait's sponsorship and hosting of the UNICOD program for the third consecutive year reaffirms its steadfast commitment to transforming social responsibility into a sustainable and tangible investment in national talent, said Senior Director of Marketing and Corporate Communications at Boursa Kuwait Mr. Naser Mishari Al-Sanousi.

"We thank CODED Academy for enabling this exemplary partnership to achieve shared development goals, connecting the education ecosystem with labor market requirements and modern technology to create real opportunities for young people to acquire future-ready skills," he added.

"Empowering participants with the tools of innovation is a fundamental pillar in ensuring the readiness of our national economy for digital transformation and building a mature and competitive capital market. This year's edition is a practical platform for embedding digital financial literacy, through which we seek to equip future young investors with the ability to use data and artificial intelligence to assess opportunities and make informed investment decisions, while also enabling entrepreneurs to develop pioneering fintech solutions that contribute creative Kuwaiti talent to the national economy," he stated.

"CODED Academy was founded with a clear vision to make technology education accessible, practical and fully future-oriented, empowering Kuwait's youth to build real skills and shape successful career paths. From this standpoint, the UNICOD program is built on a clear philosophy that we do not teach for theoretical knowledge alone, but for capability and empowerment through real-world projects," said Mr. Ahmad Marafi, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of CODED Academy.

"We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Boursa Kuwait for its generous sponsorship, hosting of the program and support within its distinguished headquarters, as

well as Kuwait Financial Centre 'Markaz' and Boubyan Bank for their generous sponsorship and continued support. Through this alliance, we are committed to preparing university students and recent graduates to the standards of the real labor market, while instilling a mindset of independent innovation," he added.

"This gives the leaders and entrepreneurs of tomorrow the confidence to apply their technology and artificial intelligence skills and build a strong portfolio of work that advances their professional journey toward a promising future," he concluded.

"We are proud to continue supporting the UNICOD program for the third consecutive year, extending our partnership with CODED since 2019, a reflection of Markaz's commitment to contributing to the development of national talent and preparing a generation equipped with the skills needed to lead the economy of the future," said Mr. Ahmad Fouad Al-Falah, Managing Director, Investment Banking, at Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz".

"Amid the rapid transformations taking place around the world, digital and programming skills, artificial intelligence and analytical thinking have become essential elements in enabling young people to keep pace with labor market requirements and contribute to building a more competitive economy. Through our sponsorship of the UNICOD program, we continue to support initiatives that provide real opportunities for learning and practical application, while reinforcing a culture of continuous development. This aligns with our vision of investing in human capital as a key driver of economic growth and sustainable development in the State of Kuwait," he stressed.

"We also believe that Kuwaiti youth can utilize modern technologies and artificial intelligence to develop innovative solutions that respond to the needs of society and contribute to strengthening Kuwait's position as a hub for innovation and knowledge," stated Al-Falah.

"We are pleased to collaborate with Boursa Kuwait and Boubyan Bank in supporting this program, based on a shared conviction that building effective partnerships between the financial and educational sectors contributes to preparing a generation capable of leading the future," he added.

"Boubyan Bank's sponsorship of the UNICOD program is a natural extension of our longstanding partnership with CODED Academy, which has evolved over the years, beginning with the sponsorship of the first Startup Bootcamps, to the recent Innovation and Artificial Intelligence Hackathon," said Mr. Saleh Al-Mansour, General Manager of Retail Products and Business Performance at Boubyan Bank.

"This partnership is delivered through our PRIME youth account, which was designed to be a partner for Kuwaiti youth from 15 to 25, equipping them with the digital and programming skills required by the labor market and reflecting the bank's belief that our role goes beyond banking services to making a real investment in the future of this generation," he added.

"We are pleased to align our efforts with Boursa Kuwait and Markaz to support the financial technology ecosystem and develop the technical skills of our future leaders. Boubyan Bank firmly believes that proactive investing in young minds capable of leading innovation is the true guarantee of a sustainable national economy," concluded Al-Mansour.

Building on a proven track record

Since its launch in 2021, UNICOD has succeeded in establishing its position as a leading practical platform for empowering youth, supporting digital innovation and preparing talent for the future of business, achieving the following results:

■ Empowering more than 1000 young entrepreneurs: Since its inception, the program has contributed to developing the skills and capabilities of more than 1000 university students and recent graduates in advanced technology.

■ Exceptional graduation rates: The program has maintained its educational effectiveness, achieving an overall graduation rate of more than 80%.

■ Results of the 2025 edition: Last year's edition accepted 321 students from 824 applicants, with an 81% completion rate among participants who completed the required project.

Aligning community efforts with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Boursa Kuwait's long-standing partnership with CODED Academy and national partners represents a practical and inspiring model for collaboration between the private sector, educational institutions and financial organizations to prepare youth and equip society for a knowledge-based, digitally transformed economy.

Through its continued support for UNICOD, Boursa Kuwait continues to translate its developmental strategy for social responsibility and corporate sustainability into tangible initiatives focused on quality education, capacity building and youth empowerment. These efforts contribute to creating a positive and sustainable social impact while supporting the development of human capital in Kuwait.

As part of its commitment to aligning its community efforts with global priorities, Boursa Kuwait continues to link its humanitarian and developmental initiatives with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly:

■ Goal 4: Quality Education: By providing advanced and accessible technical education platforms for students

■ Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth: By preparing young people and equipping them with skills that open promising career opportunities and support entrepreneurial thinking among emerging innovators

■ Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: By encouraging technological innovation and the development of local digital solutions

■ Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals: Reflected in this productive institutional alliance between the exchange, the banking and investment sectors and educational institutions in service of the community



A group photo of Gulf Bank officials and employees.

Marking the 26th millionaire since the account's launch in 1998

Ahmed Ibrahim Mahmoud Khatib takes home KD 1 million in Gulf Bank's AIDanah Millionaire

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: Gulf Bank has announced Mr. AHMED IBRAHIM MAHMOUD KHATIB as the latest winner of its AIDanah Millionaire Account semi-annual draw, awarding a cash prize of KD 1 million. This milestone marks the 26th millionaire in the account's history since its launch in 1998.

The announcement further reinforces AIDanah's long-standing position as one of Kuwait's most prominent savings accounts, while reflecting Gulf Bank's continued commitment to encouraging a stronger culture of saving, promoting financial awareness, and rewarding customers across different segments.

The winner's name was announced by renowned media personality Eman Alnajem during a live broadcast on 360 FM and Gulf Bank's social media channels. The draw also included the announcement of 10 winners, each receiving KD 1,000. All draws were conducted under the supervision of leading international audit firms RSM and Grant Thornton, underscoring Gulf Bank's commitment to transparency, credibility, and strong governance standards across its customer reward programmes.

Commenting on the occasion, Najla Aleisa, Chief Marketing Officer at Gulf Bank, said: "At Gulf Bank, we are proud to continue offering the AIDanah Millionaire account as one of our flagship products, providing customers with exceptional opportunities to win life-changing cash prizes while promoting the importance of long-term saving."

She added: "Reaching the 26th AIDanah millionaire since 1998 is a testament to the trust our customers place in Gulf Bank. It also reflects our continued commitment to strengthening financial awareness, encouraging a sustainable culture of saving, and delivering a distinguished banking experience that supports customers in achieving their aspirations."

Aleisa congratulated the KD 1 million winner and expressed her appreciation to all customers who have chosen the AIDanah Millionaire account as part of their financial journey. She also wished customers continued success in the upcoming draws across the account's various prize categories.

She noted that Gulf Bank remains focused on providing customers with meaningful opportunities that can positively impact their lives, while reinforcing the Bank's role as a trusted financial partner in Kuwait. Through products such as the AIDanah Millionaire account, Gulf Bank continues to support customers in building stronger savings habits and pursuing their long-term financial goals.

As part of its ongoing efforts to enhance the AIDanah proposition, Gulf Bank introduced a new draw structure, increasing the total prize value to KD 3,500,000. The new structure includes a grand prize of KD 1,500,000 and five winners of KD 200,000 each across five separate draws throughout the year.

For her part, Saba Al-Fassam, Assistant General Manager of Priority Banking at Gulf Bank, said: "Through its Private Banking team, Gulf Bank offers AIDanah millionaire winners dedicated financial and investment consultation, supporting them in managing their winnings wisely and planning for their long-term financial future."

She added that Gulf Bank remains committed to providing distinguished wealth management services that are tailored to customers' evolving needs and aligned with their lifestyles. These services are designed to offer customers a more personalised banking experience, while enabling them to conduct their banking transactions with ease, convenience, and confidence.

Meanwhile, Yaser Sulaiman, Executive Manager of Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank, said: "Gulf Bank applies the highest standards of transparency in AIDanah draws. Winners of prizes below KD 50,000 are excluded from all draws for three months, while winners of prizes above KD 50,000 are excluded from all draws for one year, after which they become eligible to participate again."

He added that AIDanah account customers benefit from several distinctive advantages, including being part of the only account in Kuwait that carries forward winning chances from the previous year to the following year. This feature forms part of a customer loyalty programme designed to reward customers for their continued relationship with Gulf Bank.



Gulf Bank officials at the conclusion of the AIDanah Millionaire draw.



Najla Aleisa signs a check for one million dinars.



Executive Director of Marketing with media personality Eman Alnajem.



Representatives of global auditing firms.

■ **Najla Aleisa:** The prizes reflect our ongoing commitment to promoting a savings culture and delivering exceptional banking experiences to customers.
 ■ **Saba Al-Fassam:** Through our Private Banking team, Gulf Bank offers AIDanah millionaire winners dedicated financial and investment consultation, supporting them in managing their winnings wisely and planning for their long-term financial future.
 ■ **Yaser Sulaiman:** Gulf Bank has one of the lowest minimum balances required in the banking sector to qualify for millionaire prizes.

Sulaiman also highlighted that Gulf Bank offers one of the lowest minimum balance requirements in the Kuwaiti banking sector for eligibility to win millionaire prizes, with customers able to participate with a minimum balance of only KD 200. Customers' chances of winning increase as their savings grow and as they maintain their balances for longer periods. The account also provides flexibility, allow-

ing customers to deposit and withdraw funds while maintaining eligibility for the draws.

All AIDanah cash prizes are deposited directly into winners' Gulf Bank accounts as a single lump-sum payment, providing customers with immediate access to their winnings and a seamless banking experience.

10 Monthly Winners Receive KD 1,000 Each

As part of its ongoing commitment to rewarding customers, Gulf Bank also announced 10 winners in the monthly draw for June, with each winner receiving KD 1,000. The draw was conducted under the supervision of international audit firms, further reinforcing the Bank's commitment to transparency.

The 10 winners are:

1. SALAH SALEM JASEM AL KANDARI
2. KHALIL EBRAHEEM ABDULKREEM ALSAFAER
3. LAILA YOUSSEF ATTIA GURGUIS
4. TALAL ABDULLAH ABBAS ABUL
5. IHAM ABBAS NAEEM
6. FAISAL MOHAMMED HASAN AHMAD
7. MESHAAAL KASHAN RAKAN ALDFERI
8. ZENA NAJEB EBRAHEM ALWEQUYAN
9. SHUROUQ ABDULLAH HASAN ALOMAM
10. MONA ABDULHAMED KHALEEL ALQATTAN

Inspiring Stories from AIDanah Millionaires

During the event, Najla Aleisa highlighted several inspiring experiences of previous AIDanah Millionaire winners, noting how the prizes contributed to helping customers achieve their ambitions and financial goals. She also emphasized the diversity of winners over the years, including adults and children, Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis, as well as both women and men.

These stories reflect the wider impact of the AIDanah Millionaire account, not only as a savings account, but also as a platform that encourages customers to save consistently while giving them the opportunity to win significant cash prizes.

Upcoming AIDanah Draws

- KD 1,500,000
 - o Last date to deposit and enter the draw: September 30, 2026
 - o Draw date: February 10, 2027
- KD 200,000
 - o Last date to deposit and enter the draw: June 30, 2026
 - o Draw date: September 9, 2026
- KD 200,000
 - o Last date to deposit and enter the draw: August 31, 2026
 - o Draw date: November 11, 2026
- KD 200,000
 - o Last date to deposit and enter the draw: October 31, 2026
 - o Draw date: January 13, 2027

AIDanah Millionaire Account in Numbers

Since its launch, the AIDanah Millionaire account has achieved several key milestones:

- 1998: Launch year of the AIDanah Millionaire Account

- Approximately KD 59 million in total AIDanah prizes awarded since launch
- 5,883 customers have won prizes since the account was launched
- 26 millionaires have been created through AIDanah since launch
- Recognised twice globally by Guinness World Records for the largest cash prize linked to a bank account
- One of the lowest minimum balance requirements in the banking sector for participation in millionaire draws, at KD 200

"Let's Be Aware" Campaign Featured During the Draw

As part of its commitment to strengthening financial literacy in Kuwait, Gulf Bank ensured the presence of the Diraya "Let's Be Aware" banking awareness campaign during the draw. The campaign, supervised by the Central Bank of Kuwait in cooperation with the Kuwait Banking Association, was featured through awareness messages broadcast during the live event.

This initiative reflects Gulf Bank's ongoing support for national efforts to promote financial awareness, responsible banking behaviour, fraud prevention, and a stronger culture of saving across all segments of society.

To support high school students in shaping their academic futures

Weyay Bank becomes strategic partner of 'Choose Your Major' campaign

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: As part of its ongoing commitment to empowering Kuwaiti youth and supporting them throughout their educational journey, Weyay Bank participated as the strategic partner of the "Choose Your Major" campaign, held at Mishref Fairgrounds. The initiative aimed to help high school students and recent graduates make informed academic decisions that align with their ambitions and the evolving needs of the job market.



Al-Wazzan

The event attracted strong attendance from students and parents eager to benefit from the guidance sessions and academic insights provided by higher education specialists and experts. The campaign offered students the opportunity to explore a wide range of university majors, discover different fields of study, and gain a better understanding of the academic require-



Weyay Bank supports students at Mishref Education Expo.

ments and career prospects associated with each discipline.

"Our strategic partnership with the 'Choose Your Major Right' campaign reflects Weyay's commitment to supporting young people during the pivotal stages of their lives, particularly the transition from secondary to higher education. This stage represents one of the most influential milestones in shaping their academic and pro-

fessional futures," said **Mohammad Al-Wazzan**, Assistant Vice President - Sales Force at Bank.

During the event, Weyay showcased its digital banking solutions and services designed specifically to meet the needs of young people and students, helping them manage their finances with ease from the start of their university journey. The bank also highlighted the benefits of its digital bank-

ing app, which enables customers to open accounts and manage financial transactions quickly and conveniently through their mobile phones without the need to visit a branch. In addition, Weyay promoted its student-focused offerings, including transferring allowance and accessing the SELECT card, which is specially designed for university students. The card provides exclusive offers and dis-

counts from leading brands that match students' preferences and lifestyles.

This participation reflects Weyay's commitment to staying closely connected with young people during important life milestones and supporting them with the tools, knowledge, and services they need to build a more successful and independent future.

Further reinforcing this commit-

ment, Weyay Bank also participated in the Universities Expo, held at Mishref Fairgrounds. This continued presence in youth-focused educational initiatives and events underscores the Bank's role as a dedicated partner to Kuwaiti youth from the very beginning of their university journey, supporting them throughout different stages of their lives.

Recognizing exceptional academic performance & inspiring the youth

stc honors outstanding students in CSR ceremony

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers enabling digital transformation in Kuwait, organized a recognition ceremony honoring outstanding students as part of its comprehensive corporate social responsibility (CSR) framework. The ceremony reflects stc's continued commitment to supporting the education sector, empowering youth, encouraging academic excellence, and celebrating students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement.

Hosted at stc's headquarters in Assima Tower, the ceremony recognized top-performing high school students for the 2025/2026 academic year, outstanding students from special needs schools, as well as the children of stc employees who have displayed academic excellence throughout the school year. The event was attended by Maryam Al-Enezi, Director of Support Services at the Ministry of Education, Khalid AlSudairy, Chief Strategy Officer at stc, and Ahmad Al Murad, Chief Business Excellence Officer at stc, in addition to the students' parents, stc employees, and their families, who gathered to celebrate the students'

■ Al Nowaibet: Supporting students' academic journey reflects stc's commitment to empowering future generations

achievements.

The recognition ceremony formed part of stc's ongoing efforts to celebrate students who have demonstrated exceptional academic performance while encouraging them to continue pursuing and building a brighter future. stc continues to support educational and developmental programs that inspire young people to unlock their full potential, nurture their talents, and equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to Kuwait's economy. The initiative also reflects the Company's commitment to fostering a culture that values learning, innovation, and personal development.

Commenting on the occasion, Ahmad Al-Nowaibet, Director of Public Relations and Social Media at stc, said, "Supporting students throughout their academic journey reflects stc's continued

commitment to empowering future generations and encouraging young people to pursue excellence. We remain committed to creating opportunities that recognize students' achievements, celebrate their dedication, and inspire them to continue striving for success."

AlNowaibet added, "Recognizing outstanding students is one of the many ways we reaffirm our commitment to supporting education and youth empowerment in Kuwait. We are proud to celebrate the achievements of students from different educational backgrounds and will continue working alongside our partners across the education sector to launch initiatives that encourage and help prepare future generations to succeed, whether academically or in personally, realizing their full potential."

stc also highlighted that supporting students and recognizing academic achievement remain an integral part of the Company's commitment to empowering youth and supporting the education sector. Through its strategic partnerships with government and private sector entities, stc continues to launch impactful initiatives that contribute to advancing education, developing national talent, and encouraging innovation.



Maryam Al-Enezi, Khalid AlSudairy, and Ahmad Al Murad honoring outstanding students.



Honoring the outstanding children of employees.



Honoring outstanding students from special education schools.



A glimpse of parents sharing in the joy of their student children.

Dhman: Capex of foreign investment projects in Arab countries declined to \$112 billion in 2025 due to geopolitical developments

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: The Arab Investment & Trade Credit Guarantee Corporation (Dhaman) revealed that the average Arab ranking remained stable at 102nd place globally in its composite index of investment climate components for 2025. This reflects the continued gap from the global average ranking of about 23 places, despite 13 Arab countries recording an improvement in their rankings within the index.

In its 41st Annual Investment Climate Report 2026, launched today from its headquarters in the State of Kuwait, the Corporation recommended adopting integrated and flexible programs to enhance the Arab investment environment. These recommendations focus on four key areas: political and security; institutional, legislative, and procedural; economic; and the production elements; this comes particularly after the Capex of foreign direct investment FDI projects in the Arab world declined by 9%, falling to \$112 billion in 2025 due to geopolitical developments.

As for the inward foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to the Arab countries, they declined by 10.1% to reach approximately 119.3 billion USD in 2025, according to UNCTAD estimates.

With its continued concentration at more than 80% in 3 Arab countries, namely the UAE, which attracted 48.2 billion USD, representing 40.4% of the total; Saudi Arabia, with 32.6 billion USD, accounting for 27%; and Egypt, with 15.4 billion USD, representing 13%.

This coincides with the decrease in the region's share to 7.3% of the global total and 13.3% of the total for developing countries.

At the political and security levels, the Corporation underscored the importance of intensifying peaceful efforts to resolve

■ The Corporation recommended adopting programs to improve the political, security, economic, legislative, and procedural environment

■ GCC countries, along with Jordan and Morocco, ranked at the forefront of Arab countries in the Dhaman Investment Climate Index

■ Priority should be given to reforms that are easier to implement, less costly, more effective, and faster to execute, with a particular focus on expanding and enhancing e-government services

conflicts and strengthening regional coordination to combat terrorism, organized crime, and external interference. It also emphasized the need to modernize security systems, de-escalate civil unrest, and reinforce the rule of law.

As for the institutional, legislative, and procedural environment, the report recommended updating and simplifying investment and business laws to keep pace with developments transparently, with digitizing and automating procedures and reducing their duration, with the need to strengthen governance, quality control systems, and develop the justice and law enforcement system to protect investors and their rights through local legislation, international agreements, and advanced arbitration services, in addition to providing insurance against political and commercial risks.

With respect to the economic environment, the institution stressed the adoption of policies to curb inflation to enhance currency stability, reform the tax and customs systems, and develop infrastructure and logistics. It also called for empowering the private sector and stimulating its participation and diversifying economic resources by offering additional benefits and incentives to targeted sectors.

Concerning the production elements, the report emphasized the importance of developing human capital and bridging the skills gap through education and training and increasing labor market flexibility, making industrial and service land available and accessible, and diversifying and facilitating direct financing channels while activating the role of banks and financial institutions. The demands also included localizing knowledge, stimulating research and development in the production and service sectors, and securing local supply chains, intermediate inputs, and essential components.

The organization called for several points to be considered, most notably; learning from the experiences of countries that have successfully improved their investment environment and rankings in international indices; starting with the easiest and most effective; relying on technology and e-services; and taking into account the differences between countries in terms of resources, capabilities, and challenges.

The report also highlighted the ranking of Arab countries in the 2025 Composite Investment Climate Index, revealing that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Jordan, and Morocco led the

Arab world. The UAE ranked first regionally and 17th globally, followed by Qatar in second place regionally and 38th globally, then Saudi Arabia in third place regionally and 40th globally. Oman came in fourth regionally and 51st globally, followed by Kuwait in fifth place regionally and 52nd globally. Bahrain ranked sixth regionally and 57th globally, then Jordan in seventh place regionally and 74th globally, and finally Morocco in eighth place regionally and 75th globally.

Tunisia and Egypt also achieved better rankings than the Arab average, placing 95th and 100th globally, respectively. In contrast, 11 other Arab countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Djibouti, Mauritania, Iraq, Libya, Palestine, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen) ranked near the bottom of the list, ranging from 104th to 158th globally, respectively.

In its concluding remarks, the institution reaffirmed its commitment to continuing its pivotal role as the world's first multilateral investment insurance body since its establishment in 1974, and to working to overcome the structural and political obstacles hindering capital flows between Arab countries and from the rest of the world. It noted that it provides comprehensive insurance umbrella for investors against political risks (such as expropriation, nationalization, war and civil disturbance, transfer restrictions, and government breach of contract), in addition to insuring Arab trade and its financing against political and commercial risks, which encourages banks to finance development projects and deals at preferential interest rates and with longer repayment periods, as well as its advisory role to governments through monitoring, assessing and providing recommendations to develop the investment climate in the region.

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: Alternative Energy Projects Company (the "Company"), a Kuwait-based renewable energy developer and platform, announced today its intention to pursue a capital increase to support the continued growth of its solar energy business across Kuwait and the wider MENA region.

The Company appointed Kamco Invest, in collaboration with Burgan Bank, to lead the transaction, bringing their regional financial expertise and investor relationships to support the Company's next phase of growth. Kamco Invest will also establish special purpose vehicle on behalf of its clients to participate in the capital increase by acquiring an equity stake in the Company and securing a board representation, thereby supporting the execution of the Company's growth strategy.

Founded in Kuwait, the Company has established itself as a leading renewable energy developer with a proven track record in originating, developing, financing, constructing, and operating solar energy projects. The Company currently operates across Kuwait, Jordan, and Oman, and is pursuing a growing pipeline of commercial, industrial, and utility-scale solar opportunities across the region.

The Company's business model is supported by long-term contracted revenues, typically under agreements ranging from 15 to 25 years with government and corporate counterparties. This model provides visibility, resilience, and alignment with the accelerating demand for clean, reliable, and cost-competitive energy solutions.

The planned capital raise will enable the Company to capitalize on increasing regional demand for solar and hybrid off-grid solutions, particularly within the commercial and industrial segments. Recent geopolitical developments and power reliability considerations have reinforced the importance of energy transition, resilience, and continuity for corporates and industries across the region.

Commenting on the announcement, **Dr. Hassan Qasem**, Chief Executive Officer and Board Member of the Company, said: "The Company has reached an exciting stage in its growth journey. We have built a strong platform with a proven operating model, an experienced management team, and a high-quality pipeline of projects across the region. The capital increase will enable us to accelerate project execution, expand our regional footprint, and capitalize on the significant opportunities emerging from the accelerating energy transition across the region."

He added: "We are pleased to partner with Kamco Invest in collaboration with Burgan Bank on this transaction. Their combined capital markets expertise, strong institutional relationships, and extensive investor networks will support us in attracting strategic investors who share our long-term vision."

The Company has recently secured several competitive solar projects in Kuwait and Oman, further validating the strength of its pipeline, commercial competitiveness, and ability to convert



Dr. Hassan Qasem



Dalal Al Shaya

opportunities into awarded projects. The Company's integrated independent power producer model, combined with its EPC capabilities and growing use of long-term bankable power purchase agreements, positions the Company to expand across key MENA markets including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Jordan.

Dalal Jamal Al Shaya, Director of Private Equity at Kamco Invest, said: "We are pleased to structure the transaction and support the Company as it advances its regional renewable energy platform. The Company's proven operating model, long-term contracted revenue base, and strong project pipeline present a compelling opportunity to participate in the region's energy transition."

She added, "Renewable energy has become a strategic infrastructure priority across the region, supported by favorable regulatory developments, growing energy demand, and ambitious national sustainability objectives. The Company has built a differentiated platform with a proven ability to originate, develop, and operate high-quality solar projects, positioning the Company well to capitalize on these long-term market trends."

The renewable energy sector in the MENA region continues to benefit from declining solar costs, supportive national energy targets, and increasing demand from underserved commercial and industrial customers. Solar energy remains one of the most cost-competitive sources of power generation, creating a strong business case for adoption across the region.

Subject to customary approvals and completion of the transaction process, the proceeds from the capital increase are expected to support the Company's execution of its dynamic project pipeline, strengthen its market position, and expand its renewable energy footprint across the MENA region.

599 property deals recorded

Kuwait real estate trades reach KD 323 mln in June

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: Statistics released on Tuesday by the Real Estate Registration and Documentation Department at the Ministry of Justice show that 599 properties were traded during June, with a total value of approximately KD 323 million (around \$1 billion), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to the statistics, published on the ministry's website, private residential properties accounted for the largest share of transactions, with 458 properties worth KD 167.1 million (around \$51.4 million). Investment properties followed, with 126 transactions valued at KD 93.7 million (around \$309.2 million), while commercial properties recorded 11

transactions worth KD 57.5 million (around \$189.7 million).

The transactions also included one warehouse contract valued at KD 2.3 million (around \$7.5 million), one coastal strip contract worth KD 1.6 million (around \$5.2 million), and one craftsmanship property contract valued at KD 700,000 (around \$2.3 million).

The statistics showed that Ahmadi Governorate recorded the highest number of transactions with 282 contracts, followed by Hawally Governorate with 105, Jahra Governorate with 68, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate with 52, Farwaniya Governorate with 49, and the Capital Governorate with 42 contracts.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education

KFH organizes the largest honor ceremony for top high school graduates

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has organized its largest-ever honor ceremony to celebrate approximately 130 outstanding high school graduates in the Arts, Sciences, and Religious Studies streams for the 2025-2026 academic year. The event also recognized students from special education schools and those who gained international acclaim.

The ceremony took place under the patronage of Minister of Education, Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabai. It was attended by KFH Deputy Group CEO Transformation, Technology and Operations, Haytham Alterkait, Head of Group Public Relations and Media at KFH, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh, the Ministry of Education representative, Mohammad AlKhalidi, and the Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development at the Ministry, Maryam Al-Enezi.

In his address, Engineer Mohammad AlKhalidi, representing His Excellency the Minister of Education, commended KFH's pivotal role in nurturing student potential and empowering Kuwaiti youth. He expressed deep appreciation for the bank's sustained contributions to educational advancement and academic excellence through initiatives that motivate top achievers and celebrate their accomplishments.



AlKhalidi highlighted that KFH continues to spearhead impactful educational programs and strate-

Al-Ruwaieh: Honoring outstanding students embodies strong public-private partnership

AlKhalidi: KFH sets a leading example in social responsibility and educational support

gic partnerships. These efforts, he noted, advance sustainable development, cultivate a culture of excellence and innovation, and invest in the nation's future

talent. Meanwhile, Head of Group Public Relations and Media at KFH, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh congratulated the distinguished graduates and their families on their remarkable success. He extended gratitude to the Ministry of Education for its ongoing collaboration and commitment to the initiative's success.

"This annual ceremony exemplifies the strength of public-private partnership," Al-Ruwaieh stated. "It stems from KFH's pioneering community role and its deep appreciation for academic excellence. By empowering youth, we reinforce our conviction that education and human capital development are fundamental pillars of our social responsibility strategy."

Al-Ruwaieh emphasized that young people represent the nation's greatest asset and its future architects.

He underscored KFH's distinguished track record in corporate social responsibility, citing its high-caliber initiatives that target diverse societal segments, bolster educational progress, and build national capabilities, further cementing the bank's position as a benchmark in sustainability and social responsibility.



Photos during the event

PARIS

FASHION



Models wear creations as part of the Chanel Haute Couture Fall/Winter 2026-2027 Women's collection presented in Paris, Tuesday, July 7, 2026. (AP)

Couture looks turn enchanted

Tales as old as Chanel

Inside the Grand Palais in Paris Tuesday, Chanel's starry salon was swallowed by a garden gone wrong: giant beanstalks climbing to the ceiling and huge flowers blooming a little too brightly to be safe.

Tilda Swinton, Michelle Yeoh and Catherine Deneuve were among the crowd, the kind the Parisian stalwart summons and few others can. The show looked enchanted and faintly poisoned at the same time, which turned out to be the point.

This was designer Matthieu Blazy reaching for the storybook.

The idea came from a small leather-bound book of fairy tales he found on a shelf in house-founder Gabrielle Chanel's old apartment.

Blazy arrived from Bottega Veneta and is still early at Chanel, the house Karl Lagerfeld ran for 36 years until his death in 2019, and then his longtime deputy Virginie Viard led until 2024.

This is only his second couture outing, and already the place feels lighter.

"I started to wonder, was Gabrielle Chanel's life a fairy tale?" Blazy said.

Blazy had decided her rise from a convent orphanage to the top of fashion was its own Jack and the Beanstalk: a nobody who climbs, dares and comes back down with the gold.

So the clothes told tales.

The opening look was a sheer Chanel suit, its grid of embroidery shaped like tiny bean shoots. Vines crept up

dresses and curled around the heels of shoes. Butterflies and blossoms turned up where you least expected them.

Little evening bags took the shape of sleeping bears and fat chickens; heels were sculpted into butterflies and golden eggs. There were sly nods to Goldilocks, Puss in Boots and the Ugly Duckling, though Blazy was too clever to spell any of it out.

Most of the magic hid inside. Jackets concealed painted linings and mock to-do lists stitched in sheer silk - couture's grandest craft spent on a shopping list.

Edges were left deliberately frayed, a nod to Coco Chanel's habit of attacking her own clothes with pins as she fitted them.

"Haute Couture at Chanel is not just a fairy tale; in essence it is for women, their realities and their adventures of the everyday," Blazy said.

That was the real point.

Blazy kept cutting away anything too grand, and what was left were clothes a woman could actually live in: a sharply cut coat, a red sequined shift, an evening look pared all the way back to a black tunic and trousers.

It is the oldest Chanel trick - walk into a room in something plain and make everyone else look as if they tried too hard - and Blazy has quietly made it feel new.

He cast women of every age, which made the argument without a word.

After the customary wedding gown came the finale: a bare black off-the-shoulder dress, less bride than warning shot.

Chanel, famously, never married. (AP)



Protocol aligns with latest international medical standards: Dr. Al-Enezi

Kuwait's Al-Razi Hospital adopts rapid recovery knee protocol

KUWAIT CITY, July 8, (KUNA): The Ministry of Health announced Wednesday that the orthopedic team at Al-Razi Hospital has successfully implemented a rapid recovery protocol for knee replacement surgery, marking one of the first applications of the protocol in the country.

Orthopedic and joint replacement consultant Dr. Hamad Al-Enezi explained that the protocol provides integrated care before, during and after surgery to reduce pain, minimize complications and accelerate patient recovery.

The approach enables patients to stand and walk within hours of surgery and, following medical assessment, return home the same day in line with patient safety and quality standards.

Dr. Al-Enezi said the protocol aligns with the latest international medical standards and reflects the continued development of Kuwait's healthcare sector.



Dr Hamad Al-Enezi during the surgery.

KUNA photos



A customer looks at items at a Grocery Outlet store in Pleasanton, Calif on Sept 15, 2022. (AP)

Why losing weight isn't just about counting calories – and what to do about it

BOSTON, July 8, (AP): When it comes to losing weight, it turns out the simple math of counting calories doesn't always add up.

Fad diets come and go, but the underlying message almost always follows a simple equation. If you consume fewer calories than you burn, the weight will melt away.

In principle, it's true. And counting calories can be a useful tool for managing weight. But it only works if you know what numbers you're counting. And what's been billed as basic math can sometimes look more like Einstein's theory of relativity.

That's because a complex web of factors influences how or even if our bodies process calories. And it turns out diet quality is just as important as quantity, and possibly more.

"Different foods have very different effects on the brain, liver, fat cells, muscle function, pancreas and all organs related to metabolism and body weight," said Dr. Dariush Mozaffarian, a cardiologist and director of the Food is Medicine Institute at Tufts University.

A calorie is the unit of energy used to count what the body can get from

carbohydrates, proteins and fats. That sounds simple, but the complexity of counting calories went mainstream recently, when a lawsuit accused the maker of David protein bars of affixing labels that misrepresented how many calories and how much fat the products contain. The lawsuit has since been dropped.

The allegations were based on an analysis of the bars using bomb calorimetry, which measures calories by burning food and calculating the amount of heat released, a method that counts every potential calorie. But our bodies aren't combustion chambers and don't treat all calories the same. The company's numbers, like many food labels, are based only on the calories our bodies can actually use. Technically, both are correct, but only the latter matters for diet.

"You could put sawdust into a bomb calorimeter and you would get basically 4 calories per gram," said Dr. David Ludwig, an endocrinologist and researcher at Boston Children's Hospital. "If you're a termite, yes, you'll get calories from it. But humans won't."

The calorie counts on most nutri-

tion labels reflect the total our bodies are likely to metabolize, not their burn rate. But they still can be misleading. Because of permitted rounding, the tallies can be off by as much as 20%. Additionally, the digestibility of an ingredient, whether and how it is cooked, to what extent it was processed, variations in processing, even quirks in our own DNA - all of these things influence whether and how our bodies use the calories we eat. Even that is just the start of the complications.

Our bodies determine how to process calories - either burning them or storing them - depending in part on our energy needs. But the quality of the calories matters, too. High-glycemic foods, such as white breads, pastas and sugars, are easily converted to usable energy and trigger our bodies to store calories, Ludwig said.

Foods containing resistant starches, including some beans, whole grains and seeds, resist easy conversion into usable energy and don't trigger that same storage response. They also are more difficult to process, so we absorb fewer of the total calories contained in them.

Obamacare rolls shrank dramatically in many states over past year: federal data

NEW YORK, July 8, (AP): States across the country saw steep drops in the number of people covered by the Affordable Care Act over the past year, with Ohio and Oklahoma each losing nearly one-third of enrollees, according to new federal data that provides the first complete 50-state breakdown of sharp enrollment declines following the January expiration of enhanced subsidies.

The data, posted in late June by the Trump administration and first reported on by The Associated Press, reveals how changes in each state's insured population led to around 2.6 million fewer Americans having Obamacare plans in February compared with the same time last year.

It captures not only how many people signed up for or were automatically reenrolled in plans in 2026, but how many paid their first monthly premiums to keep coverage, according to Cynthia Cox, a vice president and director of the ACA program at the healthcare research nonprofit KFF, who reviewed the dataset. She said it accounts for people who were retroactively removed from coverage after a nonpayment grace period ended.

"This is the first time we've seen state-level data that shows how much ACA marketplace enrollment truly fell," Cox said. "It's in line with our expectations, but it does show a very steep drop in the number of people with ACA coverage."

Health analysts have kept a close eye on changes in ACA enrollment since the expiration of so-called enhanced premium tax credits caused many Americans' monthly health insurance fees to double or triple, forcing some to forgo coverage entirely. The subsidies had been at the center of a bitter fight in Congress last fall, with Democrats and some Republicans calling for their renewal.

Health insurance costs have been rising across ACA and other health insurance programs at a time when voters in the approaching November elections say affordability is among their top concerns.

In a report released last week, the US Department of Health and Human Services suggested the significant drop in enrollment this year could be attributed to a federal crackdown on fraudulent or "phantom" enrollment. But analysts have said it was more likely related to the Jan. 1 expiration of federal subsidies, and other changes, including tightened requirements on which immigrants could access subsidized plans.

Mike Rhoads, deputy commissioner of life and health at the Oklahoma Insurance Department, cited a crackdown on fraudulent enrollments as one reason ACA enroll-



Insurance agent Maria Collado, (center right), works with clients at a shopping mall kiosk run by Las Madrinas de los Seguros, Spanish for 'The Godmothers of Insurance,' at a shopping center in Miami, Dec 5, 2023. (AP)

ments dropped. But he said in his state, the biggest factor was money.

"It's all about affordability at this point in time," he said in an interview, adding that he expects the problem to continue with insurers forecast to raise rates again next year.

An AP analysis of the data finds that Ohio and Oklahoma each saw a more than 32% decline in ACA enrollment over the past year. They lost larger shares of their covered populations than any other state.

Following closely behind, and losing more than a fourth of their enrollees, were Arizona, South Carolina, Minnesota, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Louisiana and Missouri.

Florida, a state that relies heavily on ACA insurance in part because it did not expand Medicaid and is home to many gig workers and entrepreneurs, still has more residents in the marketplace than any other state, at nearly 4 million. But it also saw the highest number of enrollees drop coverage this year - around 443,000.

The data doesn't show whether people who dropped ACA health insurance this year found coverage elsewhere, and chances are some of them became insured through employer plans or other options. But Cox said most people who left the marketplace are likely going without insurance, because it is typically a "place of last resort" to get health coverage for people who aren't eligible elsewhere.

Some of the states that saw the largest enrollment declines were the same ones that saw the biggest enrollment gains after the federal government introduced enhanced subsidies during the COVID-19 pandemic. Cox said that isn't surprising, because those states likely had large

numbers of people who enrolled only because the enhanced subsidies made coverage much more affordable.

Also:

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration is proposing a new rule to keep hospitals from charging mark-ups on discounted drugs for Medicare patients and says that could save consumers \$1.1 billion next year, according to estimates obtained by The Associated Press.

The rule would apply to hospitals that serve low-income patients under what is known as the 340B program, which lets hospitals buy outpatient prescription drugs at discounted prices. But in many cases, hospitals can bill insurers at rates that exceed those costs, allowing hospitals to keep the difference and resulting in higher costs to patients.

Under the proposed rule, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services would change the formula for what hospitals participating in the program can get reimbursed, in an effort to cut costs for patients.

The Republican administration has sought to show during an election year that it is tackling the challenges of affordability for U.S. families at a time when rising healthcare costs are driving financial strains for households and the government alike. While the administration has taken several steps it says will save money on medical treatment, it is unclear how much savings might ultimately materialize based on the complexity of the country's healthcare system.

The American Hospital Association said the proposed rule would compound the financial pressures its members face.

Some health workers in Congo's Ebola outbreak go on strike over pay issues

BUNIA, Congo, July 8, (AP): The healthcare workers at the epicenter of Congo's Ebola outbreak are walking off their jobs to protest delays in their payments, threatening efforts to slow the outbreak that officials said continues to spread faster than the response.

In Ituri province, the hardest hit among the three provinces in eastern Congo affected by the outbreak, some of the health professionals and other front-line workers told The Associated Press they've not been paid their wages and bonuses since the outbreak was declared on May 15. They also alleged they were working with limited gear, and were being treated unfairly by authorities as well as response teams.

"Since the Ebola virus disease outbreak was declared, we've been demanding payment for our work," Dr. Biensi Kano, a member of the epidemiological surveillance committee in Ituri's capital, Bunia, told The Associated Press.

The latest government data shows

1,708 recorded cases, including 580 deaths, and that the first month of this Ebola outbreak was already the



Ancia

worst on record, health authorities said. The strike comes at the start of enrollment for clinical trials for the treatment of the Bundibugyo virus that is responsible for this outbreak.

The World Health Organization representative in Congo, Dr. Anne Ancia, said Tuesday that the virus continues to spread, fueled by population movements and insecurity, while some treatment centers are at near-full capacity.

The non-payment of benefits "exposes us and our families to significant socio-economic difficulties and seriously undermines our living conditions," said Kano.

In an official notice to national

and provincial authorities over the weekend, front-line workers in Ituri threatened to strike if the wages were not paid in 24 hours. By Tuesday, some had already stopped working although no official strike has been declared.

The aggrieved front-line workers also include safety and security teams, those that often embark on community outreach as well as those burying patients who died from Ebola.

Congo's government did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the situation. Officials in Ituri, however, said they've met with the workers and their concerns are being addressed.

"The fact that Bunia airport is closed is hampering the very implementation of the response, particularly certain aspects of the flow of funds. This is one of the reasons that may account for the delay in payment," Akilimali Pierre, incident manager at Congo's National Institute of Public Health, told The Associated Press.

China's Tianwen-2 probe reaches target asteroid

BEIJING, July 8, (Xinhua): China's Tianwen-2 probe has successfully arrived at a distance of 20 kilometers from the asteroid 2016HO3, enabling it to begin scientific exploration after an approximately 400-day journey of about 1 billion kilometers, the China National Space Administration (CNSA) announced on Monday.

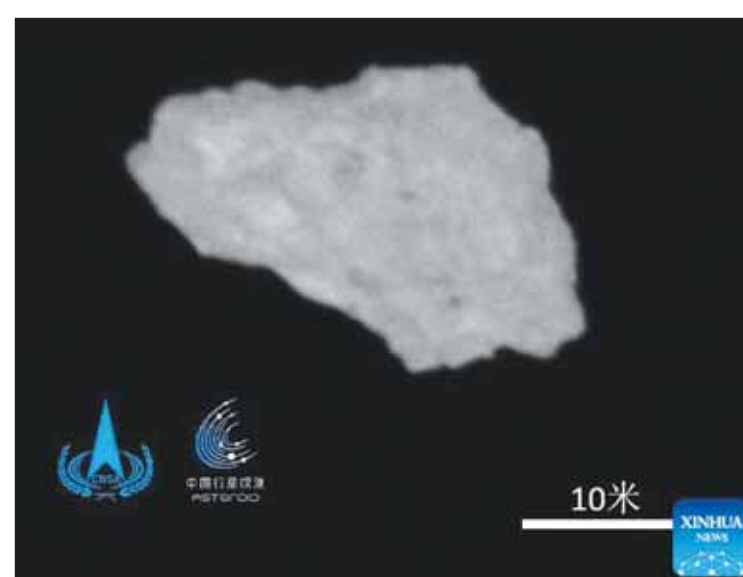
China launched its first asteroid sample-return mission, Tianwen-2, on May 29, 2025, aiming to achieve multiple goals over a decade-long expedition: collecting samples from the near-Earth asteroid 2016HO3 and exploring the main-belt comet 311P, which is more distant than Mars.

Known as a quasi-satellite of Earth, asteroid 2016HO3 orbits the Sun and appears to circle around Earth as well, remaining a constant companion to our planet.

Dubbed as "cosmic fossils," asteroids preserve critical information about the solar system's infancy, scientists say.

The study of 2016HO3 is akin to opening a window to the early history of the solar system, offering significant scientific value for unraveling the material composition, formation processes and evolutionary trajectory of the solar system in its primordial phase.

During the approach phase, the probe acquired imagery of the asteroid. The mission team leveraged optical navigation data gathered dur-



This photo unveiled by the China National Space Administration (CNSA) shows an imagery of asteroid 2016HO3 taken by Tianwen-2 probe from a distance of about 20 kilometers on July 2. (Xinhua)

ing the close approach to refine the asteroid's ephemeris, reducing the positional uncertainty, previously determined solely through ground-based observations, from hundreds of kilometers down to the kilometer scale, according to the CNSA.

A distinctive feature of the Tianwen-2 mission is its strategy of flying and probing simultaneously, with decisions made throughout the process. The probe features an innovative

sampling system with three operation modes -- touching, hovering and anchoring -- to cope with varying surface conditions of the asteroid.

The probe is equipped with a suite of scientific instruments, including cameras, a visible and infrared imaging spectrometer, a thermal emission spectrometer, radar, a magnetometer and analyzers for charged and neutral particles, as well as for ejected materials, according to the CNSA.

Event connects key figures in Kuwait's sports community

Burgan celebrates historic Asian crown at gala ceremony



Burgan handball team celebrates its Asian championship victory with a group photo during the ceremony.



Asian Handball Federation President Bader Al-Dhiyab delivers his remarks during the ceremony.



Al-Otaibi welcomes Marzouq Al-Ghanim, honorary president of Kuwait Club, at the ceremony.



Anwar and Talal Al-Otaibi pose for a photo during the ceremony.



Bashar Abdullah, Director General of the Public Authority for Sport, delivers a speech at the ceremony.

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 8: Burgan Club honored its men's handball team at a gala ceremony held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel on Monday, celebrating the club's historic victory in the 28th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship, which was hosted in Kuwait last month.

The event brought together leading figures from Kuwait's sporting community, including Bashar Abdullah, representing the Minister of State for Youth and Sports; Kuwait Olympic Committee President Fahad Al-Nasser; Asian Handball Federation President Bader Al-Dhiyab; honorary Kuwait Club Presi-

dent Marzouq Al-Ghanim; Kuwait Club President Khaled Al-Ghanim; Burgan Club President Anwar Al-Otaibi and members of the club's board; Handball Secretary Qaed Al-Adwani; Kuwait Handball Association board member Talal Al-Otaibi; along with athletes, officials and invited guests.

The ceremony recognized Burgan's remarkable continental success after the club secured its first-ever Asian title, marking the greatest achievement in its history and underlining the steady rise of its handball program.

Speaking on behalf of the Minister of State for Youth and Sports and in his capacity as Acting Director General of the Public Authority for

Sport, Bashar Abdullah said Burgan's Asian crown was a source of pride for all Kuwaiti sport.

He credited the triumph to years of dedication by the club's management, players and staff, describing the title as the reward for long-term planning, commitment and perseverance.

Abdullah added that Burgan had won the admiration of Kuwaiti fans during the tournament and predicted the club's support base would continue to grow as it prepares to compete at the IHF Men's Club World Championship (Super Globe) in Egypt this September.

He pledged the Public Authority for Sport's full backing ahead of the global event and urged other

sports bodies to provide every possible form of support to ensure Burgan represents Kuwait with distinction.

Asian Handball Federation President Bader Al-Dhiyab described Burgan's success as a historic accomplishment, saying the title reflected the club's clear vision, careful planning and unwavering belief in its ability to compete with Asia's best.

He noted that the latest edition of the Asian championship was widely regarded as the strongest in the tournament's history, making Burgan's achievement even more impressive.

Al-Dhiyab also praised the club's management, coaching staff, players

and supporters, saying the passionate backing from Kuwaiti fans played a significant role in inspiring the team throughout the competition.

Burgan Club President Anwar Al-Otaibi said the club may be one of Kuwait's newer sports institutions, but it had overcome numerous challenges to stand atop Asia against clubs with far greater continental experience.

He stressed that the achievement was the result of strategic planning and collective effort rather than coincidence, adding that the team's success despite limited preparation time highlighted the quality of both the players and technical staff.

Al-Otaibi thanked Minister of State for Youth and Sports Dr.

Tariq Al-Jalahma, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sport Bashar Abdullah and all those who supported Burgan throughout its Asian campaign, saying their financial and moral support helped elevate Kuwaiti handball on the continental stage.

Burgan won the 28th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship in its first-ever continental appearance, earning qualification for the 2026 IHF Men's Club World Championship (Super Globe) in Egypt. The tournament, staged in Kuwait in June, featured seven clubs: Al-Khaleej (Saudi Arabia), Al-Najma (Bahrain), Sharjah (UAE), Kuwait Club, Al-Duhail and Al-Arabi (Qatar), and Burgan.

Marta tops Jasmine to reach maiden Wimbledon semifinal

Djokovic outlasts Aliassime in epic

LONDON, July 8, (AP): Marta Kostyuk made a big impression in her Centre Court debut by beating Jasmine Paolini 6-3, 6-2 to reach her first Wimbledon semifinals on Wednesday.

The 24-year-old Ukrainian also reached the last four at the French Open, losing to Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva, the eventual champion in Paris.

Kostyuk raised her hands and dropped to her knees after Paolini scuffed a shot on her second match point. After shaking hands with the Italian, Kostyuk did a pirouette on court.

The 12th-seeded Kostyuk had a sneak peak at Centre Court on Tuesday so that she wasn't overwhelmed for the match.

"I was flabbergasted by this entrance and everything inside," she said in an on-court interview. "I was like, 'wow,' I need one day to recover from what I saw. ... I was on this court as (a) spectator once nine years ago watching Roger (Federer)."

Kostyuk will be back on Centre Court on Thursday to face Linda Noskova for a spot in Saturday's final. Noskova beat Elise Mertens 6-3, 7-5 on No. 1 Court.



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns the ball to Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada in their quarter-final men's singles match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London. (AP)

It's the first career Grand Slam semifinal for the 21-year-old Noskova, who improved to 10-1 on grass this season.

"I was as a little bit nervous before the match," said Noskova, who beat Jessica Pegula in the Berlin Open final in the buildup to Wimbledon. "Usually when it's really, really important for me and I'm putting a little bit of pressure on myself, that's when I play the best."

The other women's semifinal features Coco Gauff against Karolina Muchova, who like Noskova is from the Czech Republic. They're up first on Centre Court on Thursday.

Paolini, the 2024 Wimbledon runner-up, made 26 unforced errors and hit just eight winners.

Side to side. Corner to corner. Novak Djokovic kept pushing Felix Auger-Aliassime back and forth along the Centre Court baseline at Wimble-

don to retrieve one shot after another.

Finally, on the 22nd shot of a grueling rally deep in a fifth-set super tiebreaker, Auger-Aliassime had a forehand in the middle of the court. Under normal circumstances it might have been just the shot he was looking for.

Not this time. Not after five hours of battling with the 39-year-old Djokovic.

Auger-Aliassime, a 25-year-old Canadian with one of the top-rated forehands on tour, had nothing left in his tank. He sprayed his forehand wide to give Djokovic a 9-4 lead. Then both players bent over in exhaustion and leaned on their rackets. Djokovic, while he was bent over, still found energy to encourage the crowd to cheer louder, waving his right arm for more noise.

One point later, the longest quarterfinal in Wimbledon history - at 5 hours and 15 minutes - was finished.

Djokovic, the seven-time Wimbledon champion, prevailed 7-6 (10), 3-6, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (4) to set up a semifinal against defending champion Jannik Sinner.

Djokovic continues to break records as he chases a 25th Grand Slam title. He's reached a record-setting eighth consecutive Wimbledon final four - moving him one ahead of Roger Federer for most consecutive men's singles semifinal appearances at the grass-court tournament.

OCA welcomes IOC decision

IOC eases path toward Russia's Olympic return

GENEVA, July 8, (AP): Russia has moved closer toward having a full team with its national flag and anthem at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

The International Olympic Committee provisionally lifted a suspension of the Russian Olympic Committee and advised Olympic sports bodies to end a three-year program where Russian athletes had to be vetted for permission to compete as neutrals.

The IOC said the timing was because qualifying events are starting for the L.A. Games, and "the need to offer equal access to these competitions to all athletes."

The move, which also signals a return for Russia in team sports, had been expected since the IOC advised two months ago that athletes from Belarus, which was Russia's ally when its military invasion of Ukraine started in 2022, should be allowed again to compete with their full national identity.

"We don't want to hold athletes accountable for the actions of their governments," IOC president Kirsty Coventry said at an online news conference after she chaired an executive board meeting.

A two-time Olympic gold medalist swimming for Zimbabwe, Coventry said it was a fair decision and noted: "I wouldn't be sitting here if I had to pay the price when my country was going through things and being sanctioned."

Ukraine's sports minister Matvii Bidnyi questioned why the IOC altered its rules when in the war "nothing changed. The situation became



International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Kirsty Coventry speaks during a press conference at the end of the first day of the 146th Session of the IOC at the SwissTech Convention Centre, in Lausanne, Switzerland. (AP)

even worse."

Russia unleashed waves of missiles and drones at Ukraine early Monday, killing at least 22 people.

Meanwhile, the OCA, on behalf of the Asian Olympic Movement, today welcomed the decision of the IOC Executive Board to no longer apply recommended conditions of participation for Russian athletes and teams in international competitions.

The OCA shares the IOC's belief that athletes' participation in international competitions should not be restricted by the wars or conflicts of the countries they are from.

The OCA fully supports the IOC in its commitment to promoting peace through sport and condemns wars, armed conflicts and violence around the world.



Egypt FA appeals to FIFA over controversial World Cup refereeing

ATLANTA, July 8: The Egyptian Football Association (EFA) has lodged a complaint with FIFA over the refereeing decisions in Egypt's 3-2 World Cup Round of 16 defeat to Argentina, expressing strong dissatisfaction with the performance of French referee François Letexier.

In an official statement, the EFA criticized several decisions involving the

Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system, saying they raised serious questions and sparked widespread criticism from media outlets and football experts.

The federation confirmed that it would take all available legal and regulatory steps to protect Egypt's rights and ensure fairness in international competitions.

Despite the elimination,

the EFA praised the national team's campaign, highlighting the players' commitment, fighting spirit and the respect they earned throughout the tournament.

The federation described Egypt's World Cup run as a significant milestone in the development of Egyptian football, adding that efforts would continue with state institutions to expand the game, develop young talent

and create future generations capable of competing at the highest levels.

Egypt reached the knockout stage of the World Cup for the first time in its history after defeating Australia in the Round of 32 before facing Argentina in a controversial last-16 clash.

The match was overshadowed by refereeing disputes after Egypt had a goal disallowed following a VAR

review, while the Pharaohs were also denied a late penalty appeal that could have changed the outcome.

EFA President Hany Abou Rida confirmed after the match that the federation had officially contacted FIFA, calling for an investigation into the referee and his team.

Abou Rida said the complaint was based on what he described as "major refereeing

errors and inconsistent decisions" that affected the result and contributed to Egypt's elimination from the tournament.

He added that the federation requested a review of the entire officiating crew, including VAR officials, over the failure to reconsider incidents that Egypt believed should have resulted in a valid goal and a penalty.



Referee Francois Letexier, of France, leaves the pitch after the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Argentina and Egypt in Atlanta. (AP)

Fan Zone



Tears of heartbreak, cheers of joy – the World Cup delivers unforgettable emotions during the round of 16 matches. (AP)

EU lawmakers call for probe into Infantino-Trump contact

FIFA stands by referee branded 'suspect'

BRUSSELS, July 8, (AP): Dozens of European lawmakers are gathering support to launch an investigation in the European Parliament of FIFA boss Gianni Infantino over his involvement in the decision to permit U.S. striker Folarin Balogun to play despite an earlier red card.

Balogun was shown a red card during the U.S. victory over Bosnia-Herzegovina in the World Cup on July 1, which normally would make him ineligible to play in the team's next game, but FIFA lifted his suspension for a match on Monday after U.S. President Donald Trump intervened with Infantino on behalf of the 25-year-old striker.

European Parliament lawmakers Barry Andrews, Lara Wolters and Niels Fuglsang said in a joint statement that the decision by soccer's world governing body to "change the rule on red card suspensions mid-tournament is a disgrace and a perversion of justice."

"Once again, we've seen Infantino and FIFA surrender to the demands of the Trump administration," the statement said.

The lawmakers are asking the national football associations of the EU countries to spur the FIFA Ethics Committee to investigate Infantino and whether pressure from the Trump administration was a factor in the lifting of the suspension, as well as "other potential breaches of political neutrality" like awarding Trump the FIFA Peace Prize.

FIFA has said the lifting of the suspension was the decision of a disciplinary committee.

The lawmakers said that 35 colleagues have so far signed the letter.

"The beauty of sport is that it is based on impartial and transparent rules. When Infantino allows political pressure to determine who gets to play, this sense of fairness goes out the window," they said.

Meanwhile, FIFA has defended the reputation of World Cup referee



Belgium celebrates after defeating the United States in their World Cup round of 16 soccer match in Seattle. (AP)

Raphael Claus in rare pushback on comments by U.S. President Donald Trump, who questioned his integrity for sending off Folarin Balogun.

Trump suggested on Monday at the White House, without elaborating, that the 46-year-old Brazilian was "a little bit suspect if you check his past."

Claus red-carded Balogun against Bosnia-Herzegovina last week, setting off a furor that saw Trump intervene with FIFA to ensure the United States forward could play against Belgium late Monday.

FIFA praised Claus, who is working at his second World Cup, in a statement published before the U.S. 4-1 loss that sent Belgium to the quarterfinals.

"Throughout his career, he has consistently demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism and integrity," FIFA said, calling Claus "one of the world's leading professional referees and a valued member" of its team of World Cup match officials.

FIFA made no similar statement

in public support of Somali referee Omar Artan, who U.S. authorities denied entry to the country last month ahead of the tournament.

Like Artan, Claus has refereed the final of a top-tier competition in his home continent before being picked among the 52 referees by FIFA for this World Cup.

Claus refereed Spain's 4-0 win over Saudi Arabia in the group stage and worked the U.S.' 2-0 win over Bosnia in the round of 32. Balogun was the first player Claus sent off in four career World Cup games.

"He is an experienced and highly respected referee," FIFA chief refereeing officer Pierluigi Collina said, "and we maintain full confidence in him as a trusted match official."

Trump's comments could have been linked to a match-fixing investigation by Brazil's Senate in 2024. Lawmakers scrutinized how referees were assigned to games but did not accuse Claus of wrongdoing.

"There is nothing in his record that calls his integrity into question or

supports any suspicion of wrongdoing," the Brazilian Football Confederation said.

Two staff members of the U.S. soccer team were suspended by FIFA from Monday's round of 16 game against Belgium.

FIFA did not explain why it imposed the discipline on team manager Sam Zapatka and U.S. Soccer Federation vice president of security Frank Pannell.

The USSF did not give a reason Tuesday other than to say it was not related to the successful effort to have forward Folarin Balogun's one-game, red-card suspension lifted.

Zapatka has been the team's administrative manager since 2020 and has worked for the USSF since 2015.

The U.S. was eliminated from the World Cup with a 4-1 loss to Belgium.

FIFA said Tuesday it is investigating an incident involving streamer and YouTuber IShowSpeed with a fan in the stands during the World Cup match between Argentina and Cape Verde on Friday.

Rodri sorry after World Cup spat with longtime City teammate Silva

ARLINGTON, Texas, July 8 (Agencies): Spain midfielder Rodri expressed regret at celebrating in the face of Bernardo Silva after his former Manchester City teammate missed a late chance to equalize for Portugal in their heavyweight World Cup match.

Silva had a chance to take the round-of-16 game - won 1-0 by Spain on Monday - to extra time but headed over the crossbar after six minutes of stoppage time.

As the Portugal playmaker lay on the ground with his head in his hands, Rodri walked up to Silva and clenched his fist in a taunting gesture. Silva stood up and confronted Rodri, brushing aside his arm and pointing in his face.

The two players have played together in City's midfield since 2019. Silva left this summer after running down his contract, and has since joined Real Madrid.

Rodri told reporters after the game that he'd said sorry to Silva.

"I made a mistake," the 2024 Ballon d'Or winner said, "because I celebrated when he had missed. I apologized to him immediately."

"But that's all, because of the trust we have."

While Portugal was headed home, Spain advanced to a meeting with Belgium in the quarterfinals.

Amyeric Laporte and Cristiano Ronaldo experienced contrasting emotions after Spain eliminated Portugal from the World Cup on Monday.

While Ronaldo left the field in



Spain's Rodri (16) and Portugal's Bruno Fernandes (8) challenge for the ball during the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Portugal and Spain in Arlington, Texas, near Dallas. (AP)

tears following Portugal's exit in the round of 16, Laporte was all smiles after helping Spain book a place in the quarterfinals while extending one of the tournament's most remarkable defensive records.

Laporte spent two years alongside Ronaldo at Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr between 2023 and 2025 before returning to Athletic Club, where he had begun his professional career.

His move to Saudi Arabia came at a cost internationally. Spain coach Luis de la Fuente dropped the central defender from the national team, questioning whether the level of competition in the Saudi league provided adequate preparation for international football.

World Cup Diary

Onana out for remainder of World Cup: Belgium midfielder Amadou Onana, who injured his right knee in the 19th minute of Monday's 4-1 win against the United States in the round of 16, will miss the remainder of the World Cup.

In a statement released by the Belgian soccer federation, team doctor Brahim Hacene said medical examinations confirmed that Onana ruptured the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in his knee.

"This is devastating news," Hacene said, "both for him personally and for the team."

The 24-year-old Onana appeared in four games at the World Cup for Belgium, and made his second start of the tournament against the Americans. Onana also played in two games at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, and scored a goal in a 5-2 blowout win over the U.S. in a World Cup warmup match in March. He was replaced in the 21st minute on Monday by Hans Vanaken, who scored one of Belgium's four goals. (AP)

Dalic steps down as Croatia's coach: Zlatko Dalić is out as Croatia's coach after a spell that included leading the team to two consecutive top-three finishes at World Cups.

"I leave with a fulfilled heart, proud of my contribution to the greatest successes of Croatian soccer in history, and I wish my successor, the national team and Croatian soccer many new successes," Dalić said in a statement posted by the national soccer federation on Instagram.

The announcement came less than a week after Croatia lost 2-1 to Portugal in the round of 32 at the World Cup. (AP)

Haiti's national soccer team tour capital: Members of Haiti's national soccer team toured Port-au-Prince on Tuesday under heavy security to celebrate their valiant play in the World Cup following the team's historic qualification to the tournament last November.

Although the Grenadiers lost every match in their group, Haiti scored two goals against Morocco in its last game, ultimately losing it 4-2. But the celebration over those two goals is still ongoing, providing a brief respite from deepening poverty and surging gang violence in the country.

"We continue to fight for all Haitians," said Duckens Nazon, who plays for Iran's Esteghlal football club. "We have a rich culture with a great history." (AP)



FIFA President Gianni Infantino holds an Egyptian flag before the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Switzerland and Colombia in Vancouver, British Columbia. (AP)

Sports

'Robbed of glory': Egypt's exit triggers global debate

'Too many inconsistencies'

ATLANTA, July 8: Former international soccer stars have questioned the refereeing decisions that influenced Egypt's dramatic 3-2 loss to Argentina in the World Cup Round of 16, with several claiming the Pharaohs were unfairly treated.

Egypt saw a second-half goal from Mostafa Zizo ruled out after VAR review following a decision that there had been a foul during the build-up. The Pharaohs also appealed for a late penalty after an incident involving Mohamed Salah inside the box, but their protests were waved away.

Former England defender Jamie Carragher criticized the decision to cancel Egypt's goal, suggesting the outcome could have been different if the same incident had involved another major team.

Carragher, now a football analyst, questioned VAR's consistency and said similar situations in top European leagues may have produced a different ruling.

"If that goal had been scored against another team, it probably would have counted. We have seen too many inconsistencies with VAR decisions during this tournament," Carragher said.

The ruling sparked frustration among Egypt's players and supporters, who felt the disallowed goal, could have changed the course of the match.

Former England striker Alan Shearer also voiced his criticism, sharing footage of Mohamed Salah's penalty appeal before Argentina scored the decisive goal in stoppage time.

"Either both incidents are fouls or neither is. We were told the officials did not review the situation. That is disappointing," Shearer said.

Referee François Letexier faced heavy criticism after using VAR to overturn Egypt's goal but not reviewing the late penalty appeal, adding to the controversy surrounding the match.

Former France and Manchester United defender Patrice Evra backed Egypt's claims, saying the team deserved better from the officials after its narrow defeat against the defending champions.

"Egypt was robbed. Soccer is becoming sterile," Evra said. Evra argued that VAR should be used to correct clear mistakes rather than remove memorable moments from the game.

"The Egyptian player won possession and launched a great attack that ended with a fantastic goal, but then officials spent minutes looking for a reason to cancel it. VAR should fix obvious errors, not take away special football moments." The controversy has intensified debate over VAR decisions and their impact on major international tournaments, with Egypt's exit leaving many questioning whether the Pharaohs received a fair chance against Argentina.



Argentina's Lionel Messi (10), and Egypt's Ramy Rabia (5), right, battle for the ball during the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Argentina and Egypt in Atlanta. (AP)

Colombia falls in shootout

Vargas' golden kick sends Swiss into quarterfinals

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, July 8, (AP): In a match with few fireworks, the Swiss were patient against the Colombians and their enthusiastic fans.

After a scoreless draw, Ruben Vargas converted the decisive penalty and Switzerland advanced to the World Cup quarterfinals, beating Colombia 4-3 in a shootout on Tuesday.

Switzerland will face defending champion Argentina on Saturday at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri. Argentina defeated Egypt 3-2 earlier in the day.

Switzerland had not reached the quarterfinals of a World Cup since hosting the tournament in 1954. And the Swiss were short-handed Tuesday without young midfielder Johan Manzambi, who was injured in training on Monday.

Vargas, who has scored two goals in the World Cup, also left Monday's training early but came on in stoppage time at the end of regulation.

In the shootout, Colombia defender Davinson Sánchez's penalty attempt hit the crossbar and Switzerland goalkeeper Gregor Kobel saved an attempt by Cucho Hernández.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino was among those at BC Place, where the sellout crowd of 52,497 was overwhelmingly clad in yellow in support of Colombia.

"They had the crowd on their side, so it was a tough game for us," Kobel said. "We know we had some stretches of the game where we had to defend and stay strong mentally. Obviously we had a few players missing so, yeah, it was a big challenge for us."

Colombia failed to qualify for the last World Cup in 2022. Los Cafeteros made the quarterfinals at the 2014 tournament in Brazil, defeating Uruguay in the round of 16 before losing to the host country 2-1.

"The dream was enormous," Colombia midfielder John Arias said. "The country showed us that it be-



Colombia's Gustavo Puerta, left, and Switzerland's Remo Freuler battle for the ball during the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Switzerland and Colombia in Vancouver, British Columbia. (AP)

lieved in us, that it lived every moment with us, and I think that only makes the pain even greater."

The Swiss reached the round of 16 at the past three World Cups but failed to advance with a smaller field of 32 teams.

"We worked very hard, and now we have this opportunity," Switzerland coach Murat Yakin said. "This is going to be a very interesting matchup from our point of view. We will try to compete against the reigning champions and it's going to be amazing."

Switzerland against Argentina in a quarterfinal. I am so excited. I think that I need maybe a couple of hours more or another day to process what just happened, and then tomorrow we will start focusing on Argentina."

The match was tightly contested by two teams with contrasting styles, the Swiss with a more organized and methodical approach and Colombia more attack-oriented and physical. Switzerland had a slight edge in possession.

Manzambi, a 20-year-old midfielder who plays for German club Freiburg, has three goals in the World Cup, becoming one of the tournament's breakout stars. The Swiss were also without Luca Jaquez and midfielder Michel Aebischer.

Gustavo Puerta had the first good chance for Colombia with a shot from distance in the 21st minute that was pushed away by Kobel.

The Swiss got one of their best opportunities in the 30th with Fabian

Reider's blast at goalkeeper Camilo Vargas, who punched the ball down. Minutes later, Vargas smothered another attempt from Dan Ndoye.

The Swiss had a free kick in the 52nd minute, but Reider's attempt curled around the wall and went into the side netting.

In the first extra time period, Jhon Lucumi's header hit the crossbar and caromed away as Colombia put pressure on Kobel.

"I don't think you can overstate what a huge success this is - for us, for this team, for Switzerland, for such a small country. To be among the top eight teams in the world is incredible," Kobel said. "It's an unbelievable feeling. I'm incredibly proud."

Pogacar conserves energy

Dutch rider Kooij wins Tour stage 5, Traeen keeps leader's yellow jersey

PAU, France, July 8, (AP): Dutch rider Olav Kooij won the fifth stage of the Tour de France in a sprint finish on Wednesday, while Norwegian rider Torstein Traeen kept the yellow jersey from him, and that four-time Tour champion Pogacar and two-time champion Vingegaard could save vital energy for the days ahead.

Kooij was put in a strong position to attack by his Decathlon CMA CGM teammates and held off German Max Kanter and Belgian Tim Merlier in a dash to the line. They all finished in just under 3 1/2 hours.

"After a couple of hard days here I had to wait for this day to get (a) first chance to sprint in the Tour, and to immediately win is unbelievable," the 24-year-old Kooij said. "It was quite an easy day until the final (moments), when you know it will be hectic. Everyone is still really eager and I just managed to find my way."

It was first stage win on the Tour for Kooij, who has won three stages on the Giro d'Italia.

Traeen rolled over the line 14 seconds later in a big main group containing defending champion Tadej Pogacar and fellow Tour contender Jonas Vingegaard. They both trail Traeen by about eight minutes in the standings. But Traeen, who took the yellow jersey on Stage 4, is not considered a contender for overall victory.

After a testing team time trial, an early mountain stage, raging wildfires and sweltering temperatures hitting 38 degrees Celsius (100 Fahrenheit), riders appreciated Wednesday's flatter fifth stage.

The 158.3-kilometer route from Lannemezan to Pau in southwestern

France was made for sprinters.

It meant that Traeen's Uno-X Mobility team did not have to chase down any breakaway riders potentially in contention to take the yellow jersey from him, and that four-time Tour champion Pogacar and two-time champion Vingegaard could save vital energy for the days ahead. Starting with Stage 6 on Thursday, where they are expected to attack each other on in the high Pyrenees mountains, and where Traeen could well lose the leader's jersey.

Riders were reluctant to form a breakaway group on Stage 5, so Frenchman Baptiste Veistroffer surged ahead alone until he was finally caught by the peloton with 13 kilometers remaining.

Stage 6 is a 186.2 kilometer trek starting with two moderate climbs before riders tackle Col d'Aspin - a mountain pass with a Category 1 rating, which is the second-hardest level on the Tour - followed by a gruelling 17.1 kilometer ascent up Col du Tourmalet.

Tourmalet is among the most famed Pyrenean climbs on the Tour and is rated as HC, which means Hors Catégorie (beyond classification), because it is the hardest level.

A thrilling finish could be in store between Vingegaard and Pogacar given that the stage then ends with another climb, a 18.7 kilometer Category 2-level trek to the finish at Gavarnie-Gèdre.

Pogacar launched several devastating early attacks on the big climbs during a dominant Tour win last year, and Vingegaard could not follow his rival.



Netherlands' Olav Kooij celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the fifth stage of the Tour de France cycling race with start in Lannemezan and finish in Pau, France. (AP)

England powers to 125-run victory

India slumps to biggest ever T20 defeat

NOTTINGHAM, England, July 8, (AP): England inflicted India's biggest ever T20 loss, beating the reigning world champion and its teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi by 125 runs to move 2-0 ahead in their five-match series.

Opener Phil Salt's 70 off 44 balls and Sam Curran's 24-ball 41 helped England post an imposing 201-7 on a testing pitch at Trent Bridge, three days after a four-wicket win at Old Trafford.

India didn't get close in its chase, losing the 15-year-old Sooryavanshi for a five-ball 13 that contained two sixes and slumping from 23-0 to 76 all out in 11.4 overs in a shocking collapse. Josh Tongue took 4-28 and fellow pacer Jofra Archer,

who dismissed Sooryavanshi when he gloved behind, had 3-29.

It was the first time India has lost by more than 100 runs in a T20 international - its previous biggest defeat by runs was by 80 against New Zealand in 2019 - and the team's second-lowest all-out total in T20s.

India captain Shreyas Iyer described the performance as "atrocious" and said his team had to "completely go back to the drawing board."

"Losing by such a big margin is definitely not acceptable," he said.

The Indians are in something of a crisis in the T20 format, having lost their last four

completed matches. Back-to-back losses in England have followed a stunning 2-0 series defeat in Ireland.

The addition to the team of Sooryavanshi, who became the youngest man to play for India at the weekend at 15 years and 99 days, has excited supporters but not had an effect. His innings of 13 followed a 14 from 10 balls on Saturday.

"We adapted well with the bat," England captain Harry Brook said, adding: "To carry that into the bowling was awesome."

The first T20 between England and India was washed out.