



Kuwait Amir congratulates Iran's president-elect Pezeshkian

KUWAIT CITY, July 6, (Agencies): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to newly-elected President of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday.

His Highness wished Pezeshkian a long healthy life and more prosperity and development for the Islamic Republic.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to newly-elected President of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday.

His Highness also wished Pezeshkian a long healthy life and more prosperity and development for the Islamic Republic.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a similar cable of congratulations on Saturday to newly-elected President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian.

Reformer Masoud Pezeshkian won the Iranian presidential elections for a four-year term, beating Ali Khamenei's representative Saeed Jalili.

In a press conference on Saturday, spokesperson of the electoral committee Mohsen Islami said Pezeshkian received 16.384 million votes, while Jalili received 13.530 million votes, out of a total of 30.5 million votes inside the country and abroad.

The rate of participation in the second round of the elections was 49.8 percent, Islami noted.

Supporters of Pezeshkian, a heart surgeon and longtime lawmaker, entered the streets of Tehran and other cities before dawn to celebrate as his lead grew over Jalili, a hard-line former nuclear negotiator.

"Dear people of Iran, the elections are over and this is just the beginning of our cooperation," Pezeshkian wrote on the social platform X, still banned in Iran. "The difficult path ahead will not be smooth except with your companionship, empathy and trust. I extend my hand to you and I swear on my honor that I will not leave you alone on this path. Do not leave me alone."

Pezeshkian's win still sees Iran at a

delicate moment, with tensions high in the Mideast over the Israel-Hamas war, Iran's advancing nuclear program, and a looming election in the United States

that could put any chance of a detente between Tehran and Washington at risk. Pezeshkian's victory also wasn't a rout of Jalili, meaning he'll have to

carefully navigate Iran's internal politics as the doctor has never held a sensitive, high-level security post.

The first round of voting June 28

saw the lowest turnout in the history of the Islamic Republic since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Iranian officials have long pointed to turnout as a sign of support for the country's Shiite theocracy, which has been under strain after years of sanctions crushing Iran's economy, mass demonstrations and intense crackdowns on all dissent.

Government officials up to Khamenei, the supreme leader, predicted higher turnout as voting got underway, with state television airing images of modest lines at some polling centers. However, online videos purported to show some polls empty while a survey of several dozen sites in Tehran saw light traffic and a heavy security presence on the streets.

Authorities put turnout in Friday's vote at 49.6%, still historically low for an Iranian presidential election. They counted 607,575 voided votes - which often are a sign of protest by those who feel obligated to cast a ballot but reject both candidates.

"I don't expect anything from him - I am happy that the vote put the brake on hard-liners," said bank employee Fatemeh Babaei, who voted for Pezeshkian. "I hope Pezeshkian can return administration to a way in which all people can feel there is a tomorrow."

Taher Khalili, a Kurdish-origin Iranian who runs a small tailor shop in Tehran, offered another reason to be hopeful while handing out candy to passersby.



Reformist candidate for Iran's presidential election Masoud Pezeshkian, center, flashes a victory sign after casting his vote as he is accompanied by former Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, left, at a polling station in Shahr-e-Qods near Tehran, Iran, Friday, July 5, 2024. (AP)

Opinion

Pezeshkian ... Will you really extend your hand to the world?

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE second round of the Iranian presidential elections ended with the victory of Masoud Pezeshkian who is known to be from the reformist movement. In his first statement after his victory, he said that he "extends his hand to everyone in the world."

Without a doubt, this statement has consequences that must be followed up; given that the extension of a hand is for the sake of cooperation, not provocation or bragging about occupying four Arab capitals or threatening the Arabs from time to time, especially those closest to Iran like the Gulf states.

Also, it does not mean the continuation of the challenge to the international community, which has become certain that the current Iranian regime is a threat to global security and stability. Therefore, lifting sanctions on it will lead to more support for terrorism, particularly in the Middle East.

Hence, the pressing question for Pezeshkian is: What has Iran, the State and the people benefited from its presence in Iraq and Syria, and the devastation that has befallen them? This is in addition to Yemen, where the 'Revolutionary Guard' inflated the 'Houthi gang', so it became a major threat to international navigation in the two seas -- Red and Arab seas.

What did Tehran benefit from supporting Hamas, which destroyed Gaza, while this had a negative impact on the Palestinian issue?

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Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Friday a congratulatory cable to UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer after winning the elections and being tasked by King Charles III with taking over as premier and forming a new government.

In his cable, His Highness the Amir wished him success and everlasting health, stressing the deep historical relations between the two countries, and keenness on strengthening them at all levels.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations on Friday to newly elected UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer on his Labor Party election win and on being asked by King Charles III to form a new government, wishing him all the best and good health.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Friday sent a cable to new UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, congratulating him on his Labour Party election win and on being tasked by King Charles III with taking over as premier and forming a new government. (KUNA)

— See Also Page 6

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken spoke with new UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy on Friday to congratulate him on his appointment.

Secretary Blinken and Foreign Secretary Lammy emphasized the enduring and essential importance of the US-UK special relationship in addressing the most pressing global challenges, according to a statement attributable to US State Dept. Spokesperson Matthew Miller.

Both sides discussed the possibility of reaching an immediate and enduring ceasefire in Gaza, and supporting Ukraine against "Russia's brutal aggression," Miller noted. (KUNA)

KD50 transfer fee set for Visa 20 to Visa 18

New policy effective July 14 to September 12

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister

of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf Al-Sabah issued a decision regulating the transfer of domestic workers (Visa 20) to the private sector (Visa 18).



Yemeni children celebrate the launch of a Kuwait-funded water project in their village.

KUNA photo

Kuwait charity launches water project for 1,500 Yemeni families

Kuwait's Tanmia Charity Society launched a water project on Saturday to benefit 1,500 families in the Red Sea coastal district of Al-Mokha in Yemen's Taiz Governorate. This initiative is part of the "Kuwait by Your Side" campaign, now in its ninth consecutive year.

The Communication Foundation for Human Development, which is implementing the project, stated that the project in the Al-Zahari area of Al-Mokha district includes a submersible pump, a main extension network from the well to the tower tank spanning 1,650 meters,

a branch network from the well to homes and distribution points extending 650 meters, and a 12-meter high tower tank with a capacity of 25,000 cubic meters.

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Al-Mudhaf assures Kuwaitis of financial security amid reforms

By Najeh Bilal and Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Dr. Anwar Ali Al-Mudhaf, has reassured Kuwaiti citizens that their finances will not be impacted by the ministry's efforts to approve a package of financial and economic reforms aimed at reducing the recurring budget deficit.

He highlighted that Kuwait has faced a significant deficit of nearly 33 billion dinars over the past decade, which has been financed

from the state's general reserves.

In an interview with the Kuwait Nights program on the first Kuwaiti satellite channel, Dr. Al-Mudhaf emphasized, "We financed the deficit of the past ten years from our own flesh and blood," underscoring the substantial financial challenges Kuwait has managed through its reserves.

Looking ahead, he stressed the importance of sound financial and economic reforms to ensure long-term financial sustainability and prosperity for Kuwait. He noted that while Kuwait remains wealthy, unsustainable spending policies necessitate effective reforms to avoid depleting reserves to cover deficits.

This involves increasing and diversifying revenue sources, particularly non-oil income. Dr. Al-Mudhaf also disclosed that the Council of Ministers has approved the draft general

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US-backed Gaza truce plan gets Hamas initial approval

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza, July 6, (AP): Hamas has given initial approval for a U.S.-backed proposal for a phased cease-fire deal in Gaza, dropping a key demand that Israel give an up-front commitment for a complete end to the war, a Hamas and an Egyptian official said Saturday.

The apparent compromise by the militant group - which controlled Gaza before triggering the war with an Oct. 7 attack on Israel - could help deliver the first pause in fighting since last November and set the stage for further talks on ending a devastating nine-month war. But all sides cautioned that a deal is still not guaranteed.

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This image from video shows children sitting amongst rubble in Yarmouk Sports Stadium Friday, July 5, 2024 in Gaza City, Gaza Strip. Yarmouk Sports Stadium, once Gaza's biggest soccer arena, is now sheltering thousands of displaced Palestinians who are scraping by with little food or water. (AP)

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:20	Asr	15:27
Sunrise ..	04:54	Maghrib ..	18:51
Zohr	11:53	Isha	20:22

Local

BIOMETRIC/FINGERPRINT APPOINTMENT: <https://meta.e.gov.kw/En/>

National Day greetings

HH Amir congratulates Algeria, Venezuela, Cape Verde, Comoros and Malawi

KUWAIT CITY, July 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Friday a cable to President of the Republic of Algeria Abdelmadjid Tebboune, expressing sincere congratulations on the anniversary of Algeria's Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the Algerian leader good health and prosperity for the brotherly country and its people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, expressing sincere congratulations on the anniversary of Independence Day, wishing the Algerian leader good health.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President Abdelmadjid Tebboune on the anniversary of Independence Day.

Venezuela

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent on Friday a cable of congratulations to President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro on his country's Independence Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the president abundance in health, as well as the friendly Venezuelan people all success and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince

Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad sent a cable of congratulations to President Nicolas Maduro on his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah sent a congratulatory cable to President Nicolas Maduro, on his country's Independence Day.

Cape Verde

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent on Friday a cable of congratulations to Cape Verde President Jose Maria Neves on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the president everlasting health and fur-

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 15-45 km/h with a chance for rising dust.

Weather
By Night: Hot to rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-38 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	48	35

Kuwait Airport	48	36
Abdaly	48	33
Jahra	49	36
Salmiyah	44	35
Nuwaisib	47	34
Wafra	48	35



Photo by Rizk Taufiq
Kuwait witnessed very hot weather during the day with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-45 km/h with rising dust, which reduced the visibility to a few hundred meters.



Al-Jarida photo
Dr. Al-Ajmi and Al-Baghli during the honoring of one of the winners.

International Widows Day marked

MoSA advocates for widows' welfare

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi has stressed the need for civil society to take care of widows, support them, pay attention to their issues and provide services to them in line with the Islamic and cultural aspects of caring for the human being, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Ajmi made the statement during the International Widows Day celebration organized by the Ibrahim Taher Al-Baghli Foundation for the Righteous Son recently. He affirmed that the ministry is committed to providing all forms of support to the foundations and public benefit associations that serve the widows, indicating that the Al-Baghli Foundation is known for providing businesses and activities for the community.

He said Kuwait, like any other country around the world, participates in the celebration in line with the decision of the United Nations to set the International Widows Day to highlight the importance of their role in society. He also stressed the importance of the role of individuals, institutions and civil society in this field; stating that the Al-Baghli Foundation is considered a model in this regard. He added: "The State surrounded our widowed mothers and sisters with various aspects of care, service and rehabilitation; and

guaranteed them all the means of a decent life. Our true Islamic religion encourages taking care of the widows and to be benevolent with them. Islam's view of them is more comprehensive, as there are clear indications of the need for civil society to take care of widows."

He pointed out that Kuwait is one of the distinguished countries implementing international laws and conventions related to women's rights, and is keen to provide the necessary material and moral support for the family by issuing the Public Assistance Law of 2015, which stipulates providing financial support to needy families and vulnerable groups, especially the families of divorced women, housewives and widows, in order to protect and empower the family.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the foundation said in a speech delivered on his behalf by his son, Raed Al-Baghli: "We are honored to sponsor the Al-Baghli Award for the Righteous Son, one of the projects of Ibrahim Taher Al-Baghli Foundation for the Righteous Son, from its launching in 2007 until the 18th edition in 2024. This makes us happy and we are contributing by supporting the work of our colleagues and children, and helping them in consolidating the rules and foundations of social, humanitarian and volunteer work in our beloved Kuwait."

Council announces delivery of ballot boxes

Al-Mutairi concerned over delay in car parking shade regulations

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Secretary-General of the Municipal Council, Dr. Fahd Abu Raqaba, announced the delivery of ballot boxes for the 2024 supplementary Municipal Council elections by the Ministry of Interior's Elections Affairs Department.

This action adheres to Law No. 35 of 1962 governing municipal elections, with department representatives receiving the ballot boxes from the Municipal Council headquarters.

In a related matter, Vice Chairman Khaled Al-Mutairi submitted a query to the executive body concerning the delayed issuance of the amended regulation for car parking shades of all types. He sought clarification on the reasons for the delay and requested a timetable for completing the preparation and implementation of this regulation.

Al-Mutairi's inquiry is rooted in Cabi-

net Resolution No. 516, approved during meeting No. 25/2022 on 7/4/2022, which prompted the Municipal Council to issue a Decision on 14/03/2022.

This decision approved provisions for the amended regulation governing car parking shades across various residential, commercial, and governmental sectors.

Despite the passage of two years since these decisions were made, the regulation specifying technical requirements for carports in private, investment, and government settings has yet to be finalized.

The regulation aims to establish uniform standards applicable to carports outside property boundaries in residential, commercial, and industrial zones. The fee structure outlines the pending regulation.

The delay in implementing this regulation has prompted Al-Mutairi's query, emphasizing the need for clarity and adherence to the established timeline for its completion and enforcement.

By Fares Al-Abdan
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: Kuwaiti-Pakistani relations are highly developed and the Kuwaiti leadership is keen on strengthening relations between the two countries in various fields, says Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Khaled Al-Yassin.

In a statement on the sidelines of the Pakistani Mango Festival at The Avenues recently, Al-Yassin affirmed that "the Kuwaiti-Pakistani Committee for Economic Cooperation meetings are successful and both sides are keen on strengthening relations in all fields."

Meanwhile, Pakistani Ambassador Malik Farooq said: "The festival is very important and the distinguished attendance is an evidence of the depth of the relationship between the two brotherly countries and peoples." He also stressed that the leaders of the two countries are focusing on the relationship between Pakistan and Kuwait.

Cooperation

He confirmed the strong cooperation between Kuwait and Pakistan in other fields, especially food security. He said the total volume of non-oil trade between Kuwait and Pakistan reached about \$590 million in 2023, which will most likely increase this year due to the desire of the two countries to further strengthen cooperation between them in various areas.

He stated that his country is working with Kuwait to enhance cooperation in the field of food security; as it provides many food products, fruits, meat and live livestock; while trade relations between the two countries are witnessing a noticeable increase.

He added: "Mangoes are considered the queen of fruits. Pakistani products are in demand among Kuwaiti citizens and residents."

He also affirmed the support of the United Nations Settlements Organization, "as they are our partners in this field and they cooperate with us in other areas."

He stressed that he is proud of the Pakistani community in Kuwait, considering their unwavering support for the embassy, especially in holding this festival and inviting a large number of their Kuwaiti friends to the event. He added the Pakistani community significantly contributes to strengthening relations between the two countries.

Moreover, Director of the Office of Human Settlements in Kuwait and the Gulf States Dr. Amira Al-Hassan revealed: "There is a cooperation agreement between the organization and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Product festivals are beneficial to public health, including mango, which has many health benefits."

She added that she is working with Kuwaiti government agencies and their partners from various embassies in the country to contribute to the general health of the population and provide the finest products and psychological climate for good mental health.

Non-oil trade between Kuwait, Pakistan reaches \$590m in '23

Kuwait and Pakistan boost bilateral ties at Mango Festival



Photos by Samer Shiqr
Top and above: Some photos from the Pakistani Mango Festival.

PIFSS extends working hours to serve retirees faster

MoE to revoke degrees over work rule breaches

KUWAIT CITY, July 4: The Ministry of Education has initiated the process to revoke higher degree allowances from four employees who obtained their degrees while continuing to work without taking approved leave or sabbaticals since 2019, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Matrouk Al-Mutairi, Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, communicated this action in a letter to Lamia Al-Mulhim, his counterpart in the Ministry of Higher Education.

In the letter, Al-Mutairi confirmed that necessary procedures have been undertaken, including contacting the Civil Service Commission regarding the four employees specified in Al-Mulhim's letter dated April 24.

The Ministry of Education has provided the Ministry of Higher Education with lists documenting 2,730 employees in the education sector who have acquired post-graduate degrees (Master's and Doctorate) from 2019 onwards, detailing each individual's date of appointment.

This measure aims to address discrepancies in obtaining higher degrees while maintaining continuous employment without sanctioned breaks, aligning with regulations governing educational and administrative standards within the civil service.

PIFSS works overtime: The Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) has announced that the executive departments in the Insurance Affairs Sector have been instructed to work overtime in the evening in order to quickly complete transactions and disburse pensions on which the retired citizen depends for his livelihood, provided the reception of visitors continues in the morning only, reports Al-Rai daily.

PIFSS has clarified that the decision is aimed at expediting the completion of transactions in line with the nature of its work and the social insurance systems it has been applying to better serve the insured and pensioners, and in view of the amendments to the Social Insurance Law regarding the limits for pensions. It also pointed out that the number of retirees increased in the first half of this year compared to the previous year, which resulted in a significant increase in transactions.

Employment for all: The Civil Service Commission confirmed, Friday, its commitment to making registration available to all citizens seeking employment, including

Focus on healthcare

Nepal and Kuwait in talks on 'skilled worker' recruitment

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: Ambassador of Nepal to Kuwait Ghana Shyam Lamsa disclosed that his country is currently negotiating with Kuwait on the recruitment of skilled workers from his country including doctors and nurses, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Speaking in an event organized by the Embassy of Nepal to present the available investment opportunities; Lamsa said almost 100,000 Nepalese are working in Kuwait and many Nepalese nurses are employed in private hospitals.

He said two direct flights between Kuwait and Nepal are operated by Kuwait Airways and Jazeera Airways. He added that Kuwaitis can obtain a visa to enter Nepal either online or upon arrival at Nepal International Airport, indicating that around 1,000 Kuwaitis visited his country in 2023.

He also revealed that the commercial exchange between his country and Kuwait is currently low; while highlighting the available investment opportunities in Nepal such as carpets, food, agricultural products, tourism, technology and energy. He confirmed that his country provides facilities for enhancing foreign investment including free remittance and money transfers.

university graduates from outside the State of Kuwait, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a press statement, the CSC stated that university graduates from outside Kuwait whose academic qualifications have not yet been equated by the competent authorities can upload their certificates on the CSC website. The process of equivalency will be completed later.

The CSC explained that by entering the official website and submitting basic data, registration during the period is guaranteed. The educational qualification and equivalency can be uploaded at a later time, even after the registration period has ended, once they are approved by the competent authorities.

‘Impact of smart systems on energy & water conservation’

“THE use of smart systems has grown over the past three decades and has now become widespread, replacing humans, partially or completely, in the fields of industry, services and agriculture. One of the areas in which smart systems can contribute is the rationalization of the use of electricity and water,” columnist Dr. **Khaled Mohammed Boodai**, wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

“These systems have contributed

to reducing energy consumption in commercial, industrial and residential facilities. Studies have shown that smart systems have contributed up to 35% savings in energy costs in buildings, specifically 25% savings in air conditioning and heating costs in buildings.



Dr. Boodai

“These systems have also contributed 50% savings in energy costs for lighting systems. Smart systems are easy to install and their installation costs are reasonable, so it is worthy for us in Kuwait to expand the use of these systems in factories, commercial offices, towers, government buildings and homes.

“Therefore, the state can encourage the use of smart systems, and the state can provide support for the installation of smart systems, as the savings that can be achieved as a result of using smart systems may far exceed the cost of support provided by the state.

“Since air conditioning constitutes a high percentage of electricity consumption in Kuwait, adopting smart systems can contribute to reducing consumption, which will save on the costs of establishing and operating power plants.

“These systems can also reduce water waste by rationalizing usage, detecting leaks in water networks, and alerting to this through alarm devices.

“Smart systems sense the presence of humans in places, and when parts of the building are empty of humans, outside official working hours, these systems reduce the temperature to the minimum necessary to maintain the safety and efficiency of devices and equipment, and reduce lighting to the minimum.

“Therefore, we hope that the state will take the initiative to install smart systems in government buildings, while granting incentives to the private sector and citizens to install these systems, while providing the necessary guidance and support to adopt these systems.

“We currently have waste in the use of electricity and water in various sectors, and if this situation continues, the state will need to greatly expand the establishment of power plants and water distillation plants, which means draining huge financial resources that the state desperately needs in other essential areas.

“There are specialized consulting agencies that can be consulted when making the decision to install smart systems. These agencies can contribute to providing the necessary technical support that helps in choosing the best systems, increasing their benefits, and reducing their installation costs with God’s help.”

Also:

“This is how our ancestors lived in the old city of Kuwait. Can we still live this way? With the recent power outages happening all over Kuwait, it’s hard not to ponder this question,” columnist Dr. **Yousef Abdulmohsen Al-Haroun**, wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

“What if you removed all electricity and the many comforts from your life? Could you survive the hot Kuwaiti summer? Most people would likely say no. We’ve grown accustomed to this blessing, and thank God, electricity is virtually accessible to everyone living on this good land. But let’s consider ways to reduce our dependence on electricity, especially in our homes, where we have the most control. It all starts with home design.

“The orientation and layout of your home make a huge difference. Features like patios, sunken courtyards, and skylights can soften sunlight and reduce heat, making them less reliant on electricity for cooling.

“Studies show that sunken courtyards and adjacent spaces can significantly lower temperatures and may be the best places to stay during a power outage.

“Another crucial strategy is to choose renewable energy sources for your home’s electricity and cooling. This not only reduces your carbon footprint and makes your home more sustainable but can also lower your energy costs.

“Solar panels, for instance, convert sunlight into electricity, which can be used to cool your home and power appliances. These panels can generate power during daylight hours and store energy in batteries for use after the sun goes down.

“If installing solar panels isn’t feasible, consider other energy-efficient measures. Replace your lighting with LED bulbs, which use less electricity and last longer.

“Install a smart or programmable thermostat, buy energy-efficient appliances, install energy-efficient windows and shutters, upgrade your HVAC system, and practice turning off lights when they’re not in use. Meanwhile, I hope the government has plans to address these issues that have been years in the making and are truly unacceptable in one of the richest countries in the world.

“We shouldn’t just rely on electricity from the newly created GCC system. We need to reduce the heat of our city using sustainable urbanization strategies. This includes introducing more water channels within the city, using better materials for road asphalt that absorb less heat, establishing large-scale solar farms and wind turbines in the seas of Kuwait, and building new power plants.

“The solutions are there, and I hope that one day they will be implemented before we truly live in darkness in a building without electricity.”

□ □ □

“One of the models of tyranny, arrogance and injustice that the Holy Qur’an spoke about is the ‘Pharaohic’ model. The arrogance, injustice and brutality of the Pharaoh reached the point of ordering the killing of male newborns among the children of Israel due to a vision he saw in his dream, which was interpreted to him as a boy from the children of Israel would threaten his kingdom and be the cause of its demise!” **Abdul Aziz Al-Fathli** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“Another example of his brutality was mentioned in the Sunnah -- the story of Mashatha, Pharaoh’s daughter who responded to Pharaoh when he asked her: Who is your Lord? saying: My Lord and your Lord is Allah! All he had to do was order a large copper pot to be brought and a fire to be lit under it, then her children were thrown into the pot one by one in front of her eyes! When he reached her infant child, she felt pity for him, but Allah Almighty made him speak: ‘O mother, break in, for you are upon the truth.’ So, she threw herself and her child and died, may Allah have mercy on her.

“Today, we are witnessing crimes, brutality and genocide of the people of Gaza at the hands of Netanyahu and his army. This is an example of contemporary ‘Pharaohism’!

“The Zionist entity, with its demoted president, is committing the ugliest and most heinous crimes against defenseless civilians in Gaza, killing thousands of children, women and the elderly, under the pretext of eliminating the resistance!

“This is in addition to demolishing homes, bombing shelters, burning refugee tents, destroying hospitals, cutting off water and electricity, causing infants to die in incubators, besieging people, and preventing food and medical aid from reaching them. Anyone who did not die from the bombing died of hunger! They prevent the treatment of the wounded, so the wounded continues to bleed and no one can reach him until he dies! The pictures also showed his army using civilians as human shields!

“In this tyranny, the colonial countries helped him providing him with money, weapons, media and intelligence services, and prevented him from being condemned in international forums! He was also encouraged in his crimes through utter silence, the ultimate achievement of which was the issuance of statements without concrete and clear action to stop these massacres!

“We are certain that Allah Almighty will take revenge on the Pharaohs of the era, just as He took revenge on Pharaoh Moses when He destroyed him through drowning when he was at the peak of his power and tyranny. Every oppressor has an end.

“Then the wisdom of Allah Almighty necessitated the survival of Pharaoh’s body so that it would be a lesson and a sign for every tyrant throughout time.

“So, today, we will save you with your body so that you could be a sign for those who succeeded you.

“Allah grants respite and does not neglect. He, Glory be to Him, gives respite to the oppressor. If He takes it, He does not let it go.”

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes & Mahmoud Ateyieh



KUNA photo

Graduation of 17 officers from the Qatari Joaan bin Jassim Academy for Defense Studies.

17 Kuwaiti officers graduate from Qatar’s Defense Studies academy

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Ministry of Defense has announced the graduation of 17 Kuwaiti officers from the Joaan Bin Jassim Academy for Defense Studies in Qatar as they have successfully completed the ‘Joint Command and Staff Course No. 10’ along with officers from various Gulf, Arab and foreign countries, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

A press statement from the ministry quoted the Kuwaiti military

attaché in Qatar Brigadier General Bader Rasman as saying that the current batch consists of 15 officers from the Kuwaiti Army and two officers from the National Guard. He disclosed that the officers, who completed the course, were trained on the most important modern military sciences in the fields of leadership, management, defense operations and individual research.

He said the course, which began last September, contributes to the scientific and military preparation of the graduating officers and aims to develop the ability of the trainee officers on the work of the staff and commanders’ procedures and raise the level of competence in planning and executing operations and analyzing the operations environment at the tactical and operational levels.

It is noteworthy that the qualification and preparation program in this course is in accordance with advanced educational curricula that include international and regional variables in order to enrich military and academic thoughts and hone their skills; especially in planning, analysis, battle management, and issuing decisive orders and decisions, which qualifies them to occupy leadership positions.

Apartment fire kills woman; toddler drowns, 20-year-old dies in accident

Security raids net 100 expats for residency law violations

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: Fire broke out in an apartment inhabited by an Arab family in Farwaniya, resulting in the death of a woman on the spot and injury of four other individuals, including a woman whose condition is extremely critical.

In a press statement, Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) confirmed that fire brigades extinguished the fire in record time. Unfortunately, the fire led to the death of a woman and injury of a number of people who were taken to a nearby hospital by medical emergency workers.

Acting KFF Director Major General Khaled Abdullah Fahad and acting Deputy Head of the Firefighting Sector Brigadier General Ahmed Hayef Hammoud were present during the fire fighting operation.

□ □ □

Toddler drowns in pool: A livestock pen in Kabad witnessed a tragedy when a two-year-old girl died by drowning in the swimming pool.

According to a security source, the girl’s family had an outing at the livestock pen in Kabad when their two-year-old daughter drowned in the pool. They immediately notified the Operations Unit at the Interior Ministry by calling the emergency number 112.

The medical emergency team rushed to the location and took the child to Farwaniya Hospital in an attempt to save her, but she died at the hospital.

A case was registered and an investigation into the incident has been opened.

□ □ □

Woman dies in accident: A 20-year-old Kuwaiti woman died in a two-vehicle collision on King Fahad Road.

According to a security source, the Operations Unit at the Ministry of Interior received a report about the collision of two vehicles on King Fahad Road. Security personnel and ambulances rushed to the scene, where they found out that the accident resulted in the death of a 20-year-old Kuwaiti woman. Her body was referred to the Forensic Medicine Department.

A case was registered and investigations are ongoing to establish the circumstances leading to the fatal accident.

□ □ □

100 expats arrested: Over the weekend, various sectors in the Ministry of Interior carried out a series of security campaigns targeting Residency Law violators in many areas like the Wafra, Abdally and Amghara farms, and a number of other areas.

A reliable source revealed that these campaigns led to the arrest of about 100 expatriates who violated the Residency and Labor laws. They were referred to the competent authority in preparation for their deportation.

The source stated that the security campaigns against violators of the Residency Law will continue, along with accelerated measures to deport all those arrested. He affirmed the Deportation Administration is keen on quickly completing the procedures for the deportation of violators.

The source added that the campaigns launched in a number of locations were supervised by Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs Major General Hamad Al-Munifi, Major General Abdullah Saffah and several security officials in a bid to arrest violators, wanted persons and outlaws.

□ □ □

Cleanliness campaigns: The Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality said the public sanitation and road occupancy teams continue to carry out inspection campaigns in various areas in order to maintain cleanliness and the aesthetic view of the whole country, reports **Al-Shahed** daily.

This is in compliance with the directives of Minister of Public Works and State Minister for Municipal Affairs Noura Al-Mashaan and Director General of the Municipality Saud Al-Dabbous.

The campaigns conducted by the Jahra Municipality branch teams resulted in the removal of 34 tons of waste in Oyouun.

The Municipality has stressed the need for citizens and expatriates to fully cooperate with the field teams to address violations and guarantee strict compliance with the law.



Kuwait Zoo entrance.

Al-Jarida photo

Municipality to provide detailed plan

PAAAFR waives Omariya Zoo land ownership to address PIFSS deficit

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: In a significant development, the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources has agreed to waive ownership of the zoo land in Al-Omariya area, totaling 106,286 square meters, in favor of in-kind payment for the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) deficit. This decision halts ongoing development work on the garden, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

Dr. Anwar Al-Mudhaf, Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, communicated this via letter to Dr. Mahmoud Busheiri, Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, and Minister of State for Housing Affairs.

The letter references Law No. 4 of 2022 authorizing in-kind payments for the PIFSS’

deficit. A ministry-formed team now evaluates lands, including the zoo site, for transfer to the PIFSS.

Dr. Busheiri promptly responded, indicating the consent given by PAAAFR to transfer ownership of the zoo land.

The Kuwait Municipality subsequently approved the waiver request and expedited referral to the Municipal Council.

Coordination with service ministries is now required, along with adherence to infrastructure requirements. The executive branch is authorized to adjust site boundaries if necessary.

The municipality’s administration will provide a detailed plan outlining proportions and proposed uses for study and approval, ensuring regulatory compliance and optimal utilization of the site.

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Reflecting centuries of commerce and cultural exchange

Dubai’s Souk Marshad ... Market with Kuwaiti historical connection

Kuwait ministers collaborate on enhancing community services

Volunteerism initiative launched

KUWAIT CITY, July 6, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila, along with Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Dr. Noura Al-Mishaan, discussed finding effective and sustainable solutions to serve citizens.

A press statement by the Ministry of Social Affairs on Friday mentioned that the meeting addressed challenges and issues affecting the municipality, family, and childhood affairs sectors in the country. The statement added that the ministers exchanged views on cooperating to find effective and sustainable solutions and discussed ways of collaboration between ministries to provide better services to residents of residential areas. It was agreed to launch volunteer campaigns in various areas of Kuwait.

The statement further noted that the meeting between Ministers Al-Huwaila and Al-Mishaan reflects joint cooperation between ministries to achieve progress and development in various sectors,



KUNA photo
Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila, Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Dr. Noura Al-Mishaan, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Union of Cooperative Societies, Musab Al-Mulla.

aiming to fulfill the country’s goals. This communication and cooperation also aim to improve and develop services provided to citizens in general and in their residential areas in particular.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Union of Cooperative Societies,

Musab Al-Mulla, who confirmed the Union’s readiness to organize volunteer teams to serve the people of the region. Minister Al-Mishaan praised this valuable initiative, emphasizing its importance in serving the people of the region specifically and all areas of Kuwait in general.

By Salem Al-Methen

DUBAI, July 6, (KUNA): Dubai’s Souk Marshad might seem like your local traditional market in the well-known Emirati city; however, some might be intrigued to know that it was named after a renowned Kuwaiti merchant of old, giving this facility an aura of historical connection between Kuwait and the UAE.

Named after Kuwaiti businessman Marshad Al-Osaimi, the souk had left an imprint on relations.

Al-Osaimi, born in the 1910s, left Kuwait in 1944 heading to Dubai to earn a living and in the process became one of the most well-known merchants in the Emirate.

Al-Osaimi, initially a woods merchant, expanded his real estate and commerce businesses to include entertainment, opening the first known cinema Al-Watan (the homeland) according to an article published by Al-Etihad newspaper in 2015.

Back to the story of the market, Souk Marshad is located in Deira historical area. The Souk sells a variety of retailed products imported from India, China, Iran, Thailand, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

Despite the emergence of top-notch and high-end malls in Dubai, Souk Marshad and other traditional markets remain popular, attracting visitors and tourists from far and wide.

Providing further historical context on Al-Osaimi’s contributions, the Kuwaiti businessman was mentioned in various sources and publications including the book Qissati (my story) by author and none other than Vice President of the UAE, Prime Minister, and Governor of Dubai Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashed Al-Maktoum.

Al-Maktoum mentioned Marshad Al-Osaimi by name in the book due to his impact and contributions to business in Dubai, which if anything, shows gratitude towards the Kuwaiti figure.

Al-Osaimi, according to Al-Maktoum, was tasked by the late



Sheikh Rashid Al Maktoum, with his guide Al-Osaimi in the middle, on one of the tours.



KUNA photos
Marshad Market in Dubai includes many facilities and shops that are important to all residents and visitors of the emirate.

Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah to supervise the spreading of education in Dubai, which earned Al-Osaimi the unofficial title of (father of educators) in this Emirate.

Nevertheless, the highest honor was naming a Souk after Al-Osaimi, which shows contribution to the development of Dubai economically.

Al-Osaimi was also mentioned in the 2008 published book “Dubai: The Vulnerability of Success” by Christopher Davidson, where he referred to him as a successful Kuwaiti merchant who accumulated a considerable amount of wealth in the 1950s via his food import business.

Davidson indicated that Al-Osaimi also was a well-known figure in Emirati society, especially to the late ruler of Dubai Rashed bin Said Al-Makhtoum, who noted that he was one of the close advisors and confidants.

Al-Osaimi was also one of those tasked by Dubai’s leadership to oversee disputes via special courts prior to the establishment of official courts in 1956.

After three decades, Al-Osaimi returned home in 1972 and passed away in 1975 after a long illustrious career, in which he always had a special place for Dubai and the Emirati people.

MoF requests KIA to manage Entertainment City

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The request of the Ministry of Finance to transfer the Entertainment City project site allocation from the Amiri Diwan to the Kuwait Investment Authority signifies a strategic move aimed at leveraging the Authority’s expertise in managing and promoting investment projects, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This transfer is likely intended to streamline governance and optimize the development of Entertainment City, aligning with broader economic and developmental goals set by the government.

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Important documents shared

Kuwait National Library chief visits Ottoman State Archives in Istanbul

ISTANBUL, July 6, (KUNA): The Director General of Kuwait National Library Siham Al-Azmi visited the Ottoman State Archives and Libraries in Istanbul on Friday to discuss ways of cooperation between the two sides in the fields of archiving and documentation.

The visit, which came in response to an invitation by Deputy Director of the Ottoman State Archives and Libraries Sebahattin Bayram, focused on a draft cooperation protocol and the preparations for a joint exhibition of Ottoman manuscripts related to Kuwait and its rulers, Al-Azmi told KUNA after the visit.

She praised the distinguished cooperation between Türkiye and Kuwait in all fields. And For his part, Director of the Department of Foreign Relations and Publicity Jawad Ikliji gave the delegation an explanation about the progress of work in the library and the nature of the documents and manuscripts it contains.

Some important documents were shared, some of which were signed and sealed by Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah.

Ikliji also expressed the institution’s full readiness to cooperate with the State of Kuwait with all the documents and manuscripts it possesses.

The Deputy Director General of the Library presented souvenirs to Al-Azmi bearing



KUNA photo
Siham Al-Azmi, Director General of the Kuwait National Library, visits the Ottoman Archives Library in Istanbul.

ing the signature of Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah. Methods of research in the electronic archive were presented, and then a tour of the manuscripts gallery was given.

Firms unprepared for crucial system tests

CMA delays 2nd part of MD3.2 completion

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Capital Markets Authority decided to delay the completion of the second part of the third phase of the Capital Market System Development Program (MD3.2), known as the “Capital Market System Development Program,” originally scheduled for June 30, 2024, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The Authority cited reasons beyond its control for this postponement, extending the expected completion date to March 31, 2025.

The Authority’s statement highlighted that despite supervising 24 extended market tests from May 31, 2022, to April 28, 2024, it became evident that key stakeholders, especially financial brokerage firms, were not adequately prepared during recent tests.

These tests are crucial technical operational evaluations to ensure the smooth functioning of all involved parties (financial brokerage firms, custodians, portfolio managers, and commercial banks) without disrupting the capital market system.

In response, the Capital Markets Authority has opted to suspend further tests until the concerned parties ensure their automated and operational systems are fully developed.

Testing is scheduled to resume on August 25, 2024, focusing on market system readiness

among brokerage firms and commercial banks. Successful completion of these tests and subsequent steps is anticipated to facilitate the conclusion of the second part of the third phase by the first quarter of 2025.

Notably, upon qualifying entities and completing necessary infrastructure, Kuwait’s financial market will meet criteria for elevation to an advanced emerging market status.

This upgrade hinges on assessment by global rating agencies evaluating Kuwait’s financial market against classification requirements. The Authority also indicated plans for a fourth phase following the third phase of the capital market system development program, with details forthcoming.

The CMA continues its oversight of all market service providers, ensuring readiness through weekly progress reports and on-site visits to participants such as financial brokerage companies and custodians, in collaboration with the Kuwait Clearing Company.

Collaborating closely with strategic partners, the Authority remains committed to implementing its strategic plans aimed at developing Kuwait’s capital markets and enhancing operational efficiency among financial market entities.

CAPT OKs KD5.6 mn rainwater drainage deal

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Central Agency for Public Tenders has approved a contract worth 5.6 million dinars to construct, complete, and maintain a rainwater drainage culvert in the West Abdullah Al-Mubarak area, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This project is part of the Ministry’s priority initiatives aimed at addressing winter rain challenges, particularly to prevent incidents similar to the sinking of the Seventh

Ring Road in 2018.

According to Public Works sources, the culvert will connect the rainwater collection tank of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare at the junction of the Seventh Ring Road and Kabd Road to the main rain network intersection at the Seventh Ring Road and Jahra.

The tender process prioritized selecting the lowest bid to expedite the project’s commencement.

MC to address strategic initiatives and regulatory revisions

Municipal Council session set to tackle key dev’t projects, proposals

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Municipal Council’s upcoming session on Monday will address several significant development projects and proposals, reports Al-Jarida daily.

These development projects and proposals include:

- The request of the Ministry of Finance to transfer the Entertainment City project site allocation from the Amiri Diwan to the General Investment Authority.
- The request to reallocate the Shagaya Renewable Energy Complex site from the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research to the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy.
- Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan’s proposal to modify the use of the former Al-

Saffarin Market site in Shuwaikh, allocating it as a complex for productive crafts and small industries benefiting the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises.

- The Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fisheries Affairs request to develop Salmiya Boulevard Park.
- The Ministry of Communication request to allocate a site for the third major fiber optic project in the Subbiya area.
- The request of the Ministry of Interior to transfer the Civil Defense site from Al-Dajeej to Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, and to reallocate sites for the General Administration for Rescue Patrols and Information Systems projects in Al-Zahra, Block 7.

- The Kuwait Lawyers Association request to extend the moratorium on licenses for law offices in residential areas.
- The proposal by Abdullah Al-Muharri, President of the Municipal Council, to amend Article 10 of Ministerial Resolution No. 2023/322 regarding the system and division of lands prepared for construction.
- The Ministry of Health proposal to allocate land in the Hawalli Governorate to establish a specialized dental center.

These items reflect a broad range of developmental and regulatory issues being considered by the Municipal Council to enhance infrastructure, services, and regulatory frameworks across Kuwait.

MPW develops 520 services

Kuwait to fast-track road repairs, maintenance ‘strategy’ unveiled

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: Road repairs in the country will most likely be completed within three years as stipulated in the relevant contracts, followed by maintenance of the asphalt layer for a period of five years, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources explained the three-year period begins with the signing of contracts that are carried out in accordance with the regulations, starting with the most damaged roads and then the least affected ones.

Sources confirmed that the citizens and expatriates will start witnessing improvement on the roads within the first six months of signing the contracts. Sources stated that the contractor will be responsible for the quality of work during the maintenance period, which gives a guarantee of the quality of work. They pointed out that some roads repaired in 2017 are still in good condition, and that the correct specifications

and use of modern equipment will be confirmed during implementation.

In addition, sources said the Ministry of Public Works has developed 520 services and is moving steadily towards comprehensive digital transformation to improve its services. It has prepared a comprehensive ‘Business Manual’ (business guide) for all stages of its projects -- from the presentation of the idea up to the final handover. They said the ‘Business Manual’ is a tool for ensuring smooth digital transformation such that transactions and procedures are completed in a swift and accurate manner. They added the ministry’s projects will be monitored and followed up online under the new system that will be implemented soon. They also affirmed that the ministry is keen on strengthening infrastructure and guaranteeing proper maintenance, while focusing on the digital transformation of all sectors.



Ministry of Health mobile generators for emergency use.

MoH will provide uninterrupted services in emergency situations

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Ministry of Health has announced the preparation and deployment of mobile electric generators to bolster its readiness in handling emergency situations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This initiative, overseen by Assistant Undersecretary for Engineering Affairs and Projects Eng. Ibrahim Al-Naham, aims to ensure that health facilities can maintain unin-

terrupted service delivery even during electricity-related emergencies.

These mobile generators will be strategically distributed across various health facilities, ensuring their availability for immediate use as needed during emergencies.

This proactive measure underscores the ministry’s commitment to safeguarding the continuity of healthcare services without interruption.

Pezeshkian ...

Continued from Page 1

Moreover, can what its agent, Hassan Nasrallah, and his satanic party, have done in Lebanon and the destruction they caused serve Iran? Can the tense situation with the Arab Gulf states, which has continued since 1979, lead to the imposition of ‘exporting the revolution’ in the sectarian manner that the Iranian turban group is seeking?

It is good for the new president to announce this position. It is better for him to build on the agreement signed between Riyadh and Tehran -- the first fruits of which indicated a kind of stability and the opening of dialogue channels between the two countries.

But, in return, Iran continued to support -- both militarily and financially -- the terrorist gangs that continue to threaten regional peace; especially the Iraqi and Yemeni sectarian groups, from which an official emerges every day to threaten the Arab Gulf states.

We have said repeatedly, and we reiterate: Iran is an important country and a cornerstone of development in the region. It has great potential in agriculture, industry, etc., which provide the region with many advantages that help build important economic partnerships.

These partnerships will definitely lead to prosperity for the entire region, but there must be a realistic vision of Iranian political behavior and abandoning the incitement of sectarian strife.

Consequently, it is important for the Tehran regime, which is mired in medieval delusions, to be convinced that it will neither gild the world nor triumph over the superpowers. Rather, the loser will be the Iranian people alone, the majority of whom still languish below the poverty line, while the pockets of those wearing turbans keep on swelling.

Undoubtedly, the terrorist practices will lead to more militarization of the region; hence, the assistance of Americans, Europeans and the West.

These forces are not charitable organizations, as they rather work for their own interests. Countries in the region are aware of this and they have been seeking for a common word with Iran, which continues to challenge and provoke them for nearly 45 years.

We say it again, welcome, the new Iranian president, but he must learn a

lesson from the election results; which indicated the Iranians were disappointed by failed attempts at reform, political repression, and an economic crisis, which led to his election.

He focuses on Iran’s vital interests and abandons the approach of the hardliners and the Revolutionary Guard despite the conviction that the ultimate authority is the Supreme Leader.

However, the President of the Republic and his government have a margin of movement that helps prove the futility of the previous policy. Thus, he must emulate what Rafsanjani and Khatami achieved, who at the time, eased the siege on Iran.

KD50 transfer

Continued from Page 1

He disclosed that local companies and offices wishing to recruit workers must log into the website of the Ministry of Labor in Addis Ababa – <http://mols.gov.et>, register, obtain a username and password, and then upload all the required documents. He said the registration application from the Ministry of Labor will be reviewed and approved, while the processing of recruitment contracts with companies will begin under the full supervision of the Ethiopian side and the initial contract procedures will most likely be completed within 10 days.

Regarding the monthly salary of the worker, Al-Shammari confirmed that the salary is in accordance with Kuwaiti law; and in all cases, it is not KD90 as previously announced. He stated that the recruitment of Ethiopian domestic workers came at the right time, in light of Kuwait’s current reliance on only one country for the recruitment of domestic workers. He clarified that the recruitment ban on Filipino workers was lifted only for those with previous experience, not the new workers; hence, the domestic labor market lost about 70 percent of these workers who are supposed to arrive in the country. He reiterated that the Ethiopian labor is the almost ready alternative to cover part of the domestic labor shortage that the local market is currently suffering from.

He revealed the MoU consists of new provisions that guarantee the arrival of skilled and trained work-

ers with the knowledge of the nature of Kuwaiti society, most notably the adoption of a mandatory training period for workers before their arrival in the country for a period of 21 days, which will be conducted by the Ministry of Labor in Ethiopia, not the recruitment offices. He said the ministry will ensure that the workers pass the training, which aims to familiarize them with the Kuwaiti law, their rights and duties and nature of Kuwaiti society. He added the workers should also pass the English language test to ensure they are fully prepared to work upon arrival in Kuwait.

Al-Mudhaf assures

Continued from Page 1

budget for the fiscal year 2024-2025, projecting a deficit of 5.6 billion dinars.

Revenues are estimated at around 18.9 billion dinars, with expenditures reaching about 24.5 billion dinars, primarily allocated to wages and subsidies.

Regarding the Future Generations Fund Dr. Anwar Ali Al-Mudhaf clarified that the decision to reduce the deduction to finance the Future Generations Fund from state revenues is directly linked to ongoing budget deficits.

He emphasized that while the fund’s supply has not ceased entirely, the legally mandated deduction rate has been lowered from 10% to 1%. This reduction aims to ensure the fund’s continued growth and resilience. Last year, despite a budget deficit, the state managed to allocate 1% of its surplus, amounting to 6 billion dinars, towards supporting the Future Generations Fund.

Highlighting the fund’s robustness, Dr. Al-Mudhaf noted its stability over the past decade, particularly since 2014 when Kuwait began facing budget deficits. During previous years of financial surplus, 25% of revenues were consistently allocated to the fund.

This foresighted approach has bolstered the fund’s strength to weather subsequent deficits effectively.

In summary, the adjustments in financing the Future Generations Fund reflect Kuwait’s strategic commitment to preserving financial stability

while managing budgetary challenges through prudent fiscal policies and sustained fund growth.

Kuwait charity

Continued from Page 1

Abdullah Al-Saraji, Chairman of the Planning Committee of the Local Council of Al-Mokha district, praised Kuwait’s efforts in supporting development projects in Yemen. He noted that this project will improve the standard of living for the local population by providing them with clean water.

Raed Ibrahim, head of the Communication Foundation, confirmed that the project aims to support Yemenis in this region by delivering water to every house in the Kuwait Al-Khair village and distribution points for neighboring villages. (KUNA)

US-backed

Continued from Page 1

The two officials, who spoke on conditions of anonymity to discuss the ongoing negotiations, said Washington’s phased deal will first include a “full and complete” six-week cease-fire that would see the release of a number of hostages, including women, the elderly and the wounded, in exchange for the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners. During these 42 days, Israeli forces would also withdraw from densely populated areas of Gaza and allow the return of displaced people to their homes in northern Gaza, the pair said.

Over that period, Hamas, Israel and the mediators would also negotiate the terms of the second phase that could see the release of the remaining male hostages, both civilians and soldiers, the officials said. In return, Israel would free additional Palestinian prisoners and detainees. The third phase would see the return of any remaining hostages, including bodies of dead captives, and the start of a yearslong reconstruction project.

Hamas still wants “written guarantees” from mediators that Israel will continue to negotiate a permanent cease-fire deal once the first phase goes into effect, the two officials said.

MoCI ensures fair fish prices



Fish prices at the Sharq Market Center.

Photo by Mohammad Morsi

is coordinating with the Union of Imported Fish Offices to pump large quantities of fish in the coming period to cover the market’s need for fish and reduce prices to become more affordable for citizens and residents.

He confirmed the inspection tour of the fish market at dawn on Friday to know the price updates in the upcoming auctions. He said the inspection teams monitored the prices of fish in Sharq Market and that they ranged from KD6 to KD125 per basket or single code (10 kilograms).

Regarding the prices of local fish baskets, Al-Ansari disclosed that the

average price of the greasy grouper basket ranges from KD21 to KD35, the spotted grouper from KD10 to KD20, the silvery croaker from KD28 to JD41, the finned black sea bream from KD20 to KD50, the silver sea bream from KD 10 to KD18, and the four-threadfin from KD14 to KD33.

For imported seafoods, the price of a basket of jumbo shrimp ranges from KD105 to KD125, silvery pomfret from KD45 to KD85, spotted grouper from KD22 to KD50, finned black sea bream from KD20 to KD35, and silver sea bream from KD13 to KD25.

countries of assignment, mission regulations, and equivalencies to facilitate their academic progress throughout the mission period. She stressed the importance of their commitment to the dates that the Ministry will send to each student, as they will be received only on the specified dates to complete the mission accreditation procedures.

Al-Melhem stated that students can follow the third and final phase of the “Guide Me” campaign through

the ministry’s official social media accounts to view all the information relevant to them and their families for the post-acceptance stage. She called on students accepted in foreign missions to attend the orientation meeting that the Ministry of Higher Education will hold in cooperation with Kuwait University on July 9 and 10 in three periods. A text message will be sent to accepted students to inform them of the date of the orientation meeting.

Council to discuss major strategic projects and community concerns

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Municipal Council, headed by Abdullah Al-Mahri, will hold its second regular session for the third round on Sunday to discuss the following:

- Ministry of Communication’s request to allocate a site for the third major fiber optic network project in Subiya;
- Letter of Kuwait Lawyers Society regarding the suspension of licenses for law offices located in residential areas;
- Proposal of Municipal Council Chairman Abdullah Al-Mahri about the system of dividing and subdividing land intended for construction;
- Request of the Ministry of Interior to relocate the Civil Defense Center from Dajeej in South Farwaniya to Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Block 6;
- Reallocate the land of Shagaya Renewable Energy Complex from the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) to the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy;
- Request of the Ministry of Finance to transfer Entertainment City project site from the Amiri Diwan to Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA);
- Reallocation of the sites of the Directorate General for Rescue Patrols and the Directorate General for Information Systems projects in Zahraa, Block 7;
- Request of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) to develop Salmiya Park (Boulevard);
- Letter of the Ministry of

Health regarding the allocation of land in Hawalli Governorate to establish a specialized dental center;

- Objection of Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan to the council’s approval of the proposal of its members Abdullatif Al-Daei, Abdullah Al-Enezi, Alia Al-Farsi and Sharifa Al-Shalfan regarding the establishment of a camping area in the North under the supervision of Kuwait Municipality, which should be in accordance with the laws and regulations in force to promote tourism development and various recreational activities. The rejection is due to the fact that the proposal violates the powers assigned to the Municipality in accordance with Kuwait Municipality Law No. 33/2016 and it does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Municipality to establish and supervise sites allocated to promote tourism development and recreational activities.
- Al-Miahaan’s recommendation to study the proposal and set the terms of reference in preparation for presenting it to the private sector after study and coordination;
- Allocation of a suitable space according to the study of the technical staff in Jal ez-Zor region on a temporary basis, if it is not possible to allocate this area, another suitable area will be proposed according to the agency’s study;
- Proposal to coordinate with concerned government agencies to ensure the integration of the camp with public facilities in the region.

World News Roundup

Europe

Orban meets Putin

Rwanda deportation plan dead – Starmer

LONDON, July 6, (AP): British Prime Minister **Keir Starmer** said Saturday on his first full day in office that he is scrapping a controversial Conservative policy to deport asylum-seekers to Rwanda as he vowed to get change in motion, though he warned it will take time.

“The Rwanda scheme was dead and buried before it started,” Starmer said in his first news conference. “It’s never acted as a deterrent. Almost the opposite.”

The announcement was widely expected because Starmer said he would ditch the plan that has cost hundreds of millions of dollars but never taken flight.

The news conference followed his first Cabinet meeting as the new government takes on the massive challenge of fixing a heap of domestic woes and winning over a public weary from years of austerity, political chaos and a battered economy.

Starmer welcomed the new ministers around the table at 10 Downing St., saying it had been the honor of his life to be asked by King Charles III to form a government in a ceremony that officially elevated him to prime minister.

Huge

“We have a huge amount of work to do, so now we get on with our work,” he said.

Starmer’s Labour Party delivered the biggest blow to the Conservatives in their two-century history Friday in a landslide victory on a platform of change.

Among a raft of problems they face are boosting a sluggish economy, fixing a broken health care system, and restoring trust in government.

“Just because Labour won a big landslide doesn’t mean all the problems that the Conservative government has faced has gone away,” said Tim Bale, professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London.

In his first remarks as prime minister Friday after the “kissing of hands” ceremony with Charles at Buckingham Palace, Starmer said he would get to work immediately, though he cautioned it would take some time to show results.

“Changing a country is not like flicking a switch,” he said as enthusiastic supporters cheered him outside his new official residence at 10 Downing. “This will take a while. But have no doubt that the work of change begins - immediately.”

Crossing

He will have a busy schedule following the six-week campaign crossing the four nations of the UK.

He will travel to Washington next week for a NATO meeting and will host the European Political Community summit July 18, the day after the state opening of Parliament and the King’s Speech, which sets out the new government’s agenda.

Starmer singled out several of the big items Friday, such as fixing the revered but hobbled National Health Service and securing its borders, a reference a larger global problem across Europe and the U.S. of absorbing an influx of migrants fleeing war, poverty as well as drought, heat waves and floods attributed to climate change.

Conservatives struggled to stem the flow of migrants arriving across the English Channel, failing to live up to ex-Prime Minister’s Rishi Sunak’s pledge to “stop the boats” that led to the controversial plan to deport asylum-seekers to Rwanda.

“Labour is going to need to find a solution to the small boats coming across the channel,” Bale said. “It’s going to ditch the Rwanda scheme, but it’s going to have to come up with other solutions to deal with that particular problem.”

Also:

KYIV, Ukraine: Russian strikes overnight left over 100,000 households without power in northern Ukraine and cut off the water supply to a regional capital, Ukrainian authorities reported Saturday, while civilian casualties rose sharply in the country’s embattled east.

The northern **Sumy region**, which borders **Russia**, was plunged into dark after Russian strikes late Friday damaged energy infrastructure, the Ukrainian Energy Ministry said. Hours later, the Ukrainian public broadcaster reported that Russian drones hit the provincial capital, also called Sumy, cutting off water by hitting power lines that feed its system of pumps.

Russian state agency RIA cited a local pro-Kremlin “underground” leader as saying that Moscow’s forces overnight hit a plant producing rocket ammunition in the city, which had a pre-war population of over 256,000.

The report didn’t specify what weapon was used, and the claim could not be independently verified. Explosions rocked the city during an air raid warning early Saturday, according to Ukrainian media reports.

In the **Donetsk** region in the east, Russian shelling on Friday and overnight killed 11 civilians and wounded 43, local Gov. **Vadym Filashkin** reported on Saturday. Five people died in the town of Selydove southeast of **Pokrovsk**, the eastern city that has emerged as a front-line hotspot. The Ukrainian General Staff on Saturday morning said that Ukrainian and Russian forces clashed 45 times near Pokrovsk over the previous day.



MOSCOW: Hungarian Prime Minister **Viktor Orbán** visited Moscow on Friday for a rare meeting by a European leader with Russian President **Vladimir Putin** and discussed peace proposals for Ukraine, which triggered condemnation from Kyiv and some European leaders and officials.

Orbán’s visit comes only days after he made a similar unannounced trip to Ukraine, where he met with President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** and proposed that Ukraine consider agreeing to an immediate cease-fire with Russia.

“The number of countries that can talk to both warring sides is diminishing,” Orbán said. “Hungary is slowly becoming the only country in Europe that can speak to everyone.”

Hungary assumed the rotating presidency of the EU at the beginning of July and, in comments at the beginning of their meeting that were televised, Putin suggested that Orbán had come to Moscow as a representative of the European Council. Several European officials - including the leaders of Germany, Denmark and Estonia - dismissed that suggestion and said Orbán had no mandate for anything beyond a discussion about bilateral relations.

The Hungarian prime minister, widely seen as having the warmest relations with Vladimir Putin among all European Union leaders, has routinely blocked, delayed or watered down EU efforts to assist Kyiv and impose sanctions on Moscow for its actions in Ukraine.



US President Joe Biden speaks at a campaign rally at Sherman Middle School in Madison, Wisconsin on July 5. (AP)

Politics

Biden dismisses age questions in interview

Republicans turn their focus to Harris

NEW YORK, July 6, (AP): For years it’s been a Republican scare tactic.

A vote to reelect President Joe Biden, the GOP often charges, is really a vote for Vice President Kamala Harris. It’s an attack line sometimes tinged with racist and misogynist undertones and often macabre imagery.

But after Biden’s dismal performance at last week’s presidential debate, which has sparked Democratic calls for him to step aside, what was once dismissed as a far-right conspiracy - Harris replacing Biden - could now have a chance of coming to pass. And Republicans, including Donald Trump, are ramping up their attacks.

Trump and his allies have been rolling out new attack lines against Harris, insulting her abilities, painting her as Biden’s chief enabler and accusing her of being part of a coverup of his health. It’s an effort, campaign officials insist, that is not a reflection of their concerns about a potential change at the top of the ticket, given Biden’s insistence he is not leaving the race.

New

But in a post marking Independence Day on his Truth Social site Thursday, Trump singled out Harris, calling her his “potentially new Democrat Challenger” and giving her a new derisive nickname: “Laffin’ Kamala Harris.”

“She did poorly in the Democrat Nominating process, starting out at Number Two, and ending up defeated and dropping out, even before getting to Iowa, but that doesn’t mean she’s not a ‘highly talented’ politician! Just ask her Mentor, the Great Willie Brown of San Francisco,” he wrote. (Harris dated Brown in the mid-1990s.)

The post came after Trump campaign senior advisers Chris LaCivita and Susie Wiles released a statement earlier this week that offered a different, but similar, moniker, calling her Biden’s “Cackling Copilot Kamala Harris.”

Trump also posted an expletive-laced video, which was first seen reported by the Daily Beast, in which he was captured on the golf course calling Biden an “old broken down pile of crap” and declaring that he’d

driven the president from the race. (Trump, in interviews, has repeatedly said he did not expect Biden to be pushed aside.)

“He’s quitting the race,” Trump said. “And that means we have Kamala. I think she’s going to be better. She’s so bad. She’s so pathetic,” he said.

Allies have also joined the attacks, painting Harris as a chief defender of Biden’s faculties and accusing her of lying to the American public.

Biden, the White House and his campaign insist he has no plans to drop out of the race.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre pushed back against the tenor of attacks against Harris, particularly Trump’s decision to invoke a decades-old relationship and other sexist rhetoric.

“I think it’s gross, I think it’s disturbing,” Jean-Pierre told reporters Friday aboard Air Force One. “She should be respected in the role that she has as vice president. She should be respected like any other vice president before her who was in that room. It is appalling that, I’m going to be careful here, that a former president is saying that about a current vice president. And we should call that out - it is not OK.”

It remains unclear how Harris would fare against Trump, compared to Biden. Replacing a candidate this late in a presidential cycle - much less an incumbent president who has already sailed through the Democratic Party’s primaries - would be unprecedented in modern history, and the mechanics are complicated and potentially messy.

Polling shows that Harris’ favorability ratings are similar to Biden’s and Trump’s. A June AP-NORC poll found about 4 in 10 Americans have a favorable opinion of her. But the share of those who have an unfavorable opinion is slightly lower than for Trump and Biden, and about 1 in 10 have no opinion of her yet.

Also:

MADISON, Wis: US President **Joe Biden**, fighting to save his endangered reelection effort, used a highly anti-

investigation, he admitted to killing her and pleaded guilty to murder, authorities announced Friday.

As part of a deal with prosecutors in Coconino County, Daniel Paduchowski pleaded guilty Friday to second-degree murder in the death of his 45-year-old wife, Kelly. He also pleaded guilty to tampering with physical evidence, concealment of a dead body

and possession of dangerous drugs, according to a copy of the plea agreement.

The agreement, reached earlier Friday before the Flagstaff Police Department held an afternoon news conference, marks a stunning and swift resolution to a homicide case that was opened just days earlier and that could have otherwise stretched for years as it made its way through the legal

system.

At the news conference, Flagstaff Police Chief **Sean Connolly** emphasized that it had been just six days since authorities were alerted to Kelly Paduchowski’s disappearance. “I was at the barber. I’ve been at the dry cleaners. I’ve been to restaurants and businesses, and this has been on everybody’s mind,” he said. (AP)



Texas shark attacks reported: Shark attacks disrupted Fourth of July celebrations Thursday at South Padre Island as two people were taken to the hospital with bites, at least one of them severe, authorities said.

Police were called for the attack on the man who was severely bitten around 11 am, according to Nikki Soto, the South Padre Island city secretary. He was initially treated at the beach by firefighters and police.

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department said later in a statement that two people were bitten and two more “encountered” the shark but were not seriously hurt. One of the bite victims was taken to a hospital in Brownsville, and the other was “flown out for further treatment.”

Based on witness reports and images on social media, Game Warden Capt Chris Dowdy said, authorities believe a single shark about 6 feet (about 1.8 meters) long was responsible.

Beach patrol, firefighters and police were patrolling the shore and flying drones after the attacks, Soto said.

The last reported shark attack in the area was five years ago, according to Dowdy.

Texas Parks & Wildlife is assisting the investigation. (AP)



Police officers stand guard at the crime scene where police say two people were killed and three others injured in Huntington Beach, Calif on July 5. Two people were killed and three others injured in Independence Day violence in the beach city, police said on Friday. (AP)



Johnson



Connolly

America

July 4th violence kills 33: Shootings and other violence during the extended Fourth of July weekend have left at least 33 people dead, including 11 in Chicago, and injured dozens more nationwide, authorities said.

The Fourth of July historically is one of the nation’s deadliest days of the year. A flurry of shootings around the holiday a year ago left more than a dozen people dead and over 60 wounded. And a year before that, seven people died in a mass shooting at a Fourth of July parade near Chicago.

Violence and mass shootings often increase in the summer months, with more people gathering for social events, teens out of school and hotter temperatures.

In Chicago alone, 11 people had been killed and 55 wounded in shootings as of Friday morning during the extended July Fourth weekend, the Chicago Sun-Times reported. The violence included a mass shooting on Thursday that killed two women and an 8-year-old boy. The recent violence “has left our city in a state of grief,” Mayor **Brandon Johnson** said. (AP)



2 teens die while swimming: Two teenagers died while swimming at New York’s Coney Island Beach in Brooklyn, police said.

Police received an emergency call for a water rescue in the area of Stillwell Avenue and Boardwalk West at 8:10 pm Friday, the New York Police Department said in a statement.

Arriving officers were informed two females, aged 17 and 18, had gone into the water and disappeared from view, police said. Police from the department’s aviation, harbor, scuba units conducted a search. Divers eventually removed both the young women from the water, police said.

The swimmers were transported to NYC Health and Hospitals/Coney Island where they were pronounced dead, according to police, who said the investigation continues.

Witnesses told WABC-TV that a rain storm began and most people at the beach took shelter, but the two young women went into the rough ocean water. (AP)



Man pleads guilty to murder: Less than a week after an Arizona man reported his wife missing, launching an expansive search that quickly turned into a criminal



Britain’s King Charles III, (right), shakes hands with Keir Starmer following the landslide general election victory for the Labour Party, in London on July 5. Britain’s new prime minister vowed on Friday to reverse the hopelessness that grew over 14 years of Conservative rule and said he would lead an urgent mission of national renewal. (AP)

Africa

US troops leave Niger

Ruto apologizes for arrogant politicians

NAIROBI, Kenya, July 6, (AP): Kenya's President **William Ruto** on Friday apologized for the "arrogance and show of opulence" by legislators and ministers from the ruling party and promised action against "rogue" police officers who shot at unarmed civilians during deadly protests and the storming of parliament over plans to hike taxes.

Ruto, referring to what he called arrogant statements made by officials, said public speaking was "difficult" and some people make "mistakes" for which he takes responsibility and promised change in the conduct of officials.

Kenya experienced two weeks of unrest during which Parliament was stormed by protesters during a finance bill vote. The president was hosted Friday on the social media platform X by popular social media influencer Osama Otero, who said he was abducted on the night of the protests and beaten by police.

Ruto said he regretted the abduction and that he would take action, adding that "that is not right." "You don't deserve the kind of treatment you went through," he said.

The president said the police are independent and not controlled by the executive branch of government but promised to ensure that those responsible would be prosecuted. "I am ultimately responsible because I am president, and that is why I said it was regrettable," Ruto said.

Ruto

Increase

During the storming of Parliament during a finance bill vote - which would have resulted in a tax increase if approved - legislators fled through an underground tunnel. Police responded by opening fire and several protesters were shot dead.

Ruto later said he would not sign the finance bill and communicated to Parliament that the proposed legislation should be withdrawn, but protests continued with calls for him to resign over poor governance.

Kenya has been plagued by corruption, with the latest case involving the sale and distribution of thousands of fake fertilizer bags worth millions of shillings by the agriculture ministry.

The president on Friday was accused of not showing empathy and not mentioning the names of those who died during the protests. He responded by saying "people are born differently." But he added that he was scheduled to speak with the mother of a boy who was shot and killed during protests.

Ruto was accused of not acknowledging the correct number of those who died in the protests. He put the number at 25 while the Kenya National Commission for Human Rights said 39 people were killed.

An hour before the online engagement, Ruto in a televised address announced specific austerity measures that included the dissolution of "47 state corporations with overlapping and duplicative functions" to save on operation and maintenance costs.

He also "suspended" the appointment of 50 chief administrative secretaries that were challenged in court on the basis of the positions being unconstitutional.

Also:

WASHINGTON: The US will remove all its forces and equipment from a small base in **Niger** this weekend and fewer than 500 remaining troops will leave a critical drone base in the West African country in August, ahead of a Sept 15 deadline set in an agreement with the new ruling junta, the American commander there said Friday.

Air Force Maj Gen **Kenneth Ekman** said in an interview that a number of small teams of 10-20 US troops, including special operations forces, have moved to other countries in West Africa. But the bulk of the forces will go to **Europe**, at least initially.

Niger's ouster of American troops following a coup last year has broad ramifications for the US because it is forcing troops to abandon the critical drone base that was used for counterterrorism missions in the Sahel, a vast region south of the Sahara desert where groups linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group operate.

Ekman and other US military leaders have said other West African nations want to work with the US and may be open to an expanded American presence. He did not detail the locations, but other US officials have pointed to the **Ivory Coast** and **Ghana** as examples.

Ekman, who serves as the director for strategy at US Africa Command, is leading the US military withdrawal from the small base at the airport in Niger's capital of **Niamey** and from the larger counterterrorism base in the city of **Agadez**. He said there will be a ceremony Sunday marking the completed pullout from the airport base, then the final 100 troops and the last C-17 transport aircraft will depart.

Under the junta agreement, two-thirds of US troops and equipment must be out of the country by July 26, Ekman said. That deadline, which forced the Pentagon to move quickly, is a key reason why US Africa Command will complete its withdrawal of all 1,000 troops from Niger early.

□ □ □

BAMAKO, Mali: Mali's army and Russian mercenaries killed dozens of civilians during a military operation last month in northern Mali, civil organization and community members alleged Friday, amid a surge in violence after the ruling junta broke off a peace agreement with rebel groups.

The killings took place from June 20 to 29 in the Abeibara in the Kidal region, the civil society groups and residents said. The Malian military says it has no knowledge of the alleged killings, but says military operations are taking place throughout the country.

The region is a former stronghold of a rebellion by militants in the Tuareg ethnic group who are fighting the army in a conflict where civilians increasingly have become the main victims. Some of the militants have formerly been allied with al-Qaida.

Hamadine Driss Ag Mohamed, son of **Abeibara's** village chief, told The Associated Press on Friday that Malian soldiers and fighters from the Russian mercenary group Wagner had killed 46 civilians.

Mali and its neighbors **Burkina Faso** and **Niger** have long battled insurgencies by armed groups, including many allied with the al-Qaida and the Islamic State.

Following military coups in all three nations in recent years, the ruling juntas have expelled French forces and have sought military help instead from Russia's mercenary units, such as the private security company Wagner and its likely successor, Africa Corps.



This image provided by the Peak Promotion shows recovered bodies of climbers being prepared to be airlifted from Everest base camp in Nepal on May 29. The Nepal government-funded team of soldiers and Sherpas removed 11 tons (24,000 pounds) of garbage, four dead bodies and a skeleton from Everest during this year's climbing season. (AP)

Mt Everest highest camp littered with frozen garbage, cleanup likely to take years

The highest camp on the world's tallest mountain is littered with garbage that is going to take years to clean up, according to a Sherpa who led a team that worked to clear trash and dig up dead bodies frozen for years near Mount Everest's peak.

The Nepal government-funded team of soldiers and Sherpas removed 11 tons (24,000 pounds) of garbage, four dead bodies and a skeleton from Everest during this year's climbing season.

Ang Babu Sherpa, who led the team of Sherpas,

said there could be as much as 40-50 tons (88,000-110,000 pounds) of garbage still at South Col, the last camp before climbers make their attempt on the summit.

"The garbage left there was mostly old tents, some food packaging and gas cartridges, oxygen bottles, tent packs, and ropes used for climbing and tying up tents," he said, adding that the garbage is in layers and frozen at the 8,000-meter (26,400-foot) altitude where the South Col camp is located.

Since the peak was first conquered in 1953, thousands of climbers have scaled it and many have left behind more than just their footprints.

In recent years, a government requirement that climbers bring back their garbage or lose their deposits, along with increased awareness among climbers about the environment, have significantly reduced the amount of garbage left behind. However, that was not the case in earlier decades. (AP)

Asia

'Prioritize nat'l development over politicization'

Fierce fighting breaks out in Myanmar

BANGKOK, July 6, (Agencies): New fighting has broken out in northeastern Myanmar, bringing an end to a Chinese-brokered cease-fire and putting pressure on the military regime as it faces attacks from resistance forces on multiple fronts in the country's civil war.

The Ta'ang National Liberation Army, one of three powerful militias that launched a surprise joint offensive last October, renewed its attacks on regime positions last week in northeastern Shan state, which borders China, Laos and Thailand, and the neighboring Mandalay region with the support of local forces there.

Combined

Since then, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army has joined in, and by Friday, combined forces from the two allied militias had reportedly encircled the strategically important city of Lashio, headquarters of the regime's northeastern military command.

This is the next phase of October's "1027" offensive, said Lway Yay Oo, spokesperson for the TNLA, which last week said the military provoked retaliation with artillery and airstrikes despite the cease-fire.

"In phase two, our number one aim is the eradication of the military dictatorship, and number two is the protection and safety of local people," she said.

Thet Swe, a spokesperson for the military regime, which seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021, accused the militias of putting civilians in jeopardy by restarting the fighting.

"As the TNLA are starting to violate the cease-fire, the Tatmadaw is protecting the lives and the property of the ethnic people," he said in an email to the AP, referring to the military by its Burmese name.

There was no indication that the third ethnic armed organization that makes

MANILA, Philippines, July 6, (AP): A former Philippine opposition senator accused ex-President Rodrigo Duterte of plundering state coffers in a criminal complaint filed Friday, alleging that he conspired with an aide to award government infrastructure contracts worth millions of dollars to cronies.

Filed with the Department of Justice in Manila, the accusation adds to the former president's legal worries, which include an investigation by the International Criminal Court into allegations of crimes against humanity over the widespread killings of suspects during Duterte's crackdown on illegal drugs.

Former Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV said two construction companies, owned by the father and brother of longtime Duterte aide and now Sen. Christopher Lawrence Go, received more than 100 government construc-

tion contracts worth at least 6.6 billion pesos (\$114 million) from 2007 to 2018 in the southern city of Davao, while Duterte was mayor and vice mayor and after he became president in 2016.

Also:

SEOUL, South Korea: A man who stabbed South Korea's opposition leader in the neck earlier this year was sentenced to 15 years in prison on Friday, court officials said.

The knife-wielding man attacked **Lee Jae-myung**, head of the liberal Democratic Party, South Korea's biggest political party, in January after approaching him asking for his autograph at an event in the southeastern city of Busan. After being detained by police, he told investigators that he wanted to kill Lee to prevent him from becoming South Korea's president.

up the Three Brotherhood Alliance, the powerful Arakan Army, has joined in the renewed fighting in Shan state, but its troops have never stopped fighting in its home Rakhine state, which was not covered by the Jan. 11 cease-fire.

Also:

ULAN BATOR: Following his reelection, Mongolian Prime Minister **Luvshannamsrai Oyun-Erdene** called upon the country's newly elected legislators on Friday to avoid politicizing issues crucial for national development.

Oyun-Erdene was re-elected for another term as the Asian country's prime minister on Friday, with his rul-

ing Mongolian People's Party (MPP) securing a narrow majority in the regular elections of the parliament, known as the State Great Khural, held on June 28.

In an address, Oyun-Erdene emphasized the urgency of fully funding several ongoing projects from the past four years, urging legislators to collaborate across party lines for the nation's advancement.

He also advocated for policy reforms, particularly in coal and natural resource exports, given that mining products currently constitute 93 percent of **Mongolia's** exports.

Oyun-Erdene is expected to form his new government within the coming week.

post, protesters for handling negotiations with protesters and Mexico's 32 powerful state governors. Sheinbaum will take office Oct. 1.

As expected, Omar García Harfuch - who served as Mexico City police chief when Sheinbaum was mayor - was appointed to head Mexico's increasingly powerless Pub-



Former Sen. Antonio Trillanes holds documents to reporters after filing at the Department of Justice in Manila, Philippines on July 5. Trillanes filed criminal complaints of economic plunder against ex-president Rodrigo Duterte Friday over alleged anomalies in the awarding of large numbers of government infrastructure projects worth billions of pesos (millions of dollars) to two companies when he was a southern city mayor and later as president. (AP)

lic Safety Department, the top law-enforcement post.

García Harfuch is credited with bringing down homicides in the capital, though the numbers he claims are disputed. He gained respect after he survived a dramatic 2020 drug cartel ambush that wounded him and left three other people dead.

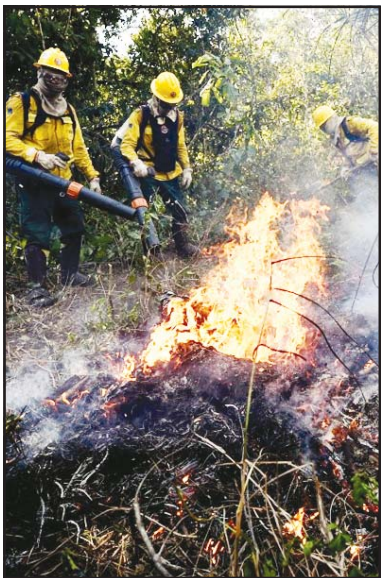
Sheinbaum has pledged to strip control of the National Guard, Mexico's main law enforcement agency, from the Public Safety Department and turn the 117,000-member force over to the Army. García Harfuch will control little other than the country's prisons when he takes over the job.

But it was the appointment of Rodríguez that turned heads: a very poor public speaker with no experience in campaigns or as an elected official, she breaks the long-standing practice of appointing experienced political pros - often former state governors - to the interior ministry post, where negotiating skills are key.

Rodríguez is also closely identified with López Obrador's "hugs not bullets" strategy of not confronting drug cartels, and militarizing law enforcement. In his six-year term, López Obrador has not been able to significantly reduce record-high levels of killings in Mexico.

Sheinbaum belongs to López Obrador's Morena party and has pledged to continue all of his policies.

In June, she also asked López Obrador's Treasury Secretary, Rogelio Ramírez de la O, to stay on in the post. The job is similar to that of a finance minister, controlling spending and budgets. (AP)



Firefighters work in an area of the Pantanal affected by forest fire, in Corumbá, municipality of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil on July 5. (Xinhua)



Sheinbaum



Obrador

Lat/Am

Quake hits Argentina: A 4.8-magnitude earthquake hit San Juan province, northwest Argentina, on Friday, according to authorities of the South American country.

There have been no reports of casualties or damage so far.

The National Institute for Seismic Prevention said the earthquake occurred at 3:53 p.m. local time (18:53 GMT), at a depth of 125 kilometers. The area where the earthquake occurred is a sparsely populated region of Argentina. (Xinhua)

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Brazil bus crash kills 10: At least 10 people were killed and 42 others injured early Friday when a tourist bus crashed into a concrete pillar on a highway in Brazil's state of Sao Paulo, said local police and medical services.

The bus carrying tourists was en route from the city of Itapeva to Aparecida, where Brazil's largest Catholic sanctuary is located.

According to a Civil Defense spokesman cited by the news network Globonews, the injured, five of whom are in serious condition, are being treated in medical centers in the cities of Sorocaba and Itapetininga.

The tragedy occurred at the 171-km point of the Professor Francisco da Silva Pontes Highway (SP-127), when the double-decker vehicle crashed into a viaduct pillar.

According to a statement from the Sao Paulo State Transport Agency, the driver survived and said he was driving normally, but the bus suffered a mechanical breakdown that caused the steering wheel to lock.

Due to this malfunction, the driver said he could not control the vehicle and crashed into the concrete pillar. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Sheinbaum announces top posts: Mexico's incoming president announced her appointees for top posts, but hopes for a fresh approach were dashed by the re-appearance of old faces in the new cabinet.

President-elect **Claudia Sheinbaum** announced that Rosa Icela Rodríguez, who headed outgoing President **Andrés Manuel López Obrador's** failed security strategy, will serve as the next interior secretary.

That is Mexico's top domestic political

Tunisia receives 4 mln tourists

Tunisian Minister of Tourism Mo-hammad Moez Belhassaine his country received four million tour-ists during the first half of 2024, an increase of 4.5 percent compared to the corresponding period last year.

During a visit to the tourist is-land of Djerba, central east Tun-isia, on Friday, the minister said the number of arrivals in Tunisia in this period exceeded the num-ber recorded in 2019, which is a

reference year.

According to data from the Central Bank of Tunisia, revenues from the tourist sector in H1-2024 reached more than USD 895 million.

The United Nations Education-al, Scientific and Cultural Organi-zation (UNESCO) added Djerba to the World Heritage List during the 45th session of the World Her-itage Committee, held in the King-dom of Saudi Arabia on Septem-ber 10, 2023. (KUNA)

Egypt launches \$20.76 bln North Coast tourist project

Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly announced on Tuesday the launch of a new tourist project in the country's North Coast on the Mediterranean Sea with an invest-ment of 1 trillion Egyptian pounds (20.76 bil-lion U.S. dollars).

The new project is expected to generate 1.6 trillion Egyptian pounds in sales and 1.6 million direct job opportunities through con-struction-related industries, according to a statement by the Egyptian cabinet.

The South Med project, which is going to be carried out in partnership with the private

sector, integrates with the projects im-plemented and being implemented in this prom-ising area to achieve the goals that include doubling the current number of tourists by 2030, Madbouly told a press conference in Egypt's New Administrative Capital.

"We are keen to make the North Coast of Egypt a destination that is focused on by various state agencies to maximize the tourism sector and provide a large number of hotel and tourist rooms in this area," Madbouly said.

Madbouly said the state seeks to provide more job opportunities for young people in

North Coast to encourage and attract many of them to reside in the area through the im-plementation of a large and integrated group of projects, including New Alamein City.

Madbouly said the government expects that this project, along with other mega pro-jects being implemented in New Alamein City, will attract people to reside and foreign tourists to visit. In February, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed a deal to build a new city on Egypt's North Coast to boost tourism, investment and foreign cur-rency reserves. (Xinhua)

Market Movements 05-07-2024

		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
↑	DUBAI	-	DFMGI	+4.42	4,070.24		
↓	JAPAN	-	Nikkei 225	-1.28	40,912.37		
	PHILIPPINES	-	PSEI	-14.74	6,492.75		
	PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	-38.03	80,285.88		
	BRITAIN	-	FTSE 100	-37.33	8,203.93		
	EUROPE	-	Euro Stoxx 50	-8.09	4,979.39		

Business

Other Voices

Heat wave spurs Gulf oil demand

OPEC+ discipline keeps oil prices stable around \$87 pb

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

The price of Brent crude oil seems steady at \$87, after increasing by more than \$10 per barrel last month. The OPEC+ members are fully adhering to their commitments to cut crude oil production. Even though some members are still not fully in line with the current quota reductions, Russia and Iraq remain committed to reducing their productions.

From the beginning of this month, Russia has been committed to the OPEC+ agreed production cuts. Even though it is difficult to witness these reductions at a time when the oil prices are at their highest level so far, there have been no complaints. OPEC+ is happy to see the success of its efforts.

Currently, all of the positive market factors are driving the oil prices higher. The 4th of July holiday and the start of the driving season, with over 7.5 million Americans on the road, are increasing gasoline consumption.



Al-Harami

This surge in demand is pushing U.S. refineries to boost throughput to meet the travel demand by both road and air, creating a strong need for the two most-needed products in the US oil markets. Consequently, there has been a reduction of over 12 million barrels of crude oil. Additionally, imports have risen by more than 9% compared to the same period last year.

The supply of crude oil has also tightened, as OPEC+ exports have decreased. Gulf states, including Iraq, are burning more crude oil to meet the increased demand caused by a severe heat wave, with temperatures reaching 52 to 53 degrees Celsius. This extreme heat has led to a surge in the use of air conditioning systems, causing hourly power cuts in some Arabian Gulf states.

However, OPEC+ will only act after observing the market conditions. Are such market conditions the reason behind the barrel reaching \$90 a barrel? Could the steady release of some volumes to the markets be a sign of goodwill? Oil is expected to rise further due to OPEC+'s successful discipline and adherence to its production quotas.

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E-vehicles' benefits highlighted

OAPEC chief indicates role of fossil fuels amid e-vehicle rise

KUWAIT CITY, July 6 (KUNA): Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) Secretary General Jamal Al-Loughani announced Wednesday the impact of the recent electric vehicle industry expansion would not hinder the global demand for oil in short and medium terms.

According to a recent study conducted on electronic vehicles (e-vehicles) commissioned by OAPEC titled "Electric Vehicles: Realities and Prospects," transportation is an important part of everyday life, where e-vehicle sales have taken precedence over conventional combustion engine equipped vehicles.

Though e-vehicles have been in the process of replacing conventional methods of vehicle transportation since 2008, there are obstacles e-vehicle manufacturers have yet to address.

Therefore, the manufactures focused on having their e-vehicles furnished and equipped with state-of-the-art features that would better their performance, increasing consumers' interest, and subsequently competing with conventional vehicles in the market.

The study brought to attention the negative environmental impacts of conventional vehicles, where carbon dioxide emissions have a hand in climate change as opposed to the "environmentally friendly" e-vehicles.

The common and repeated term "environmentally friendly," elaborated Al-Loughani, is in need of reevaluation, where prejudiced opinions against conventional transporta-

tion are not at the forefront.

The objective reevaluation of e-vehicles' limited carbon footprint on the environment should consider battery maintenance and electric charge sources amongst other concerns.

Notwithstanding the current obstacles e-vehicles face, it is apparent that e-vehicles reduce pollution in crowded cities and might improve their positive impact on the environment if these vehicles generated electricity from sustainable sources, Al-Loughani added.

Currently, e-vehicles' high costs are in need of monetary support from the government, indicating that profits are not always direct. However, positive and environmental return in the future may constitute a justification for governmental financial support.

Al-Loughani affirmed the interest of most Arab countries in e-vehicles' potential environmental sustainability.

However, Al-Loughani underscored the importance of examining some potential setbacks in switching completely to e-vehicles, such as locating the pressure point on electricity networks, demand for electricity, and the needed infrastructure in handling the quantity of electricity to charge and sustain e-vehicles.

The study asserted that renewable energy sources are not enough to secure the necessary and sustainable demand, underlining the need for fossil fuels for adequate energy generation, and concluding with global oil demand not being significantly impacted by the rise of e-vehicle sales in the near future.

Saudi discovers seven new oil and gas wells

RIYADH, July 6, (KUNA): Saudi Arabia announced Sunday the discovery of seven oil and gas wells in the Kingdom's Eastern Province and Empty Quarter region.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman as saying that the national energy giant Aramco discovered two unconventional oil fields and one reservoir in the Kingdom's East-

ern Province and two natural gas fields and two reservoirs in the Empty Quarter region.

Prince Abdulaziz noted that the "Ladam" unconventional oil field was discovered in the Eastern Province after the flow of very light Arabian oil in the Ladam-2 well at a rate of 5,100 barrels per day, accompanied by about 4.9 million standard cubic feet of gas per day.

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site, and YouGov today announced the results of the Future of Work in MENA 2024 survey, providing a data-driven perspective on work-force confidence, skill set priorities, recruitment practices, and the sectors poised for growth or decline.

The survey showcases a region that is positive about its professional future, with 80% of the respondent's expressing confidence in the future of work and achieving success despite the rapidly changing job landscape, and less than 20% feeling uncertain about the future. The confidence is stronger within the GCC markets, highlighting a positive outlook for upcoming opportunities and career progressions.

Ola Haddad, General Manager at Bayt.com, said: "At Bayt.com, we are dedicated to understanding the dynamic needs of the job market and the professionals within the MENA region. Our extensive database of over 52 million job seekers was instrumental in conducting this research, and the results of this survey reveal a positive outlook among the workforce and underscore the growing importance of soft skills and hard skills, in addition to the anticipated shift in future recruitment processes"

The demand for certain professions, including software engineers (79%), healthcare professionals (74%), and electrical engineers (73%), is predicted to rise significantly. Conversely, traditional roles such as copywriters and journalists may see diminished demand.

In an era where skill requirements are perpetually in flux, the study identifies critical competencies deemed necessary by professionals. Today, time management (97%), communication (96%), teamwork, and technology/computer skills (both at 95%) stand out as essential. Looking a decade ahead, the anticipation shifts slightly with technology/computer skills (93%), strategic vision (91%), time management, communication, and creative thinking (all three at 90%) earmarked as vital for future success. Nearly equal numbers foresee a future where both technical and soft skills maintain equal importance, particularly in North Africa.

The Evolving Landscape of Job Recruitment

Digital transformation is influencing recruitment processes, with online job sites such as Bayt.com (46%) and company websites (45%) currently being utilized as primary channels for talent sourcing. Furthermore, an overwhelming 80% of recruiters anticipate



Ola Haddad

changes in these processes in the future, reflecting a dynamic shift in recruitment strategies. Significantly, 65% of industry experts predict that online recruitment will become a key facilitator, vastly improving efficiency compared to traditional methods.

Notably, 60% of employees currently participate in the hiring processes within their organizations, indicating a broad-based involvement in recruitment activities. Recruitment practices are also under transformation, with previ-

ous job experience (91%) and CV and cover letter presentation (85%) considered crucial in current hiring decisions. This trend is expected to continue, accompanied by an increased emphasis on cultural fit (79%) and CV presentation (79%).

Maintaining a compelling employer brand has emerged as a pivotal focus for 91% of recruiters, highlighting its importance in attracting top talent. Future job-seeking avenues are anticipated to lean heavily on online job boards,

Boursa sees gains amid low liquidity

Liquidity remains low at below 32 mln dinars

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Boursa Kuwait concluded the week on a positive note, with all major indices recording gains despite relatively low liquidity levels, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The following is the summary of the trading activity:

The General Market Index increased by 0.45% or 31.29 points to close at 6983.90 points; the liquidity remained low at below 32 million dinars; 115 million shares were traded through 10,401 transactions and 54 stocks gained, 45 lost, and 22 remained unchanged.

The Premier Market Index rose by 0.43% or 32.20 points, closing at 7,602.11 points; the liquidity stood at 25.4 million dinars; 74.8 million shares were traded through 6,742 transactions and 18 stocks gained, 8 lost,

and 8 remained unchanged.

The Main Market Index gained 0.57% or 33.56 points, ending at 5,924.24 points; liquidity amounted to 6.4 million dinars; 40.1 million shares exchanged hands in 3,659 transactions and 36 stocks gained, 37 lost, and 14 remained unchanged.

The trading activity started positively during the last session of the week, with notable gains in stocks like Kuwait Real Estate, Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Boubyan Bank, and National Bank.

Other stocks that performed well include Al-Eid, International Cables, Al-Mabane, and STC, among others. However, some stocks like Bayut and Al-Jazira experienced declines.

Overall, while the session ended with gains across the indices, liquidity levels remained subdued, marking one of the lowest points for the year at below 32 million dinars.

Gas deal ensures power supply for Iraq

Turkmenistan & Iran sign 10 bln cubic meter gas contract

Annual inflation drops to 71.6% in June

Turkey sees first decline in inflation in 8 months

ANKARA, July 6, (Xinhua): Türkiye's inflation is on a falling trend for the first time in eight months, marking what appears to be the beginning of a long-anticipated and sustained disinflation. However, consumer sentiment remains unimpressed despite the improvement.

Annual inflation slipped to 71.6 percent in June, down from a peak level of 75.45 percent in May, the country's Statistical Institute announced on Wednesday.

"Disinflation process has begun," Treasury and Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek said on his X account following the release of the data, pointing out that consumers will start to feel relief soon.

But according to a survey conducted by the Ankara-based ORC polling company and published on June 26, nearly 70 percent of respondents said they are pessimistic about the future of the economy.

Economists said that while

year-on-year inflation may drop, monthly rises will persist, thereby continuing to strain consumers financially.

"Monthly inflation is projected to continue to increase each month. What will drop is the year-on-year inflation rate," Mustafa Sonmez, an Istanbul-based economist, told Xinhua, indicating that prices will continue to rise, but at a slower pace.

Despite pressure from the opposition, ruling Justice and Development Party officials have ruled out an interim hike to pensions and the minimum wage, earned by millions of workers in Türkiye, stressing that it would fuel inflation.

The minimum wage was equivalent to 578 U.S. dollars in January when it was increased by 49 percent and is now valued at 515 dollars because of the depreciation of the Turkish lira against hard currencies.

Millions of retirees are also hard hit by runaway inflation.

"The cost of living is extremely high. Inflation is not dropping. Electricity prices were hiked, and gas prices will be too," one of them, Naci Cesme, told Xinhua in Maltepe.

"Low-income earners have to sacrifice everything and they still cannot make ends meet," this pensioner lamented, emphasizing that food is taking the lion's share of the household budget.

Türkiye has been struggling with rising inflation and one of the worst cost-of-living crises of its history, leading President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to reverse interest rate hikes to combat inflation in June 2023.

The central bank has since raised its key rate from 8.5 percent to 50 percent, making borrowing more costly to cool down the economy.

While the official year-end inflation is forecast at 38 percent, most economists believe it will end up higher.

Pakistan’s macroeconomic environ challenging in ‘23

Pakistan’s macroeconomic environment in calendar year 2023 remained challenging amid rising inflation, weak foreign exchange inflows, pressures on external account and local currency, and low business confidence, particularly in the first half, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said.

However, the policy measures and regulatory interventions that were taken to address growing imbalances coupled with securing a nine-month stand-by agreement from the International Monetary Fund helped improve the macroeconomic conditions in the second half of 2023, the SBP said Friday in its financial stability review for 2023.

Inflation started falling, economic growth recovered, and the exchange rate stabilized towards the year’s end, said the central bank in the report.

Against this backdrop, the financial sector exhibited strong growth and performance, and maintained financial soundness and operational resilience, it added.

The asset base of the financial sector expanded by 27 percent in 2023, mainly driven by the banking sector, according to the report. (Xinhua)

Canada’s unemployment rate rises to 6.4%

Canada’s unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage points to 6.4 percent in June, Statistics Canada said Friday.

The unemployment rate has trended up since April 2023, rising 1.3 percentage points over the period, the national statistical agency said.

There were 1.4 million unemployed people in the country in June, an increase of 3.1 percent from the previous month.

Of those who were unemployed in May, just over one-fifth had transitioned to employment in June, indicating that people are facing greater difficulties finding work in the current labor market, the agency said.

Among the unemployed, 17.6 percent had been continuously unemployed for 27 weeks or more in June, up 4 percentage points from a year earlier. (Xinhua)

The project still requires an additional federal OK

US gives key approval to Atlantic Shores offshore wind farm in NJ

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., July 6, (AP): The U.S. Interior Department approved the proposed Atlantic Shores offshore wind farm in New Jersey on Tuesday, giving a major boost to a project that would be the state’s first.

The project still requires an additional federal approval of its construction and operations plan, along with two state-level permits, before construction can begin.

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said the department’s decision marked the ninth offshore wind project approved under the Biden administration, green-lighting 13 gigawatts of electricity, enough to power 5 million homes.

“The Biden-Harris administration is building momentum every day for our clean energy future, and today’s milestone is yet another step toward our ambitious goal of deploying 30 gigawatts of offshore energy by 2030,” she said in a statement.

“Our clean energy future is now a reality. We are addressing climate change, fostering job growth, and promoting equitable economic opportunities for all communities.”

The project, consisting of two phases, would be built between Atlantic City and Long Beach Island in southern New Jersey.

It would generate 2,800 megawatts, enough to power 1 million homes.

“This milestone brings us one step closer to delivering New Jersey’s first offshore wind projects, and for the state achieving its ambitious goal of 100% clean energy by 2035,” Joris Veldhoven, Atlantic Shores’ CEO, said in a statement. “We recognize the significance of this milestone, and we’re thrilled to work with our supply chain partners to continue making near-term investments and creating great paying union jobs.”

Opponents of offshore wind are well organized and vocal in New Jersey, and one of several groups against the plan, Protect Our Coast-NJ, said the federal and state governments “are forging ahead like a bull in a China shop, hurting overburdened communities and our incredible ocean with unwanted industrial construction projects.”

“Offshore wind construction and operations disrupts wildlife and ecosystems, and threatens the livelihoods of commercial fishermen and small businesses up and down the East coast,” the group said in a statement.

Atlantic Shores, which was given preliminary approval in 2021 by New Jersey utility regulators, has now gotten nearly as far as a previously approved project that would have been New Jersey’s first offshore wind farm.

Danish wind developer Orsted was close to beginning work on two offshore wind farms but scrapped the project in Oct. 2023 after deciding it would not be economical.

Many of the state’s major environmental groups issued statements praising Atlantic Shores’ approval, saying it proves that offshore wind has regained its footing in New Jersey after the Orsted setback.

“The Biden administration’s approval of the Atlantic Shores project is good for our climate, our public health, our workers, and our wallets,” said Anjali Busot-Ramos, director of the New Jersey Sierra Club.

“We are proud to see New Jersey move towards renewable energy and offshore wind development, and away from dirty fossil fuels.”

Doug O’Malley, director of Environment New Jersey, added: “On the cusp of a historic heat wave, there is no better week for the federal government to give a green light to the Atlantic Shores offshore wind project.

“Every year without offshore wind providing power to our electric grid is another year we are overly dependent on fossil fuels to power our electric grid.”

The Interior Department said the project would be about 8.7 miles from shore at its closest point. But the company has previously said that it will not built right up to that line and that the closest turbines will be at least 12.8 miles from shore.

Atlantic Shores is a joint partnership between Shell New Energies US LLC and EDF-RE Offshore Development LLC.

The Interior Department approved construction of 195 wind turbines as part of the project; the company had sought up to 200.

Here’s what to know

Europe is slapping tariffs on Chinese EVs – for now

FRANKFURT, Germany, July 6, (AP): The European Union is imposing sharply higher customs duties on electric vehicles imported from China. EVs are the latest flash point in a broader trade dispute over Chinese government subsidies and Beijing’s burgeoning exports of green technology to the 27-nation bloc. The higher duties went into effect on Friday, pending a final decision in four month’s time.

Here are some basic facts about the EU’s planned customs duties:

After an eight-month investigation, the European Commission, the EU’s executive arm, found that companies making electric cars in China benefit from massive government help that means they can undercut rivals in the EU on prices, take a big market share and threaten European jobs.

It announced the higher duties on June 12 and they go into effect from Friday. The duties are provisional, meaning they will be totaled up but won’t need to be paid until they’re confirmed by a vote of EU governments before Nov. 2. The EU will only collect the duties if there’s a further finding that the European auto industry would have suffered material harm without them.

That gives the EU and the Chinese government time to negotiate. Talks have been held between Valdis Dombrovskis, the EU commissioner for the economy, and Chinese Trade Minister Wang Wentao, as well as at the level of technical experts. The higher duties are not a goal in themselves but “a means to correct an imbalance,” commission spokesman Eric Mamer said Thursday. “We certainly hope we can come to a solution which would allow us not to have to move forward on this path.”

The rates, if applied, would be: 17.4% on cars from BYD, 19.9% on those from Geely and 37.6% for vehicles exported by China’s state-owned SAIC. Geely has brands including Polestar and Sweden’s Volvo, while SAIC owns Britain’s MG, one of Europe’s bestselling EV brands. Other EV manufacturers in China including Western companies such as Volkswagen, BMW and Tesla would be subject to duties of at least 20.8%. The commission mentioned that Tesla might get an “individually calculated” rate if duties are definitively imposed.

Under EU rules it’s possible - though at present it seems unlikely - that the higher duties could be blocked ahead of the Nov. 2 effective date by vote of what the EU calls a “qualified majority” of countries. That means at least 15 of the 27 EU member governments representing at least 65% of the bloc’s population.

Chinese-built electric cars jumped from 3.9% of the EV market in 2020 to 25% by September 2023, the commission said, in part by unfairly undercutting EU industry prices.

The commission says companies in China accomplished that with the help of subsidies all along the chain of production, from cheap land for factories from local governments to below-market supplies of lithium and batteries from state-owned enterprises to tax breaks and below-interest financing from state-controlled banks.

The rapid growth in market share has sparked fears that Chinese cars will eventually threaten the EU’s ability to produce its own green technology needed to combat climate change, as well as the jobs of 2.5 million workers at risk in the auto industry and 10.3 million more people whose jobs depend indirectly on EV production.

Subsidized solar panels from China have wiped out European producers - an experience that European governments don’t want to see repeated with their auto industry.

Unusually, the commission acted on its own, without a complaint from the European auto industry. Industry leaders and Germany, home to BMW, Volkswagen and Mercedes-Benz, have been skeptics about the subsidy investigation. That’s because many of the cars that will be hit with tariffs are made by European companies, and because China could retaliate against the auto industry or in other areas.

US jobs data support possibility of bringing down interest rates

Gains occur in govt, health care & social assistance

WASHINGTON, July 6, (KUNA): The US Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Friday that total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 206,000 in June, and the unemployment rate changed little at 4.1 percent.



Samantha Grimison makes a cup of coffee at the Blind Tiger Cafe on Jan. 10, 2024, in Tampa, Fla. On Friday, June 5, 2024, the U.S. government issued its June jobs report. (AP)

Job gains occurred in government, health care, social assistance, and construction.

This news release presents statistics from two monthly surveys, according to a press release from the Dept. of Labor.

The household survey measures labor force status, including unemployment, by demographic characteristics.

The establishment survey measures nonfarm employment, hours, and earnings by industry.

Commenting on the data, Jan Hatzius, chief economist at Goldman Sachs, said, “It’s a soft landing kind of report.”

“This does support the idea that [the Fed] will cut relatively soon, and we continue to think September is the most likely,” he told CNBC’s “Squawk on the Street.”

On his part, Gus Faucher, chief economist for the PNC Financial Services Group, said, “That’s not too shabby at a time when interest rates are at a 23-year high and the Federal Reserve is

looking for inflation and overall demand to cool before bringing down rates.”

“We’re seeing job growth slow a bit; we’ve seen the unemployment

rate tick up a little bit; we’ve seen wage growth slow a bit,” Faucher told CNN in an interview.

“But those are all good news from the Fed’s perspective, should

help reduce inflationary pressures coming from the labor market, and should support Fed rate cuts toward the end of this year,” he added.

Buyers balked at still-high prices

US new-vehicle sales barely rose in Q2

German industrial production falls by 2.5 pct in May

DETROIT, July 6, (AP): U.S. new-vehicle sales rose only slightly in the second quarter, despite larger discounts and slightly lower prices.

But brisker sales could be on the horizon: Auto industry analysts say they expect prices to drop further and there’s a possibility of interest-rate cuts that would make taking out a loan for a new vehicle more affordable.

Overall, U.S. sales were up only 0.1% compared to a year ago, as still-high prices kept many potential buyers out of the market, according to preliminary tallies Tuesday by Motorintelligence.com.

Sales were crimped in late June, when cyberattacks knocked out software from CDK Global that dealerships use to do sales paperwork. CDK said most dealers were back up by Tuesday afternoon, but companies such as General Motors said the problem pushed some deliveries into the third quarter.

Analysts say inventories on dealer lots are building, especially for pickup trucks and other higher-priced vehicles.

Discounts vary by demand for vehicles, with smaller, less-expensive models and gas-electric hybrids generally being in shorter supply. Many customers are delaying purchases, figuring that bigger discounts are com-

ing.

“Waiting may be the optimal strategy here,” said Cox Automotive Senior Economist Charlie Chesbrough.

Toyota, which sells many popular gas-electric hybrids, posted a 9.2% sales increase from April through June. Honda sales were up 2.7%, while General Motors posted just a 0.3% gain and Hyundai reported a 1.8% increase. Subaru had a 5.4% sales gain.

Sales at Stellantis fell 20.7% in the second quarter, with the Ram brand

ing to the report.

“Production is expected to stabilize as global trade recovers and demand for industrial products gradually increases,” the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action said on Friday. The ministry highlighted that recent trends in the manufacturing sector indicate a cautious outlook for Germany’s industrial economy in the coming months.

The decrease in production figures coincides with a decline in new orders for Germany’s manufacturing sector. In May, orders fell by 1.6 percent month-on-month, marking the fifth

consecutive decline.

A survey conducted by Germany’s KfW Research revealed that business sentiment among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the country is deteriorating. The corresponding index for June fell for the second consecutive time. Additionally, large enterprises have also become more pessimistic again.

“The hoped-for economic recovery remains very uncertain,” said Fritz Koehler-Geib, chief economist of KfW, emphasizing that there are no signs of sentiment rebounding.

But now find they need to replace their rides.

Many, he said, are going for what few lower-priced vehicles remain in the mid- to upper- \$20,000 range.

“The stuff that’s very affordable, that’s where it’s at,” said Drury. “You really have to have an attractive product at an attractive price for it to move today.”

For instance, sales of the Chevrolet Trax compact SUV, which starts at \$20,400 excluding shipping, were up 152.7% during the quarter.

China beefing up combat against financial fraud in capital markets

BEIJING, July 6, (Xinhua): In a concerted effort to fortify the integrity of China’s capital markets, Chinese authorities have rolled out a robust framework to curb financial fraud and enhance market discipline.

The document was released on Friday by the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Finance, the People’s Bank of China, the National Administration of Financial Regulation, and the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council.

The document underscores a relentless crackdown on fraudulent activities within the capital markets, including the illicit issuance of stocks and bonds. It calls for a rigorous enhancement of the review and registration mechanisms governing the issuance and listing of securities.

A zero-tolerance stance is adopted against various financial irregularities, such as disseminating false information, misappropriating funds, and evading debt obligations.

Financial fraud has a significant impact on market confidence and brings substantial damage to investor interests. In recent years, Chinese regulatory authorities have been continuously intensifying their crackdown on financial fraud in the capital market.

Data indicates that from 2021 to 2023, the CSRC, China’s top securities watchdog, handled a total of 397 cases of illegal information disclosure, including 203 cases of fraud.

Since 2021, more than 150 cases involving listed companies or bond issuers suspected of financial fraud or fund misappropriation have been transferred to public security organs.

The document highlights the need for vigilance against the evolving tactics of systemic and organized financial fraud, advocating for stringent legal action against those involved in forging or altering vouchers, fabricating transactions or colluding with third parties.

The statement also emphasizes the importance of regulatory oversight, particularly in the misuse of accounting policies and the targeted crackdown on financial fraud in specific sectors.

It advocates for a proactive approach to risk assessment, aiming to identify and mitigate the risks associated with industry-specific, systemic, and regional financial fraud.

For some time, the relatively low cost of financial fraud has been a thorn in the side of capital market participants. There is widespread demand for the continuous increase of penalties for such violations to ensure punitive measures have a real bite and serve as deterrents commensurate with the gravity of the offenses committed.

The document introduces a comprehensive accountability framework, recognizing the disruptive impact of financial fraud on market order and investor confidence. It insists on holding both the primary perpetrators and their accomplices accountable, advocating for increased penalties and market bans for those found guilty of financial fraud.

INNOVATION Business Plus



Reimagining human-robot collaboration

Harnessing disability insights for AI integration



A visitor touches a humanoid robot hand on display at an AI exhibition booth during The World Artificial Intelligence Conference & High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance, in Shanghai, China, July 4, 2024. (AP)

‘ Disabled people are well experienced in receiving and giving social and technical assistance, which makes them a valuable source of insight into how everyone might relate to AI systems in the future. ’

By Elaine Short
Tufts University

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

You might have heard that artificial intelligence is going to revolutionize everything, save the world and give everyone superhuman powers. Alternatively, you might have heard that it will take your job, make you lazy and stupid, and make the world a cyberpunk dystopia.

Consider another way to look at AI: as an assistive technology - something that helps you function.

With that view, also consider a community of experts in giving and receiving assistance: the disability community. Many disabled people

use technology extensively, both dedicated assistive technologies such as wheelchairs and general-use technologies such as smart home devices.

Equally, many disabled people receive professional and casual assistance from other people. And, despite stereotypes to the contrary, many disabled people regularly give assistance to the disabled and nondisabled people around them.

Disabled people are well experienced in receiving and giving social and technical assistance, which makes them a valuable source of insight into how everyone might relate to AI systems in the future. This potential is a key driver for my work as a disabled person and researcher in AI and robotics.

While virtually everyone values independence, no one is fully

independent. Each of us depends on others to grow our food, care for us when we are ill, give us advice and emotional support, and help us in thousands of interconnected ways. Being disabled means having support needs that are outside what is typical and therefore those needs are much more visible. Because of this, the disability community has reckoned more explicitly with what it means to need help to live than most nondisabled people.

This disability community perspective can be invaluable in approaching new technologies that can assist both disabled and nondisabled people. You can't substitute pretending to be disabled for the experience of actually being disabled, but accessibility can benefit everyone.

This is sometimes called the curb-cut effect after the ways that putting a ramp in a curb to help a

wheelchair user access the sidewalk also benefits people with strollers, rolling suitcases and bicycles.

You have probably had the experience of someone trying to help you without listening to what you actually need. For example, a parent or friend might "help" you clean and instead end up hiding everything you need.

Disability advocates have long battled this type of well-meaning but intrusive assistance - for example, by putting spikes on wheelchair handles to keep people from pushing a person in a wheelchair without being asked to or advocating for services that keep the disabled person in control.

The disabled community instead offers a model of assistance as a collaborative effort. Applying this to AI can help to ensure that new AI tools support human autonomy rather

than taking over.

A key goal of my lab's work is to develop AI-powered assistive robotics that treat the user as an equal partner. We have shown that this model is not just valuable, but inevitable. For example, most people find it difficult to use a joystick to move a robot arm: The joystick can only move from front to back and side to side, but the arm can move in almost as many ways as a human arm.

To help, AI can predict what someone is planning to do with the robot and then move the robot accordingly. Previous research assumed that people would ignore this help, but we found that people quickly figured out that the system is doing something, actively worked to understand what it was doing and tried to work with the system to get it to do what they wanted.

Most AI systems don't make this easy, but my lab's new approaches to AI empower people to influence robot behavior. We have shown that this results in better interactions in tasks that are creative, like painting. We also have begun to investigate how people can use this control to solve problems outside the ones the robots were designed for. For example, people can use a robot that is trained to carry a cup of water to instead pour the water out to water their plants.

The disability-centered perspective also raises concerns about the huge datasets that power AI. The very nature of data-driven AI is to look for common patterns. In general, the better-represented something is in the data, the better the model works.

If disability means having a body or mind outside what is typical, then disability means not being well-represented in the data. Whether it's AI systems designed to detect cheating on exams instead detecting students' disabilities or robots that fail to account for wheelchair users, disabled people's interactions with AI reveal how those systems are brittle.

One of my goals as an AI researcher is to make AI more responsive and adaptable to real human variation, especially in AI systems that learn directly from interacting with people. We have developed frameworks for testing how robust those AI systems are to real human teaching and explored how robots can learn better from human teachers even when those teachers change over time.

Thinking of AI as an assistive technology, and learning from the disability community, can help to ensure that the AI systems of the future serve people's needs - with people in the driver's seat. (AP)

Platforms' content moderation policies deemed protected

Supreme Court remands social media regulation cases

By Lynn Greenky
Syracuse University

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

‘ The states said that the platforms should have to carry all posts from users without discrimination among them based on what they were saying. ’

The U.S. Supreme Court has sent back to lower courts the decision about whether states can block social media companies such as Facebook and X, formerly Twitter, from regulating and controlling what users can post on their platforms.

Laws in Florida and Texas sought to impose restrictions on the internal policies and algorithms of social media platforms in ways that influence which posts will be promoted and spread widely and which will be made less visible or even removed.

In the unanimous decision, issued on July 1, 2024, the high court remanded the two cases, *Moody v. NetChoice* and *NetChoice v. Paxton*, to the 11th and 5th U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals, respectively. The court admonished the lower courts for their failure to consider the full force of the laws' applications. It also warned the lower courts to consider the boundaries imposed by

the Constitution against government interference with private speech.

In their arguments before the court in February 2024, the two sides described competing visions of how social media fits into the often overwhelming flood of information that defines modern digital society.

The states said the platforms were mere conduits of communication, or "speech hosts," similar to legacy telephone companies that were required to carry all calls and prohibited from discriminating against users. The states said that the platforms should have to carry all posts from users without discrimination among them based on what they were saying.

The states argued that the content moderation rules the social media companies imposed were not examples of the platforms themselves speaking - or choosing not to speak. Rather, the states said, the rules affected the platforms' behavior and caused them to censor certain views by allowing them to determine whom to allow to speak on which topics, which is outside First Amendment protections.

By contrast, the social media platforms, represented by NetChoice, a tech industry trade group, argued

that the platforms' guidelines about what is acceptable on their sites are protected by the First Amendment's guarantee of speech free from government interference. The companies say their platforms are not public forums that may be subject to government regulation but rather private services that can exercise their own editorial judgment about what does or does not appear on their sites.

They argued that their policies were aspects of their own speech and that they should be allowed to develop and implement guidelines about what is acceptable speech on their platforms based on their own First Amendment rights.

All the litigants - NetChoice, Texas and Florida - framed the issue around the effect of the laws on the content moderation policies of the platforms, specifically whether the platforms were engaged in protected speech. The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court preliminary injunction against the Florida law, holding the content moderation policies of the platforms were speech and the law was unconstitutional.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals came to the opposite conclusion and held that the platforms were not engaged in speech, but

rather the platform's algorithms controlled platform behavior unprotected by the First Amendment. The 5th Circuit determined the behavior was censorship and reversed a lower court injunction against the Texas law.

The Supreme Court, however, reframed the inquiry. The court noted that the lower courts failed to consider the full range of activities the laws covered. Thus, while a First Amendment inquiry was in order, the decisions of the lower courts and the arguments by the parties were incomplete. The court added that neither the parties nor the lower courts engaged in a thorough analysis of whether and how the states' laws affected other elements of the platforms' products, such as Facebook's direct messaging applications, or even whether the laws have any impact on email providers or online marketplaces.

The Supreme Court directed the lower courts to engage in a much more exacting analysis of the laws and their implications and provided some guidelines.

The court held that content moderation policies reflect the constitutionally protected editorial choices of the platforms, at least regarding what the court describes

as "heartland applications" of the laws - such as Facebook's News Feed and YouTube's homepage.

The Supreme Court required the lower courts to consider two core constitutional principles of the First Amendment. One is that the amendment protects speakers from being compelled to communicate messages they would prefer to exclude. Editorial discretion by entities, including social media companies, that compile and curate the speech of others is a protected First Amendment activity.

The other principle holds that the amendment precludes the government from controlling private speech, even for the purpose of balancing the marketplace of ideas. Neither state nor federal government may manipulate that marketplace for the purposes of presenting a more balanced array of viewpoints.

The court also affirmed that these principles apply to digital media in the same way they apply to traditional or legacy media.

In the 96-page opinion, Justice Elena Kagan wrote: "The First Amendment ... does not go on leave when social media are involved." For now, it appears the social media platforms will continue to control their content. (AP)

editor's choice



Filmmaker helps small-town theater win a big grant

YELLOW SPRINGS, Ohio, July 6, (AP): When the Little Art Theatre set out to land a \$100,000 grant to fund a stylish new marquee, with a nod to its century-long history, the cozy Ohio arthouse theater had some talented help.

Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker Steve Bognar is a resident of Yellow Springs, the bohemian college town between Columbus and Cincinnati where the theater is a downtown fixture. Besides being one of Little Art’s biggest fans, Bognar is an advocate for small independent theaters everywhere as they struggle to survive in an industry now dominated by home streaming.

The eight-minute video Bognar directed and filmed for the theater’s grant application set out to illustrate just what its loss could mean to people, communities - even society as a whole.

“The fact that this movie theater is smack in the middle of town, it’s like the heart of our little town,” he said in a recent interview.

Bognar, who with the late Julia Reichert won an Oscar in 2020 for the feature documentary “American Factory,” began the video with some 100 different classic film titles flashing past on the Little Art Theatre’s current marquee. He then folded in interviews with local residents, who reminisced about their favorite movies and moviegoing experiences.

It wasn’t lost on the documentarian that such communal experiences are becoming increasingly rare, as rising home and charter school enrollments fragment school populations, in-person church attendance falls and everything from shopping to dining to dating moves more and more online.

“If there was one overall theme that emerged, or a kind of guiding idea that emerged, it was that a cinema, a small-town movie theater, is like a community hub,” Bognar said. “It’s where we come together to experience collectively, like a work of art or a community event or a local filmmaker showing their work.”

Entertainment

Bognar’s video did its job. Little Art won the grant, the first Theater of Dreams award from the streaming media company Plex. The company is using its grant program to celebrate other independent entertainment entities, as a poll it conducted last summer with OnePoll found two-thirds of respondents believed independent movie theater closures would be a huge loss to society.

“That collective experience of sitting in the dark and just kind of feeling, going through some story and feeling it together is beautiful,” Bognar said. “We don’t do that enough now. We are so often isolated these days. We stare at our screens individually. We watch

movies individually. It’s sad.”

He believes that people share energy when they’re watching the same movie together, adding a sensory dimension to the experience.

“We feel more attuned because we’re surrounded by other human beings going through the same story,” he said. “And that’s what a theater can do.”

The theater plans to use the grant to replace Little Art’s boxy modern marquee with the snappier art deco design that hung over its ticket booth in an earlier era. The theater opened in 1929.

“We found an old photo of our marquee from the 1940s, early ’50s, and that was when it all came together,” said Katherine Eckstrand, the theater’s development and community impact director. “And we said, that’s it - it’s the marquee. We want to go back to our past to bring us into our future. So that’s where it started.”

Bognar, 60, said it’s the very theater where he was inspired as a youngster to become a filmmaker.

“Some of my deepest, fondest story experiences in my whole life have happened right here in this theater, where I’ve been swept away by a great work of cinema,” he said. “And that’s what I aspire to create for audiences, you know. It’s incredibly hard to do to get to that level, but I love swimming toward that shore.”

Variety



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Lupita Nyong'o in a scene from 'A Quiet Place: Day One.' (AP)

Film

Film focuses on new character with silly mystery

‘A Quiet Place’ prequel loses its novelty

By Lindsey Bahr

Not all successful movies need to be franchises. Most really shouldn’t be. That’s not how Hollywood works, of course, but it’s worth repeating. Because in the case of “A Quiet Place,” now on its third movie with a prequel about a few new characters in New York on the first day of the invasion, the thrill of that fresh idea has waned. And when that happens, what are we left with?

There were certainly many questions about the how and the why of the killing monsters with hypersensitive hearing. The internet is full of logic questions and holes if you’re curious. But the beauty of “A Quiet Place” was the silly mystery. We were just dropped into this apocalyptic world with a very simple but challenging rule: If you make a noise, you die. Got it. Scarcity of information worked in its favor as we got to know this family just trying to survive (and deliver a baby quietly!) Its sequel worked mostly because it smartly chose to continue that same journey, picking up exactly where we had left off.

“A Quiet Place: Day One,” directed and co-written by Michael Sarnoski (sharing a credit with John Krasinski), shifts focus from the Abbott family to a new character, Sam (Lupita Nyong’o), who is dying of cancer. She is bitter, sarcastic and mean. And taking the “save the cat” idea to its literal extreme, Sam does have one friend: A cat named Frodo. This seems like an unnecessary crutch, simply because if anyone is going to make a hostile character a compelling hero, it’s Nyong’o. Both she and Joseph Quinn, playing a British law student named Eric, have deeply expressive, saucer-sized eyes that make dialogue almost unnecessary. But without a newborn in the mix, the cat adds an extra element of chaos by surviving for more than 3 minutes.

Sarnoski, who was behind the Nicolas Cage thriller, makes the bold decision to not dwell on answering questions about the monsters. In fact, he barely addresses how everyone figures out that they

need to be quiet. One moment, people are being devoured in the streets of New York and several later there’s a band of survivors pushing their fingers to their lips. Perhaps this was smart: There’s only so much an audience will tolerate watching characters bewildered about something they already know. But it might have been a little interesting to watch someone figure it out, or, like try to persuade a toddler to buy into it.

Besides a distracting attempt to connect this film to “Part II” through Djimon Hounsou, the story itself is quite contained to Sam and Eric, a stranger who kind of attaches himself to her and Frodo. She has one goal: To survive long enough to get to her favorite pizza place in Harlem.

Apocalypse

There is something compelling about the idea of what a terminal person might do on the first day of the apocalypse, and Nyong’o is powerful and heart-breaking on this quest for the perfect slice. There’s a beauty in the simplicity and insanity of it. What Eric is doing there, however, is anyone’s guess. He’s a little too underwritten to make much sense of.

Also, there are competing forces at play, with “Day One” wanting to be both a meditative character study and a thrilling horror movie that gives us more monsters, more carnage, more jump scares and unsettling memories of 9/11. They never quite mesh, and several choices make it seem like the filmmakers were just trying to shoehorn in excitement without much justification. One of the most exciting sequences that captures the terror of Krasinski’s films is when Eric goes to a pharmacy to try to get meds for Sam. It’s simple, efficient and full of dread and tension because it’s a necessary risk, unlike many of the bigger set pieces that feel more strained.

Ultimately “Day One” could have been set around any old apocalypse. Tethering it to the rules of “A Quiet Place,” a smart premise whose novelty is impossible to recreate let alone build a world upon, just

holds it back.

“A Quiet Place: Day One,” a Paramount Pictures release in theaters Friday, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for “terror and violent content/bloody images.” Running time: 100 minutes. Two stars out of four.

Also:

BEIJING: Crime thriller “A Place Called Silence” topped the Chinese mainland box office chart with a revenue of around 67 million yuan (about 9.4 million U.S. dollars) on Friday, according to the China Movie Data Information Network.

Directed by **Sam Quah**, who also made the 2019 hit film “Sheep Without a Shepherd,” the movie delves into the topic of campus bullying and is expected to be a highlight among this summer’s box office lineup.

It was followed by domestic comedy “Welcome to My Side,” which pocketed 14.84 million yuan on its first day of release.

Domestic drama “Moments We Shared” came in third with a daily earning of 11.12 million yuan on the day.

The total box office revenue on the Chinese mainland on Friday stood at 125.5 million yuan.

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LOS ANGELES: The Criterion Channel continues to offer the best and most thoughtful movie libraries, thoughtfully curated and grouped into fun themes that refresh on the first of each month. Last Monday saw a neo noir series (“Out of Sight,” “L.A. Confidential,” and two “Bad Lieutenants” among them), one on pop **Shakespeare** including **Baz Luhrmann**’s “Romeo + Juliet,” with **Claire Danes** and **Leonardo DiCaprio**, and Michael Almereyda’s “Hamlet,” with **Ethan Hawke**, and a selection of Nicolas Roeg films including the **Donald Sutherland** classic “Don’t Look Now.” The channel was to also host the streaming premiere of the animated “Chicken For Linda!” (Agencies)

LONDON: Actor **Dustin Hoffman** and Super Bowl winner **Patrick Mahomes** were among the celebrities watching **Carlos Alcaraz** play **Frances Tiafoe** on Friday in the third round on Centre Court at Wimbledon.

The 86-year-old Hoffman was sitting in the Royal Box, an area reserved for special guests invited by the All England Club, while Mahomes and his wife, **Brittany**, were in the stands.

The presence of Hoffman - who won an Oscar for his role in “Rain Man” - was perhaps fitting on a day when showers disrupted play at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament both in the morning and afternoon.

The match between Alcaraz and Tiafoe was played under a retractable roof, keeping everyone dry. (AP)

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NEW YORK: **Patrick Bertoletti** gobbled up 58 hot dogs to win his first men’s title Thursday at the annual Nathan’s Famous Fourth of July hot dog eating contest, taking advantage of the absence of the event’s biggest star. In the women’s competition, defending champion **Miki Sudo** won her 10th title and set a new world record by downing 51 links.

Joey “Jaws” Chestnut, the reigning men’s champion and winner of 16 out of 17 previous competitions, didn’t attend this year over a sponsorship tiff. Instead he competed later in the day against four soldiers at a US Army base in **El Paso, Texas**, where he wolfed down 57 hot dogs in five minutes.

Bertoletti, 39, of **Chicago**, won in a tight, 10-minute race where the leader bounced back and forth, defeating 13 competitors from around the world. He said he lost weight and practiced for three months with “an urgency” to prepare for the event, thinking he had a good chance of winning.

“With Joey not here, I knew I had a shot,” Bertoletti said. “I was able to unlock something that I don’t know where it came from.”

Bertoletti bested his prior record of 55 hot dogs at the event, which is held every Independence Day on New York’s Coney Island, a beachfront destination with amusement parks and a carnivalesque summer culture.

Earlier, in the women’s compe-

tion, Sudo, a 38-year-old dental hygiene student from Florida, once again carried the day and set the new record a year after forcing down 39 1/2 hot dogs in 2023. (AP)

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BERLIN: The Swifties are about to take over the **German** city for-



Hoffman



Swift

merly known as **Gelsenkirchen**, where American superstar **Taylor Swift** is set to give three Eras Tour concerts later this month.

In honor of the singer, the city has renamed itself “Swiftkirchen” - at least temporarily - to welcome the tens of thousands of fans who are expected to come for her shows on July 17, 18 and 19, Ger-

man news agency dpa reported.

A yellow city sign with the new name - which translates roughly to “Swift’s Church” - was unveiled Tuesday by Swift fan **Aleshance Westhoff**, who suggested the name to the city’s mayor and started a petition a few weeks ago. **Mayor Karin Welge** thanked the teenager for her “great idea” in a

letter accepting the proposal.

The Swiftie sign has been emblazoned with a pink portrait of the pop icon and is located in the city center. Several more signs “at highly frequented locations in Gelsenkirchen” will be put up in the coming days, city spokesman **Markus Schwardtmann** told dpa. (AP)

People & Places

People

French #MeToo wave

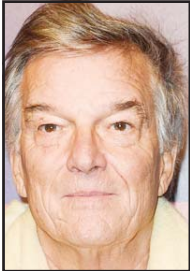
Jacquot charged with actors’ rape, assault

PARIS, July 6, (AP): A prominent French film director has been handed preliminary charges of rape, sexual assault and violence by a French judge investigating a case involving female actors, the Paris prosecutor’s office said Thursday.

Benoît Jacquot, who has more than 50 director credits in film and television, has become one of the most prominent figures in a belated reckoning within the French movie industry and beyond over sexual violence and physical abuse.

French actor Judith Godrèche, who alleges that Jacquot raped and physical abused her in a six-year relationship that began when she was 14 years old, has taken a lead role in kickstarting the #MeToo wave. The movement struggled for traction before she spoke

out publicly earlier this year and emboldened other actors to do so.



Jacquot

The Paris prosecutor’s office said the judge investigating allegations against Jacquot made by actor Isild Le Besco and another actor The Associated Press is not naming handed him an array of preliminary charges on Wednesday after he was detained earlier this week for police questioning. In France, such charges are filed when a magistrate has determined there is serious and accumulated evidence to indicate that crimes may have been committed, allowing for more investigation before a decision on whether to prosecute.

The AP does not normally identify sexual assault victims. Le Besco, 41, has previously spoken publicly on French television and in other media and in a book about her relationship with the director that started when she was a teenager and who is 35 years older than her.

A prosecutor’s office statement said Jacquot was charged for the alleged rape of Le Besco when she was a minor, over a two-year span from 1998. Jacquot was also named as an assisted witness, a special status under French law, for the alleged rape of Le Besco by a partner over a 10-month span in 2007.

Victim

The AP wasn’t able to confirm that the other actor named by the Paris prosecutor’s office as being another alleged rape victim of Jacquot’s consents to being identified publicly. The actor’s lawyer, Margot Pugliese, didn’t immediately respond to written and phoned requests for comment.

The prosecutor’s office said Jacquot was charged with raping the actor in a yearlong span in 2013 when they were in a relationship. He was also handed charges for the alleged sexual assault of the actor when they were still together in 2018 and of alleged violence against her in 2018 and 2019.

Jacquot was also named as an assisted witness for the alleged rape of that actor by a partner from 2014 to 2018, the prosecutor’s office said.

Jacquot will remain free pending further investigation but was ordered to undergo psychological treatment, the prosecutor’s office said. He also is barred from contacting his alleged victims and witnesses. He also cannot work as a director or in any capacity with minors. He also was ordered to pay bail of 25,000 euros (\$27,000).

The 77-year-old Jacquot has previously denied accusations against him. In a statement that didn’t directly address the filed charges, Jacquot’s lawyer, Julia Minkowski, said the case has suffered from overexposure in the media and that the director wasn’t given access to the evidence when he was questioned by police, even though French law allows that to happen “in cases of flagrant violations of the presumption of innocence.”

“The investigation is at an embryonic stage and it was particularly premature to present it before an investigating judge,” the attorney’s statement said.

She condemned the ban preventing Jacquot from working as a director, which also includes restrictions on his public appearances.

“More than a professional ban, this is a real measure of judicial cancellation, based on an embryonic investigation and before any judgment. We will obviously appeal,” she said.

Another French director, 80-year-old Jacques Doillon, also was taken in for police questioning but was subsequently released for medical reasons, the Paris prosecutor’s office said.

Godrèche has accused Doillon of sexual abuse while he was directing a film when she was 15. Doillon has previously denied the allegation.

Also:

BUCHAREST, Romania: A court in Romania’s capital ruled Friday that social media influencer **Andrew Tate** can leave Romania but must remain within the European Union as he awaits trial on charges of human trafficking, rape and forming a criminal gang to sexually exploit women.

The Bucharest Tribunal’s decision to allow Tate, 37, to leave the country was hailed by his spokesperson, **Mateea Petrescu**, as a “significant victory and a major step forward” in the case. It is not clear whether prosecutors can or will appeal the court’s decision.

Tate, a former professional kickboxer and dual British U.S. citizen, was initially arrested in December 2022 near Bucharest along with his brother **Tristan** and two Romanian women. Romanian prosecutors formally indicted all four in June last year and all four have denied the allegations.

After Friday’s decision, Tate wrote on the social media platform X: “I Am Free. For The First Time In 3 Years I Can Leave Romania. The Sham Case Is Falling Apart.”

“We embrace and applaud the decision of the court today. I consider it a reflection of the exemplary behavior and assistance of my clients,” said **Eugen Vidineac**, one of Tate’s lawyers, adding that the Tates are “still determined to clear their name and reputation.”

On April 26, the Bucharest Tribunal ruled that the prosecutors’ case file against Tate met the legal criteria and that a trial could start but did not set a date for it to begin. That ruling came after the legal case had been discussed for months in the preliminary chamber stages, a process in which the defendants can challenge prosecutors’ evidence and case file.

After the Tate brothers’ arrest, they were held for three months in police detention before being moved to house arrest. They were later restricted to Bucharest municipality and nearby Ilfov county, and then to Romania.

Vidineac said the ability to travel within the 27-nation EU bloc will allow the Tates to “pursue professional opportunities without restriction.”



This image released by the Hong Kong Philharmonic shows Tarmo Peltokoski, who was hired Thursday to succeed Jaap van Zweden as music director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic. (AP)

Music

Young Finnish conductor succeeds Jaap van Zweden

Peltokoshi takes baton at HKPhil

HONG KONG, July 6, (AP): Tarmo Peltokoski was hired Thursday to succeed Jaap van Zweden as music director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic (HKPhil).

Peltokoski, at 24 far younger than most music directors, will start a four-year term in the 2026-27 season after serving as music director designate in 2025-26, the philharmonic said.

“I was just extremely impressed by the orchestra right away,” Peltokoski said. “Absolutely one of the best orchestras in Asia, for sure. So when the offer came, it was an easy yes for me.”

Peltokoski grew up in Finland and studied at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki with Jorma Panula, a famed 93-year-old conductor, composer and teacher whose students have included Esa-Pekka Salonen, Susanna Mälkki, Osmo Vänskä and Klaus Mäkelä.

“He wants to give the chance to young people, already established instrumentalists, to have the chance to conduct, which doesn’t really happen in other countries,” Peltokoski said. “So I’m extremely thankful for that. And secondly, he sees the potential and really nourishes those talents that he thinks are worth his time. And then thirdly, he wants people to be individuals and doesn’t force anything on anyone, so he really wants to keep every student’s strong personality there and make them even stronger.”

Repertoire

Just 28, Mäkelä was hired in April to succeed Riccardo Muti as music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra starting in 2027-28.

Peltokoski’s hiring marks a generational change in Hong Kong. Van Zweden became music director in the 2012-13 season and the 63-year-old conducted his farewell concert on June 26.

Peltokoski made his debut with the Hong Kong orchestra in June 2023 leading Sibelius’ “Finlandia,” Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto and Shostakovich’s 10th Symphony.

“It was not like a conductor/orchestra relationship. It was: We do music together,” chief executive Benedikt Fohr said. “He’s young but already has this intense experience on working on repertoire and a clear focus where he wanted to go in that week but also when you talk to him, where he wants to be in 10 years.”

Peltokoski started piano studies at 8 and decided he wanted to become a conductor after seeing clips of the Daniel Barenboim conducting the Wagner’s “Der Ring des Nibelungen” at the 1988 Bayreuth Festival on YouTube. He asked his parents to buy him the DVD.

Peltokoski, who lives in Helsinki,

China-US festival: Bridging cultures thru music, dance

FUZHOU, July 6, (Xinhua): “It’s a beautiful event for me. It’s really an honor to share the stage with so many great musicians. They have a really strong voice and we had a really nice time,” said American opera singer Carla Dirlikov Canales, dressed in traditional Chinese attire, at the evening gala of “Bond with Kuliang: 2024 China-US Youth Festival.”

The event, held in Fuzhou, the capital city of east China’s Fujian Province, marked the largest and most diversified youth exchange program since China and the United States established diplomatic ties.

Located in the suburbs of Fuzhou, Kuliang is a hillside resort where many stories of China-U.S. friendships have been told. The climax of the event was the cross-cultural performance jointly presented by dozens of young artists from both countries as the event drew to a close in late June.

Since 2011, Canales has visited China multiple times. Earlier this year, she was designated as a senior advisor and envoy for cultural exchange with the US President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

Atop the stage, Canales performed a solo from “Carmen” for the audience before joining Chinese artists in singing “I Love You, China” in Chinese with the closing performance “Pursuing the Dream in Kuliang.”

Five students and alumni from the Curtis Institute of Music in the United States, known for nurturing

uniquely talented young musicians, performed Chinese pieces “Big Fish” and “Jasmine Flower.”

“During my studies, I often introduced traditional Chinese music to my American classmates and found they increasingly enjoyed playing these pieces with me,” said Ruan Yangyang, a young pianist from Fujian and a Curtis alumnus. This was his first public performance alongside American classmates. “Music is also a language, and through such performances, I hope to express emotions and help more people around the world understand Chinese culture.”

Romain Olivier Gray, a cellist at Curtis said “Less than a year ago, I played ‘Jasmine Flower’ for the first time. It’s a beautiful piece, and sounds very traditional Chinese.”

“The combination of musical styles from China and the U.S. would strongly communicate our bond. I feel that many people would be greatly inspired by this, since music speaks to the soul,” Gray added.

“In my 26 years of professional career, this is the first time I have participated in a concert featuring joint performances by Chinese and American artists. The quality of the American performances even exceeded my expectations,” said Liu Tieying, a director of the Fujian Opera and Dance Drama Theater.

The closing song, “Pursuing the Dream in Kuliang,” commemorates the friendship between the peoples of China and the United States.

the Hong Kong Philharmonic in 1957 and became fully professional in 1974. It presents about 150 concerts over a 44-week season.

Peltokoski is to guest conduct the orchestra on Friday and Saturday in Prokofiev’s Second Piano Concerto and Mahler’s Fifth Symphony and then open the 2024-25 season on Sept. 5 at the 1,971-seat Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall.

Fohr described Peltokoski as insistent as van Zweden but with a different method.

“The musicians feel he gives them a lot more freedom to achieve the common goal,” Fohr said, “where Jaap expects from everybody to be 100% following his speed and his instructions.”

Variety



50 Cent performs during Festival d’ete de Quebec on Friday, July 5, 2024, in Quebec City. (AP)

DOVER, Del.: A Delaware judge has refused to dismiss a lawsuit filed by plaintiffs **L. Londell McMillan** and **Charles Spicer Jr.** that an agreement purporting to replacing them as managers of a limited liability company established by three siblings was invalid.

The judge on Friday also agreed with plaintiffs **L. Londell McMillan** and **Charles Spicer Jr.** that an agreement purporting to replacing them as managers of a limited liability company established by three siblings was invalid.

Prince died of an accidental fentanyl overdose in 2016. He had no will, and his six siblings inherited equal interests in the estate.

Three of them assigned their combined 50% interest to Prince Legacy LLC. They also granted McMillan and Spicer each a 10% interest in Prince Legacy, along with broad and exclusive management authority.

One sister, **Sharon Nelson**, later regretted the decision and led an effort to remove McMillan and Spicer as managing members by amending the LLC agreement. (AP)

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MILAN: Italian fashion influencer **Chiara Ferragni** will donate at least 1.2 million euros (\$1.3 million) under a deal with Italian antitrust authorities investigating misleading communications that led consumers to believe proceeds from the purchase of Easter eggs with her logo would go to a children’s charity, officials said Friday.

Three Ferragni companies will pay 5% of profits over three years, with a minimum set at 1.2 million euros, to a charity for disabled children, called Children of the Fairies, according to the AGCM antitrust agency.

The maker of the eggs, Cerealtalia Industrie Dolciare, a subsidiary of the toy company Giochi Preziosi, will pay at least 100,000 euros (\$108,000) to the charity.

The payment would “compensate consumers who, by purchasing the product, wanted to make an economic contribution to ‘The Children of the Fairies,’” the AGCM statement said. (AP)

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NEW ORLEANS: The City of New Orleans on Thursday officially welcomed thousands of people descending on the Big Easy for the Essence Festival of Culture.

The celebration has been around for three decades - no easy feat, Essence CEO **Caroline Wanga** said Thursday during a news conference at Gallier Hall to kick off the event, which runs through the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

“Part of why that happens is because of where we are - the cultural mecca called New Orleans,” Wanga said.

The magazine unveiled four new covers for its July and August issue, which commemorates the festival and its relationship with the city. Its cover story, “Dear New Orleans,” is a love letter to the people, places and spaces of New Orleans, company executives said. Mayor **LaToya Cantrell** thanked Es-



Prince



Ferragni

sence for the longstanding partnership, which has had a more than \$300 million economic impact on the city and state and given the New Orleans global recognition.

“This is our moment to love one another,” she said. “Our time to come together to ensure and understand that we are unapologetically Black and we deserve to be loved on and supported.” (AP)

When should a child start riding a bike?

Balance bikes at a young age support kids’ development

NEW YORK, July 6, (AP): When Michael Natividad learned to ride a bike at 7 or 8 years old, he knew his training wheels were ready to come off when he leaned on them while zipping around corners.

His daughter, on the other hand, was barely 3 when she sped away from him on her tiny bicycle, he said, admitting to feeling a bit robbed of a special moment.

“I kept thinking of that opportunity holding her up, but I did it for all of maybe one minute,” said Natividad, of Rohnert Park, California. “I was looking forward to that for three years.”

A big difference was that Loralani, now 4, never used training wheels. Instead, like an increasing number of children, she had learned to ride a balance bike first, at around 2.

Balance bikes look like miniature bicycles without pedals. An adjustable seat can be lowered for children to put their feet on the ground. Some models come with attachable pedals, so kids can use them as their first real bike when ready.

Now, as some companies market balance bikes for children as young as

Jackson, (left), and Owen Pezalla, both 4, appear on balance bicycles in Seattle on July 1, 2017. Experts recommend starting with those so-called balance bikes at a younger-than-expected age, possibly even less than a year old. (AP)

8 months old, the question is, at what age should kids learn to ride a bike?

Annie Pezalla, a professor of human development at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, said the 8-month marker “raised my eyebrows” but she

saw the logic behind the claim. That’s because the part of the brain largely responsible for coordination, the cerebellum, goes through a huge growth spurt from about 6 to 8 months.

Still, Pezalla recommended caution. Rather than a particular age, she said, it is more important to consider milestones that occur at different times for different children, such as holding their head up on their own and taking a few steps while grasping onto something.

“Once those milestones have been reached, then I think it’s the perfect time to get on one of those balance bikes,” she said, noting they usually happen between 9 and 18 months.

She added the caveat that early attempts should be made in a very safe space, like a carpeted room.

Pezalla said training wheels are going out of style because they don’t teach proprioception, the body’s ability to understand where it is in space. It’s what allows one, for example, to walk without thinking about each step. So when training wheels come off, kids have to relearn how to balance.

Research also shows that children who start with balance bikes get a leg up, said Cristiana Mercè, a sport sciences professor at Santarém Polytechnic University in Portugal. Over five studies published on balance bikes, Mercè and her team have demonstrated that balance-bike users learn to ride regular bikes in less time, and up to two years younger, than peers using training wheels.

Bikes with training wheels are too large for most young children. Balance bikes offer the chance to explore many behaviors that training wheels don’t, such as pushing with both feet, one foot, and gliding without pedaling, she said.

The variety of movements makes it easier to transition to a traditional bicycle, Mercè said. “You can balance without pedaling, but you can’t pedal without balancing.”

The American Academy of Pediatrics’ bicycle guidance doesn’t specify an age, instead saying most kids learn to ride at their own pace between 4 and 7. It explicitly warns against “purchasing a larger bike for the child to ‘grow into.’”

But the guidance hasn’t been up-

dated since 2011, years before balance bikes became more popular.

Deferring to the AAP’s age range, Pezalla said the transition to a pedal bike will probably occur as a natural progression with little instruction. At first, children straddle and walk with the balance bike, then sit and walk and finally, run, sit and glide.

“It should go in stages with no expectation that, gosh, an 8 month old is going to be gliding on this thing,” she said.

After that, the gap between gliding and pedaling is negligible, Pezalla said, noting that she wishes she would have known to teach her 10-year-old twin boys to ride with balance bikes. Learning these motor skills early conveys several benefits that transcend a new way to get around.

“It represents a deal of independence and self-confidence in a way that’s not possible any other way,” she said. “And I think teaching kids how to ride a bike earlier has all sorts of benefits, not only to their coordination, their balance, but their sense of self-confidence and agency as well.”

Swine fever outbreak in Kerala, India

TB rates remain high in Asia-Pacific

MANILA, July 6, (Xinhua): Many developing countries in Asia and the Pacific region, including the Philippines, still have a high tuberculosis (TB) incidence rate, according to an article from the Asian Development Blog of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Citing World Health Organization (WHO) data, the recently published article said the highly infectious disease “remains rife” in the region, with Southeast Asia responsible for 46 percent of global infections in 2022, “the highest of any region.”

The article said the pandemic devastated national TB prevention and treatment programs, causing an estimated half a million excess deaths between 2020 and 2022. However, the good news is that there has been a post-pandemic recovery in the number of people diagnosed with and treated for TB, helping to reduce the damage done by the pandemic, it added.

According to the WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2023, the Philippines, along with Indonesia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, and Vietnam, have some of the highest levels of TB in the region. Around 700,000 people out of a population of 115 million have active TB.

Nearly 10 million people in the Philippines reside in impoverished urban areas. Poverty and overcrowding, along with poorly-resourced public health services, are major factors in the widespread incidence of TB in the country, according to The Lancet.

In Indonesia, TB is the fourth-highest cause of death overall, and among those aged 15 to 49 years, it is the number one cause of death by a contagious disease.

TB, an airborne disease spawned by urban poverty, is currently the world’s second-biggest infectious killer after COVID-19. Many countries are working to eliminate TB by 2030, which aligns with the WHO’s End Tuberculosis Strategy.

Swine fever: An outbreak of African swine fever (ASF) has been reported in India’s southern state of Kerala, officials said Friday.

The disease has been detected at a farm in Madakkathara of Thrissur district, about 277 km northwest of Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala.

According to officials, an alert has been sounded in the area and orders for the culling of pigs at the farm were issued.

ASF is a highly contagious and deadly viral disease. It affects both the

feral and domestic swine.

“District collector Thrissur has ordered the culling of over 300 pigs at a private farm in Madakkathara revenue circle,” a local government official said. “The district animal husbandry officer has been directed to oversee the culling operation and bury the carcasses as per the protocol.”

Authorities said a team of veterinarians, livestock inspectors and attendants will conduct the culling process and undertake further primary disinfection measures.

The area within a 1 km radius of the affected farm has been declared a disease-affected area, and the area within a 10-km radius has been declared a disease surveillance area.

“The transportation of pork from the affected areas, the operation of such farms, and the movement of pigs, pork, and feed from the affected areas to other parts of the district, as well as the movement of these items from other areas into the affected area, have been prohibited until further orders,” a statement issued by the local government said.

Bird flu: A three-year-old boy from southern Cambodia’s Takeo province has been confirmed for H5N1 human avian influenza, raising the number of the cases to six so far this year, the Ministry of Health said in a statement on Saturday.

“Laboratory results from the National Institute of Public Health and the Pasteur Institute in Cambodia showed on Friday that the boy was positive for H5N1 virus,” the ministry said.

The patient, who lives in Kiri Vong district’s Pou village, has the symptoms of fever, cough, fatigue and breathing difficulty, and is currently recovering after receiving intensive care from a team of doctors, the ministry added.

“According to queries, about 10 days before the boy fell ill, chicken and ducks in the village had died, and he touched and held dead chickens,” the ministry said, adding that the patient’s family had also cooked the dead poultry for food.

Health authorities are looking into the source of the infection and are examining any suspected cases or people who have been in contact with the victim in order to prevent an outbreak in the community.

Tamiflu (oseltamivir), an antiviral drug to prevent the bird flu from spreading, was also given out to people who had direct contact with the patient, the ministry said.

Among the six human cases of H5N1 bird flu this year were five children, one of whom had died, and an adult. All patients reportedly had a history of recent exposure to sick or dead poultry prior to their illness.

H5N1 influenza is a flu that normally spreads between sick poultry, but it can sometimes spread from poultry to humans, and its symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, and severe respiratory illness.

The ministry said bird flu still poses a threat to people’s health, particularly children, urging people not to eat ill or dead poultry.

□ □ □

Monkeypox: South Africa’s National Department of Health has confirmed that the total number of monkeypox cases has climbed to 20.

The department was expecting to receive more monkeypox, or mpox, treatment medicine known as Tecovirimat, an antiviral drug, to arrive from abroad in the coming weeks, as it anticipated a surge in new cases of the disease, the department’s spokesperson Foster Mohale told Xinhua Friday.

Of the diagnosed cases, 15 cases have been given a clean bill of health and only five patients remain in hospital due to severe complications worsened by underlying conditions such as HIV, Mohale said.

□ □ □

Pufferfish poisoning: Cambodia’s Ministry of Health issued a statement on Saturday, reminding people not to eat pufferfish after seven people have been hospitalized in central Kampong Chhnang province this week.

“The seven people, after eating pufferfish, had severe symptoms that required emergency medical treatment, and after receiving intensive care from a team of our doctors, currently, the patients are recovering,” the statement said.

According to the statement, five species of poisonous pufferfish in the Southeast Asian country are redeye puffer or Carinotetraodon Lorteti, eyespot pufferfish or Tetraodon Biocellatus, spotted green pufferfish or Tetraodon Nigroviridis, green pufferfish or Tetraodon Fluvialtilis, and Monotrete Cochinchinensis.

The symptoms that occur 20 minutes to two hours after eating these poisonous pufferfish include numbness, tingling around the mouth and in the limbs, headache, dizziness, salivation, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, the statement said.

‘Empathize and empower others’

Grandmother-led mental health therapy is gaining global traction

HARARE, Zimbabwe, July 6, (AP): After her son, the family’s shining light and only breadwinner, was arrested last year, Tambudzai Tembo went into meltdown. In Zimbabwe, where clinical mental health services are scarce, her chances of getting professional help were next to zero. She contemplated suicide.

“I didn’t want to live anymore. People who saw me would think everything was okay. But inside, my head was spinning,” the 57-year-old said. “I was on my own.”

A wooden bench and an empathetic grandmother saved her.

Older people are at the center of a homegrown form of mental health therapy in Zimbabwe that is now being adopted in places like the United States.

The approach involves setting up benches in quiet, discreet corners of community clinics and in some churches, poor neighborhoods and at a university. An older woman with basic training in problem-solving therapy patiently sits there, ready to listen and engage in a one-on-one conversation.

Traditional

The therapy is inspired by traditional practice in Zimbabwe in which grandmothers were the go-to people for wisdom in rough times. It had been abandoned with urbanization, the breakdown of tight-knit extended families and modern technology. Now it is proving useful again as mental health needs grow.

“Grandmothers are the custodians of local culture and wisdom. They are rooted in their communities,” said Dixon Chibanda, a psychiatry professor and founder of the initiative. “They don’t leave, and in addition, they have an amazing ability to use what we call ‘expressed empathy’... to make people feel respected and understood.”

Last year, Chibanda was named the winner of a \$150,000 prize by the US-based McNulty Foundation for revolutionizing mental healthcare. Chibanda said the concept has taken root in parts of Vietnam, Botswana, Malawi, Kenya, and Tanzania and is in “preliminary formative work” in London.

In New York, the city’s new mental health plan launched last year says it is “drawing inspiration” from what it calls

Siridzayi Dzukwa, a grandmother, (right), talks to a colleague while seated at a bench in Hatcliffe on the outskirts of the capital Harare, Zimbabwe, Saturday, May 11, 2024. (AP)



Siridzayi Dzukwa, a grandmother, (right), talks to a colleague while seated at a bench in Hatcliffe on the outskirts of the capital Harare, Zimbabwe, Saturday, May 11, 2024. (AP)

the Friendship Bench to help address risk factors such as social isolation. The orange benches are now in areas including Harlem, Brooklyn and the Bronx.

In Washington, the organization HelpAge USA is piloting the concept under the DC Grandparents for Mental Health initiative, which started in 2022 as a COVID-19 support group of people 60 and above.

Stigma

So far, 20 grandmothers determined to “stop the stigma around mental health and make it okay to talk about feelings” have been trained by a team from Friendship Bench Zimbabwe to listen, empathize and empower others to solve their problems, said Cindy Cox-Roman, the president and chief executive of HelpAge USA.

Benches will be set up at places of worship, schools and wellness centers in Washington’s low-income communities with people who “have been historically marginalized and more likely to experience mental health problems,” she said.

Cox-Roman cited fear and distrust in the medical system, lack of social support and stigma as some of the factors limiting access to treatment.

“People are hurting, and a grandmother can always make you feel better,” she said.

“We have so much wisdom in our older population and arms that can open. I reject ageism. Sometimes age brings wisdom that you don’t learn until you get old,” one of the grandmothers, 81-year-old Barbara Allen, said in a promotional video.

More than one in five U.S. adults live with a mental illness, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

“The mental health crisis is real. Where it’s a real crisis after the pandemic is that many clinicians have dropped out of the workforce,” said Dr. Jehan El-Mayoumi, who works as an expert with HelpAge USA and is a founding director of the health equity Rodham Institute at Georgetown University. She has struggled to get psychiatrists for acutely suicidal patients.

El-Mayoumi said the Zimbabwean concept provides people with “someone you can trust, open up your heart to, that you can tell your deepest secrets (and) that requires trust, so that’s what’s so wonderful about the Friendship Bench.”

The idea was born out of tragedy. Chibanda was a young psychiatrist, and one of just over 10 in Zimbabwe in 2005. One of his patients desperately wanted to see him, but she could not afford the \$15 bus fare. Chibanda later learned that she had killed herself.

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Reese extends double-double streak as Sky edge Storm

Hamby scores 28 as Sparks beat Aces in OT, snap 8-game skid



England's Chandler Cunningham-South, (left), and New Zealand's Samipeni Finau compete for a line out ball during their rugby union test match in Dunedin, New Zealand. (AP)

NZ beat England in 1st test of the Scott Robertson era

McKenzie kicked the 2nd of two penalties to edge All Blacks ahead

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, July 6, (AP): New Zealand clung on to a one-point lead for 15 minutes and beat England 16-15 in a gripping first test Saturday to make a winning start to a new era under head coach Scott Robertson.

Flyhalf Damian McKenzie kicked the second of two penalties in the 65th minute to edge New Zealand ahead after the teams had been locked at 10-10 at half-time. England earlier had gone ahead with a try to winger Immanuel Feyi-Waboso. A third penalty attempt by McKenzie with two minutes to go was timed out by the referee. England had the last possession of the match but New Zealand forced a turnover. For most of the match a physical England team stretched New Zealand to its limits and exposed the All Blacks' frailty against fast and flat defense. They won the territorial battle but not the break-down contest that was pivotal. All Blacks captain Scott Barrett called the match a "tough arm wrestle" and said New Zealand was fortunate to pin England back in the late stages of the second half.

RUGBY

"It's great to see how quickly the boys have come together under a new coaching system," Barrett said. "England shifted us around with little kicks in behind. They just squeezed us at times, made us try to play out of our own half and we were a bit slow to adapt." Both teams scored two tries. New Zealand's came in the first half through winger Sevu Reece and backrower Ardie Savea. England scored through lock Maro Itoje in the first half and Feyi-Waboso in the second to take a 15-10 lead. "I feel a huge amount of pride in our boys, the way we fought and scrapped in that first half in particular," England captain Jamie George said. "A lot of other England teams might have gone away at that stage."

20 athletes to represent Uganda in Olympic Games

KAMPALA, July 6, (Xinhua): The Uganda Athletics Federation (UAF) has announced a team of 20 athletes who have qualified to represent the country at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Over 10,000 top athletes from around the world will take part in the Games slated for July 26 to August 11 in France. Announcing the track and field squad on Friday, the UAF President Dominic Otuchet made it clear that the team is dominated by experienced athletes who have what it takes to win medals for the country. "We have athletes who have been proven and tested at the big stage," said Otuchet. World star Joshua Cheptegei who bagged a gold and silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020 will lead Uganda's team together with half-marathon world record holder Jacob Kiplimo. The duo will battle in the 5,000m and 10,000m final. "After getting a bronze medal at the last Olympic Games in Tokyo, my target is now to improve and win a gold medal. I know it will call for a lot of hard work to be able to achieve this and I am already working hard," says Kiplimo.

OLYMPICS

Female athlete Peruth Chemutai who won a gold medal in the women's 3000m steeplechase will also be another medal hopeful for the Ugandan team. The team has 10 male and 10 female athletes, with another two, Belinda Chemutai and Loice Chekwemoi, on the waiting list. Besides track and field athletes,

England last beat the All Blacks in New Zealand in 2003. In the early stages England had territory, New Zealand possession. England penned New Zealand in its own

half with accurate kicks from Alex Mitchell and Marcus Smith and with fast, flat defense. New Zealand handled often but inside its own territory.



New Zealand's Ardie Savea, (right), scores a try against England during their rugby union test match in Dunedin, New Zealand. (AP)

LOS ANGELES, July 6, (AP): Dearica Hamby scored 28 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, Aari McDonald hit four 3-pointers and finished with a career-high 23 points and the Los Angeles Sparks beat the Las Vegas Aces 98-93 in overtime Friday night to snap a franchise record-tying eight-game losing streak. Rickea Jackson added 14 points and Stephanie Talbot scored 13 with a career-high nine assists for Los Angeles. The Sparks (5-15) won for the first time since a 96-92 win over the Aces on June 9. Talbot found Hamby for a layup that tied it with 2:07 to play and then found Layshia Clarendon for a jumper that gave L.A. a 92-90 lead with 1:14 remaining. Chelsea Gray missed a 3-point shot on the other end before Talbot once again fed Hamby, who was fouled as she made a layup and hit the and-1 free throw to make it 95-90 with 25 seconds to go. Las Vegas (12-7) had its six-game win streaked end. A'ja Wilson scored 35 points with 12 rebounds and six blocks for the Aces. Kelsey Plum scored 21 points, including four 3-pointers, and Jackie Young added 18 points.

BASKETBALL

Las Vegas scored 15 of the first 19 fourth-quarter points to make it 75-74 and give the Aces their first lead of the second half with 5:44 to play. Hamby grabbed an offensive rebound off a missed 3 by McDonald and made the putback to make it 81-81 with 2:01 to play but Los Angeles coach Curt Miller was called for a technical foul and Kelsey Plum hit the free throw to put Las Vegas back in front. Hamby made 1-of-2 free throws with 37 seconds left to tie it 82-all and Wilson made a layup with 15 seconds left before Talbot scored in the lane with about 3 seconds left in regulation to force OT. **Sky 88, Storm 84** In Seattle, Chennedy Carter scored a season-high 33 points and rookie Angel Reese extended her WNBA record for consecutive games with a double-double to 12 to help the Chicago sky beat the Seattle Storm. Carter shot 15 for 24 and Reese finished with a career-high 27 points and 10 rebounds. Reese, who went into the game leading the WNBA in rebounds (11.8 per game) and offensive rebounds (4.8), made 8 of 13 from the field, 2 of 2 from 3-point range and 9 of 10 from the free-throw line - including 4 of 4 in the final 20 seconds. Reese hit a 3-pointer that gave Chi-



Las Vegas Aces guard Kelsey Plum (10) drives against Los Angeles Sparks guard Aari McDonald during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Los Angeles. (AP)

cago (8-11) a 78-70 lead with 6:16 to play. Jewell Loyd hit a pull-up jumper and a tip-in putback to cut the deficit to four with 4 minutes remaining and Jordan Horston made a 3-pointer followed by back-to-back baskets by Ezi Magbegor pulled the Storm to 84-82 with 20.2 seconds left before Reese sealed it from the free-throw line. **Wings 85, Dream 82** In Arlington, Arike Ogunbowale scored 19 points, Jacy Sheldon hit five 3-pointers and finished with 17 points - both career highs - and the Dallas Wings beat the Atlanta Dream. The Wings (5-16) snapped a three-game losing streak and won for just the second time in their last 16. The Dream (7-12) shot 56% (34 of 61) from the field but committed a season-high 28 turnovers - including 16 Dallas steals - which the Wings converted into 38 points. Ogunbowale converted a three-point play and Teaira McCowan made two free throws before a turnover - Atlanta's season-high 23rd of the game - led to a basket inside by McCowan that gave the Wings a 74-71 lead with 3:10 remaining. Cheyenne Parker-Tyus answered with a bucket in the lane before Odyssey Sims made a high-arching 3 late in the shot clock to give the Wings a 77-73 lead with 2 minutes to go. Allisha Gray was fouled as she hit a 3-pointer on the other end but missed the and-1 free throw and Sims took a steal for a layup that made it 79-76 a minute later. Natasha Howard followed with a jumper and after Parker-Tyus made a short jumper that cut the deficit to three with 28.1 seconds left, Ogunbowale made 4 of 6 free throws down the stretch to seal it.

Badminton presents medal opportunity

Team Japan aims for 20 gold medals at '24 Paris Olympics

TOKYO, July 6, (Xinhua): Japan is set to send approximately 400 athletes to the Paris Olympics, marking its largest delegation for an Olympic Games held outside Japan with a goal to secure 20 gold medals. Three years ago in Tokyo, hosts Japan won a total of 58 medals, including 27 golds, 14 silvers, and 17 bronzes, at the Olympic Games. As Japanese athletes aim to continue their winning momentum, "Japan is aiming for 55 medals, including 20 golds, in Paris," said Mitsugi Ogata, secretary-general of the Japanese Olympic Committee and head of Japan's delegation to the Paris Games. Both figures surpass Japan's previous highest count at an overseas Summer Olympics, which was 16 golds won in Athens in 2004. "If the athletes compete well, the target can be reached," Ogata added. Japan demonstrated its strength in judo at Tokyo Games, winning nine gold medals. In Paris, Judo's Hifumi Abe and Uta Abe, both defending Olympic champions, are anticipated to become the first siblings in Olympic history to successfully defend their titles. Over the past three years since the Tokyo Olympics, the Japanese wrestling team has undergone a transition, with four of the six weight class gold medalists stepping aside. Among the new generation, 20-year-old Akari Fujinami, from a wrestling family, stands out. Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun reported that she has won the 2021 and 2023 World Championships and has maintained an impressive unbeaten streak of 133 matches since junior high school, making her a strong contender for gold. Japanese star gymnast Daiki Hashimoto showed excellent form by defending his individual all-around and horizontal bar titles at last year's World Championships in Antwerp. However, in May this year, Hashimoto pulled out of the NHK Trophy due to a right middle finger ligament injury, casting a shadow over his journey this summer. In addition to traditional strongholds such as judo, wrestling, and gymnastics, Japan is also expected to win gold medals in newly-introduced sports including skateboarding, sport climbing, and breakdancing.

OLYMPICS

Japan is also targeting gold medals in table tennis, a sport where they have long rivaled China. Hina Hayata and Tomokazu Harimoto will strive to achieve what Mima Ito and Jun Mizutani did at the Tokyo Olympics, where they won the first mixed doubles gold medal in history by defeating Xu Xin and Liu Shiwen. Alongside 16-year-old Miwa Harimoto, who has grown rapidly through multiple WTT events, the Japanese team is expected to pose a significant challenge to the Chinese team. Badminton presents another medal opportunity for Japan. Star player Akane Yamaguchi, who returned from injury earlier this year, along with first-time Olympians Aya Ohori and Kodai Naraoka, have expressed their determination to go all out for medals at the Paris Olympics.

Decision unanimous

Russia says it won't send wrestlers to the Paris Oly as neutrals

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, July 6, (AP): Russia said on Saturday that 10 of its wrestlers who were offered spots at the Paris Olympics as neutrals will refuse to compete. The Russian wrestling federation said in a statement that its officials, coaches and athletes held a meeting and "came to an unanimous decision - to refuse to participate in the Olympic Games." The wrestlers would have been the largest group of Russians in any one sport competing in Paris under the Individual Neutral Athlete program launched by the International Olympic Committee to allow some athletes from Russia and its ally Belarus to compete during the war in Ukraine. The IOC previously said it invited 10 Russian wrestlers to the Paris Olym-

pics and its website listed nine of them as having agreed to compete, with one who declined. The IOC didn't immediately respond to a request to comment on Saturday's statement by the Russian wrestling federation, whether it thought the wrestlers had faced any pressure to refuse, and whether it would support any wrestler who might wish to compete against the wishes of the federation. The federation said it objected to the IOC's choice of which wrestlers to invite. It said Russians had qualified up to 16 spots for the Paris Olympics, not 10, and that six of those invited were "far from the status of Russian team leaders." The federation listed the names of top Russian wrestlers who didn't get invitations and said the Olympic event would now be devalued.

"Any sane person understands that the status of the Olympic Games as the most significant sporting event is being questioned, and wrestling competitions without Russian athletes will be incomplete, and the champions will not receive the satisfaction of winning the Olympic tournament," the statement said. The IOC previously said it would only issue invitations to Russian and Belarusian athletes who do not have ties to the security services or military, and who have not publicly supported the war. They would compete in neutral uniforms and would not compete under the national flag. Some Russian athletes and officials have favored competing at the Paris Olympics under those conditions, and others have called for boycotts. The

wrestling federation had sent athletes to take part in qualifying competitions, unlike some other Russian sports bodies. Last week, the Russian judo federation said its board had decided not to send any athletes to Paris. Its statement didn't specify what its athletes thought. The IOC told The Associated Press in an e-mailed statement Tuesday that it was waiting for an "individual reply" from the judo athletes. The IOC website lists one Russian competitor in judo as having accepted an invitation. As of Sunday, the IOC website listed 23 Russian athletes in seven sports who it said had accepted invitations for the Paris Olympics, including the wrestlers. The 2021 U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev is among six tennis players who the IOC says have accepted.

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Shelton holds off Shapovalov

Zverev tops Norrie to reach Wimbledon’s fourth round

LONDON, July 6, (AP): Alexander Zverev overcame a knee problem, a marathon tiebreaker and nerves from seeing one of his sporting idols in the Royal Box in order to book a spot in Wimbledon’s fourth round.

Zverev beat Cameron Norrie - the last British man in the tournament - 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (15) on Saturday after converting his sixth match point in the tiebreaker on Centre Court.

He’d needed treatment several times on his left knee following a tumble in the second set. He was also a bit starstruck from seeing



Alexander Zverev of Germany plays a forehand return to Cameron Norrie of Britain during their third round match at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London. (AP)

American came through a third straight five-setter, beating Denis Shapovalov 6-7 (4), 6-2, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 on No. 1 Court in a match that had been suspended overnight in the first set because of rain.

Shelton is the first man to win three consecutive five-set matches at Wimbledon since Ernests Gulbis in 2018. No one ever has won four five-setters in a row at any Grand Slam tournament in the Open era, which dates to 1968.

Other early winners included

No. 16 Ugo Humbert, who set up a meeting with defending champion Carlos Alcaraz by downing Brandon Nakashima 7-6 (9), 6-3, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (8) in a match that had been suspended before the fourth-set tiebreaker.

In the women’s tournament, Xinyu Wang of China rallied to beat Harriet Dart of Britain 2-6, 7-5, 6-3 while 13th-seeded Jelena Ostapenko ousted Bernarda Pera 6-1, 6-3.

Zverev was chasing down a shot

at 2-2 in the second set when he seemed to hyperextend his left knee as his leg slid forward on the grass. The fourth-seeded German stayed down and winced in pain as he received treatment from a trainer, and then clutched the knee after he got back up.

He kept playing but said his movement was restricted after that and he would have his knee examined to determine the extent of the issue.

“I do feel like a cow on ice sometimes,” Zverev said.

In the third-set tiebreaker, Zverev trailed 4-1 before fighting back to earn a first match point at 6-5, only to struggle mightily to close it out. The players traded chances back and forth as Zverev had to save a total of five set points before Norrie finally sent a backhand wide on the German’s sixth match point. Rain delayed play in the morning for a second straight day, with organizers already having some catching up to do after several matches were suspended overnight.

One match did not have to be played, however, as ninth-seeded Alex de Minaur received a walkover into the fourth round when his opponent Lucas Pouille, a qualifier from France, withdrew with an abdominal injury.

Whites depart for Turkey camp

Yahya Gibran ‘receives’ offer from Kuwait Club ahead of new season

By Hassan Musa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Kuwait Club delegation departs today for an external camp in Turkey, preparing for the 2024-2025 season.

“Al-Abyad” began training last week and will play three to four friendly matches during the 20-day camp.

In related news, Moroccan press reports indicate that former Wydad Sports Club captain Yahya Gibran has received an enticing official offer from Kuwait Club to strengthen its squad for the upcoming season.

Midfielder Gibran, born on June 18, 1991, began his career as a futsal



Yahya Gibran

SOCCER

player and represented the Moroccan national team in 2012. He transitioned to grass football in 2013 with Raja Beni Mellal, then played for Mouloudia Oujda in 2015, Hassania Agadir from 2016 to 2018, Dibba Al-Fujairah in the UAE, and returned to Wydad Athletic Club in 2019. He also played for the Moroccan national team for local players in 2017, participated with the national team in 2021, and competed in the 2022 World Cup.

Kuwait Club aims to bolster its squad with several professionals in the coming period, especially if an agreement with Gibran isn’t reached. This move comes in response to the departure of Moroccan Mahdi Rahma to Al-Qadisiya Club. The team currently includes Tunisian Yassin Al-Khanisi, Bah-

raini Muhammad Marhoun, Argentine Sergio Vitor, and Congolese Arsene Zola “Malik.” Tunisian Yassine Amri has decided not to renew his contract.

Among local players, Kuwait Club has renewed the contracts of Sami Al-Sanea and Youssef Nasser for another season, along with Muhammad Freih, Mishari Ghannam, and Fahd Hammoud.

“Al-Abyad” aims to compete for local titles and make a significant impact in international competitions, particularly in the Asian Championship. It will participate in the qualifying playoff for the AFC Champions League 2, facing a challenging match against Al-Ahly of Bahrain on August 14 in Manama.

Al-Qadisiya add Tunisian fitness coach Chaalali to coaching team

By Hassan Musa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: Al-Qadisiya has signed Tunisian fitness coach Anis Chaalali to join their technical staff for the upcoming 2024-2025 season.

Chaalali’s appointment comes following the departure of compatriot Khalil Al-Jababli, who joined Al-Arabi’s technical team.

Previously, Chaalali has served on the technical staffs of the Egyptian and Tunisian national teams, and has worked with clubs such as Egyptian giants Al-Ahly and Libyan outfit Al-Ahly Tripoli.

Additionally, Al-Qadisiya has officially confirmed the signing of Moroccan professional Ismail Khafi from Ittihad Tanger Club for a two-season stint. Khafi joins the club’s other international players, including Libyan Mohamed Sula, Moroccan Mahdi Barahma, and Nigerian Daniel Gebula.

Al-Qadisiya has invited its supporters to attend training sessions at the Farouk Ibrahim Stadium, emphasizing adherence to stadium



Anis Al-Chaalali

regulations and seating arrangements. This initiative underscores the fans’ unwavering support for the team as they prepare for the new season.

In related news, Al-Qadisiya commenced training yesterday, scheduled to continue until July 12, before departing for Turkey for a training camp that includes three friendly matches.

Best of the Rest

De Bruyne to leave City: According to the Spanish newspaper Marca, Kevin De Bruyne has reportedly made his decision to leave Manchester City during the current transfer window. He has received a substantial offer to join the Saudi Roshan League.

Following Belgium’s loss to France in Euro 2024, discussions suggest that the international player has already committed to departing for Saudi Arabia.

Al-Ittihad Jeddah is rumored to be the frontrunner to secure De Bruyne’s services, where he would potentially team up with French star Karim Benzema.

De Bruyne’s contract with Manchester City is set to expire in June 2025, prompting the English champions to consider selling the 33-year-old rather than risk losing him on a free transfer next season. (AP)



De Bruyne

West Ham sign Kilman: West Ham signed 6-foot-4 center back Max Kilman from Wolverhampton for a reported 40 million pounds (\$51 million) on Saturday.

Kilman agreed to a seven-

year contract to end a six-year stay at Wolves, where he once played under Julien Lopetegui - the recently hired manager of West Ham.

The 27-year-old Kilman was captain of Wolves last season. Earlier in his career, the London native made 25 appearances for England’s national futsal team. (AP)

Thibus is included in team: Ysaora Thibus, one of France’s leading fencers, has been selected to compete at the Paris Olympics after escaping a disciplinary sanction from the International Fencing Federation over an abnormal doping test.

The French fencing federation said on Saturday that Thibus was included in the women’s foil team alongside Pauline Ranvier, Eva Lacheray and alternate Anita Blaze.

Thibus was provisionally suspended in February. She argued that she had tested positive for the anabolic substance ostarine after being contaminated accidentally by her partner and was later cleared of wrongdoing.

Thibus then injured her left knee in June but recovered in time to make the team.

Thibus is a three-time Olympian and won the team foil silver medal at the last Olympics in Tokyo. She was the individual world champion in foil in 2022. (AP)



Kuwaiti referee delegation.

Referees begin intensive training in Cairo ahead of season

A delegation of Kuwait soccer referees has arrived in Cairo, Egypt, to attend a training camp that will run

until July 20. This camp is part of their preparation for the upcoming 2024-2025 football season.

The Kuwait Football Association and the Referees’ Administration aim to equip the referees with the neces-

sary skills and knowledge to officiate the new season’s matches with expertise, minimizing potential errors.

Canada overcome Venezuela on penalties to reach Copa last four

Kone converts decisive spot kick

ARLINGTON, Texas, July 6, (AP): Canada hasn’t scored much on the way to the semifinals of its first Copa America.

Don’t look for apologies from American-born coach Jesse Marsch.

Ismaël Koné scored in the sixth round of the shootout right after a third save by Maxime Crépeau and Canada moved on with a victory over Venezuela.

The Canadians won 4-3 on penalty kicks following a 1-1 draw in the quarterfinals, keeping Venezuela from advancing to the Copa America semifinals for the first time since 2011.

Just the fourth team to advance out of group play by scoring just one goal, Canada is moving on again following a 0-0 draw against Chile that sent it to the elimination round.

“People will talk about should we score more goals or whatever,” Marsch said. “We should score more goals. But those are two pretty strong performances against very good opponents. You can see that this team is building.”

Jacob Shaffelburg scored in the 13th minute for Canada before Salomón Rondón got the equalizer in the 64th

Eritrea’s Girmay claims second Tour stage win

COLOMBEY-LES-DEUX-EGLISES, France, July 6, (AP): Eritrea’s Biniam Girmay won a second stage at the Tour de France when he edged a closing sprint on Saturday.

Two-time Tour champion Tadej Pogacar kept the yellow jersey.

Girmay, who became the first Black rider to win a Tour stage this week, timed his effort perfectly at the end of the long stretch of road leading to the finish of Stage 8.

The false flat finish suited his style, and he made the most of it to beat Jasper Philipsen and Arnaud De Lie, extending his lead at the top of the ranking for the best sprinter.

The stage finished in Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises, the home and final resting place of the late Charles de Gaulle. The former French President launched the French Resistance from a base in London and along with the Allies liberated France from the Nazis in 1944.

There was no major change in the general classification. Pogacar kept a 33-second lead over Remco Evenepoel, and two-time defending champion Jonas Vingegaard was in third place, lagging 1:15 behind.

The stage started with a high-octane pace as three riders - Neilson Powless, Stefan Bissegger, Jonas Abrahamsen - im-

mediately jumped out of the peloton to open a 30-second gap at the front.

Despite having two men in the breakaway, EF Education-EasyPost riders later attacked from the main pack on hilly, wet roads and a group including Mark Cavendish got dropped.

Chasing points in the best climber’s classification, Abrahamsen went solo to the top of the Cote de Vitteaux and added more points on the slopes of the Cote de Verrey-sous-

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Salmaise and the following hills to further cement his polka dot jersey. Helped by his teammates, Cavendish later merged with the yellow jersey group while Bissegger and Powless sat up. Meanwhile, Abrahamsen kept pushing hard on the pedals to increase his lead.

The pace of the peloton picked up in the second half of the stage and Abrahamsen’s long solo effort was brought to an end by the chase about 15 kilometers (nine miles) from the finish before sprinters took center stage.

from his own penalty box, leaving just Rondón and Moïse Bombito battling for the loose ball near midfield.

Just as Rondón gained possession, Crépeau realized he was too far out and sprinted toward his net. It was too late. Rondón’s lofted shot over the scrambling Crépeau bounced 2 yards in front of the net and in.

Shaffelburg scored on an assist from Jonathan David after David scored Canada’s previous goal in a 1-0 victory over Peru on a helper from Shaffelburg, who right-footed a pass from David between the right post and Romo.

After scoring, Shaffelburg held over his head the No. 17 jersey of Tadjon Buchanan, who broke the tibia in



Venezuela’s Yeferson Soteldo, (center), controls the ball against Canada’s Jonathan David, (left), and Alphonso Davies (19) during a Copa America quarterfinal soccer match between Venezuela and Canada in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

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minute for Venezuela.

The victory earned 48th-ranked Canada a rematch with Lionel Messi and Argentina, the world No. 1 and defending Copa America champion, on Tuesday night at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. Argentina beat Canada 2-0 in a group play opener.

Each team scored three times in the five rounds of the shootout, forcing the extra session.

After Crépeau silenced the pro-Venezuelan crowd of 51,080 at the home of the Dallas Cowboys by stopping Jhonder Cádiz, Koné eased his shot past Rafael Romo for the win.

“I heard some of the guys saying afterward I should have had him shoot earlier because he’s got ice in his veins,” Marsch said of the 22-year-old. “They were right. Probably should have had him shoot earlier. But when we needed him, he stepped up.”

With 54th-ranked Venezuela trailing 1-0, Jon Aramburu sent a long pass



Spain's Mikel Merino (6) scores his side's second goal during a quarter final match between Germany and Spain at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Stuttgart, Germany. (AP)

Sports

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France set up showdown with Spain

Germany beaten in overtime thriller, Ronaldo and Portugal heading home

BERLIN, July 6, (Xinhua): France progress on penalties after converting all five shots from the spot to eliminate Portugal 5-3 (0-0) in the Euro 2024 quarterfinals of in Hamburg's Volkspark stadium.

France and Portugal staged an evenly balanced first half with chances at premium on both ends of the pitch.

The first half chances fell to Portugal with 16 minutes played, when Bruno Fernandes saw his promising effort on target blocked by defender William Saliba.

France created the best opportunity of the first half four minutes later when Theo Hernandez' attempt from the distance to force Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa into action.

After the half-time, Portugal took the reins and came close at the hour mark after Joao Cancelo's through ball found Fernandes, whose drilled effort is saved by Les Bleus custodian Mike Maignan.

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Maignan remained busy as he was equal to Vitinha's powerful but central shot on target moments later.

France almost caught Portugal flat-footed in the 66th minute, but Ruben Dias blocked Randal Kolo Muani's shot in the last nick of time.

Didier Deschamps' men had more momentum in the closing stages but Eduardo Camavinga and Ousmane Dembele couldn't turn their promising chances into a tangible reward.

In the overtime, Portugal was the more active team whereas France defended deep and waited for counter-attacks. Joao Felix had the golden chance to snatch a late overtime winner, but he headed into the side netting from tight angle.

CORRECTION

Chery Alghanim was mistakenly referred to as Sherry Alghanim in the Friday-Saturday edition of the paper, with the headline "Kuwait Olympic delegation heads to Paris Olympics with high hopes" in paragraph three on page 16. The Arab Times sincerely regrets any inconvenience this error might have caused your esteemed company.

After goalless 120 minutes, the penalty shootout had to bring the decision. After two successful penalties for both sides, Felix missed and hit the left post with low shot. Hernandez clinched the win for France after making it 5-3 from the spot.

"It wasn't easy today. We made our own life difficult, but we defended very well and kept a strong opponent at bay. We were not nervous during the shootout and won the match," said France goalkeeper Maignan.

With the result, France will clash with Spain in the semifinal at the Munich's Allianz Arena on Tuesday.

Mikel Merino's 119th minute winner sent tournament host Germany packing and booked Spain a semifinal ticket at the Euro 2024 in Stuttgart's MHP-Arena.

The two sides drew 1-1 in regular time and the match was dragged into overtime where Olmo's pinpoint cross to the near post allowed Merino to nod home the decisive goal.

Both sides needed some time to gain a foothold into the clash, as many fouls disrupted the flow of the game.

Spain assumed control as the match progressed and created chances through long-range efforts. However, Nico Williams and Fabian Ruiz lacked in accuracy while Lamine Yamal pulled a free-kick just wide.

Germany remained on the back foot but Aymeric Laporte as well as Dani Olmo couldn't overcome goalkeeper Manuel Neuer from the distance.

Kai Havertz produced Germany's

Saudi Arabia win West Asia Youth Championship



The victorious Saudi team celebrates on the podium.

TAIF, July 6: The Saudi national team clinched the "West Asia Youth" Championship by defeating the UAE 1-0 at the King Fahd Sports City Stadium in Taif.

The Greens secured their spot in the final after a 2-0 victory over Syria, while the Whites advanced by defeating Jordan 2-1.

Talal Haji scored the decisive goal for Saudi Arabia in the 43rd minute.

This tournament saw a record participation of 12 teams, divided into three groups. The first round was

conducted in a single-stage league system, with the top team from each group and the best runner-up advancing to the semi-finals, and the winners of those matches moving on to the final.

Notably, the Albanian national team participated by special invitation from the West Asian Football Federation. This marks the first step in a cooperation agreement expected between the West Asian Football Federation and the European Union for football development.



William Saliba of France, (left), and Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo battle for the ball during a quarter final match at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Hamburg, Germany. (AP)

first clear-cut opportunity in the closing stage of the first half after forcing Spain custodian Simon Unai into action.

Spain started brightly into the second half as Alvaro Morata missed the

target with a turn shot from inside the box, before Olmo eventually broke the deadlock in the 51st minute when the Leipzig player finished off Yamal's low pass with one-timer from 14 meters into the bottom left corner.

Julian Nagelsmann's boys tried to respond quickly but either the final pass was missing, or Spain's defense cleared the ball in the last nick of time.

The Germans increased the pressure as Simon had defuse Robert Andrich's shot on target before Niclas Fullkrug smacked the woodwork.

Havertz should have leveled the scores but chipped the ball over the empty target from 22 meters.

Spain couldn't get out of their territory and was punished later on as Joshua Kimmich headed from tight angle into the path of Florian Wirtz, who slotted home the equalizer with great assistance of the inside the left post to force La Roja into the overtime.

"Congratulations to Spain for reaching the semifinals. We were better in the second half and from the 60th minute onwards, we were clearly the better team. Our late leveller was well-deserved. We conceded the winner with the last chance. It is a painful one," said Germany coach Nagelsmann.

Kuwait U-17 team prepares for Asian Junior Cup with Serbia training camp



Players intensify training session.

BELGRADE, July 6: The Kuwaiti U-17 national team has commenced training at its external camp in Serbia, in preparation for the Asian Junior Cup qualifiers.

Dr. Mansour Pasha, a member of the Kuwait Football Association's Board of Directors and head of the delegation, addressed the players before the start of training. He emphasized the importance of adhering to and following the instructions of the technical and administrative staff and urged the players to put in their best effort to maximize the

benefits of the camp.

The team will participate in three friendly matches during the camp.

The national team's technical staff,

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led by Croatian coach Ferdo Milin and his assistants Miloš Bašić and Moaz Idan, have selected 28 players for the camp. The squad includes Ibrahim Al-Mansour, Saleh Muhammad, Ahmed Al-Shawaf, Abdul-Rahman Muham-

mad, Zain Al-Abidin Marafi, Fawaz Al-Daoud, Abdullah Al-Qarza'i, Hamoud Al-Daihani, Abdullah Al-Aibani, Abdul Rahman Al-Suwaidi, Hamad Al-Saeed, Mohammed Al-Ansari, Ahmed Tariq, Mohammed Al-Mulla, Sulaiman Jamal, Abdullah Al-Ansari, Abdul Rahman Al-Shuaib, Abdul-Wahab Al-Mahtab, Khaled Al-Saeed, Misfer Al-Adwani, Mishaal Al-Dhafiri, Bilal Mubarak, Ismail Khurshid, Laith Al-Qallaf, Mubarak Al-Ajmi, Muhammad Al-Ateeqi, Muhammad Khurshid, and Abdulaziz Dashti.

Al Arabi welcome back Algerian defender Bouchard

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: Al Arabi Club has announced the return of Algerian defender Sofiane Bouchard following the conclusion of his loan to Algerian club Belouizdad.

Bouchard recently celebrated winning the Algeria Cup with CS Belouizdad. Al Arabi had loaned him to Belouizdad last January due to the passing of his father in November 2023, which required him to stay in Algeria.

In related news, Algerian professional Ahmed Khalidi has arrived after finalizing a one-season contract with Al Arabi. Upon joining his first

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training session, Khalidi expressed excitement about joining a prestigious team with a rich history and a large fan base. He is eager to perform at his best and meet the expectations of the technical and administrative staff as

well as the Board of Directors.

Meanwhile, Al Arabi continues its training at the sub-field of Sabah Al-Salem Stadium, in preparation for their camp in Bosnia starting July 18. Under the guidance of coach Nasser Al-Shatti, the technical staff is focused on enhancing the players' physical fitness. The Bosnia camp will feature numerous friendly matches.

Al Arabi is set to compete in the upcoming season's Asian Challenge Cup as the runner-up in the Premier League.



New Al Arabi player Ahmed Khalidi welcomed by teammates and the coaching staff.