



Kuwait finalizing Visa 20 to Visa 18 transfer law

Domestic workers with 1-year tenure could access private sector

Opinion

Bravo for opening KIA office in Saudi

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

OPENING the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) office in Saudi Arabia is a brilliant and important step, because the trend towards the Gulf region has become an urgent necessity at this sensitive stage globally, considering the economic environment in all Gulf countries is similar in terms of content.

In addition, Kuwait has no large strategic space internally to enable it to exploit all of its financial resources; although a part of that money must be invested in huge productive projects, which help in achieving economic stability and increasing national output, and are complementary with the rest of the neighboring countries.

Hence, a Gulf orientation is necessary, especially since some countries like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have a big investment base.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has entered into partnerships with big international companies -- whether in manufacturing aircraft parts, military equipment or electric cars. It is also witnessing an agricultural renaissance in its quest for food self-sufficiency.

Therefore, it is important to invest in this active environment, particularly at the start of the implementation of NEOM projects, which are considered among of the largest investment opportunities in the world with significant revenues.

Also, the UAE, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar have immense development plans; hence, they need a lot of foreign investments.

Consequently, establishing partnerships with these countries helps circulate money in the right place; particularly since the major international crises that the world witnessed in the past five decades have cast a negative shadow on Gulf wealth. This is due to the fact that the Gulf is dependent on oil. It has suffered enormous losses, prompting some of them to diversify their sources of income in the safest environment -- the local market.

Since the early 1970s, experience has proven that internal investments are the best way to protect the wealth of countries, specifically the developing nations. However, Kuwait did take this step throughout the past decades.

This affected its investment strength, because it relied on international stocks and the revenues obtained from high-risk investments. As a result, it incurred huge losses in the global financial crisis in 2008.

Today, there are many opportunities in some Gulf countries. Investment in the Omani Duqm Refinery has proven to be a success. The Sultanate of Oman has many important projects and their opportunities are worthy of attention. It also signed with many international companies to start implementing the project. Without a doubt, there is a need to expand partnerships with other Gulf countries.

Likewise, Bahrain has laid down huge and plausible development plans; while the UAE is the second largest Gulf economy after the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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NewsWatch

India stampede kills 105

LUCKNOW, India, July 2, (AP): A stampede among thousands of people at a religious gathering in northern India has killed at least 105 and left scores injured, officials said Tuesday, with many women and children among the dead.

Attendees had rushed to leave the makeshift tent following an event with Hindu figure Bhole Baba, local media reported. They cited authorities who said heat and suffocation inside could have been a factor. Video of the aftermath showed the structure appeared to have collapsed. Women wailed over the dead.

Senior police officer Shalabh Mathur in Uttar Pradesh state confirmed that 105 people had died while 84 others were injured and admitted to hospitals.

Deadly stampedes are relatively common around Indian religious festivals, where large crowds gather in small areas with shoddy infrastructure and few safety measures.

CAIRO: The death toll from the collapse of a three-story building in Egypt's southern governorate of Assiut rose to 14, while six other residents were injured, said a statement by local authorities on Tuesday.

The building collapsed in East Assiut district on Monday, and rescue teams have been searching for survivors over the past 24 hours, according to the statement issued by the media office of Assiut province. (Xinhua)

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The Public Authority for Manpower is in the process of giving final touches to a law that will allow domestic workers (Article No. 20) to transfer their work permits to the private sector (Article No. 18).

The decision is nearing completion and is expected to be issued before the end of this week.

One of the key conditions for transfer is that the worker must have worked with the sponsor for a minimum of one

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Kuwait's Visiting Doctors Program bolsters healthcare

KUWAIT CITY, July 2, (KUNA): The Ministry of Health has launched its July edition of the Visiting Doctors Program, welcoming 12 doctors and specialists from various countries. The initiative aims to elevate medical services and ensure optimal care for patients

in Kuwait.

According to a statement released today, Tuesday, the visiting doctors hail from Canada, Britain, India, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Germany.

They bring expertise in fields such as general surgery, urology,

ENT surgery, nursing, radiation protection, and other critical specialties.

The visiting doctors will focus on providing precise diagnoses and performing necessary surgeries, facilitating knowledge exchange with

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Over-60 expats await Kuwait's fee revision

Exorbitant work permit renewal costs for undergrads dent economy

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The issue of high fees for renewing the work permit of the so-called non-graduate workers over the age of sixty has been the source of widespread controversy.

The government agencies have imposed these fees, leading to concerns about their impact on the labor market and the investment climate. According to sources, the decision is expected to be reconsidered for the benefit of these workers.

Continuing to impose these fees deprives the labor market of real expertise and competent people, sending a negative message to potential investors and leading to a decline in investments, say sources.

The 250 dinars this category of workers has to pay to renew the work permit, in addition to obtaining a health insurance policy from a private hospital or insurance company, are part of policies aimed at reducing the large foreign workforce and promoting citizen employment in various sectors.

Following the implementation of this decision, informed sources told the daily that there is expectation that the decision may be reviewed to offer some 'relief' to this category of workers, especially considering the upcoming projects and the potential for attracting capital and

investors.

Many workers over sixty are highly experienced and competent in their respective fields. Continuing to impose these fees risks losing this valuable expertise, which negatively affect the quality of work in vital sectors.

The high fees also increase operating costs for companies, especially the SMEs (small and medium-enterprises), potentially leading to reduced employment or even company closures. This, in turn, negatively impacts the overall economy and increases the prices of services or salaries for these workers.

One of the key factors attracting foreign investments is an encouraging the business environment. To address this, there may be a need to increase exceptions for some vital sectors that rely heavily on foreign expertise.

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Day by Day

THE BOT (build-operate-transfer) projects need more encouragement for the sake of the nation's stability. However, these projects often fall victim to envious individuals who are, in reality, lazy and expect wealth to come to them without putting in any effort or hard work.

We tell the Government: 'Look at how other countries successfully develop BOT projects and the incentives they offer to investors. We must avoid the continuous changes in the requirements for BOT projects, which are often dictated by the personal whims of envious and inefficient individuals'.

Stability and consistency in project requirements are crucial for attracting and retaining investors. Let's learn from successful international examples and implement policies that foster a conducive environment for BOT projects to thrive, thereby contributing to the nation's growth and stability.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



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

Assets inch up

Kuwait banking sector April financing surges

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: In April, local banks in Kuwait significantly increased financing for the other services sector, rising by 115.5 million dinars or 48.2% from March, reaching 354.7 million dinars compared to 239.2 million dinars. Annually, this sector saw a substantial surge of 263.3 million dinars or 288%, up from 91.4 million dinars in April 2023. Over the first four months of the year, banks extended a total of approximately 764.4 million dinars in financing to financial institutions.

Meanwhile, the cumulative balance of financial institution financing by local banks rose by 1.6% monthly to 4.745 billion dinars in April from 4.667 billion dinars in March, marking a 6% annual increase from 4.714 billion dinars in April 2023.

Regarding deposits, foreign currency deposits grew by 0.9% to 1.9 billion dinars (approximately 6.1 billion dollars). Conversely, government deposits in banks decreased by 32 million dinars in April to 4.616 billion dinars compared to 4.648 billion dinars in March. Local banks' claims on the Central Bank in dinars, represented by bonds, remained steady at 3.3 billion dinars (around 11 billion dollars).

Total assets of local banks saw a marginal uptick of 0.2% in April, reaching 87.8 billion dinars (about 286 billion dollars). However, net foreign assets decreased by 7% to 12.7 billion dinars (approximately 41.4 billion dollars).

Credit facilities, encompassing both resident and non-resident sectors, increased by 352 million dinars to 54.873 billion dinars in April from 54.521 billion dinars in March. Kuwaiti banks also extended credit facilities for securities purchase amounting to about 565 million dinars in the first four months of 2024.

In investment, banking facilities allocated for stock exchanges rose by 20.7 million dinars or 12% monthly to 193 million dinars in April, up from 172.3 million dinars in March. Annually, these facilities surged by 156.3 million dinars or 425.8% from 36.7 million dinars in April 2023.

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Kuwait stands firm with Palestinians at OIC meet

JEDDAH, July 2, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait reiterated its unwavering and ongoing support for the Palestinians' cause until their rights are fully realized.

This stand was expressed by Assistant Foreign Minister for human rights affairs Sheikhha Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah during her speech at the 23rd session of the Independent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Sheikha Jawaher Al-Sabah affirmed the commitment of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and the people of Kuwait in leading the support for Palestinian rights.

The statement emphasized that Kuwait strongly praised the International Court of Justice (ICJ) decision, which called for an immediate ceasefire and the ending of military operations by the occupying forces. Kuwait also urged compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2720 and the immediate delivery of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip.

Al-Sabah confirmed that the State of Kuwait, through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), had provided around 200 million US dollars by April to finance vital projects in the Gaza Strip.

Additionally, she mentioned Kuwait's continued support for the efforts of international organizations amid the tragic conditions in the Gaza Strip, particularly

through supporting the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) with 30 million US dollars to carry out its humanitarian role.

Al-Sabah highlighted the significant participation from Kuwaiti institutions and companies, as well as the notable involvement of 60 embassies accredited to the State of Kuwait.

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Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Sheikhha Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah (left) at the 23rd session of the Independent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. KUNA photo

Prayer Timings

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

Local

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

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-38 km/h.

By Night: Hot to rather hot with light to moderate freshen-

Weather

ing at times over coastal areas northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-40 km/kh.

Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**
Kuwait City 48 35

Kuwait Airport	48	31
Abdaly	48	31
Jahra	49	34
Salimiyah	44	36
Nuwaisib	46	31
Wafra	47	30

HH sends congratulations to leaders of Burundi and Rwanda on national days

His Highness Amir congratulates Panama's newly-elected president

KUWAIT CITY, July 2, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to the newly-elected President of Panama Jose Raul on the new position on Tuesday.

His Highness wished Raul a long healthy life and more development and prosperity for Panama.

Meanwhile, His Highness the

Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to the newly elected President Jose Raul on the new position on Tuesday, wishing him the best of luck in executing his duties.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to the newly elected

President Jose Raul on the new position on Tuesday.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent a cable of congratulations to the President of the Republic of Burundi, Evariste Ndayishimiye, on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished President Ndayishimiye good

health and wellbeing and wished Burundi more progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled sent a cable of congratulations to President Evariste Ndayishimiye, on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah sent a cable of congratulations to President Evar-

iste Ndayishimiye, on his country's National Day.

Also, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent on Tuesday a cable of congratulations to the President of Rwanda Paul Kagame on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished President Kagame and his people success and welfare during this joy-

ous occasion.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled also sent a cable of congratulations to President Paul Kagame on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah sent a cable of congratulations to President Paul Kagame on his country's National Day.



Al-Jarida photo

Dr. Al-Huwailah poses for a photo with Noura Al-Mutairi, Maryam Al-Habashi, Dalal Al-Shehitawi, and Shahad Al-Eid.

Minister honors young Kuwaiti innovators

Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Child Affairs, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Dr. Amathal Al-Huwailah, said Monday that the care given by the state to the youth category comes in implementation of the Amiri directives on the necessity of supporting them and providing all means for them, as they are the wealth of the nations and future leaders, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Dr Al-Huwailah added in a press statement -- after receiving four Kuwaiti female engineers who presented a youth project -- that Kuwaiti youth have creativity and creative ideas in serving their community, stressing keenness to encourage them to continue creativity and excellence.

She appreciated the youth efforts and

hard work that resulted in distinguished projects that embody the superiority of Kuwaiti youth and their ability to innovate, calling for presenting more successful projects that serve society in various fields.

The idea of the presented project revolves around covered and air-conditioned stadiums with various uses, and Minister Al-Huwailah directed the General Sports Authority to work on "studying this ambitious project that serves a large segment of young athletes and seeking the possibility of implementing it."

The project was presented by graduates of the Faculty of Engineering at Kuwait University, Noura Al-Mutairi, Maryam Al-Habashi, Dalal Al-Shehitawi, and Shahad Al-Eid.

Dr. Al-Huwailah unveils committee in bid to combat money laundering

Kuwait's commitment upholding integrity, transparency

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, has taken a pioneering step towards promoting transparency and integrity within the ministry.

In a groundbreaking move, Al-Huwailah issued a ministerial decision to establish a committee tasked with receiving and investigating suspicions of money laundering across all entities, bodies, and sectors under the ministry's supervision.

Describing the decision as a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability, and oversight, Minister Al-Huwailah emphasized that it provides citizens with an avenue to report any suspected cases within the ministry's purview.

This proactive approach not only aims to bolster financial and economic security in Kuwait but also aims to elevate Kuwait's standing as a leader in combating corruption.

The newly formed committee is envisioned as a pivotal tool in combating financial crimes and safeguarding the national economy from the detrimental impacts of money laundering. Its responsibilities include receiving and investigating reports, culminating in referrals to the Public Prosecution.

Regulatory

The committee's membership comprises various regulatory and specialized bodies dedicated to combating corruption, money laundering, and monitoring public funds.

Al-Huwailah underscored that the committee's establishment marks a significant milestone in the ministry's pursuit of its vision and goals to deliver exemplary services and foster trust between citizens and government institutions.

She urged individuals with information pertaining to suspected corruption or money laundering within the ministry's jurisdiction to come forward and contribute to these efforts.

This initiative reflects Kuwait's commitment to upholding integrity and transparency in governance, aligning with royal directives to combat corruption comprehensively.

In a recent development at the Ministries Complex, management of councils and committees will ensure that all reports are treated with utmost confidentiality. This initiative underscores a commitment to robust governance and effective oversight within the complex.

In a related announcement, Minister Al-Huwailah highlighted the significant role of cooperative societies in Kuwait's societal framework.

Currently, there are 77 registered societies operating under the Cooperative Societies Law, encompassing various sectors such as consumer societies, agricultural societies like Al-Wafra and Abdali, livestock cooperative societies, the Kuwaiti Savings Fund, the Sadu Crafts Society, and unions representing consumer and productive cooperative societies. The total number of shareholders in these societies amounts to 498,109, reflecting the broad participation and support of these cooperative entities within Kuwaiti society.

Addressing a concerning incident, Minister Al-Huwailah also addressed the circulation of a video depicting a child tied with ropes and pulling a vehicle on social media platforms.

She promptly referred the matter to the Public Prosecution and directed the Supreme Council for



Photo by Rizk Taufiq

The new board of directors pose for a photo.

KMA appoints new board of directors

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

The General Assembly of the Kuwait Medical Association (KMA) has approved the new board of directors.

The board is headed by Dr. Ibrahim Al-Tawala,

with Dr. Abdullah Al-Banna serving as Vice-President; while Dr. Ahmed Saleh Al-Arouj has been appointed as Secretary-General, and Dr. Maitham Hussein as Treasurer.

The members of the board include Dr. Fahd Al-Dabbous, Dr. Muhammad Qasim, and Dr. Safia Al-Otaibi.

NBK Bank makes unwavering efforts to raise customer awareness

National Bank of Kuwait advises to use strong passwords and never share them with anyone

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) always seeks to promote financial awareness and inclusion among all sectors of society. In this context, the bank continues to intensify its engagement in the "Let's Be Aware" campaign launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait, in collaboration with Kuwait Banking Association (KBA).

With the increasing fraud attempts using various schemes, NBK strives to protect customers' rights and following all CBK instructions in this regard. It also publishes educational material to familiarize customers with their rights and the mechanism of filing complaints on all its social media platforms and other digital channels, as well as awareness tips and precautions to avoid falling victim to fraud attempts.

In this context, NBK calls on customers to follow the latest publications and awareness messages provided by the bank through its various channels, to stay informed about the latest scams and how to avoid them, as scammers always use devious and changing schemes to steal customer information.

Among the key tips provided, the bank advised customers to use strong passwords to protect differ-



Banking awareness campaign logo.

ent personal accounts online, create different passwords and not to use the same password for all accounts, highlighting that each account should have a unique password when computer or smartphone is hacked, using the same password may expose all online accounts to hacking as well.

NBK also urged customers to use long passwords that contain at least 8 characters with a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols, as the longer the password, the more difficult it is to hack. It also warned against using personal information in passwords, such as birth date, family names, and simple number sequences, to ensure protecting the security of your important information.

It is worth mentioning that NBK makes consistent efforts to educate customers, considering this as a crucial part of its strategy. To this end, it always uses all communication channels to advise them to keep

their passwords/PINs, OTPs and financial/personal account information strictly confidential, and not to share them with anyone impersonating a bank employee.

NBK is a key supporter and partner in all CBK's campaigns and initiatives to increase financial and banking awareness among different sectors of society. As a leading financial institution in Kuwait, it frequently organizes various activities to raise awareness on all topics related to the banking sector, as well as various training courses in the areas of combating fraud and financial crime.

As a leading financial institution in Kuwait and across the region, NBK firmly observes its responsibilities towards the communities it serves. Accordingly, it always takes the initiative to provide all necessary support to important and strategic campaigns which serve the interests of the national economy and society, like the "Let's Be Aware" campaign.

Stands at 10th in the world

Kuwait ranks 3rd among Arab nations in '23 remittance contributions: report

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The World Bank Report for 2023 revealed that Kuwait ranked third among Arab countries and 10th in the world in terms of the amount of remittances that expatriates sent to their home countries last year with a total of \$12.7 billion, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to the report entitled, 'Brief on Migration and Development', the United Arab Emirates (UAE) ranked first among Arab countries and second globally with a total remittance of \$38.5 billion, Saudi Arabia is second among Arab

countries and third in the world with a total remittance of \$38.4 billion, Qatar is in fourth place among Arab countries with a total remittance of \$11.8 billion, followed by Bahrain with a total remittance of \$2.7 billion.

The United States of America occupied the first place in the world with a total remittance of \$85.8 billion, Switzerland in fourth place with a total remittance of \$35.7 billion, Germany in fifth place with a total remittance of \$24.1 billion, China in sixth place with a total remittance of \$20.2

billion, Luxembourg in seventh place with a total remittance of \$18 billion, Holland in eighth place with \$16.7 billion, and France in ninth place with \$15.9 billion.

The report stated that remittances in Gulf countries in 2023 reduced by 13 percent compared to the amount recorded in 2022.

Meanwhile, India ranked first in the world in terms of receiving remittances in 2023 with \$119.5 billion, followed by Mexico with \$66.2 billion and China with \$49.5 billion.

Family Affairs to take immediate actions to protect children from violence and exploitation.

Emphasizing the importance of combating violence against chil-

dren, she stressed the necessity of comprehensive measures in accordance with the law to safeguard their well-being.

These initiatives highlight Ku-

wait's commitment to upholding societal values, protecting vulnerable groups, and fostering accountable governance across various sectors.

Other Voices

Emirates and the Henley report

By Ahmed alsarraf

Last week, the "Henley" report on "Private Wealth Migration" for the year 2024 was issued, and it showed strange things. The movement of the wealth of major billionaires received the attention of observers, and expressed the trends of the economy, the growth of countries, their security situation, and other matters, in application of the golden rule. Capital is a coward, and is always looking for safety!



alsarraf

The report, which is respected globally, says: "Britain will lose the investments of 9,500 millionaires in 2024, which represents double those who left it in 2023, and more than eight times as much in 2022!"

The UAE ranks first in attracting wealthy people and its share will reach 6,700 millionaires by the end of this year, the majority from Britain and Europe. As for China, the biggest loser in the world, it will lose 15,200 millionaires this year, compared to 13,800 in 2023, while India has stopped the migration of its wealthy people and 4,300 millionaires will leave it in 2024, compared to 5,100 last year.

As for South Korea, it is expected to lose 1,200 millionaires, compared to 800 in 2023, while the tsunami of millionaires who fled Russia after the outbreak of the Ukrainian war appears to be receding, with only 1,000 expected to move this year (compared to 8,500 in 2022, and 2,800 in 2023).

A director at Henley & Partners says that the year 2024 is shaping up to be a watershed moment in the global migration of wealth. It is expected that an unprecedented number of millionaires will move around the world this year, which is 128 thousand millionaires, exceeding the previous record, which amounted to 120 thousand millionaires.

Recorded in the year 2023, in light of a world grappling and facing a storm of geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, and social unrest, this great exodus of millionaires is a major indicator, indicating a profound shift in the global landscape, and the direction of wealth and power, with far-reaching implications for the future path of nations that they leave behind, or those that they make, after it becomes their new home.

The UAE remains the world's leading center of attraction for millionaires, until now, thanks to its exemption from income tax, golden visas, luxurious lifestyle, and strategic location, and this has enabled it to consolidate its position, as the world's first destination for immigrant millionaires, and the number of people immigrating to it will be double the number attracted by America from Europe, India, China, Korea and Russia, especially after the UAE developed and improved its wealth management ecosystem and created a strong regulatory framework that provides the wealthy with a set of innovative solutions to protect, preserve and enhance their wealth.

Singapore, whose area does not exceed 650 square kilometers only, came in third place in attracting investments, after the UAE and America with 3,500 millionaires, followed by Canada, Australia, Italy, Switzerland, Greece, Portugal and Japan with 400 wealthy immigrants.

The benefits of the migration of wealth and talent to these destination countries are significant and wide-ranging. Immigrant millionaires are a vital source of foreign exchange earnings, because they tend to bring their money with them when they move to a country.

About 20% of them are entrepreneurs and company founders, who may create new businesses and thus create local jobs in their new country, and this percentage rises to more than 60% among millionaires and billionaires.

In a reversal of fortunes, the report also reveals that Israel dropped out of the top flows list for the first time. This represents a major shift, as Israel was ranked among them.

"This seismic shift underscores how quickly conflict can undermine a country's appeal to the world's wealthy and globally mobile people," Israel's partners say. The ongoing war has not only shattered Israel's image as a safe haven, but has also threatened to overshadow its economic achievements.

The deterioration of Britain's standing, which was the best in the world for a century, began to decline a decade ago, declining about a decade ago, as more millionaires began to leave the country and fewer entered.

It is worth noting that during the six-year period, from 2017 to 2023, after Brexit, the United Kingdom lost a total of 16,500 millionaires due to immigration. Provisional estimates for 2024 are even more alarming, with a massive net influx of about 9,500 millionaires expected for this year alone.



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'Revitalizing Kuwait's economy thru strategic tourism dev vital'

"KUWAIT has faced tourism stagnation for many years, partly due to the perception that tourism is unsuitable for a conservative society," columnist Dr. Ghadeer Muhammad Asiri, wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"Unfortunately, this perception has led to a negative view of tourism, despite its potential as an advanced and cultural industry. Many countries that pursue political and economic renewal view tourism as a crucial resource and develop plans and projects to integrate it into their national strategies.



Dr Ghadeer Asiri

"For example, some very hot countries create indoor projects to accommodate their climate, while coastal nations, including Kuwait, have significant potential as major tourist destinations. "To modernize Kuwait's tourism sector, initiatives such as establishing metro stations, modern air-conditioned transportation routes, and upscale coastal resorts are essential.

"These projects would align with global tourism trends and appeal to the sophisticated tastes of Kuwaiti society, marking a significant leap forward for the country.

"Enhancing the type of visitors Kuwait attracts is a fundamental step in improving tourism, economy, and culture. The focus should shift from solely attracting working visitors to including higher social classes, fostering cultural exchange, and elevating the country's image.

"Currently, many visitors are contracted under cheap agreements, which can negatively impact Kuwait's culture and quality of life, particularly in residential areas converted into worker housing. Attracting skilled, educated, and experienced individuals would benefit the country significantly.

"Establishing cooperative ministries dedicated to tourism, and liberating government lands currently underutilized, are crucial for Kuwait's progress.

"Kuwaitis spend over \$10 billion annually on foreign tourism, indicating a strong cultural inclination towards travel. Instead of this expenditure going abroad, Kuwait should capture a portion of it by developing a robust domestic tourism sector.

"Strategies to place Kuwait on the regional and international tourism map, supported by well-crafted legislation and laws, would foster a safe and attractive tourism industry, becoming a source of national economic income.

"Tourism would create job opportunities, reduce unemployment, drive economic development, and address economic challenges.

"Any region can become a tourist destination with the right policies and globally competitive festivals and events. This would attract championships, thinkers, creators, and investors, advancing society.

"Developing the airport and ensuring stability and safety are essential for making a positive first impression and attracting international airlines and navigation companies.

"Additionally, enhancing the educational sector by introducing tourism-related specializations in universities is vital for Kuwait's development and progress."

Also:

"In December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted June 30 as International Asteroid Day to annually commemorate the anniversary of the Tunguska asteroid explosion in Siberia, Russia, which occurred on June 30, 1908," columnist Dr. Hind Al-Shomer, wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"This day aims to raise public awareness about the dangers of asteroid impacts and educate people about protective measures for land, families, communities, and future generations from similar catastrophic events. It also focuses on informing the public about necessary communication procedures in the event of credible threats.

"Asteroids, classified as near-Earth objects, pose potentially catastrophic threats to our planet. According to NASA's Center for Near-Earth Object Studies, more than 16,000 near-Earth asteroids have been discovered.

"The Tunguska event remains one of the most significant asteroid impacts on Earth. Recognizing this threat, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs has emphasized the need for a global response. This involves identifying hazardous objects, developing mitigation plans, and coordinating international actions in the public interest.

"The International Asteroid Alert Network plays a critical role in creating plans and communication protocols to help governments analyze potential asteroid impact consequences and support mitigation response planning.

"It is estimated that one million asteroids have the potential to collide with Earth, yet only 1% have been discovered despite the numerous tel-

escapes available worldwide. Physicist Brian May has highlighted the importance of understanding asteroid impacts, noting that they frequently strike Earth and pose a significant threat to human survival.

"International Asteroid Day seeks to mobilize public support to enhance knowledge about asteroid impact timings and protective measures. It also aims to leverage available technologies to detect and track near-Earth asteroids, engaging governmental, private, and humanitarian organizations in these efforts.

"Accelerating the detection and tracking of near-Earth asteroids in the coming years is crucial.

"Asteroids are small celestial bodies that orbit the sun or other cosmic entities, such as the planets in the solar system.

"When they collide with Earth, they release dust, debris, and toxic gases that can linger in the atmosphere for many years. According to scientists, the safest place during such an event might be underground, as reported by the *British Daily News* on March 4, 2023."

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"Let us awaken the economic genie... How clear are the movements of some companies in the local market? They are happy movements that signaled the return of economic activity in Kuwait as it was at the height of its strength in the 1980s. We began to see the economic wheel turning to establish and renew some BOT projects such as UPAC's announcement of its victory in developing Messila Beach for 17 years, Mabaneq Company's victory in investing in the Hilton Resort site for 17 years as well or EVA's announcement of the completion of the operation of Umm Al-Hayman station and the imminent offering of its shares for public subscription, and many other projects that herald the return of economic activity and prosperity," columnist **Hani Al-Meer** wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"This is in addition to government statements and clear directives from His Highness the Prime Minister to Kuwait Investment Authority -- the most important body with financial liquidity directed to investment to intensify efforts to invest in the local market. This brings good news, and a strong and clear indication of the seriousness of the trends in the new era -- the signs of which we have begun to witness.

"However, it must be noted that all of these projects (from my humble point of view) are small and do not match Kuwait's financial and economic capabilities, especially if they are compared with the billion-dollar projects in neighboring and sisterly countries. The most prominent of such projects include Ras Al-Hikma in Egypt, Banan City in Riyadh, new Dubai Airport, NEOM City in Saudi Arabia or Egypt's expansion of investment in green hydrogen production, and many other areas that there is no room to mention all of them in this haste.

"I still believe that what I mentioned in my previous article entitled, 'Kuwait Waterfront', published in the *daily* on March 6, 2024 to develop the northern coast of Kuwait Bay is the biggest key to the future of economic activity in Kuwait, especially if an alliance is established between national companies. Major projects -- whether real estate, services, logistics or entertainment -- are financed by local banks, with direct participation of the Public Institution for Social Security and Kuwait Investment Authority.

"There may be an alliance with one or more external strategic partners to lay down a clear vision, a modern and creative plan, and an insightful vision that anticipates the future to invest in that coast whose extended beauty is enough to attract investments from major international entities that still see Kuwait as a fertile ground for investment due to its attractive location.

"Thus, we have laid a solid ground for many new jobs, and revived activity in most of the small companies that provide services for the project and its branches. We created a major tourist destination that competes with other destinations near us. We have established an industrial and service infrastructure on a sound, advanced basis that integrates with the nearby Mubarak Port and the Silk City planned to be established in that region. We have exploited the excess liquidity accumulated in banks that are searching for promising investment opportunities.

"Perhaps, the most important of all is that we will create a new axis of income, which can match oil. This means Kuwait will return to dominate the economic scene in the Gulf and return to being the bride of the Gulf in its most beautiful image.

"Like it or not, Kuwait is an economic genie that enjoys enormous financial resources, a distinctive strategic location, advanced infrastructure and capable human resources. This genie has been asleep or in chains for a long time. Will we succeed in awakening that genie?... I hope so.

"Allah is the Helper."

— **Compiled by PFX Fernandes and Mahmoud Ateyieh**



The Acting Chief of Kuwait Fire Force Lieutenant General Khaled Fahad meeting with the Head of UNDRR Regional Office for Arab States Nora Achkar.

Kuwait KFF, UNDRR discuss preparations for Disaster Risk Reduction Arab Forum

KUWAIT CITY, July 2, (KUNA): Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) discussed preparation to host the sixth Arab Regional Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, which will be held in Kuwait in October.

The Acting Chief of Kuwait Fire Force Lieutenant General Khaled Fahad met with the Head of the United Nations Office for Dis-

aster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Regional Office for Arab States Nora Achkar to discuss the forum's preparations.

This came in a press statement by the Fire Force on Monday during the reception of Lieutenant General Khaled Fahad to the UNDRR Regional Office for Arab States' delegation in preparation for hosting the forum, which would be headed by the First Deputy Minister, Minister

of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

He stated that the forum would discuss the progress made in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, as well as adopt a strategy for disaster risk reduction to be implemented during the next three years, which will be developed in the name of Kuwait to be implemented by all Arab countries.

'Kuwait tops at ICT Sector Dev Index'

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Kuwait ranked first in the ICT Sector Development Index (IDI) for the year 2024, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

The Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) recently announced that the country ranked first in the index issued by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) for the second time in a row.

In a press statement, CITRA explained that the index is constantly developing; which gives foreign investors the confidence to invest in the country, create jobs and transfer expertise, while noting its importance in diversifying the country's sources of income.

The authority added that the IDI index explains the extent of the possibility of using the Internet in the country in a safe manner in terms of coverage and price. It disclosed that the percentage of individuals using the Internet is 99.7 percent and the percentage of families is 99.4 percent through subscriptions to Internet providers or telecommunication companies.

According to CITRA, the index consists of two pillars out of 10 indicators; and that the authority is a communication point between data and international organizations specializing in the communications and information technology sector.

Employee's 7-year jail upheld in Kuwait Towers ticket fraud case

Court refrains from punishing 2 in high school exams leak

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The Court of Appeals upheld the ruling of a lower court that sentenced an Egyptian employee, who monitored food and beverage costs at the Kuwait Towers, to seven years in prison.

The court also ordered the dismissal of the accused and fined him KD89,000.

The accused embezzled KD29,000 by selling counterfeit Kuwait Towers tickets that he printed.

Investigations revealed that the accused hacked the database, tampered the information and dates, printed the tickets and resold them for two years.

School exams leakage case: The Court of Appeals refrained from punishing two individuals accused of selling high school exams for a total of KD11,000 on social media sites, and imposed KD5,000 bail on them.

The court also acquitted these individuals of money laundering, as it overturned the ruling of the Court of First Instance that sentenced them to five years in prison with hard labor.

Case files indicate that the Court of First Instance sentenced in absentia another accused, an Egyptian teacher, for five years with hard work.

The Public Prosecution charged these defendants with disclosing the secrets of the Ministry of Education by publishing high school exams in exchange for money, as they sold corrected exams at a price ranging from KD25 to KD50 for each subject.

The prosecution also charged them with money laundering for obtaining money illegally.

Hearing postponed: A former minister denied embezzling and laundering around KD500,000 in his first trial session at the Court of Ministers, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

During the session that was held recently under the chairmanship of Counselor Hani Al-Hamdan, the minister and another defendant were questioned about the charges filed against them; but they denied all the charges.

Their lawyer also asked for more time to review and photocopy case files, in addition to lifting the travel ban on the ex-minister.

The court then decided to postpone the hearing on the case until Oct 8 and refused to lift the travel ban on the former minister.

Ruling not announced: The Court of Appeals overturned the ruling of the Court of First Instance that sentenced the defendants in the 'Farwaniya tomb' case to three years, two years and one year in prison followed by deportation.

The higher court abstained from pronouncing punishment of the defendants.

Earlier, the Criminal Court sentenced two defendants -- a man and a woman -- to three years in prison with hard labor on charges of adultery and pregnancy outside wedlock, while another defendant was sentenced to two years in prison for selling abortion pills, and the building guard was sentenced to one year in prison for digging a grave and burying the fetuses in the yard of a building in Farwaniya.

The court decided to deport the four expatriates after serving the prison sentence.

The defense team of the defendants, represented by Attorney Mohammad Al-Hamli, confirmed that the higher court overturned the ruling of the Court of First Instance due to the invalidity of procedures followed by the incident officer; hence, the lack of technical evidence.

This happened because the officer opened the grave and exhumed the fetus without the permission of the Public Prosecution, as well as the absence of its representative during the exhumation process and taking a sample. The prosecution was informed only after the completion of these procedures, so the technical evidence was declared not valid.

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2 lawyers freed on bail: The Public Prosecution released on bail two lawyers who spread false news about Minister of Public Works and State Minister for Municipality Affairs Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan.

Case files indicate that State Security officers arrested two lawyers who spread false news and rumors about Al-Mashaan on the social networking site 'X'.

Bedouns to get special security card

Municipality issued instructions on post-citizenship powers of attorney

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The Central Agency for Remedying the Status of Illegal Residents (CARSIR) has issued a directive to the municipality regarding persons who have lost or had their Kuwaiti citizenship revoked, reports *Al-Qabas* daily.

In a letter sent to the municipality along with lists containing the names and data of 344 individuals, the agency stressed that any powers of attorney issued by these individuals after the loss or revocation of their citizenship should not be treated as null and void.

The agency has instructed the municipality to take necessary actions concerning these individuals and their children as detailed in the attached documents.

It further clarified that any agency previously issued by these individuals under their former citizenship status will be considered null and void, in accordance with decisions taken by the Council of Ministers regarding

the loss or revocation of Kuwaiti citizenship.

Meanwhile, the Central Agency for Remedying the Status of Illegal Residents (CARSIR) will soon start issuing a special card to Bedouns with expired security cards; as Bedoun employees in government agencies will not be allowed to continue working unless their security cards are renewed, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

In a press statement, Director of the Status Adjustment Department at CARSIR Brigadier General Mohammad Al-Wahaib explained the issuance of the special card is in implementation of Cabinet Resolution No. 296/2024, which mandated the agency to coordinate with other government agencies it deems appropriate to organize, amend and follow up the status of Bedouns.

Al-Wahaib added that, in accordance with the decision, the agency will submit a report to the Council of Ministers every three months to take note of all the measures taken in this regard.

Government agencies started taking steps after the end of the deadline granted to Bedoun employees to regularize their status and renew their security cards to avoid termination.



Al-Wahaib

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'Political leadership dedicates concern for cooperative sector'

Al-Huwailah lauds growth of co-op societies

KUWAIT CITY, July 2, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family Affairs and Childhood, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah said on Monday that the political leadership dedicates concern for the cooperative movement and is keen on developing this sector.

In a statement to KUNA marking the International Cooperative Day, Minister Al-Huwailah affirmed the keenness to ensure effective participation of the cooperative societies in the national economy through overhauling the labor legislative and supervisory work environment, the financial and administrative systems as well as the marketing policies.

The Kuwaiti cooperative movement is pioneering, a product of the Kuwaiti community and a natural outcome of the cooperative spirit enjoyed by the ancestors -- that have been developing until the present time, the minister said.

Currently, there are 77 cooperative societies, proclaimed according to the cooperative societies law -- including 70 consumer societies, two agricultural (Al-Wafra and Al-Abdali), the livestock one, the society for the Kuwaiti civil servants society for saving, Al-Sadu handicraft association, in addition to the consumer cooperative societies union and the federation of the societies for production and livestock -- with the total number of shareholders amounting to 498,109.

Shedding light on some historic phases



KUNA photo
A number of students and parents listen to the explanation of the organizers of the Kuwait University exhibition.

Navigating educational choices

KU launches 'Your Future Begins Here' exhibition at Avenues Mall

KUWAIT CITY, July 2, (KUNA): Kuwait University (KU) on Tuesday launched an exhibition titled "Your Future Begins Here" at the Avenues Mall to introduce students wishing to join the university to the offered majors and required percentages, in cooperation with the Civil Service Commission (CSC). The exhibition will continue until July 6.

Acting Dean of Admissions and Registration at the university, Dr. Fadhil Aziz, told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the admissions exhibition targets male and female high school graduates and is consid-

ered a continuation of the "Your Future Begins Here" campaign organized by the Admissions Department at the Deanship of Admissions and Registration with the Public Relations and Media Department in cooperation with the Civil Service Commission.

Aziz explained that the mechanism for submitting admission applications to the university will be explained to reach the largest segment of high school graduates and students wishing to transfer from foreign universities and some colleges of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

thus the cooperative society for personnel of the department of social affairs department and the association for "Al-Maaref" department were set up.

Other Voices

Strengthening bonds: The remarkable tenure of Ambassador Miguel Moro Aguilar in Kuwait

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

Ambassador Miguel Moro Aguilar, the esteemed Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait, has been a pivotal figure in strengthening the bilateral relations between Spain and Kuwait. His tenure has been marked by significant diplomatic achievements and a deepening of cultural and economic ties.

Ambassador Aguilar's appointment to Kuwait came at a crucial time, as both nations sought to expand their cooperation across various sectors. One of his early successes was the enhancement of economic relations. Through diligent negotiation and strategic partnerships, he facilitated several agreements that boosted trade and investment between the two countries. The bilateral trade volume saw a noticeable increase, with Spanish companies finding new opportunities in the Kuwaiti market, particularly in the fields of construction, renewable energy, and infrastructure development. Additionally, under his tenure, direct flights between Kuwait and Spain were reestablished after a 40-year hiatus, with Kuwait Airways resuming routes to Madrid and Barcelona two years ago, further bolstering economic and tourism links.

Cultural diplomacy also flourished under Ambassador Aguilar's guidance. Recognizing the power of cultural exchange in fostering mutual understanding, he spear-

headed numerous initiatives to showcase Spanish art, music, and cuisine in Kuwait. The annual Spanish Cultural Week became a much-anticipated event, featuring concerts, exhibitions, and culinary festivals that celebrated the rich heritage of Spain. These cultural exchanges not only brought the two nations closer but also highlighted the shared values and common aspirations of their people.

Education and academic cooperation were other areas where Ambassador Aguilar made a significant impact. He worked tirelessly to establish partnerships between Spanish and Kuwaiti universities, facilitating student exchanges and collaborative research projects. These initiatives provided Kuwaiti students with the opportunity to experience Spain's world-class education system and contributed to the development of a new generation of leaders well-versed in both cultures.

Political dialogue between the two countries was significantly strengthened during his tenure, with three rounds of political con-

sultations held at the level of Assistant Minister. These consultations provided a platform for discussing key issues and fostering closer diplomatic ties.

Ambassador Aguilar also played a vital role in promoting sports diplomacy. The establishment of the Rafa Nadal Academy, Villarreal FC Academy, and the presence of La Liga in Kuwait were milestones that showcased Spain's excellence in sports and created new opportunities for sports development in Kuwait.

Tourism saw a drastic increase in the number of Kuwaitis traveling to Spain, driven by Ambassador Aguilar's efforts to promote Spain as a top destination. His initiatives emphasized luxury, gastronomic, sports, and nature tourism, attracting a diverse group of visitors and boosting Spain's tourism sector.

In conclusion, Ambassador Miguel Moro Aguilar's tenure in Kuwait has been characterized by a profound commitment to enhancing the bilateral relationship between Spain and Kuwait. His achievements in economic diplomacy, cultural exchange, and education have not only strengthened ties between the two nations but also fostered a greater sense of mutual respect and understanding. His legacy will undoubtedly continue to inspire future diplomats and serve as a testament to the enduring friendship between Spain and Kuwait.



Al-Hajeri

Paper insurance policies extended until Dec 31

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Chairman of the Supreme Committee at the Insurance Regulatory Unit Mohammed Al-Otaibi issued a decision extending the period for allowing qualified insurance companies and brokers to issue paper insurance policies until Dec 31, 2024, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Otaibi recently issued a circular regarding the implementation of the system for unifying the civil liability in-

urance document for traffic accidents (compulsory motor vehicle insurance) and converting it to electronic transaction as of April 16, while requiring all qualified insurance companies to accept documents submitted by individuals online.

The circular stated that the deadline for using the traditional method of issuing the insurance policies ended on May 31, 2024; and then it was extended until the end of December 2024.

Hawalli Governorate holds 2nd meeting

Municipal Council committee to address major issues during Wednesday meeting

By Enas Awad

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The Legal and Financial Committee of the Municipal Council will convene, Wednesday, under the chairmanship of member Fahd Al-Abduljader, to address several key items on the agenda.

The foremost topics include a request from the Kuwait Insurance Federation to add new activities to the list of public stores that are disturbing to comfort and harmful to health.

Additionally, they will discuss renaming the diplomatic area in Western Mishref, Block 17, to the Diplomatic Enclave, and naming Street 2 in the Surra area, Block 4, after the late Abdul Hamid Al-Qattan.

The committee will also consider the grievance submitted by the Modern English School against the council's decision regarding private schools in residential areas.

Other proposals on the agenda include a submission by the Chairman of the Municipal Council, Abdullah Al-Mahri, Vice President Khaled Al-Mutairi, and members Abdul Latif Al-Daei, Alia Al-Farsi, Munira Al-Amir, Farah Al-Roumi and Al-Abduljader.

This proposal aims to add paragraph (b) to Clause 5 of Article 20 on the list of advertisements. Additionally, a proposal by Vice President Khaled Al-Mutairi seeks to add a clause to the building regulations issued by Ministerial Resolution No. 206/2009 con-

cerning the requirements and specifications for investment buildings inside and outside Kuwait City.

Further discussions will involve a proposal by member Sharifa Al-Shalfan to prepare regulations for the dismantling of buildings based on a field study of extracted construction types and the local market.

Lastly, Al-Abduljader has proposed canceling the Municipal Council's decision to allow comprehensive and specialized sports clubs, sports federations, and the Olympic Committee to invest in spaces within their sites.

On a related note, the Hawalli Governorate Committee will hold its second meeting of the third session, chaired by Nasser Al-Jadaan, to discuss several key agenda items.

Among the most significant topics are the reallocation of sites for the General Administration Project for Rescue Patrols and the General Administration Project for Information Systems in Al-Zahraa Area, Block 7, and a request from the General Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries Affairs to develop Salmiya Park (Boulevard).

The committee will also consider the Indian Private School's request to move its headquarters from Salmiya, Plot 12, Plot 11, to Plot 10, Plot 28, and a proposal submitted by Nasser Al-Jadaan regarding the creation of a sub-entrance opposite the Rumaithiya area. Additionally, they will review a submission from the Kuwaiti Society for the Development of the Educational System concerning unused vacant land in Salmiya.



Al-Abduljader



Al-Jadaan



KISR representatives participating in the workshop.

Workshop focuses on sustainable solutions

KISR stresses vitality of scientific research

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Representatives from the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research emphasized the importance of integrating scientific research outputs into the strategic plans of the Environmental Affairs Committee, reports Al-Jarida daily.

They highlighted the significant positive impact of such research on the preservation of environment, public health, and safety.

This recommendation was made during their participation in a workshop titled "Tire dumps and landfills and their impact on public health and environmental safety: current situation and sustainable solutions," hosted by the Environmental Affairs Com-

mittee of the Municipal Council and chaired by Eng. Alia Al Farsi.

The workshop included contributions from various entities, including the Energy and Building Research Center represented by Eng. Souad Al-Bahr, who discussed the Construction and Building Materials Program. Dr. Haya Al-Mutairi, along with technical advisor Engineer Nayef Al-Othman, presented findings from the project for maintenance and rehabilitation of roads of the institute using rubber asphalt, showcasing research on waste tire recycling and applications of tire powder in asphalt mixtures.



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Company supports all NUKS programs in Kuwait and US throughout the year

Strategic partnership between Zain, NUKS USA continues

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Zain's strategic partnership with the National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the United States (NUKS USA) continues, as the company supports all NUKS programs and initiatives to be held across Kuwait and the United States throughout the year. With this announcement, Zain strengthens its position as the top supporter of the biggest gathering of Kuwaiti students abroad for over 21 years.

The announcement was made during a visit made by the NUKS USA team to Zain's headquarters in Shuwaikh. In attendance were Zain Kuwait Corporate Relations Department Manager Hamad Al MUSAIBEEH, Head of NUKS USA Khalid Al Doukhi, along with other Zain and NUKS USA officials.

During the visit, both teams explored collaboration opportunities and discussed preparations for the current academic year. The NUKS team also outlined their upcoming plans for special programs and activities to be held in both Kuwait and the United States, serving freshmen, enrolled students, and graduates.

Under this partnership, Zain supports all community programs and initiatives organized by NUKS USA, including the annual conference in the US that brings together Kuwaiti



Al MUSAIBEEH and Al Doukhi with Zain and NUKS USA officials.

students from across the states for days of engaging activities.

Zain will also support the annual orientation session, NUKS Talks discussion panels, activities from the local NUKS USA office to guide freshmen, academic sessions, cultural seminars, sports competitions, entertainment programs, workshops, and more. These programs receive a wide positive reaction and participation from students every year.

The company takes pride in its ongoing strategic partnership with NUKS USA, through which it strives to provide young, enthusiastic Kuwaitis with a rich social experience

and listens to their ideas and experiences while they pursue their education abroad. Zain is proud to have been part of the NUKS USA family for over two decades.

NUKS USA serves thousands of Kuwaiti students in the United States. The union aims, through its events and programs, to connect Kuwaiti students with each other and with their nation and local community. The union was recognized by the United States government, a proud milestone for Kuwait's youth and a testament to the strong relations between Kuwait and the US.

therapeutic approaches according to global standards.

The Ministry underscored its commitment to healthcare sector development by leveraging international expertise.

It emphasized ongoing efforts to attract global medical talent and enhance training programs to further elevate healthcare services in Kuwait.

Patients can view the list of visiting doctors, schedule appointments, and submit required data via the Kuwait-Health application or through the Sahel platform.

Over-60

Continued from Page 1

This would help maintain the quality of services provided in these areas. Dual policies can be adopted to stimulate the employment of Kuwaitis while attracting necessary foreign talent. Such policies could include training and qualification programs for citizens and creating a stimulating work environment for all, say sources.

The issue of over-60 workers requires a careful balance between improving the labor market and protecting the economy from negative influences. By reconsidering policies and adopting measures that support investments, Kuwait can ensure a balanced and attractive work environment for talent and investors, enhancing its economic stability and growth.

Fahd Al-Arbash, head of the Restaurant Owners Union, emphasized that excluding workers over sixty from the labor market, despite their vast experience, negatively affects productivity and the economy.

He said the developed countries do not impose strict age restrictions but regulate working age in accordance with the constitution and law.

Experience and creativity are crucial for professional workers who continue to innovate past sixty. Al-Arbash highlighted that the departure of workers without the employer's permission causes irreparable damage and exposes the employer to risks.

Al-Arbash called for amending the law to better regulate employment in the private sector, similar to the government sector.

He noted that human resources managers have sensitive powers, such as accessing electronic systems and approving transfers, which, if misused, could lead to legal accountability.

Therefore, these powers must be clearly defined and responsibly managed.

Al-Arbash urged the amendment of Articles (44 and 64) of the Labor Law in the Private Sector. He proposed that Article (44) should allow for the termination of an indefinite-term employment contract for a legitimate reason with written notice to the other party 30 days before terminating the contract, with a one-week notice for other workers.

Kuwait banking

Continued from Page 1

However, credit facilities for purchasing securities, granted to residents and non-residents, decreased by about 82 million dinars, ending April at 3.453 billion dinars compared to 3.535 billion dinars in March 2023. Similarly, facilities for individuals amounted to 1.144 billion dinars, a decrease from 1.213 billion dinars in March 2024 by 69 million dinars.

Kuwait stands

Continued from Page 1

Furthermore, she explained the popular campaigns that were arranged to support people in Palestine, including the launch of a national campaign under the hashtag #FazaForPalestine.

She also emphasized the importance of issuing arrest warrants against the Israeli Prime Minister and Minister of Defense for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity. She stressed that holding all perpetrators accountable is essential to stopping the repeated violence and the violations of the rights of the Palestinian people.

Ambassador Sheikh Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Human Rights Affairs, headed the Kuwaiti delegation at the session. The delegation also included Turki Al-Daihani, Counselor at the Kuwaiti Permanent Mission to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, as well as Maha Al-Kulaib and Jana Al-Dhafiri, Diplomatic Attaches from the Human Rights Affairs Department at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The session's agenda features both open and closed discussion sessions covering a range of topics, with the final report scheduled for issuance next Thursday.

CMA unveils Kuwait strategies for economic growth & development

Authority aims to make nation a top financial hub

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The capital markets sector is considered one of the main pillars of the economy due to its vital role in investing funds, developing savings, providing financing tools, diversifying income sources, and creating national job opportunities, reports Al-Jarida daily.

All these factors contribute to promoting sustainable economic development. Therefore, the role of the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) is directly tied to contributing to Kuwait's Vision 2035 and the goal of transforming the country into an attractive financial and commercial hub for investment.

The CMA views strategic planning as a crucial element in achieving its long-term vision and goals. This involves clear implementation plans with specific financial budgets for programs and projects, within defined time frames, clear standards for measuring success, and assigned responsibilities to evaluate and improve business progress and efficiency.

This approach enables the CMA to adapt to changes in the business environment and optimize its resources to regulate securities activities as per its establishment law, thereby contributing to Kuwait's development vision and national economic growth.

Building on its past achievements and progress, the CMA is committed to its vision of "providing a safe and enabling regulatory environment for the development of the capital markets in Kuwait into advanced markets that contribute to the national economy."

In line with this, the CMA launched its third strategic plan (2023/2024-2026/2027) on April 2, 2023. This plan was developed by a team of specialized national cadres led by the Strategy Office and aims to guide efforts and resources towards achieving

Farwaniya Municipal Council OKs relocation of Civil Defense Center

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: During its second meeting of the third session Monday, the Farwaniya Committee in the Municipal Council, chaired by Khaled Al-Mutairi, approved the Ministry of Interior's request to relocate the Civil Defense Center from the Dajeej area south of Farwaniya to a new site in Block 6 of the Jeeb Al-Shuyoukh area.

The committee also referred a proposal by Al-Mutairi to the executive branch to create an exit from the Schools Street No. 200 in the Jeeb Al-Shuyoukh area to Ring Road 6.5, along with a request to annex a space to Plot No. 76 in Plot No. 6 in the Khaitan area.

In response to Deputy Al-Mutairi

the CMA's targeted state by the end of the plan period.

The CMA's third strategic plan is based on three main pillars, each encompassing several strategic objectives and initiatives aimed at achieving the overall vision.

Developing the Financial Markets -- Continue to enhance the market system and legislative and regulatory frameworks in line with modern international trends.

Strengthening Relationships -- Maintain and consolidate the CMA's position by actively contributing to strengthening relations at the local, regional, and international levels.

Enhancing Internal Capabilities -- Adopt best administrative and organizational practices, build human capital capabilities, and employ modern technologies for digital transformation and technical empowerment.

Organizational Structure -- Define implementation capabilities for the organizational structure and governance

ri's inquiry about neglected buildings in the Al-Ardiya Industrial Area, the committee requested the executive body to expedite coordination with relevant departments to inspect the site, ensure compliance with building regulations and safety procedures, and follow up with the Public Authority for Industry and the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises to complete the necessary procedures as soon as possible.

The committee also acknowledged a letter from the Ministry of Public Works regarding the allocation of temporary storage sites in various areas.

Additionally, they preserved a proposal by member Nasser Al-Jadaan for the creation of an entrance and exit on Street 9, Block 6, in the Abdullah Al-Mubarak area.

framework to achieve strategic objectives. This includes potential amendments to the organizational structure, general objectives, competencies of organizational units, and executive regulations.

Process Development -- Identify implementation capabilities for operations, including amendments to policies, internal regulations, tables of powers, and work procedures.

Workforce -- Determine the workforce needed to achieve strategic objectives, including estimating the workforce to be employed externally or rotated internally according to the CMA's employment policy.

Job Training and Competency Building -- Identify implementation capabilities for job training and competency building, focusing on areas such as Islamic financial industry, Sharia supervision, regulatory frameworks, financial technologies, anti-money laundering, sustainable development goals, and cybersecurity.

Bravo for

Continued from Page 1

All of these projects can enhance industries, food security and transportation. Today, the Gulf train project is being proposed, starting from Bahrain going towards Qatar. This is in addition to building a bridge linking them, to be the starting point towards other countries.

As a result, there are many benefits of Gulf investment in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, especially the ease of movement of citizens and goods between these countries, as well as their similarity in social culture. Moreover, it is an environment that does not suffer from corruption, as the case with foreign investments, because it has tight control.

Since the establishment of the GCC, economic integration has been one of its primary goals; but member states have delayed implementing the agreements.

But today, with the regional and global developments, it has begun to strive in this field. It is an opportunity for Kuwait to open KIA offices in the capitals of the remaining four countries. It should go to the Gulf, because it is the best environment for safe investments. Perhaps, the opening of the office in Riyadh is the first step of a thousand miles.

Domestic workers

Continued from Page 1

year as domestic worker. After meeting this requirement, the workers in this category will be eligible to transfer to the private sector.

Sources emphasized that transferring a domestic worker's work permit to the private sector is permissible across various domains such as government projects, SMEs (small and medium enterprises), or any other sector, contingent upon approval from the initial sponsor.

In this case the workers are assured full labor rights in the private sector.

Kuwait's Visiting

Continued from Page 1

local healthcare professionals to elevate medical practices and update

Kuwait 'treats' skywatchers to 3 stellar events

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Al-Ujairi Scientific Center announced that Kuwait's skies will showcase three astronomical events in the first week of July, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to a press statement, astronomy enthusiasts could observe with the naked eye the conjunction of the moon with the planet Mars in the early hours of Tuesday above the eastern horizon of Kuwait's sky from moonrise at 12:46 midnight Monday-Tuesday until shortly before sunrise at 4:52 am local time on Tuesday.

On Wednesday morning, another spectacle awaits as the sky will feature the conjunction of Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, with the moon. Residents of Kuwait can witness this event towards the eastern horizon after midnight until just before sunrise.

Looking ahead to next Sunday, Mercury, the smallest planet in our solar system, will reach its closest point to the moon in its waxing crescent phase.

This event can be observed with the naked eye towards the western horizon of the Kuwaiti sky from sunset until around 8:00 pm.

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- يعمل مع الأطراف المعنية الرئيسية، وطايم الهندسة؛ والقادة، والمشرفين. وموظفي المقاولين لضمان الإنتاج الجيد، كما يعمل مع المشرفين لإيجاد طرق لتقليل الإنتاج المؤجل.
- يتأكد من تجهيز كل شيء من المواد والفرق، ومواقع الآبار ويمكنه استخدام أداة تتبع الإنجاز التي تمتلكها دليو جاي أوه بالفعل.
- يتواصل مع فرق الرفق الصناعي لتحسين انتاجية الآبار، وتحسين الإنتاج وتقليل النفط المؤجل.
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World News Roundup

Europe

Orban in Ukraine

Dutch king swears in new government

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, July 2, (AP): The Netherlands has a different prime minister for the first time in 14 years as Dutch King Willem-Alexander swore in the country's new government Tuesday, more than seven months after elections dominated by a far-right, anti-Islam party.

Dick Schoof, former head of the Dutch intelligence agency and counterterrorism office, signed the official royal decree at Huis Ten Bosch Palace, saying he "declared and promised" to uphold his duties as the country's prime minister. The 67-year-old was formally installed alongside 15 other ministers who make up the country's right-leaning coalition.



Wilders

The anti-immigration party of firebrand **Geert Wilders** won the largest share of seats in elections last year but it took 223 days to form a government. The four parties in the coalition are Wilders' Party for Freedom, outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte's center-right People's Party for Freedom and Democracy, the populist Farmer Citizen Movement and the centrist New Social Contract party.

The formal agreement creating the new coalition, titled "Hope, courage and pride," introduces strict measures on asylum-seekers, scraps family reunification for refugees and seeks to reduce the number of international students studying in the country.

Extreme

Opposition from other coalition partners prevented the controversial Wilders from taking the prime minister's job. During the monthlong negotiations, he backpedaled on several of his most extreme views, including withdrawing draft legislation that would have banned mosques, Islamic schools and the Quran.

For the first time since World War II, the Netherlands is now led by a prime minister who is not aligned with a political party. Before serving as chief of the country's top intelligence agency, Schoof was previously the counterterrorism chief and the head of the country's Immigration and Naturalization Service.

During the lengthy talks, his name had not been circulated as a possible prime minister and national newspaper the Telegraaf reported that Schoof was the fifth choice for the top spot. Wilders' first pick, Ronald Plasterk, was forced to withdraw from consideration after allegations of his involvement in a medical patent fraud came to light.

The other government ministers were sworn in Tuesday according to seniority of their departments. One minister, Femke Wiersma who will head the agriculture portfolio, made her declaration in Frisian - the country's second official language alongside Dutch.



Hungary PM in Ukraine: Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán was in Kyiv on Tuesday for talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, his first visit to the country since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

Orbán's press chief confirmed to Hungarian news agency MTI that the prime minister had arrived in the Ukrainian capital in the morning for the talks. Bertalan Havasi said the main topic of the meeting will be the opportunity for building peace as Ukraine fights off Russia's invasion.

Officials in Kyiv did not confirm Orbán's arrival. Orbán's visit was a rare gesture in a relationship that long been marred by tensions. Known as Russian President Vladimir Putin's closest EU ally, Orbán has routinely blocked, delayed or watered down EU efforts to extend assistance to Ukraine and to sanction Moscow over its war, frustrating both Zelenskyy other EU leaders.

He has also accused Kyiv of mistreating an ethnic Hungarian minority in Ukraine's western region of Zakarpattia, a community he has used to justify his refusal to provide weapons to Ukraine or allow their transfer across the two countries' shared border.



Powerful storm sweeps thru Balkans: A powerful storm swept through countries in the western Balkans after several days of sizzling temperatures, damaging houses, pulling out trees and flooding streets, officials said Tuesday.

Heavy rain, hail and strong winds tore through Slovenia on Monday before pushing east to pummel Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia. The storm sent temperatures plummeting in just several hours.

Experts say human-induced climate change has brought wild weather swings, increasingly unpredictable storms and heat waves.

Footage from the region showed rooftops and facades poked with holes from hail, trees falling on cars and roads turning into rivers in Serbia's capital Belgrade and other cities.



Norwegian citizen arrested: A Norwegian citizen has been arrested on suspicion of spying for China, Norway's NTB news agency reported Tuesday, citing the Scandinavian country's domestic security agency.

The person, whose identity wasn't released, was arrested Monday, according to NTB's report, based on information from the security agency, known by its Norwegian acronym PST.

The suspect, who will face a court hearing later Tuesday in Oslo, is suspected of serious intelligence activities involving state secrets, NTB said. PST wasn't immediately available for comment.

The suspect's lawyer, Marius Dietrichson, told the VG newspaper that his client denies being an agent for China.

In its annual threat assessment, the Norwegian domestic security service said that China "will be a significant intelligence threat in 2024."



Belarus court sentences 20 analysts: A court in Belarus has sentenced 20 political analysts to prison terms of at least 10 years each after convicting them in absentia of conspiracy to overthrow the government and taking part in an extremist group.

The analysts all live outside Belarus, but could be imprisoned upon returning to the authoritarian state.

The convictions and sentences announced on Monday come as a relentless crackdown has put many prominent opposition figures in prison and forced others to leave Belarus.

The crackdown began after mass demonstrations gripped the country following the August 2020 election whose disputed results gave a sixth term to President Alexander Lukashenko, who came to power in 1994. Alexander Dabravolski, a top aide to exiled opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, was sentenced to 11 1/2 years on Monday.



Dutch King Willem-Alexander, (center right), Prime Minister Dick Schoof, (center left), ministers and deputy ministers of the new Dutch government pose for a group picture at royal palace Huis ten Bosch in The Hague, Netherlands on July 2. (AP)

Politics

Ex-prez seeks to set aside hush money verdict

Biden slams SC immunity ruling for Trump

WASHINGTON, July 2, (Agencies): US President Joe Biden criticized the Supreme Court's decision on Monday, for granting immunity from prosecution to former president Donald Trump on charges in connection with the attack on US Capitol by his supporters.

"This nation was founded on the principle that there are no kings in America, each of us is equal before the law, no one is above the law, not even the president of United States," said Biden on Thursday from the White House.

He also added that the Supreme Court decision on presidential immunity fundamentally altered those principle, as the decision means that there were virtually "no limits to what a president can do".

Biden considered this new principle dangerous as the presidency's authority would no longer be constrained by law, even by the Supreme Court, as the only limit would be self-imposed by the president alone.

He also remarked that the court's attack in recent years of established legal principles undermined the rule of law in the US.

Supreme Court ruled Trump an immunity from prosecution from charges related to his role as president, however it does not cover his personal charges.

This decision is a significant victory for the Republican candidate who is facing several trials, including charges related to his attempt to overturn 2020 presidential elections.

Former President Trump argued that he should be granted legal immunity to prevent judicial prosecution for action he committed during his run.

Also:

NEW YORK: Former US president Donald Trump's lawyers have asked the New York judge who presided over his hush money trial to set aside his conviction and delay his sentencing, scheduled for next week.

The letter to Judge **Juan M. Merchan** cited the US Supreme Court's

ruling earlier Monday on presidential immunity and asked the judge to delay Trump's sentencing while he weighs the high court's decision and how it could influence the New York case, according to the letter obtained by The Associated Press.

The lawyers argue that the Supreme Court's decision confirmed a position the defense raised earlier in the case that prosecutors should have been precluded from introducing some evidence they said constituted official presidential acts, according to the letter.

In prior court filings, Trump contended he is immune from prosecution for conduct alleged to involve official acts during his tenure in office. His lawyers did not raise that as a defense in the hush money case, but they argued that some evidence - including Trump's social media posts about former lawyer **Michael Cohen** - comes from his time as president and should have been excluded from the trial because of immunity protections.

The **Manhattan** district attorney's office declined to comment Monday night.

The Supreme Court on Monday ruled for the first time that former presidents have broad immunity from prosecution, extending the delay in the **Washington** criminal case against the Republican ex-president on charges he plotted to overturn his 2020 election loss.

Trump was convicted in New York of 34 counts of falsifying business records, arising from what prosecutors said was an attempt to cover up a hush money payment to a porn actor just before the 2016 presidential election. He is scheduled to be sentenced in the hush money case on July 11.

Merchan instituted a policy in the run-up to the trial requiring both sides to send him a one-page letter summarizing their arguments before making longer court filings. He said he did that to better manage the docket, so he was not inundated with voluminous paperwork.

In denying Trump's bid to move the trial from New York state court to

federal court last year, a federal judge found that the allegations at the center of the case pertained to Trump's personal life and do not "reflect in any way the color of the President's official duties."

"The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that the matter was a purely a personal item of the President - a cover-up of an embarrassing event," US District Judge **Alvin K. Hellerstein** wrote in the ruling.



LANSING, Mich.: Michigan Gov **Gretchen Whitmer** on Monday insisted that President **Joe Biden** can still win her state, a key battleground in the 2024 election, even as many national Democrats question whether Biden should move forward after his shaky debate performance.

Whitmer's statement comes as many in her party question whether she could step in for Biden and run against Republican **Donald Trump** this fall. Whitmer and several other top national Democrats have publicly backed Biden since Thursday's debate.

"I am proud to support Joe Biden as our nominee and I am behind him 100 percent in the fight to defeat Donald Trump," she said in her statement. "Not only do I believe Joe can win Michigan, I know he can because he's got the receipts: he's lowered health care costs, brought back manufacturing jobs, and is committed to restoring the reproductive freedom women lost under Donald Trump."

The statement comes after Politico Magazine reported on Monday that Whitmer called Biden campaign chair **Jen O'Malley Dillon** on Friday. It cites "someone close to a potential 2028 Whitmer rival for the Democratic presidential nomination" who said Michigan's governor "had phoned O'Malley Dillon with more of an unambiguous SOS: to relay that Michigan, in the wake of the debate, was no longer winnable for Biden."

An aide to Whitmer, **Helen Hare**, said that the reported comment was false.



In this picture issued by the Hungarian PM's Press Office Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, (right), welcomes Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán in Kyiv, Ukraine on July 2. (AP)



Reynolds



Foy

America

Bicyclist killed in Iowa shooting: Police in Waterloo, Iowa, were responding to a report of a bicyclist with a gun in an incident that ended with two officers wounded and the suspect dead, state investigators said Monday.

Officers were dispatched shortly before 8:30 am Sunday on a report of an armed man wearing all-green clothing who was on a bike. They spotted Kelvin Lee Plain Jr, 35, in Sullivan Park.

Plain fled on the bike and then on foot through the park. Officers fired a Taser at Plain while he was running, knocking him to the ground, the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation said in a statement.

"Plain then fired a handgun at both officers, striking one officer who was still inside his vehicle, and another who was shot while on foot," the statement said. "Both officers returned fire, killing Plain."

The officers were hospitalized in stable condition Monday, and one was expected to be released later in the day, the DCI statement said.

The incident was captured on Waterloo police squad car dashboard video, the DCI said. Iowa governor is **Kim Reynolds**. (AP)



Groom shot in head: A St Louis man remained hospitalized in critical condition Monday after being shot in the head by a masked gunman during his Friday night wedding reception.

Police said two masked gunmen entered the St Louis backyard of the bride, Dulce Gonzalez, early Saturday as guests continued celebrating the couple's small home wedding. KSDK-TV reported Monday.

Her sister, Yaritheth Peña, told the station that two men wearing ski masks ordered guests not to move.

Police told the station that one gunman stood behind the groom, 32-year-old Manuel Gonzalez, as the other rifled through guests' pockets.

Then one of the gunmen shot the groom in the head before they both fled. (AP)



Officers kill 3 coyotes: Wildlife officers shot and killed three coyotes at the San Francisco Botanical Garden over the weekend after a coyote attacked a 5-year-old girl, authorities said Monday.

Two coyotes were shot on Saturday and one was shot on Sunday, said **Patrick Foy**, a spokesperson for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

A coyote bit the 5-year-old on Friday while the girl was playing during a supervised summer camp visit at the garden with

in Golden Gate Park. The girl was treated for the bite wound at a hospital, her mother, Helen Sparrow, told the San Francisco

Chronicle.

Officers were able to retrieve a DNA sample from the girl's wound. Scientists on Monday were attempting to use that sample to identify which coyote attacked her. If none of the samples match, agents may need to trap or kill other coyotes in the park, Foy said. (AP)



New Mexico under flood watch: Weather forecasters warned Monday that much of New Mexico faces two more days of elevated threats of dangerous flooding like the walls of water over the weekend that caused severe damage, forced the rescues of 100 people and left parts of one town recently ravaged by wildfires covered in mud and debris.

The body of one person was recovered from the Rio Grande in Albuquerque on Sunday, but it wasn't immediately clear if the death was flood related, according to Albuquerque Fire Rescue and Bernalillo County Fire Rescue. The death remained under investigation and no other details had been released.

Most of central New Mexico remained under a flood watch into Tuesday, including Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Las Vegas and Ruidoso.

"Very few parts of the state have been immune from the impacts," said Daniel Porter, the senior meteorologist in charge of the National Weather Service office in Albuquerque. (AP)



Police secure the scene where two police officers were wounded and a suspect was killed in an exchange of gunfire on June 30 in Waterloo, Iowa. Police in Waterloo, Iowa, were responding to a report of a bicyclist with a gun in an incident that ended with two officers wounded and the suspect dead, state investigators said on July 1. (AP)

Lat/Am

Maduro eyes talks

Mulino sworn in as Panama's new prez

PANAMA CITY, July 2, (AP): José Raúl Mulino was sworn in Monday as Panama's next president, facing pressure to slow irregular migration through the Darien Gap that connects his country with Colombia.

The 65-year-old former security minister has promised to shut down migration through the jungle-clad and largely lawless border.

More than half a million people traversed the corridor last year and more than 190,000 people have crossed so far in 2024, with most of the migrants hailing from Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia and China.

"I won't allow Panama to be an open path for thousands of people who enter our country illegally, supported by an international organization related to drug trafficking and human trafficking," Mulino said Monday, after he was sworn in. "I understand that there are deep-rooted reasons for migration, but each country has to resolve its problems."

Shortly after Mulino's inauguration, the Panamanian government released a statement saying that US Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas had signed a memorandum of understanding Monday with Panama's Foreign Affairs Minister Javier Martínez Acha in which the US government committed to covering the cost of repatriation of migrants who enter Panama illegally through the Darien.

Last week on a visit to the Darien, Mulino announced he would seek an agreement with the United States government to aid in deporting migrants who crossed into Panama. Mayorkas was among those who attended his inauguration.

The US role would largely be covering the cost of deportation flights. Panama's Foreign Affairs Minister-designate Javier Martínez Acha said Sunday that the US would help cover the costs, but that the amounts were not yet set.

Promised

"As the key issue on his agenda, Mulino has promised to end irregular immigration through the Darien Gap," said Michael Shifter, adjunct professor at Georgetown University. "The new president appears to be supremely committed to this idea."

"However, it won't be easy to carry out this policy, groups and interests can be expected to come out against it," Shifter said. The US government will have to shoulder the costs of deportation, he said.

Panama's active efforts to stop and deport migrants would be a massive shift. Under the outgoing administration, Panama had sought to help migrants cross the country quickly and in an orderly fashion. Migrants emerge from the jungle, register with authorities and are swept across the country to the Costa Rican border.

The presidents of Costa Rica and Colombia also attended the inauguration.

Strengthening enforcement efforts in Panama could potentially reduce the number of migrants reaching the US border, at least for a time until new routes are established. But it could also force migrants to riskier paths and be a boon for smugglers.

Mulino won the election in May in a crowded field with more than 30% of the vote. He replaced former President Ricardo Martinelli as candidate after the former leader was banned from running after being sentenced to 10 years in prison for money laundering.

Maduro plans to resume talks: Venezuela's government plans to resume negotiations with the US government this week, President Nicolás Maduro announced Monday, less than a month before a highly anticipated election in which he and his party are facing their toughest challenge in decades.

Maduro, who is seeking a third term, wants the US government to lift crippling economic sanctions that were imposed over the last decade in an effort to topple him. He characterized the dialogue as "urgent" during his weekly TV show. The Biden administration did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press.

Maduro's government had held parallel talks with the Biden administration and with the US-backed Unitary Platform opposition coalition. But they were suspended as he reneged on promises, including to improve conditions ahead of the election, and his government accused the US of not fulfilling portions of agreements.

Some negotiations with the US happened in Qatar.

'Status plebiscite on ballot': Gov Pedro Pierluisi announced Monday that Puerto Rico's political status will be on the ballot in the general elections this November, and for the first time the island's current status as a US territory will not be an option in the non-binding plebiscite.

Voters on the island of 3.2 million people will choose between statehood, independence, or independence with free association, the terms of which would be negotiated regarding foreign affairs, U.S. citizenship, and the use of the US dollar.

"In this way, we assert our rights as American citizens to demand our self-determination through direct voting without intermediaries and to require the federal government to address the grievance represented by our colonial status," Pierluisi said.

The governor, leader of the pro-statehood New Progressive Party, will activate a 2020 law that allows the current governor to call for a status referendum.

Bolivia summons Argentine envoy: The Bolivian government on Monday summoned the Argentine ambassador to address the country's claim that the attempted military coup that rattled Bolivia last week was a hoax.

Bolivia's official reprimand of its neighbor adds to the fallout from the purported foiled mutiny last Wednesday that has left the country of 12 million shocked and bewildered. Bolivian President Luis Arce faces a wave of criticism at home and abroad from those claiming he engineered the coup to make himself look like a hero - an accusation first made by General Juan Jose Zúñiga before his sacking and arrest on charges of leading the armed uprising.

A string of Bolivian opposition figures have united in calling the coup a stunt, with Arce's main political rival and one-time mentor, former leftist President Evo Morales, echoing the accusation late Sunday without providing evidence. Arce has vigorously denied the allegations.



This photo taken on July 1, 2024 shows the site of a traffic accident in Seoul, South Korea. A driver whose car struck pedestrians waiting at a crowded intersection in South Korea's capital, killing nine people, will be investigated on allegations of accidental homicide, police said on July 2. (Xinhua)

Driver whose car struck pedestrians in SKorea to face accidental homicide probe

A driver whose car struck pedestrians waiting at a crowded intersection in South Korea's capital, killing nine people, will be investigated on allegations of accidental homicide, police said Tuesday.

The car hit several people Monday night in central Seoul, after reportedly going in the wrong direction and colliding with two other cars. Six other people

were injured, including the driver who was detained.

The driver told investigators that his car accelerated abruptly and unintentionally. Police said his car would be sent to the country's forensic agency for an examination.

Police said Tuesday that tests showed the driver wasn't under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

They'll consider seeking a formal arrest warrant to extend his detention if it's needed for an investigation. Police refused to disclose the identity of the driver, citing privacy regulations, but South Korean media reported he was a bus driver in his late 60s from Ansan, a city just south of Seoul, who has 40 years of driving experience. (AP)



Mulino



Floods swamp a residential area following a heavy rainfall in Nagaon district of India's northeastern state of Assam on July 1. (Xinhua)



Khan



Sharif

Subcontinent

9 terrorists killed in Pakistan: Pakistani security forces killed nine terrorists in two separate operations in the country's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, the military said on Monday.

The security forces conducted intelligence-based operations in Khyber and Lakki Marwat districts of KP, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistan Army, said in a statement.

During the first operation, seven terrorists, including two terrorist commanders, were killed in Tirah area of Khyber district, according to the ISPR statement.

The ISPR said that weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered during the operation, adding that the killed terrorists had remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities and were wanted by the security forces.

In a separate operation in Lakki Marwat district, security forces killed two terrorists. Sanitation operations are being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

The military said the security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the South Asian country. (Xinhua)

'Release Pak ex-PM Khan': United Nations human rights working group on Monday called for the immediate release of Pakistan's imprisoned former prime minister Imran Khan, saying he had been detained "arbitrarily in violation of international laws."

The Geneva-based United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention made this demand after examining Khan's case in which he was sentenced last year on charges of corruption.

Khan has been facing multiple prison sentences since 2022 when he was ousted through a vote of no-confidence in the parliament. There was no immediate comment from the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who replaced Khan after his ouster.

Khan has been held in prison since August 2023 when a court awarded him a three-year prison sentence after finding him guilty of hiding assets after selling state gifts. It led to a ban on Khan from taking part in politics and contesting the Feb. 8 elections, which his party says were rigged.

The Election Commission of Pakistan, which oversaw the vote, has denied the vote-rigging allegations.

Despite his conviction in multiple cases, Khan remains the leading opposition figure. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party,

Asia

North Korea brags of new ballistic missile

China and Philippines hold crucial talks

MANILA, Philippines, July 2, (AP): China and the Philippines held a crucial meeting Tuesday to try to ease escalating tensions following their worst confrontation in the disputed South China Sea that sparked fears of a wider conflict that could involve Manila's ally the United States.

There was no mention of any major agreement to try to prevent a repeat of the chaotic June 17 clash at Second Thomas Shoal that caused injuries to Filipino navy personnel and damaged two military boats.

The shoal off the northwestern Philippines has emerged as the most dangerous flashpoint in the disputed waters, which China claims virtually in its entirety. Chinese naval and civilian vessels have surrounded the Philippine marines aboard a grounded ship, tried to prevent their resupply and demanded the Philippines pull out.

The Chinese and Philippine delegations "affirmed their commitment to de-escalate tensions without prejudice to their respective positions," the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said in a statement late Tuesday. "There was substantial progress on developing measures to manage the situation at sea, but significant differences remain."

Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Theresa Lazaro told her Chinese counterpart, Vice Foreign Minister Chen Xiaodong, "that the Philippines will be relentless in protecting its interests and upholding its sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction" in the South China Sea, according to the Philippine side.

An agreement was signed to improve communications during emergencies at sea and both sides agreed to continue talks on enhancing ties between their coast guards but no details were provided. There was also another confidence-building plan to convene an academic forum among scientists and academics to improve marine scientific cooperation.

Ahead of the meeting, the Philippines planned to formally ask China's delegation to return at least seven rifles that Chinese coast guard personnel seized during the June 17 faceoff at the shoal and pay for damage, a Philippine official told The Associated Press on

Australia police arrest 14-year-old boy suspected of stabbing student

MELBOURNE, Australia, July 2, (AP): A 14-year-old boy dressed in military clothing was arrested after police alleged he stabbed a 22-year-old student in the neck Tuesday at the University of Sydney.

The student was taken to hospital in a stable condition. The suspect was treated in hospital for cuts and was kept for a mental health assessment, said Mark Walton, acting assistant commissioner for the New South Wales Police.

"A motive or ideology importantly has not been determined at this time," Walton told reporters. The New South Wales Joint Counterterrorism Committee was investigating the matter, but there was no ongoing threat to the community, Walton said.

"The ideology that may be related to this young person's activity is unknown, but I would say it's likely to be categorized as mixed and unclear ideology. It's certainly not a religiously related ideology," Walton

added.

Walton said the boy had worn a "camouflage defense force uniform" and left a kitchen knife at the scene.

The boy caught a bus from the university to a nearby hospital for treatment before he was arrested, police said.

Activists get sentences: Ten members of a Cambodian environmental activist group that campaigned against destructive infrastructure projects and alleged corruption were each sentenced on Tuesday to six years in prison on charges of conspiring against the state.

Three of the members of the group Mother Nature Cambodia were also convicted of insulting Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni, for which they were sentenced to an additional two years in prison, giving them a total of eight years behind bars.

condition of anonymity for lack of authority to discuss the sensitive matter publicly.

The Asian neighbors agreed to hold what they call the Bicameral Consultative Mechanism meetings, first held in 2017, to peacefully manage their conflicts. But the high-sea confrontations have persisted especially under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who, unlike his predecessor, has nurtured closer military and defense ties with the United States as a counterweight to China.

Also:

SEOUL, South Korea: North Korea said Tuesday it had test-fired a new tactical ballistic missile capable of carrying "a super-large warhead," a claim quickly disputed by South Korean officials and experts who speculate the North likely fabricated a successful test to conceal a botched launch.

It's the second time that South

Korea has questioned North Korea's claim on the development of new weapons in recent days, as the rivals are locked in heightened animosities over the North's testing activities.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said that Monday's test involved the Hwasongpho-11 Da-4.5 missile, which can carry a 4.5-ton-class warhead. It said the test was meant to verify the weapon's flight stability and hit accuracy at the maximum range of 500 kilometers (310 miles) and the minimum range of 90 kilometers (55 miles).

The test apparently refers to the two ballistic missile launches that South Korea said North Korea performed Monday.

Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesperson Lee Sung Joon said at a briefing later Tuesday that the second North Korean missile was found to have fallen on an uninhabited area near Pyongyang, the North's capital.

or PTI, which has a strong presence in the parliament, hailed the demand of the UN group, which said Khan's detention in the graft case "had no legal basis and appears to have been intended to disqualify him from running for office. It said "Khan was detained for exercising his right to freedom of

expression or opinion" and that he was also denied a "fair trial and due process rights." The UN working group demanded Khan's immediate release, saying it was an "appropriate remedy." (AP)



New Panamanian President Jose Raul Mulino sings the national anthem at his swearing-in ceremony at the Atlapa Convention Centre in Panama City on July 1. Mulino faces pressure to slow irregular migration through the Darien Gap that connects his country with Colombia. (AP)

India floods, landslides kill 16: Floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains have killed at least 16 people over the last two weeks in India's northeast, where more than 300,000 have been displaced from their submerged homes, authorities said on Tuesday.

The Indian army and air force have been assisting with rescue efforts in Assam, one of the worst-hit states, where a military helicopter flew early Tuesday morning 13 fishermen to safety after being stranded for four days on a small island on the Brahmaputra, one of Asia's largest rivers, officials said.

The Brahmaputra River, which flows 1,280 kilometers (800 miles) across Assam state before running through Bangladesh, overflows annually. However, this year, increased rainfall has made the river - already known for its powerful, unpredictable flow - even more dangerous to live near or on one of the more than 2,000 island villages in the middle of it.

In neighboring Arunachal Pradesh state, which borders China, landslides have wiped out several roads. Army troopers there rescued 70 students and teachers from a flooded school in Changlang district, police said. Similarly, heavy flooding in the states of Sikkim, Manipur and Meghalaya swept away roads and collapsed bridges.

So far, more than 80 people across six northeastern states have died since the end of May due to floods and mudslides brought on by the rains, according to official figures. (AP)

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
DUBAI - DFMGI	+6.21	4,063.25	SAUDI - TASI	-52.44	11,606.09
JAPAN - Nikkei 225	+443.63	40,074.69	PHILIPPINES - PSEI	-39.81	6,358.96
EGYPT - EGX 30	+16.30	27,985.89			
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+653.68	79,544.25			

Business

Program enhances skills in real estate valuation and governance

Kuwait Finance House concludes certified real estate appraiser program

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Kuwait Finance House (KFH), in collaboration with Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST), successfully concluded the first-of-its-kind Certified Real Estate Appraiser Program designed for KFH employees.

Led by a team of specialists, the program offers the latest technical and professional methods in real estate, with accreditation from local and international authorities. This comprehensive program, designed to benefit both real estate agencies and individuals interested in the sector, aligns with KFH's commitment to social responsibility, particularly in the area of real estate valuation.

KFH Group Chief Human Resources and Transformation Officer, Zeyad Abdullah AlOmar said that the one-of-a-kind Certified Real Estate Appraiser Program stands out for its ability to meet the demands of both the job market and the real estate valuation sector. It is a comprehensive course of study that could even be considered a major in itself, forming a strong foundation within university curriculums.

He added that "The program is crafted by KFH's team of professional real estate appraisers alongside professors from GUST. This collabora-

tion brings immense value by combining KFH's practical experience with GUST's academic expertise."

He noted that the program which emphasizes KFH leadership in the real estate market, consists of modules including real estate appraisal requirements, trainees' skills enhancement, development of the real estate market and related activities, as well as other factors and updates such as the multiple types of properties, jurisdictions of competent authorities, real estate transactions follow-up and the diversity of related legislations and decisions. The program also caters to those outside the real estate industry.

AlOmar commended the contributions of KFH real estate experts and GUST professors in designing and delivering the program. He highlighted that the program enriched participants with valuable information and experiences.

Meanwhile, KFH Group Chief Operations Officer, Abdulla Abu Alhous explained that the Certified Real Estate Appraiser program showcases KFH's leadership in the real estate market and aligns with its commitment to social and national responsibility. The program equips participants with the knowledge and skills



Zeyad Abdullah AlOmar



Abdulla Abu Alhous

AlOmar:

■ This one-of-a-kind program is in line with demands of current job market and real estate sector

Abu Alhous:

■ The program emphasizes KFH's leadership in the real estate market

to uphold the highest standards of professional practice, as outlined by regulatory bodies, ultimately contributing to improved business governance and performance.

He added that the program is the result of the integrated efforts by KFH's Human Resources and Real Estate Valuation department in collaboration with GUST. He also em-

phasized that the real estate market requires this type of programs due to their scarcity on the one hand, and the significant demand for real estate appraisal services by government bodies, banks, private sector institutions and individuals on the other.

"KFH continues its efforts by launching programs and utilizing KFH's expertise as well as the academic capabilities of GUST, which enhance the real estate appraisers and stakeholders such as bank employees and customers," Abu Alhous said.

Stressing the importance of collaboration, he noted that KFH has strengthened its efforts with government bodies like the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Central Bank of Kuwait to ensure optimal program implementation. He further emphasized that professionally conducted real estate appraisals generally contribute to a smoother flow of real estate financing operations in Kuwait.

Abu Alhous explained that the Real Estate Appraiser Program has been prepared according to international approaches, combining both local and world-class assessment criteria. He pointed out that the program is divided into three levels as follows:

Level One – The Certified Ap-

praiser: this level focuses on laws and regulations governing the residential sector in Kuwait. It also covers the Real Estate Appraisal standards (nos. 101, 102 and 103) along with the Real Estate Profession code of conduct and charter.

Level Two – Senior Certified Appraiser: At this level, trainees are introduced to the valuation of investment real estate, residential complexes, international valuation standards and various appraisal methods.

Level Three: Advanced Certified Appraiser: This advanced level teaches trainees the means for evaluating commercial and industrial real estate, as well as B.O.T projects.

Abu Alhous emphasized KFH's commitment to developing real estate appraisal mechanisms. "This is crucial for protecting the rights and assets of institutions, companies, banks, and interested clients. It also helps mitigate risks associated with real estate financing. By ensuring governance in real estate agencies with unified and transparent methods and standards, conflicts of interest can be avoided. This ultimately fosters growth and stability for real estate holdings, which are vital for both customer transactions and the national economy," he added.

Gulf markets show varied performance

Boursa Kuwait declines in June across major indices

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: In June 2024, the Kuwait Stock Exchange experienced a downturn across various indices, reflecting a broader decline impacting most sectors, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Premier Market Index saw the steepest monthly decrease of 1.8%, influenced by negative performance trends among its constituent stocks. Meanwhile, the Main Market Index and the Main Market Index 50 registered relatively smaller declines of 0.8% and 0.5%, respectively. The General Market Index also retreated by 1.6% during the month.

For the first half of 2024, the Main Market Index showed stronger performance with gains of 6.2%, outpacing the Main Market Index 50 and the General Market Index, which grew at rates of 5.0% and 1.8%, respectively.

The Premier Market Index, however, recorded more modest gains of 0.9%. Trading activity decreased notably in June, partly due to the Eid al-Adha holiday period. The total volume of shares traded plummeted by 47.7% to 3.2 billion shares, down from 6.1 billion shares in May 2024. Similarly, the value of traded shares fell by 34.9% on a monthly basis to 838.5 million dinars, compared to 1.3 billion dinars in the previ-

ous month.

In June 2024, the Gulf stock markets showed a varied performance after three consecutive months of decline, with the Morgan Stanley Gulf Index notably rebounding by 3.4%. This upturn was primarily driven by strong gains in Qatar and Abu Dhabi, supported by modest growth in Saudi Arabia and Dubai, which saw single-digit increases.

Qatar's recovery, with a 7.0% monthly gain, marked a turnaround after significant losses in previous months, though it still recorded an 8.0% loss year-to-date, making it one of the worst-performing markets in the Gulf.

Conversely, Oman, Kuwait, and Bahrain experienced declines in their market performances for the month. Overall, the MSCI GCC Index decreased by 5.1% in the first half of 2024, reflecting a mixed outcome across individual exchanges with some achieving modest single-digit gains.

Global market trends, influenced by mixed signals on inflation and expectations of potential interest rate cuts in the United States, mirrored the diverse performance observed in the Gulf region's stock exchanges during the period.

OPEC stresses importance of oil and gas in renewable expansion

'Critical minerals alone cannot sustain renewables and EVs'

Plans digital transformation

Google Cloud finalizes plan to establish office in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The Google Cloud has finalized all necessary procedures and obtained commercial and legal licenses to establish its office in Kuwait within the next two months, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Operating under the provisions of Law No. 116 of 2013, which promotes foreign investment and its executive regulations, Google Cloud will operate directly with the Kuwaiti government without intermediaries.

The company has selected its operational team tasked with managing the Kuwait office and executing contracts valued at over one billion dollars with the Kuwaiti government. These contracts are aimed at advancing digital and technological transformations across government entities throughout the country.

This development coincides with Google Cloud's announcement of a strategic partnership with the Kuwaiti government to chart a comprehensive digital transformation roadmap for

government agencies and major state-owned enterprises.

This collaboration will leverage Google Cloud's advanced technology, expertise in data management, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence to support Kuwait's national priority of digital transformation in the coming years.

Under this alliance, Google Cloud will assist Kuwait in digitizing citizen services, enhancing government employee productivity, and implementing digital initiatives in critical sectors such as healthcare, education, disaster recovery, and smart city infrastructure.

In May 2023, Google had previously established its Kuwaiti entity, "Google Cloud Services Company," operating under the one-person company framework with a capital of 600 thousand dinars, fully owned by Google Europe, Middle East, and Africa Unlimited, in accordance with Kuwait's laws promoting direct foreign investment.

KUWAIT CITY, July 2, (KUNA): OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais described Monday the claims that critical minerals could deliver the world a future of only renewables and electronic vehicles EVs as unrealistic.

"Those that talk of critical minerals delivering the world a future of only renewables and EVs, are not providing a full picture," Al Ghais wrote on the OPEC website.

He agreed that sustainable energy pathways are vital for populations all over the world.

"With this in mind, we need to appreciate the real-world impacts of scenarios and policies aimed at ramping up renewables and electric vehicles (EVs). There are many elements that filter into this, a central one being the role played by critical minerals," he said.

"These minerals, such as copper, cobalt, silicon, nickel, lithium, graphite and rare earths underpin the development of renewables and EVs. The International Energy Agency (IEA) says that in its Net Zero Emissions (NZE) by 2050 Scenario, demand for critical minerals quadruples by 2040. It is a pace never seen before in history.

The purpose of highlighting this should in no way detract from the importance that OPEC attaches to the role of renewables and electrification in our energy future. OPEC Member Countries are investing heavily in renewables, in all stages of their supply chains, and participating in the development of EVs.

Carefully

"However, we do need to carefully consider the nature of such an expansion of critical mineral requirements. Is this kind of expansion truly feasible? What are the implications? How sustainable is it? And how important is oil and gas to the expansion of critical minerals, as well as renewables, EVs and grids," Al Ghais clarified.

In the mentioned IEA scenario, by 2040, copper demand rises by 50 percent, rare earths demand almost doubles, cobalt demand more than doubles, and nickel demand is close to tripling.

These are nowhere near the large increases either. Graphite demand grows almost four times, and lithium sees a nearly ninefold expansion by 2040, underlining its crucial role in batteries.

He noted that this will require the construction of a huge number of new mines. Back in 2022, the IEA said that by 2030 alone, the world would need to build 50 new lithium mines, 60 new nickel mines and 17 cobalt mines.

Al Ghais went on to say that it should be borne in mind that, historically, critical supply chain projects, such as for these types of commodities, have had long development lead times, from discovery to first production. It begs the question: is such growth realistic? And what might the impact be if growth comes up short, and equally importantly, what if policymakers have also followed a path of no longer investing in new oil and gas projects?

"The development of critical min-

erals involves invasive extraction and processing activities, underscoring the physical harshness of an electrified world. EVs, wind turbines, solar panels, as well as new grids, are all hungry for critical minerals. This is starkly highlighted when making comparisons.

"An EV contains approximately 200 kg of minerals. For contrast, a conventional car uses around 34 kg. One megawatt of electricity produced by an offshore wind turbine requires around 15 tons of minerals, while the figure for solar is around seven tons. For natural gas, it is just over 1 ton," he wrote.

Critical

He added that critical mineral mining is also an extremely energy intensive activity, and one that today runs on hydrocarbons. It could not function otherwise.

The use of coal and gas is vital in refining the minerals through various thermal and chemical processes. For instance, blending, to aid the removal of other metals, and in heating to high temperatures to produce more pure forms. Petroleum-based products are also used for excavators, bulldozers, dump trucks on site, as well as various forms of transportation to move minerals from supply to demand centres.

Here, it is also important to recall an earlier Secretary General's Corner [COP28 on the horizon: focusing on a holistic approach to the energy system] that highlighted how the production of turbines, solar panels and EVs cannot be achieved without vital petroleum end-use products. The oil industry, renewables and EVs are not separate from each other. They do not work in silos.

Another key point is energy consumption. Mining activities could see more than a five-fold increase by mid-century, and one of the largest sources of new mineral demand, particularly for copper, is expected to come from the need for new electricity grid infrastructure, such as power lines and transformers. In a net-zero world highlighted by BloombergNEF (BNEF), the electricity grid would need to stretch to the sun - a distance of around 152 million kms.

It is realistic to think renewables can meet the expected electricity expansion alone, particularly given the world has invested over USD 9.5 trillion in "transitioning" over the past two decades, yet wind and solar still only supply just under 4 percent of the world's energy, and EVs have a total global penetration rate of between 2 percent and 3 percent.

Scenario

Looking ahead, BNEF, in its recent New Energy Outlook report, states that its net-zero scenario would cost USD 250 trillion by 2050.

Policymakers are waking up to the mineral-intensity requirements of initial net-zero scenarios, and questions are being raised as to how easy it is to continually ramp up critical mineral production, exemplified by the fact that the percentage global investment increase in 2023, was at a lower level than in 2022.

"As OPEC continues to advocate, there are many future energy pathways for nations and peoples across the world, and we all need to be realistic about how these can be achieved," he concluded.

Luxury and performance meet eco-friendliness with SKYWELL ET5

KAICO (Al Shaya & Al Sagar) launches SKYWELL's fully electric car in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Kuwait Automotive Imports Co. (Al Shaya & Al Sagar), is thrilled to introduce SKYWELL ET5, a revolutionary electric SUV, to the Kuwaiti market.

KAICO joins the global shift towards electric cars, becoming SKYWELL's official distributor in Kuwait. This partnership reflects KAICO's commitment to sustainability and brings eco-friendly driving options to Kuwaiti drivers.

Introducing SKYWELL ET5: A Powerful and Luxurious Electric SUV

SKYWELL ET5 revolutionizes electric mobility with its mid-size electric SUV boasting a striking design. Fueled by a 72kWh battery, ET5 covers up to 520 kilometers on a single charge, positioning it as one of the most competitive electric SUVs on the market. Its ability to travel such distances on one charge makes it ideal for navigating both the streets of Kuwait and beyond.

Immerse Yourself in Unparalleled Comfort and Technology

ET5 boasts a luxurious interior with five premium leather seats, ensuring ultimate comfort with heated and ventilated options for both the driver and passenger. A 12.8-inch touchscreen provides a user-friendly driving experience. Additionally, the panoramic sunroof and 128 LED ambient lights contribute to the ambiance, enhancing convenience.

Safety You Can Trust

KAICO (Al Shaya & Al Sagar) prioritizes your safety. The ET5 comes equipped with a suite of advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS), including autonomous emergency braking, an Autopilot System, forward collision warning, a Blind Spot Monitoring System, a Lane Departure Warning System



Revolutionary SKYWELL ET5 electric SUV launches in Kuwait.

(LDWS), and automatic parking, allowing you to drive with confidence, knowing that your safety is being actively monitored and supported.

Innovation Beyond Performance

SKYWELL offers more than just high performance and luxury; it also incorporates innovative technologies such as a self-cooling system, addressing range and charging concerns to ensure optimal performance. Furthermore, the ET5 utilizes a cutting-edge solid-state battery known for its exceptional energy capacity and safety, surpassing conventional lithium-ion batteries.

Tailored for Entertainment:

The ET5 caters to your lifestyle with unique features like the "Healthy Backrest" mode, where the front seats offer a sleep and relaxation mode (patented).

With a single touch, the seat tilts and raises a footrest for relaxation. It also includes a "Breathing Mode" that provides changes in the color and brightness of interior lighting. Additionally, it features a 99% air purification system to maintain a healthy and pleasant atmosphere inside the car.

Mr. Ahmad Haidar, Business Manager/Skywell in Kuwait, expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "At Kaico, we eagerly anticipate the future with introducing SKYWELL ET5 to the Kuwaiti market. This electric SUV offers unique elegance, unparalleled performance, and an exceptional driving experience, all while boasting zero emissions, zero noise, and absolute eco-friendliness."

Mr. Ashish Tandon, General Manager of Kuwait Automotive Import Co.,

expressed his pride in leading Kuwait's electric vehicle revolution with SKYWELL ET5. He emphasized that SKYWELL ET5 represents a significant step forward in sustainable transportation, offering our customers a blend of style, performance, and eco-friendliness that is unmatched in the market.

About SKYWELL:

It's worth mentioning that "SKYWELL New Energy Automobile Group" is one of China's leading companies in the energy vehicle sector. It has a complete range of production qualifications for commercial vehicles and passenger cars and operates in 44 countries worldwide.

For inquiries, don't hesitate to get in touch with 22262202.

Slovenian automaker revives through green transition

TAM, a leading bus and commercial vehicle producer in Slovenia, is experiencing a significant revival after its acquisition by China. From bankruptcy following years of decline, the company is once again thriving on the European market.

In Slovenia's second largest city, Maribor, a fleet of huge trailers on Friday carried TAM's latest range of produc-

tions from the company's manufacturing facility to European customers.

Its latest products are almost unrecognizable from the first petrol-powered vehicles that rolled off the line at the company's inception nearly 80 years ago. Following the company's acquisition by a Chinese firm, TAM now plays an important role in the European electric bus production.

One of the company's latest clients is Paris Charles de Gaulle international airport. The 24 buses ordered by the French company from TAM will be put into service during the Olympic Games that begin on July 26 in order to ensure efficient airport operations during the Olympics and support the transportation needs of athletes and associated personnel. (Xinhua)

CPEC spurs economic transformation, unity in Pakistan

Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan Yousuf Raza Gilani said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a transformative journey for Pakistan that catalyzed investment, technology transfer, knowledge sharing, and skill development with a cumulative investment of billions of dollars from China.

Speaking at the launching event of the Annual Sustainability Report 2023, jointly or-

ganized by an Islamabad-based think-tank Sustainable Development Policy Institute, and the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan (CCCCP), here on Friday, Gilani said that CPEC created wealth and generated over 200,000 direct jobs in Pakistan.

CPEC is a non-partisan agenda in Pakistan, as all political parties stand united with the government in its support, he said.

"This collaboration reflects our

collective commitment to ensuring the project's success and harnessing its potential for the benefit of the entire nation," the chairman added.

He also suggested using the Chinese currency yuan instead of the U.S. dollar in financial transactions, saying it can help diversify financial pressures on the current account and thus benefit Pakistan's economy. (Xinhua)

S&P GCC Composite Index up 2.5% in June

Markaz: Most GCC markets positive in June amid oil price gains

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" released its Monthly Market Review report for June 2024. Kuwait's equity index declined for the month but remains positive on a year-to-date basis. GCC markets were mostly positive, supported by a rise in oil prices. U.S equities were positive for the month amid signs of easing inflation, even as U.S Fed kept rates unchanged during the month.

Kuwait equity markets declined for the month despite recent positive economic data. Kuwait's PMI for May rose to 52.4, up from 51.1 in April, driven by improved business confidence and expansion in new orders. The month recorded the strongest production growth in last 4 years.

The Banking index declined by 1.7% during the month with Warba Bank and Kuwait Finance House (KFH) declining the most by 4.9% and 3.4% respectively. While there were reports of KFH considering investing in Saudi Investment Bank, the bank has clarified stating that while it is studying opportunities to expand into Saudi Arabia, it is yet to zero in on one bank. Among Premier market stocks, Gulf Cables and Electrical Industries Group gained 15.3% and Alimtiqaz Investment Group Co declined by 13.3%. Following the completion of its IPO, Bayout Investment Group started trading in Boursa Kuwait as a premier market stock during the month. The stock ended the month in negative, down by 0.4%.

Kuwait's real GDP contracted by 4.35% y/y in Q4 2023, on the back of a 6.4% y/y fall in real oil GDP amid lower oil production. The non-oil real GDP had declined by 2.3% over the same period. S&P has affirmed Kuwait's sovereign rating at A+ with a stable outlook in June citing strong fiscal buffers. According to the agency, Kuwait's GDP had declined by 1.8% y/y in 2023 and is expected further contract by 2.3% in 2024, on account of decline in oil production. Kuwait's banking sector deposits had reached record high of KD 63.9 billion as of Q1 2024.

Most of the GCC stock market indices were positive during the month supported by the rise in oil price and gains in blue chips. The S&P GCC composite index registered a gain of 2.5% for the month. Foreign capital inflows in the GCC equity markets increased to USD 616.7 million in May, led by growth in UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Saudi equity index gained 1.5% during the month, supported by gains in banking stocks. Saudi National Bank and Al Rajhi bank gained by 7.1% and 5.1% respectively. Fitch expects Saudi Islamic banks' performance to be strong in 2024 and 2025 amid positive non-oil economic growth and favourable operating conditions.

Saudi Aramco's share price fell by 3.8% during the month following its stake sale amounting to USD 11.2 billion, in which the shares were priced at SAR 27.25. Notably, over half of this has been bought by foreign investors. The Dubai equity index gained 1.3% during the month, supported by gains in blue chips. Emaar Properties gained 7.0% for the month, supported by its planned USD 408 million expansion of Dubai Mall. EmiratesNBD gained 6.1% for the month. The bank has partnered with players such as Citi and CARs24 during the month, expanding banking services and channels.

The Abu Dhabi equity index gained 2.2% in June. First Abu Dhabi bank gained 7.4% for the month. Aldar Properties gained 13.8% for the month. The company announced the launch of a wellness-focused apartment community during the month. Qatar equity index increased by 7.0% during the month supported by strong non-oil economic activity and stable natural gas prices. The country's real estate sector has also been performing well over the past couple of months. The number and value of transactions index increased by 60% and 55% respectively in May 2024, compared to April 2024.

Saudi Arabia's non-oil business activity expanded at a slower pace in May, with growth in new orders falling to a 25-month low. Central Bank of UAE expects UAE's economy to grow by 3.9% in 2024 and by 6.2% in 2025, amid strong foreign trade performance and ongoing recovery in multiple sectors.

Global and U.S. markets ended the month in green, supported by rally in tech stocks and signs of easing inflations. U.S Personal Consumption Expenditure, while recording a 2.6% y/y gain in May, had remained unchanged on a monthly basis. S&P 500 ended June with monthly gain of 3.5% while the technology-heavy Nasdaq index rose 5.9% in June with chipmaker NVIDIA continuing to post gains.

The indices had hit record highs during the month. The Federal Reserve continued to maintain interest rates in the range of 5.25%- 5.5% during the June FOMC meeting. While acknowledging the modest progress in inflation in recent months, the Fed Chair has stated that rate reductions would not be appropriate until the Fed gains greater confidence on continued easing of price pressures.

Biden administration proposes rule for workplaces to address 'excessive' heat

Farmworkers, delivery and construction workers eyed

WASHINGTON, July 2, (AP): The Biden administration proposed a new rule Tuesday to address excessive heat in the workplace, as tens of millions of people in the U.S. are under heat advisories due to blistering temperatures.

If finalized, the measure would protect an estimated 36 million U.S. workers from injuries related to heat exposure on the job - establishing the first major federal safety standard of its kind. Those affected by excessive heat in the workplace include farmworkers, delivery and construction workers, landscapers as well as indoor workers in warehouses, factories and kitchens.

President Joe Biden planned to highlight the rule on Tuesday when he gets a briefing on extreme weather and delivers remarks.

Despite increased awareness of the risks posed to human health by high temperatures, extreme heat protections - for those routinely exposed to heat index readings above 80 degrees Fahrenheit (27 degrees Celsius) - have lagged.

Under the proposed rule, employers would be required to identify heat hazards, develop emergency response plans related to heat illness, and provide training to employees and supervisors on the signs and symptoms of such illnesses. They would also have to establish rest breaks, provide shade and water, and heat acclimatization - or the building of tolerance to higher temperatures - for new workers.

Penalties for heat-related violations in workplaces would increase significantly, in line with what workplaces are issued for violations of Occupational Safety and Health Administration rules, a senior White House administration official said.

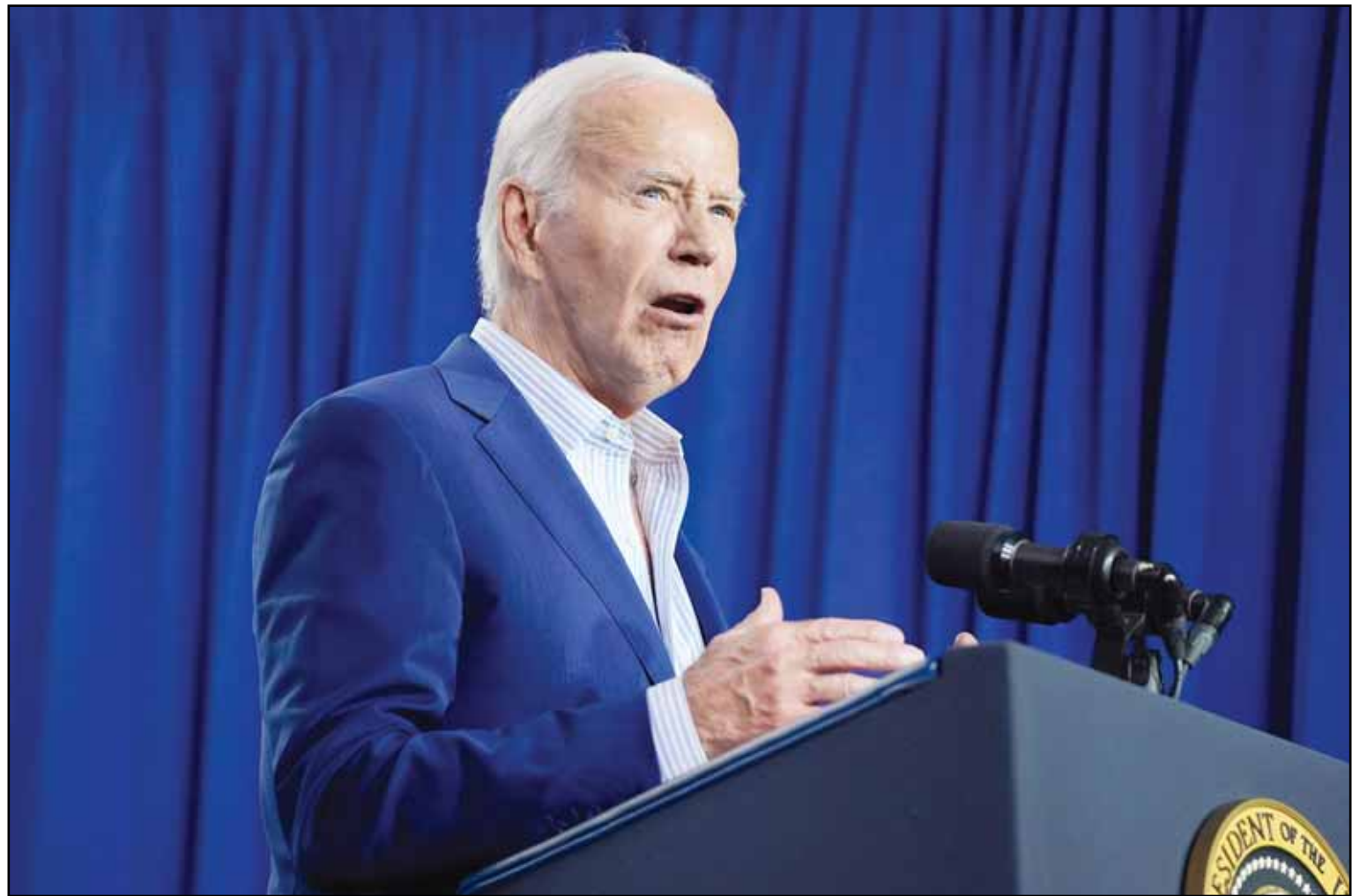
An estimated 2,300 people in the U.S. died from heat-related illness in 2023. Workers with prolonged exposure to extreme heat are among the most vulnerable to related health risks, such as heatstroke and other illnesses, according to the Centers for Disease Control and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

As the hottest month of the year gets underway, millions of Americans will be at greater risk of heat strokes, dangerous dehydration and heat-related heart stress.

The Labor Department has been developing a standard for how workplaces deal with heat since 2021, with OSHA having held meetings last year to hear about how the proposed measures could affect small businesses.

Heat protection laws in the U.S. have faced steady industry opposition, including from chambers of commerce and other business associations. Many say a blanket mandate would be difficult to implement across such a wide range of industries.

California, Colorado, Oregon, Minnesota and Washington are the only states with workplace standards



US President Joe Biden speaks, June 28, 2024, in New York. Biden is scheduled to receive an operational briefing at the D.C. Emergency Operations Center and deliver remarks on extreme weather on Tuesday, July 2. (AP)

UN adopts a Chinese resolution with US nod on closing the gap in access to artificial intel

UNITED NATIONS, July 2, (AP): The United Nations General Assembly adopted a Chinese-sponsored resolution with U.S. support urging wealthy developed nations to close the widening gap with poorer developing countries and ensure that they have equal opportunities to use and benefit from artificial intelligence.

The resolution approved Monday follows the March 21 adoption of the first U.N. resolution on artificial intelligence spearheaded by the United States and co-sponsored by 123 countries including China. It gave global support to the international effort to ensure that AI is "safe, secure and trustworthy" and that all nations can take advantage of it.

Adoption of the two non-binding resolutions shows that the United States and China, rivals in many areas, are both determined to be key players in shaping the future of this powerful new technology - and have been cooperating on these first important international steps.

The adoption of both resolutions by consensus by the 193-member General Assembly shows widespread global support for their leadership on the issue.

China's U.N. Ambassador Fu

Cong told reporters Monday that the two resolutions are complementary, with the U.S. measure being "more general" and the just-adopted one focusing on "capacity building."

He called the Chinese resolution, which had over 140 sponsors, "great and far-reaching," and said, "We're very appreciative of the positive role that the U.S. has played in this whole process."

Fu said AI technology is advancing extremely fast and the issue has been discussed at very senior levels, including by the U.S. and Chinese leaders.

"We do look forward to intensifying our cooperation with the United States and for that matter with all countries in the world on this issue, which... will have far-reaching implications in all dimensions," he said.

The Chinese ambassador, however, strongly criticized the U.S. Treasury Department's proposed rule, announced on June 21, that would restrict and monitor U.S. investments in China for artificial intelligence, computer chips and quantum computing.

"We are firmly opposed to these sanctions," Fu said. China doesn't believe the rule will be "helpful to

the healthy development of the AI technology per se, and will, by extension, divide the world in terms of the standards, and in terms of the rules governing AI." He called on the U.S. to lift the sanctions.

The Chinese resolution calls on the international community "to provide and promote a fair, open, inclusive and non-discriminatory business environment," from AI's design and development to its use. Fu said China doesn't think the U.S. actions foster an inclusive business environment.

Both the U.S. and Chinese resolutions focus on the civilian applications of AI, but Fu told reporters the military dimension of artificial intelligence is also very important.

"We do believe that it is necessary for the international community to take measures to reduce the dangers and the risks posed by the development of AI," he said.

China is actively participating in negotiations in Geneva on controlling lethal autonomous weapons, Fu said, adding that some countries are considering proposing a General Assembly resolution this year on the military dimension of AI - "and we are in broad support of that initiative."

Both the U.S. and Chinese reso-

lutions warned of the dangers of AI while also touting its potential benefits in promoting economic development and the lives of people everywhere.

The U.S. resolution recognizes that "the governance of artificial intelligence systems is an evolving area" that needs further discussions on possible governance approaches. It calls on countries to ensure that personal data is protected, human rights are safeguarded, and AI is monitored for potential risks.

Ambassador Fu, who headed the Foreign Ministry's arms control department from 2018 to 2022, said China put forward the resolution because of the widening gap in AI technology between the developed North and developing South.

He said China also wanted to highlight the central role the United Nations should play in AI governance as "the most representative and most inclusive international forum."

The Chinese resolution resolves "to bridge the artificial intelligence and other digital divides between and within countries," and promote international cooperation, including sharing knowledge and transferring technology to developing countries.

for heat exposure. Some regulations have recently come under attack by Republicans. Over the past year, Florida and Texas, led by Gov. Ron

DeSantis and Gov. Greg Abbott, both Republicans, passed legislation preventing local governments from requiring heat protections for out-

door workers.

If finalized, the Biden administration's rule would override state measures, and states with existing proce-

dures to deal with heat would have to institute measures that are at least as stringent as the finalized federal rule.

High rates aim to squelch inflation by making it more expensive to borrow

Inflation is down in Europe, but ECB in no hurry to make more rate cuts

FRANKFURT, Germany, July 2, (AP): Inflation in the 20-nation eurozone crept lower to 2.5% in June, but remained stuck above the level favored by the European Central Bank, which is in no hurry to add more rate cuts after a first tentative reduction in its benchmark rate.

The figure released Tuesday was down from 2.6% in May, welcome news as inflation continues to fall from its peak of 10.6% that robbed consumers of spending power and mired the European economy in months of near-zero growth.

But key indicators Tuesday remained at levels that suggest inflation may remain stuck between 2% and 3%

for a while yet. Inflation in services prices ran at 4.1%, unchanged from the month before.

The ECB's caution in making sure inflation is under control comes as the U.S. Federal Reserve holds off on cutting rates from current highs. The central banks don't want to belatedly discover that inflation is more stubborn than they thought and reverse course - a mistake that would make inflation harder to wring out of the economy and would ding their credibility into the bargain.

High rates aim to squelch inflation by making it more expensive to borrow money to buy goods or invest in new factory equipment. That relieves

pressure on prices - but can also dampen growth. That's the tightrope the ECB and the Fed are trying to walk: make sure inflation is contained, without pushing their economies into recession.

ECB President Christine Lagarde said in a speech on Monday that the bank needed to first make sure inflation was firmly under control before cutting its key rate again after a first, quarter-point cut at its June 6 meeting to the current 3.75%.

"It will take time for use to gather sufficient data to be certain that the risks of above target inflation have passed," Lagarde said in a speech at an ECB conference in Sintra, Portugal.

She said that though growth in the eurozone was uncertain, the jobs market remained strong with low unemployment levels. That is a sign that the economy is holding up even with rates much higher than before.

Even so, higher rates have held back credit-sensitive areas such as real estate and construction. Mortgage rates for house purchase have risen, and a yearlong rally in house prices in the eurozone has come to an end. Savers, however, are seeing relief from the earlier period of zero rates that saw some banks paying negative interest on savings - in other words, charging people to keep their money there.

Lagarde has characterized the first

rate cut in June as merely "moderating the level of restriction" on the economy and not as the start of a rapid series of cuts. She says decisions will be based on incoming data on a meeting-to-meeting basis.

Analysts say that no cut is likely at the bank's meeting July 18, meaning the discussion about rates remains focused on the bank's September meeting.

The European economy has slugged through quarter after quarter of near-zero growth, with a modest uptick of 0.3% in the first three months of this year. Recent indicators such as S&P Global's purchasing managers' index indicate that factory activity in the eurozone is contracting.

What's On



Photos from the event.

Event highlights education, trade, and cultural bonds

Australian Embassy celebrates Alumni Gala & 50 years of diplomatic relations

By Paul Francis X. Fernandes
Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The Australian Embassy in Kuwait organized the Australian Alumni Gala, under the patronage of HE Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

During the event the embassy commemorated Kuwaiti alumni of Australian universities over the years and marked the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and Kuwait.

On this auspicious day the distinguished guests included HE Commodore Sheikh Mubarak Ali Alyousef Al Sabah, and keynote speaker, Captain Ali Ashour, excellencies and the alumni.

As Australia celebrated the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and Kuwait, the Australian ambassador to Kuwait, HE Melissa Kelly said, "I am immensely proud of the strong ties between our nations. Over these five decades, our relationship has flourished in areas such as food security, trade, investment, and education."

Reflecting on the past six months

at the embassy, she said, "We have been inspired by the individuals and stories that have woven the fabric of Australian-Kuwaiti bilateral relations. It is the people -- their vision, creativity, and resilience -- that truly enrich our bond."

"Today, on our golden anniversary, we gather to honor Kuwaitis who have become 'Australian by degree' through their education at prestigious Australian universities. There is no better testament to Australian-Kuwaiti relations than the transformative experiences of our alumni," she said.

"Each of you holds," she said, "the extraordinary stories of your time in Australia -- the challenges, achievements, and remarkable contributions made upon your return to Kuwait."

"Your accomplishments have profoundly impacted both Australian and Kuwaiti societies, demonstrating the enduring ties between our nations."

"I extend my personal thanks to Sheikh Mubarak/Action Holdings, the Kuwait Cultural Office, and our dedicated embassy team for their invaluable support," the Australian envoy added.

Ambassador honored by Kuwaiti artist

Korean Ambassador wishes farewell at Al-Qadiri Gallery

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The Republic of Korea Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E Mr. & Mrs. Chung Byung-Ha, visited Al-Qadiri Gallery in Mishref last Wednesday, to a bid farewell after the end of his mission in the State of Kuwait. H.E Mr. Chung Byung-Ha and his wife were welcomed by Mr. Mohammed Al-Qadiri the Gen-

eral Manager of Al-Qadiri Gallery, and his wife Kuwaiti artist and writer Thuraya Al-Baqsmi, who presented the ambassador and his wife with a gift of one of her recent paintings as a token of friendship and as a nice memoir of Kuwait. Many ambassadors, diplomats, and friends attended the event.



Photos during the event.

Cultural exchange strengthens China-Kuwait friendship

Chinese Bridge summer camp concludes at International University of Kuwait for year '24

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: On June 23, the "Chinese Bridge" summer camp at the International University of Kuwait was officially concluded, which was hosted by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to the State of Kuwait in cooperation with the Language Exchange and Cooperation Center of the Chinese Ministry of Education, and organized by Sichuan University of International Studies. The closing ceremony was attended by Mr. Zhang Peiping, Vice President of Sichuan University of International Studies, and all members, teachers and volunteers of the summer camp.

During the 14-day camping, 22 teachers and students from the International University of Kuwait traveled to Beijing, Chengdu and Chongqing, and enjoyed an unforgettable cultural trip. The students visited famous places in China, experienced traditional Chinese culture, tasted authentic local Chinese food, and felt the moving atmosphere. For Chinese modernization by visiting the "SERES Auto Super" factory and the "Sanfeng" environmental protection company, and they established a deep friendship between Chinese and Kuwaiti youth through cultural exchange with the high school affiliated with Sichuan University of Foreign Studies, and they understood the value and importance of harmonious coexistence between man and nature through close contact. With Panda, they have the fun of cross-cultural communication by learning a variety of Chinese language courses.

In this summer camp, students not only improved their communication skills in Chinese and built a global perspective and international vision, but also felt the depth of Chinese culture and the rapid development of contemporary China. This event provided an opportunity for Kuwaiti students to better understand China and promote people-to-people exchanges between Chinese and Kuwaiti youth.

During the event, Nasser and Waleed, as representatives of Kuwaiti students, expressed their love for Chinese culture and their expectations for the future friendship between China and Kuwait. This summer camp not only gives Kuwaiti students the opportunity to see the beauty of China but also gives them a chance to see the bright future of the China-Kuwait friendship.

"Chinese Bridge" is a project launched by the Language Exchange and Cooperation Center. It has become an important platform for students from all over the world to learn Chinese and understand China. Sichuan International Studies University has hosted the summer camp of this project for many consecutive years.

This is the first summer camp organized by Sichuan University of International Studies and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and aims to deepen Kuwaiti students' understanding of Chinese language and culture through a series of courses



Photos from the event.

and activities such as Chinese language courses, courses on national situations and Chinese culture, cultural exchange between young

students, and visits to Places with Chinese historical and cultural landscapes, in order to build a bridge for cultural exchange, enhance the spirit

of friendship between Chinese and Kuwaiti youth, and promote mutual understanding and learning between the peoples of China and Kuwait.

Marvel actor's own super power is swimming with sharks

'Captain America' star Mackie takes on sharks in new docu

LOS ANGELES, July 2. (AP) — When National Geographic approached Anthony Mackie with an opportunity to swim with sharks to kick off its SharkFest programming, it was an easy yes for the Marvel star who is the new Captain America.

The water, says Mackie, is a "safe space" where he "can just tune everybody and everything else out."

Mackie has been a certified scuba diver for nearly two decades. "I've swam with some crazy stuff, and I've swam with sharks before. I just swam with Great Whites in South Africa. I did whale sharks in Mexico. I swam with a blue whale off the coast of Cape Town."

For "Shark Beach with Anthony Mackie," debuted Sunday, he wanted cameras to visit the waters near his home in New Orleans, where he is a regular boater and fisherman. An increase of sharks in the area are swarming boats and eating fishermen's catches, leading to a greater risk of hungry sharks becoming aggressive. This points to a larger environmental issue that the ecosystem is off-kilter.

"If we eat all the fish, the sharks have nothing to eat," said Mackie. "Sharks have babies in Lake Pontchartrain and Lake

Catherine. When their babies come out, they're full-grown pups. They're three-foot sharks... They're not predators, but they also need a substantial food source."

Mackie says he was in the water for about four hours and "it's not that hard to find a multitude of sharks in the Atlantic Ocean." Seeing the sharks up-close reminded him "how majestic and powerful they are, but also you just see how beautiful they are." He was accompanied by marine biologist Jasmine Graham, whom Mackie says was his "security blanket" if it got too intense.

Highlight

"Every time it would get to be too much, I would grab her. I'm like, 'They've got to pick one. So if one of us getting eaten, it better be you,'" he laughed. "She really looked out for me and gave me a lot of information that really opened my eyes to the community that we're in and explaining the sharks' behavior."

Mackie, whose show will be followed soon by Discovery's Shark Week programming, also hopes to highlight the effects of global climate change on the coastline of New Orleans where the sea level is rising at an accelerated rate. Global warming has

both caused snow and ice to melt and it's led to more storms that cause flooding. Also, activity from the oil and gas industry weakens the soil.

"The area around New Orleans is slowly going away. You know, the water is starting to eat away at our habitat, our home," said Mackie. "There are certain areas where I used to go as a kid, and those areas are gone now, like oyster farms," said Mackie.

"We used to go fishing when I was little and my uncle would put me in the water. I would walk around and feel for oysters with my feet, put them in a boat, and we would eat those oysters for lunch. Whole oyster beds are gone."

For someone whose career has afforded him the opportunity to travel the globe both for work and pleasure, Mackie says there truly is no place like New Orleans.

"There's nothing more beautiful than seeing the sun come up over the Gulf of Mexico. It's literally breathtaking and I've seen the sun come up over everything. When you're in a boat, going out to the Gulf or even Lake Catherine and you see the sun come up over that marsh and wetland, there's nothing like it."

Variety



This image released by Disney/Pixar shows, (from left), Sadness, voiced by Phyllis Smith, (from left), Joy, voiced by Amy Poehler, Disgust, voiced by Liza Lapira, Fear, voiced by Tony Hale and Anger, voiced by Lewis Black in a scene from 'Inside Out 2.' (AP)

Film

Pixar captures adolescence with emotional depth in sequel

Peace and pieces of mind 'Inside Out 2'

By Jake Coyle

Sequels have been a touchy subject when it comes to Pixar, but it's hard to deny the natural premise of "Inside Out 2." It's been nine years since "Inside Out," yet in the span between that film and its new sequel, Riley, the young girl with a head full of emotions, has gone from 11 years old to 13. She's just grown up a little.

Or maybe a lot. In the middle of the night, the old gang of Joy (Amy Poehler), Sadness (Phyllis Smith), Fear (Tony Hale), Disgust (Liza Lapira) and Anger (Lewis Black) are roused from their beds by a soft beep, like a fire alarm in need of a new battery, but soon it's sounding an all-out emergency. On their console a red light blinks. "What's that?" one says. "Puberty," the button reads. Soon, construction workers are swarming the control room for "demo day," with wrecking balls making room for "the others."

In come a new gaggle of emotions said to be more sophisticated: Anxiety (Maya Hawke), Envy (Ayo Edebiri), Embarrassment (Paul Walter Hauser) and Ennui (Adèle Exarchopoulos). The next morning, Riley wakes up to find herself unusually stinky. Life, as they say, comes at you pretty fast. "Inside Out 2" turns out to be not just a modest, inch-things-along sequel but a follow-up of cataclysmic proportions.

Tempting as it is to take any revisiting of "Inside Out" — a high water mark for not just Pixar but '10s American movies — as sacrilegious, its sequel is deftly sensitive to one of the most awkward chapters of life. The giddy sense of imagination is a little less boundless this time. One could certainly look at "Inside Out 2" like a parent eyeing a teenager and thinking the younger version was cuter and less whiny. But the filmmakers of "Inside Out 2" have managed again to filter complex psychological developments into a bright, entertaining head trip that in its finest moments packs an emotional wallop.

I would peg Joy as the real protagonist of the first "Inside Out." That movie, really, hinged on the blue-

haired sprite's desperate race to preserve all the happiness of childhood. Aided especially by Poehler's brilliant voice work, Joy — a kind of stand-in for parents wanting only the best for their kids — was less just another emotion than an unflagging guardian learning that sometimes letting go is best.

This time, Riley feels more the main character, though Anxiety, an excitable, orange, bug-eyed Muppet-like thing, is increasingly calling the shots. Riley (voiced by Kensington Tallman) is now taller, has a few good friends and is still playing hockey. Her internal landscape is shifting, too. Boy Band Island is done, for one. And out of her pools of memories, new strands are growing a tree-shaped Belief System. Just who Riley is, at her core, gets tested and reshaped in "Inside Out 2."

Original

Some of the brain trust on the film are also new. Kelsey Mann, a longtime Pixar veteran, takes over directing from Pete Docter (now the Pixar chief) to make his debut feature. The script is by Meg LeFauve, who co-wrote the original, and Dave Holstein.

My recollections of "Inside Out" — if my memory orbs have been correctly filed — are mostly of all those glowing balls of the past and Joy and Sadness' mad dashes through the back of Riley's mind, a pun-filled inner space both literal and metaphorical. Plus, we can't forget, Richard Kind's voice as Bing Bong.

Much is the same in "Inside Out 2" (though, alas, Bing Bong sleeps with the fishes). But the film is a little more tilted outside Riley's mind. As the school year is coming to a close, Riley heads to a weekend hockey camp that's a preview of her high-school life to come.

New stresses are developing. Her pals (voiced by Sumayyah Nuriddin-Green and Grace Lu) are headed to a different school, Riley learns. On the ice, what was once carefree play is becoming a more complicated experience plagued by self-doubt. At camp, Riley really wants to impress an

older star player named Val (Lilimar Hernandez). To do so, Anxiety, usurping Joy, increasingly sacrifices core beliefs to manically build Riley a new identity. Joy and others, booted from the control room, again have to work frantically to mount a resistance, while at the same time learning a lesson about the need to reconcile — not just try to forget — less happy memories.

"Inside Out 2," which arrives after a period of soul-searching for Pixar, both recaptures some of the animation studio's magic and reminds us that rekindling the ambitious spirit of Pixar's heyday isn't so easy. The sequel stays close to familiar neural pathways. There are new cerebral puns — the echoing depths of a Sar-"chasm," a brainstorm that rains light bulbs — and a new cartoon relic of childhood to replace Bing Bong: a character named Bloofy, voiced by Ron Funches. It's easier to see where this "Inside Out" is headed and a little harder to be dazzled by what unfolds.

But its aim is remarkably true. Confronting the struggles and realities of anxiety, particularly for teenage girls, could hardly be a more laudable undertaking. And the care is taken here to illustrate how new impulses can run roughshod over a young person and throw their internal compass out of whack.

Pixar, like other studios wrestling with a new media landscape, has dabbled in recent years with more short-form and digital-friendly content. But Docter has steered Pixar back to focusing on feature films with robust theatrical releases. ("Inside Out 2" is to exclusively play for 100 days in theaters.) So in more ways than one, Mann's movie feels like a much-needed feature-length refuge from today's anxiety-producing devices. Unlike many of Pixar's moving metaphors of parenthood, this one is, affectingly, for the kids.

"Inside Out 2," a Walt Disney Co. release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association for some thematic elements. Running time: 96 minutes. Three stars out of four. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Usher's acceptance speech of the BET Awards' lifetime achievement award was heartfelt, occasionally profane and lengthy - and few people got to hear it.

The 13-minute speech was largely censored by the network, leaving viewers at home curious to know what Usher said. A BET spokesperson told The Associated Press that "due to an audio malfunction during the live telecast, portions of his speech were inadvertently muted. We extend our sincere apologies to USHER as we couldn't be more grateful for his participation."

A full version of the speech is now available on BET's YouTube channel and will be included in a Monday rebroadcast, with a few profanities removed. Much of his speech centered on the idea of fatherhood, forgiveness, and his three-decades' long career. It appears that the heavy censoring started shortly after Usher said "Sorry, I'm gonna curse and let you know how I really feel" early on in his acceptance.

He recounted walking into music mogul L.A. Reid's office at 12 or 13 years old and telling a room full of executives that he'd make it. "That wasn't ego speaking. I rebranded that word that day," he said in a section of the speech that didn't air. "I rebranded that word that day. I expressed goals out loud."

The R&B superstar is an eight-time Grammy winner who recently ended a two-year Las Vegas residency, "Usher: My Way" at the Park MGM. In February, he released his first solo album in eight years, and in August is scheduled to kick off a 24-city US tour titled "Past Present Future."

Usher's 2024 Super Bowl halftime performance drew acclaim and included guest appearances by such stars as Alicia Keys, H.E.R., Jermaine Dupri, Lil Jon and Ludacris. His album "Confessions" has sold more than 10 million units in the US, ranking it among one of the best-selling music projects of all time. (AP)

NEW YORK: Hunter Biden accused Fox News in a lawsuit

of unlawfully publishing explicit images of him as part of a streaming series.

The president's son filed the lawsuit Sunday in state court in Manhattan over images in "The Trial of Hunter Biden," which debuted on the streaming service Fox Nation in 2022. The series features a "mock trial" of Hunter



Usher



Biden

Biden on charges he has not faced and it includes images of Biden in the nude and engaged in sex acts, according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit claims the dissemination of intimate images without his consent violated New York's so-called revenge porn law.

"Fox published and disseminated these Intimate Images to its vast audience of millions as part of an entertainment program in order to humiliate, harass, annoy and alarm Mr. Biden and to tarnish his reputation," according to the lawsuit.

A Fox News spokesperson called it an "entirely politically

motivated lawsuit" that was "devoid of merit" in an emailed statement.

"The program was removed within days of the letter, in an abundance of caution, but Hunter Biden is a public figure who has been the subject of multiple investigations and is now a convicted felon. (AP)

People & Places

Books

Adams' biography

'Hey, Zoey' examines AI, women's autonomy

NEW YORK, July 2, (AP) Dolores is going through the motions of life when she finds a potentially marriage-ending surprise in her garage: a high-end, life-like doll imbued with artificial intelligence named Zoey.

There are a lot of places that author Sarah Crossan can go from here - when is it cheating? What makes something human or sentient? How can we define a person's value? - and "Hey, Zoey" touches on them all.

But the main focus throughout the story turns out to be women's autonomy.

The novel jumps straight into Dolores' life with a rapid-fire series of first-person vignettes, a mosaic of snippets that give an overview of how we got here.



Crossan

Each tidbit ranges from a sentence or two to a few pages and jumps across times and places almost in a stream of consciousness, though the story never becomes lost or incoherent. The bite-size pieces make it easy to tear through, but also to stop and digest when needed.

And you will need to pause now and again.

"Hey, Zoey," starts out quite funny, at least in a gallows-

humor kind of way, before turning sad and then devastating. Even the premise is a bit comedic; a woman whose name is sometimes shortened to Dolly holding her husband's sex doll, who's name is Zoey, meaning life. ("Dolores," in case you're wondering, means "sorrow" - buckle up.) There's Dolores matter-of-factly giving restaurants one-star reviews based solely on their lighting and music choices - like if they play too much Norah Jones - or reprimanding one of her students for drawing a sexual cartoon, after admitting to him he's a good artist. And it's extremely British, though Dolores and her family would jump to remind you that they're Irish.

Then, after lulling you into this safe place of silly shenanigans and mundane memories, the story shifts toward morose as the introspection becomes more troubled. The subtle change like bathwater cooling is tempered so that, by the time you realize the water's grown tepid, you're too invested to begrudge it for the warmer, funnier bits from before.

Dolores begins talking with Zoey, who becomes a conduit for confronting her own past.

We see how her parents' relationship informed her perceptions of love and marriage. How caring for her younger sister and her baby cousin made her feel needed and connected. And as a teacher with endless students cycling through her class, she feels stagnant. Now, with Zoey, is Dolores replaceable?

As the story progresses, you begin to test your own theories of why Dolores and David's marriage is falling apart. Her issues are so deeply buried that even Dolores doesn't have a clue - yet.

Full of microaggressions, cultural touchpoints and self-reflection, "Hey, Zoey" uses AI sentience to consider the issue of women's autonomy from a new angle.

With a dozen other novels under Crossan's belt, it's to be expected that the award-winning author's latest is a page-turner. But the real surprise and delight of "Hey, Zoey" is the compelling story and captivating conversation.



To be clear, Randall Woods' "John Quincy Adams: A Man for the Whole People" is not a leisurely read designed for the beach or airport. Clocking in at more than 700 pages, Woods' biography of the sixth president is massive in both length and scope.

But that's the type of book Adams deserves for a life and legacy that stretches well beyond his time as commander in chief and includes his years as a diplomat, senator and congressman. Readers could come away from the book feeling as though it could have easily been a multivolume series.

Woods, a history professor at the University of Arkansas, expertly profiles a president whose life was defined by contradictions. Much like his father, Adams despised politics but spent his life entrenched in public service. His championing of the nation's expansion came at the cost of allowing the spread of slavery.

The most compelling portions of the book, in fact, focus on his years outside the White House. This includes his post-presidency years in Congress where he became an ally - albeit a tenuous one - of abolitionists and an outspoken opponent of the "gag rule" in the House that prevented the discussion of slavery.

It also displays that influence that Adams' father, the nation's second president, and the other Founding Fathers had on his view of the country and public service.

The biography sheds light on Adams' relationships with figures throughout history, from Andrew Jackson to Daniel Webster. But what's even more enlightening is his personal relationships, especially with his family, as Woods demonstrates the strain that his years of service had.

Woods uses Adams' life to also tell the story of the country's evolution, and his descriptions of life in the nation's capital are some of the most entertaining. This includes a tale of Adams as president nearly drowning in the Potomac River, where he would swim regularly.

In his later years, the book describes, Adams exchanges letters with a British actor about the merits of William Shakespeare's play "Hamlet."

Also:

NEW YORK: A posthumous book by Victoria Amelina, the Ukrainian author killed last year during a Russian missile strike, will be published in February upon the war's third anniversary.

"Looking at Women Looking at War: A War and Justice Diary," which draws upon Amelina's interviews with 11 women who had been documenting war crimes since the Russian invasion, was left unfinished. Her husband, Oleksandr Amelin, was among those who helped edit and complete the book, which will include a foreword by Margaret Atwood.

"A powerful testament to the courage and determination of women at war, the book follows the paths of female journalists, writers, human rights defenders, lawyers, and volunteers who document war crimes in Ukraine while the war is still ongoing," according to St. Martin's Press, which announced the project Monday, exactly a year since Amelina's death.

The 37-year-old Amelina was the author of two novels and a children's book. She traveled to areas liberated from the Russians and recorded survivors' testimony.



Ronnie Wood, (from left), Keith Richards, Mick Jagger, and Steve Jordan of The Rolling Stones perform during the 'Hackney Diamonds' tour at Soldier Field on Thursday, June 27, 2024, in Chicago. (AP)

Music

Family, friends sing Thompson's songs on 'Proxy Music'

'Megan' embraces different freedom

LOS ANGELES, July 2, (AP) "Just as a snake sheds its skin, we must shed our past, over and over again," Megan Thee Stallion says in the spoken-word intro for her "Cobra" music video. It is the first single from "Megan," her third studio album, and one of many songs channeling snakes.

She sounds as strong as ever, atop chugging riffs and fluttering synths. Megan stretches and tightens syllables to enhance the weight of her words, a reminder that she's lived through a few nightmarish years, and she's working on coming out the other side. It might sound harsh on ears expecting her feel-good, hot girl summer declarations, but on this album, Megan is most interested in exorcising the demons given to her by haters.

It makes sense that Megan Thee Stallion - whose birth name is Megan Pete - would self-title this record, one born out of newfound autonomy. It is a self-released album, having reached a settlement with her former record label 1501 Certified Entertainment after three years of litigation.

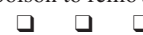
It is also her first album since the end of the criminal case against Tory Lanez, who was sentenced to 10 years in prison in August for shooting and wounding Megan in the feet, concluding a three-year legal and cultural saga that saw two careers, and lives, thrown into turmoil. In the years after the 2020 shooting, Megan - a three-time Grammy winner and hip-hop superstar - became the target of widespread misinformation and social media vitriol leveled against her in a clear-cut example of misogyny noir, a specific type of misogyny experienced by Black women.

She's managed to turn that pain and betrayal into art - or at the very least, filter her frustrations through it, sharpening her flow in the process. "Boa" is self-assured, with an energetic sample of Gwen Stefani's 2004 hit "What You Waiting For?"

"Hiss" is a scathing diss track with various targets - another self-possessed track. Braggadocious bars are found at every turn, challenged in only a few moments - like in the repetition of "I'm worthy / not worthless," on the pop-y "Worthy." It hits like a meditative mantra spoken into a mirror, a woman working to convince herself of her own value.

That said, there are still moments of perky pleasure ("Broke His Heart," "Find Out," the shimmering self-satisfaction of "Down Stairs DJ"), charming detours into her admiration of Japanese culture ("Otaku Hot Girl," "Mamushi" featuring Yuki Chiba), and energetic collaborations ("Spin" with Victoria Monét, "Accent" with GloRilla.) But across "Megan," the rapper's primary focus appears to be on pushing past her detractors - without as many of her previous, light-hearted joys. And who could blame her?

Snake imagery hasn't been used so effectively since Taylor Swift's "Reputation" era, an album about victimization and retribution. But in Swift's universe, snakes were a metaphor for her nemesis - for Megan, they are a symbol for strength, for renewal - with real bite. You've got to suck the poison to remove it, right?



Linda Thompson, who ranks among the finest singers of her generation, hardly sings a note on "Proxy Music," her first album in over a decade. Instead, Thompson makes herself heard through her songwriting.

She's often remembered for music she made with Richard Thompson, including several classic albums before their marriage ended in 1982. Linda has since released the occasional solo album, each excellent, but her ability to sing has been affected for decades by the vocal condition spasmodic dysphonia.

To sing a new batch of songs she has written, Thompson drafted proxies - hence the wonderful title. The

talented cast of family and friends includes son Teddy Thompson, who produced the set; daughter Kami Thompson and son-in-law James Walbourne, who perform as the Rails; and Rufus and Martha Wainwright.

The album, released recently, is filled with lively lyrics and humor (a fabulously glam spoof of Roxy Music on the cover is reason enough to buy the LP). Thompson's delightful language of love speaks of no-man's land and "umpteenth" paramours.

The musical range is broad. Thompson's Scottish roots show on "Bonnie Lass," a ballad of lost love sung by the Proclaimers, while Grant explores the underappreciated genre of Icelandic-British-Americana with references to Reykjavik, London and the fictional town of Lake Woebegon.

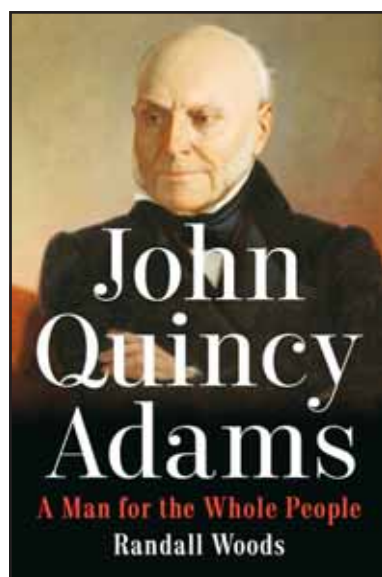
Eliza Carthy performs "That's the Way the Polka Goes" as a West End fiddle tune. Rufus Wainwright expresses a comical wariness of happiness while sinking his formidable tenor into the cabaret lament "Darling This Will Never Do."

Among Thompson's co-writers is ex-husband Richard on "Three Shaky Ships," a beautiful ballad that would fit nicely on one of their 1970s albums. Instead, it's sung by the Unthanks. The tune's advice: Don't give your heart away.

Richard Thompson, who recently released his own fine new album, also contributes instrumental support, as does their grandson, Zak Hobbs, and Walbourne, who is also the Pretenders' lead guitarist.

Linda is among the background vocalists on one cut, and the collaborative spirit reaches a zenith on the hilarious finale, "Those Damn Roches," a waltz celebrating the bonds of blood and song. Teddy handles lead vocals, and he and a large supporting chorus ask, "When we are singing loud and strong, who can take us?"

It sounds just like Linda Thompson.



This book cover image released by Dutton shows 'John Quincy Adams: A Man for the Whole People' by Randall Woods. (AP)



Watson



Young Thug

Variety

NEW YORK: Former TV host Carlos Watson told a jury Monday he never schemed to con backers of his Ozy Media, a once high-flying startup that crashed in a storm of doubt about its business tactics and claims of success.

"Mr. Watson, did you conspire to commit securities fraud?" asked his lawyer, Ronald Sullivan Jr.

"I did not," Watson said, and repeated it when asked about the other charges against him, aggravated identity theft and conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

Watson, a former news and talk show host on networks including CNN and MSNBC, is the key defense witness in the federal criminal trial surrounding Ozy's collapse. He and the now-defunct company are accused of giving backers and lenders phony financial statistics, forged contracts and other false information that created a glowing image of a company that actually was on the rocks.

Watson acknowledged that Ozy Media went through cash crunches, but he portrayed them as typical of new companies. He said Ozy's pitches to and contracts for investors indicated that the numbers could change and weren't audited. (AP)



ATLANTA: The judge overseeing the racketeering and gang prosecution against Young Thug and others on Monday put the long-running trial on hold until another judge rules on requests by several defendants that he step aside from the case.

Lawyers for the rapper and several other defendants had filed motions seeking the recusal of Fulton County Superior Court Chief Judge Ural Glanville after he held a meeting with prosecutors and a prosecution witness at which defendants and defense attorneys were not present. They said the meeting was "improper" and said the judge and prosecutors tried to pressure the witness, who had been granted immunity, into giving testimony.

Jurors, who were already on a break until July 8, would be notified that they will not be needed until the matter is resolved, Glanville said.

This is the latest delay in the trial that has dragged on for over a year, in part because of numerous problems. Jury selection in the case began in January 2023 and took nearly 10 months. Opening statements were in November and the

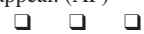
prosecution has been presenting its case since then, calling dozens of witnesses.

Young Thug, a Grammy winner whose given name is Jeffrey Williams, was charged two years ago in a sprawling indictment accusing him and more than two dozen other people

of conspiring to violate Georgia's anti-racketeering law. He also is charged with gang, drug and gun crimes and is standing trial with five of the others indicted with him.

Glanville last month held Young Thug's attorney Brian Steel in contempt

for refusing to tell the judge how he found out about the out-of-court meeting. Steel was ordered to serve 10 consecutive weekends in jail, but the Georgia Supreme Court put that penalty on hold pending an appeal. (AP)



LONDON: Actor Ian McKellen said Monday he is withdrawing from a UK tour of his latest play because he needs more time to recover after falling off the stage at a London theater last month. McKellen, 85, said his injuries "improve day by day."

"It's with the greatest reluctance that I have accepted the medical advice to protect my full recovery by not working in the meantime," he said in a statement. The "Lord of the Rings" star spent three nights in a London hospital after tumbling from the stage during a performance of "Player Kings" at the Noel Coward Theatre on June 17.

The play is an adaptation of William Shakespeare's two "Henry IV" history plays, directed by Robert Icke. Several performances were canceled after the incident before the run resumed with understudy David Semark in the role of Falstaff.

Producers said Semark would continue to play the part during a national tour that runs July 3-27. (AP)



Members of the Spanish Cordoba music Group play during a concert at the Iraqi National Theatre in Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, June 28, 2024. (AP)

Balanced diet vital for healthy living

Expert advice on managing cholesterol levels thru diet choices

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Millions of people all over the world contend with elevated blood cholesterol levels, a type of fat belonging to the sterol family. This cholesterol originates from both endogenous production within the body and dietary intake, particularly from animal fats, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting AlloDocteurs.

Cholesterol is categorized into two types: "good" and "bad," distinctions partly attributed to their mode of transportation within the bloodstream. Cholesterol requires carriers that can transport fats through the liquid medium of blood. These carriers are known as lipoproteins, specifically high-density lipoproteins (HDL) and low-density lipoproteins (LDL).

High-density lipoprotein (HDL) transports cholesterol to the liver for breakdown and elimination, aiding in the removal of excess cholesterol from the body. This function earns HDL the label of "good cholesterol."

Conversely, low-density lipoprotein (LDL) transports cholesterol to the body's cells, but does not facilitate its removal. Elevated LDL levels can

lead to cholesterol accumulation in the arterial walls. If these deposits become oxidized and inflamed, they contribute to atherosclerosis, a condition where arteries narrow due to plaque buildup. LDL cholesterol is thus dubbed "bad cholesterol" for its role in arterial blockages and associated cardiovascular risks.

The narrowing of blood vessels due to cholesterol deposits restricts blood flow, reducing oxygen supply to tissues. Inflammation triggered by these deposits can interact with other blood components, promoting clot formation. If a clot dislodges and travels through arteries, it can lead to serious events like heart attacks or strokes.

If you have high blood cholesterol, you should avoid several foods including fried foods, French fries, baked goods and all cooked fats, cold meats, pastries and cakes, whether artificial or not, fatty meat, potato chips, crackers and stuffed biscuits, butter (a maximum of 10 grams is allowed per day), cheese (a maximum of 30 grams per day, preferably cheese that contains less than 45%

fat) and sugary foods and drinks.

The following seven foods are beneficial to a life with low harmful cholesterol:

- Fish (twice a week, including oily fish such as mackerel or sardines).
- Lean meat.
- Olive oil, walnut oil, or rapeseed oil.
- Walnuts, hazelnuts and almonds (a maximum of a handful per day).
- Fruits and vegetables.
- Dried vegetables.
- Margarine and Omega 3.

Whether or not you have high cholesterol, the basic principle of a healthy diet is to eat a balanced amount of protein, carbohydrates and fats.

It is important to focus on fresh, seasonal foods and home-cooked dishes to limit added sugars, saturated fats and additives. A balanced diet should always be accompanied by regular physical activity.

Key advice from pediatricians

Tips to keep children safe, healthy during outdoor summer activities

NEW YORK, July 2, (AP): For kids, summer can revolve around playgrounds, pools, bikes and just being outside. For parents, it can mean a litany of ouchies to take care of - including scrapes, sunburns and dehydration, pediatricians say.

"Kids should play and have every opportunity to use their imagination, but we need to take precautions to keep them

as safe as possible," Dr. Danielle Mercurio, a pediatrician at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital.

Here are the top things pediatricians say you should keep an eye on.

It's important to take precautions in warmer weather, especially with younger kids, who are more susceptible to heat illness, Mercurio said. That means keeping a water bottle with them when they're outside, wearing sun-protective clothing and mineral sunscreen and not staying in the sun too long.

Parents also should monitor kids for signs of fatigue and pay attention to the warmth and color of their skin - if it's red and hot, they probably need to take a break inside or under a shaded area.

You should also know what the three different types of heat illness are, Mercurio said, each more severe than the next.

The first is heat cramps, and the only remedy is giving kids fluids that contain electrolytes - like coconut water or sports drinks - to replenish salts that the body lost from sweating.

The next level is heat exhaustion, which causes nausea, vomiting and feeling weak or anxious. It's typically accompanied by a fever. You can try taking the child into a cooler area, giving them fluids, spraying them with water or putting them in front of a fan to cool them off.

Symptoms

If your child has all of those or some of those symptoms and is also acting confused or responding strangely, that's a heat stroke, which warrants a trip to the hospital.

Fireworks are fun and bright, but they're not for kids. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends keeping children away from all fireworks.

Even sparklers can be dangerously hot, said Dr. Pooj Lysouvakon, the University of Chicago's Pediatric Injury Prevention Program director.

He also says to avoid fireworks shows unless they're sponsored by a government agency and put on by professionals in a controlled setting.

Pools, lakes and other bodies of water are common sites for summertime injuries, Lysouvakon said.

One must-have, he said: A designated adult whose only job is monitoring the pool while kids are in it. If you have an above-ground pool, make sure it's fenced in with 4-foot walls to keep kids out when there aren't adults around.

Any type of water can be a source of drowning - even an inch can be dangerous for little ones, said Dr. Christina Kratlian at Boston Children's Hospital. She suggests draining, flipping and deflating inflatable pools after every use.

And if a child is rescued from the water and has experienced choking or difficulty breathing or lethargy, that might mean there is water in their lungs, and that requires medical attention, according to Dr. Danielle Grant from Texas Children's Hospital.

China's aging population embraces smart living

AI technologies open new prospects for elderly care

BEIJING, July 2, (Xinhua): Wang Yunbo, a 65-year-old resident of Beijing, wholeheartedly embraces his "smart" lifestyle.

"When I switch on the TV at home, a personalized list of my favorite channels appears on the screen. The smart band on my wrist displays my daily blood pressure levels and heart rates, reminding me to take my medication. When I take the bus, my mobile phone can automatically identify my location, and the payment code pops up," he explained with satisfaction.

For Wang and the nearly 300 million Chinese citizens aged 60 or above, many of whom lack constant companionship and struggle with using electronic devices, AI technologies are increasingly being integrated to simplify and enrich their lives in the digital age.

Official figures show that by the end of 2023, over 490,000 Chinese companies, both state-owned and private, were engaged in elderly care business, focusing primarily on smart health, health-centered tourism, financing, and anti-aging sectors.

Wang Haotian, a researcher at the Academy of Macroeconomic Research under the National Development and Reform Commission, noted that new technologies and business models have emerged in recent years to meet the more personalized, diversified, and quality-focused consumption demands of seniors.

Services

According to the National Health Commission, China is expected to have over 400 million people aged 60 or above by 2033, with the number approaching 500 million by around 2050, accounting for nearly 35 percent of the total population. About 90 percent of this population lives at home, seven percent rely on community support, and the remaining rely on commercial institutions for daily care. Thus, meeting the demands of those living at home is a priority.

Feng Wenmeng, a researcher with the Development Research Center of the State Council, said new smart and digital technologies have created more specialized, secure, and comfortable products for seniors. These include devices that monitor health conditions, shoes with positioning systems, and clothes with built-in sensors and inflatable airbags that deploy upon detecting a fall, cushioning the impact and reducing the risk of injury.

A Shanghai resident surnamed Liu, in her seventies, has even developed a bond with her robot "nanny." She talks to the robot every day and relies on its help for housework and health advice. "I almost can't live without it now," she said.

Somalia tackles polio outbreak

WHO pushes for enhanced child vaccination in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, July 2, (Xinhua): The World Health Organization (WHO) has called for concerted efforts to augment the momentum in addressing gaps in children's vaccination in Ethiopia.

Although the East African country is making efforts to reduce the immunity gap, there is still a high number of children who have not received any vaccines or are under-vaccinated in the community, said the WHO in a statement issued Monday.

WHO data showed an estimated 194,246 zero-dose children were identified from Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) communities across five regions of Ethiopia that are Amhara, Tigray, Somali, Oromia, and Afar.

It called for more efforts and increasing attention to reach zero-dose children, commonly referring to children who fail to receive any routine vaccination, and under-vaccinated children.

Owen Laws Kaluwa, WHO country representative to Ethiopia, said the WHO will use different opportunities and continue to support Ethiopia to clear the backlogs of zero-dose and under-vaccinated children. He said as part of its commitments, the WHO has used the 2024 African Vaccination Week, which takes place annually in the last week of April, as an opportunity to support the IDPs vaccination in five regions with a motto "attention to zero-dose and under-vaccinated children."

Polio: The Somali government said Monday it has launched a national task force on polio immunization, calling for swift action to end vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks.

The Somalia Immunization and Polio Eradication Task Force, which is chaired by Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre, will oversee and coordinate polio eradication and immunization efforts across the country.

However, experts point out that Chinese companies currently apply AI technologies primarily to basic elderly care services, not yet effectively meeting diverse needs such as remote medical services, leaving significant room for further development.

"The establishment of the national task force on immunization and polio is a testament to our government's commitment to this cause," Hamza said in a statement issued in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia.

The task force will mobilize financial and technical resources and ensure that every child in Somalia is provided with life-saving vaccines.

SIPE comprises key health officials at the federal and state levels and international partners.

Barre reiterated his government's commitment to stop the transmission of polio by providing strong support and oversight of polio eradication and routine immunization activities in Somalia.

Noise pollution: Noise pollution in the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka is reaching alarming levels, severely impacting the daily lives of its residents, a study showed.

Increasing traffic, unnecessary honking, rampant use of loudspeakers and other sources of high-decibel noise are disrupting the capital's normalcy. Despite existing laws, there is a notable lack of effective enforcement, United News of Bangladesh (UNB) reported Monday.

Experts highlighted that public awareness of the dangers of noise pollution remains low.

The Center for Atmospheric Pollution Studies (CAPS) at Stamford University in Bangladesh conducted a year-long study from April 2021 to March 2022, examining noise levels at ten locations in Dhaka.

The research revealed that noise exceeded acceptable limits in all surveyed areas. Specifically, 96.7 percent of the time in quiet zones, 91.2 percent in residential areas, 83.2 percent in mixed-use areas, 61 percent in commercial areas, and 18.2 percent in industrial areas, the noise levels exceeded the standard thresholds.

Last year, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, along with 16 other government departments, issued an action plan to further incorporate robots into various elderly care scenarios to enhance the intelligence level of these services.

'This is better than hospital'

Street teams provide vital IV hydration to homeless

PHOENIX, July 2, (AP): Alfred Handley leaned back in his wheelchair alongside a major Phoenix freeway as a street medicine team helped him get rehydrated with an intravenous saline solution dripping from a bag hanging on a pole.

Cars whooshed by under the blazing 96-degree morning sun as the 59-year-old homeless man with a nearly toothless smile got the help he needed through a new program run by the nonprofit Circle the City.

"It's a lot better than going to the hospital," Handley said of the team that provides health care to homeless people. He's been treated poorly at traditional clinics and hospitals, he said, more than six years after being struck by a car while he sat on a wall, leaving him in a wheelchair.

Circle the City introduced its IV rehydration program as a way to protect homeless people from life-threatening heat illness as temperatures regularly hit the triple-digits in America's hottest metro. Homeless people accounted for nearly half of the record 645 heat-related deaths last year in Maricopa County, which encompasses metro Phoenix.

Dr. Liz Frye, vice chair of the Street Medicine Institute that provides training to hundreds of health care teams worldwide, said she didn't know of groups other than Circle the City administering IVs on the street.

"But if that's what needs to happen to keep somebody from dying, I'm all about it," Frye said.

Patients

As summers grow warmer, health providers from San Diego to New York are being challenged to better protect homeless patients.

Even the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, featured in last year's book, "Rough Sleepers," now sees patients with mild heat exhaustion in the summer after decades of treating people with frostbite and hypothermia during the winter, said Dr. Dave Munson, the street team's medical director.

"It's certainly something to worry

about," said Munson, noting that temperatures in Boston hit 100 degrees with 70% humidity during June's heat wave. Homeless people, he said, are vulnerable to very hot and very cold weather not only because they live outside, but they often can't regulate body temperature due to medication for mental illness or high blood pressure, or because of street substance use.

The Phoenix team searches for patients in homeless encampments in dry riverbeds, sweltering alleys and along the canals that bring water to the Phoenix area. About 15% are dehydrated enough for a saline drip.

"We go out every day and find them," said nurse practitioner Perla Puebla. "We do their wound care, medication refills for diabetes, antibiotics, high blood pressure."

Puebla's street team ran across Handley and 36-year-old Phoenix native Phillip Enriquez near an overpass in an area frequented by homeless people because it's near a facility offering free meals. Across the road was an encampment of tents and lean-tos along a chain-link fence.

Enriquez sat on a patch of dirt as Puebla started a drip for him. She also gave him a prescription for antibiotics and a referral to a dentist for his dental infection.

Living outside in Arizona's broiling sun is hard, especially for people who may be mentally ill or use sedating drugs like fentanyl that make them less aware of surroundings. Stimulants like methamphetamine contribute to dehydration, which can be fatal.

Temperatures this year have reached 115 degrees (45 Celsius) in metro Phoenix, where six heat-related deaths have been confirmed through June 22. Another 111 are under investigation.

"The number of patients with heat illnesses is increasing every year," said Dr. Aneesh Narang, assistant medical director of emergency medicine at Banner Medical Center-Phoenix, which treats many homeless people with heat stroke.

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'Tatum agrees to 5-year, \$314 million supermax extension'

Ownership group of NBA champs Celtics putting team up for sale

BOSTON, July 2, (AP) - The ownership group that controls the NBA champion Boston Celtics says it intends to sell all its shares of the team.

In a statement released Monday, Boston Basketball Partners LLC said it intends to sell the majority of its shares in 2024 or early 2025. The balance of its shares would then close in 2028.

Wyc Grousbeck, whose family leads the ownership group, is expected to remain the team's NBA governor until the sale is complete.

"The controlling family of the ownership group, after considerable



In this file photo, Boston Celtics' Jayson Tatum celebrates the team's NBA basketball championship during a duck boat parade in Boston. (AP)

mitted to finding a worthy incoming ownership group who will guide the Celtics to more decades of success."

He added: "There will be a thoughtful and thorough process to find a buyer that recognizes the importance of Celtic Pride on the court and in the community."

Last year, the Phoenix Suns were purchased by mortgage firm owner Mat Ishbia for \$4 billion. That was followed by the sale of the Milwaukee Bucks to Cleveland Browns owners Jimmy and Dee Haslam for \$3.5 billion. Last November, Mark Cuban agreed to the sale of the majority of his Dallas Mavericks' ownership shares to Miriam Adelson and son-in-law Patrick Dumont, who operates the Las Vegas Sands casino company, for \$3.5 billion.

Jayson Tatum is the newest member of the NBA's \$300 million club.

The Boston Celtics star has agreed to a five-year, \$314 million contract extension to remain with the reigning NBA champions, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Monday.

The new pact will begin with the 2025-26 season and keep the five-time All-Star in Boston through 2029-30 season, according to the person who spoke on the condition of anonymity because it has not been announced.

The Athletic and ESPN were first to report the deal.

When completed Tatum's new, su-

Thompson leaving Warriors to join Mavs

DALLAS, July 2, (AP) - Klay Thompson is moving on from the Golden State Warriors, with the four-time league champion agreeing to join the Western Conference champion Dallas Mavericks and change franchises for the first time in his 13-year NBA career, two people with knowledge of the decision said Monday.

ESPN and The Athletic first reported the multiteam deal which, as currently constructed, will be executed as the sign-and-trade of a three-year, \$50 million contract involving the Warriors, Mavericks and Charlotte



In this file photo, Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson gestures after making a 3-point basket against the Los Angeles Lakers during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles. (AP)

There were indications last season that Thompson and the Warriors might be headed toward a breakup.

Thompson came off the bench 14 times - not much in the grand scheme of things considering he played 77 games, but those were his first appearances as a reserve since his rookie season of 2011-

12. He shot 38.7% from 3-point range, the second-worst of his career. He averaged 17.9 points, the third-lowest of his career. He wasn't always in the finishing lineup and the season - and his Warriors career - ended with a 0-for-10 shooting performance against Sacramento in a play-in tournament loss.

Thompson - a five-time All-Star and two-time All-NBA selection who missed two entire seasons with injuries - took a long look around the court after that game, soaking in the scene just in case it would be his final time playing with the Warriors. Turns out, it was. And now he'll join a Dallas team that just went to the NBA Finals as a shooter brought in to help Luka Dončić and Kyrie Irving.

The Hornets were planning to acquire guard Josh Green as part of the deal, giving up two second-round draft picks. The 15th overall pick in the 2020 draft, Green has spent all four of his NBA seasons with the Mavericks and averaged 8.2 points, 3.2 rebounds and 2.3 assists this past season. The league's moratorium on signings is lifted on Saturday. They were all undervalued on some level when they entered the NBA. None was a lottery pick, some weren't even first-round picks and they didn't have the label of can't-miss prospects.

Call for international support

Afghan women cricketers appeal for a refugee team

SYDNEY, July 2, (AP) - A group of Afghan women's cricketers has again approached the sport's international governing body asking for backing to reform as a refugee team based in Australia.

The women sent a letter to the International Cricket Council in the wake of the Afghanistan men's historic run to the semifinals of the Twenty20 World Cup in the Caribbean last week.

More than two dozen women who'd been in the Afghanistan Cricket Board system sought refuge in Australia in 2021 after the Taliban took over and

chairman Greg Barclay, the Australian Associated Press reported on Tuesday.

"We are asking the ICC to assist us in setting up a refugee team in Australia. Through this team we aim to represent all Afghan women who dream of playing cricket but are unable to in Afghanistan."

The letter said ICC support for the refugee team would give Afghan refugees a chance to play, coach and administer the team without borders.

"The creation of this team will allow all Afghan women who want to represent their country to come together under one banner," the letter continued. "Our goals in having a refugee team are to develop and showcase our talent, give hope to the women remaining in Afghanistan, and to draw attention to the challenges women of Afghanistan face."

"Like the Afghanistan men's team are afforded, we aim to compete at the highest levels."

Cricket Australia has previously provided support to the Afghan women's players in Australia, and has refused to play a bilateral series against the men's team until the gender disparity is addressed.

CRICKET

enforced bans on women's sports.

The group first approached the ICC in 2023 but didn't get the outcome it needed.

Many have continued playing in domestic competitions in Australia but haven't had access to international cricket, despite ICC regulations requiring all test-playing members to support men's and women's national teams.

"A profound sadness remains that we, as women, cannot represent our country like the male cricketers," the women wrote in a letter to ICC



Uruguay's Mathias Olivera, (right), and Folarin Balogun of the United States battle for the ball during a Copa America Group C soccer match in Kansas City, Mo. (AP)

US eliminated from Copa with 'defeat' to Uruguay

Panama beats Bolivia to reach knockout rounds

KANSAS CITY, July 2, (AP) - The United States was eliminated from the Copa America with a 1-0 loss to Uruguay on a Mathias Olivera's questionable second-half goal on Monday night, a defeat that will increase pressure on the U.S. Soccer Federation to remove coach Gregg Berhalter before the 2026 World Cup.

Uruguay scored in the 66th minute when Nicolas De La Cruz swung a free kick in front of the U.S. goal. Matt Turner parried a header by Ronald Araújo, who out-jumped defender Tim Ream, but the rebound went right to Mathias

SOCCER

Olivera and he tapped the ball in with his left foot.

Olivera appeared to be offside on the initial header but the goal stood after a video review.

Using a lineup of players entirely from European clubs, Berhalter and the U.S. hoped to show the team had advanced since its round-of-16 elimination against the Netherlands at the 2026 World Cup. Instead, the U.S. opened with a 2-0 loss to lowly Bolivia and were upset 2-1 by Panama.

Three minutes before Uruguay scored, the U.S. was in position to advance when Bruno Miranda tied the score for Bolivia against Panama in a game that started simultaneously in Orlando, Florida. But Panama went on to a 3-1 victory and claimed the second spot in Group C behind Uruguay.

Team GB strives for top 5 'finish' at Paris Olympics

LONDON, July 2, (Xinhua) - Having gradually improved its results at the Summer Olympic Games over the past 20 years, Team Great Britain could expect another top-five finish on the medal table at the upcoming Paris Olympic Games.

From Sydney to Rio, Team GB has achieved an increase in the total number of medals for five consecutive Olympic Games. At each of the last three Olympic Games, it collected more than 60 medals.

Cycling has always been a significant source of Olympic medals for Britain. From Beijing to Rio, Britain won no less than six gold medals and no less than nine medals in track cycling events at three consecutive Olympic Games. Although Britain's number of gold medals in track cycling shrank

to three at the Tokyo Olympics, it was able to gain "compensation" from the four newly added BMX events, stealing the limelight with two golds, one silver, and one bronze.

Britain is also a powerhouse in rowing, having won gold at every Games from 1984 to 2016. A 42-athlete

OLYMPICS

Olympic squad was confirmed earlier this month, with half of the rowers set to participate in the Olympic Games for the first time in Paris.

In sailing, Britain has won gold medals in six consecutive Olympic Games, with the number of medals ranging from three to six at each Games.

Britain performs well not only on the

water but also in the water. At the Tokyo Olympics, their swimmers won an unprecedented four golds, three silvers, and one bronze, making them the best team after the United States and Australia. Three years later, the squad, led by breaststroke specialist Adam Peaty and prolific Olympic medalist Duncan Scott, remains competitive in the pool.

Additionally, Britain boasts star athletes and strong teams in athletics, gymnastics, and diving. Maintaining a total medal count above 60 at the Paris Olympics should be a reasonable goal for Britain.

On the medal table, although it is challenging for Britain to compete with the United States and China, it is a strong competitor to host France, as well as Australia, Germany, Japan among others.

leave with a hip pointer and Ricardo Pepi took his place.

Uruguay lost Maximiliano Araújo earlier in the half after a scary collision with Ream near the U.S. goal. He had to be taken off the field on a stretcher, though he was able to move his arms before heading up the tunnel.

In the middle of the chaos was 32-year-old Peruvian referee Kevin Ortega, who made several questionable calls that hurt the U.S.

The first came when Ortega began to pull a yellow card and stop play, then allowed it to continue - while still holding the card - as Uruguay nearly scored on an attack.



In this file photo, Afghanistan team logo is seen on a player's uniform during the men's T20 World Cup cricket match between Afghanistan and Bangladesh at Arnos Vale Ground, Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. (AP)

China's junior badminton team 'honors' late teammate Zhang

BEIJING, July 2, (Xinhua) - In a heartfelt tribute, the Chinese badminton team overcame South Korea 3-1 in the mixed team final at the 2024 Badminton Asia Junior Championships in Indonesia on Tuesday, reclaiming the title after six long years.

The emotional ceremony saw the entire team ascend the podium with a jersey of their recently deceased teammate, Zhang Zhijie, a promising 17-year-old badminton star.

Zhang tragically passed away on Sunday. During China's final group stage match of the championships against Japan, he suddenly collapsed on the court and was later pronounced dead in hospital.

His untimely death has sparked a wave of grief among Chinese fans and a broader discussion on emergency response for athletes.

Tuesday's final saw Chen Fanshuan and Liu Jiayue secure the victory for China in the women's doubles, defeating their South Korean counterparts 21-16, 22-20. As the game approached its concluding points, cameras poignantly captured Zhang's jersey draped over the Chinese support bench, a silent yet powerful tribute.

At the award ceremony, the Chinese team, bearing Zhang's jersey, took to the podium with tear-streaked

faces and eyes red from crying. They received a standing ovation from their opponents.

On Chinese social media, tributes for Zhang poured in from numerous players. Olympic women's singles champion Chen Yufei shared a photo of the team on the podium, captioned, "We are together, and you are the champion." Former Olympic and world champion Cai Yun expressed his sorrow, stating, "The news is deeply heartbreaking. The Chinese badminton team has lost a talented youth, and his parents have lost a beloved son forever. May he rest in peace." Mixed doubles player Zheng Siwei, who shared a team with Zhang in Zhejiang, posted: "I didn't know him well, but from his interviews, one could see the passion and drive of an exceptional athlete. I mourn his loss. I hope this tragedy will prompt the Badminton World Federation, Badminton Asia, and society at large to prioritize life above all in every situation." The Badminton World Federation also conveyed their condolences via social media, saying, "The BWF is deeply saddened by the tragic passing of rising badminton star Zhang Zhijie. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to his family, teammates, the Chinese Badminton Association, and the entire badminton community in China."

Vingegaard finishes 37 seconds behind on stage four

Pogacar attacks in Tour first big mountain stage and reclaims yellow jersey

VALLOIRE, France, July 2, (AP): Tadej Pogacar attacked near the top of the first big mountain pass of the Tour de France and extended his lead during the twisty, high-speed descent to take back the yellow jersey on Tuesday.

Two-time defending champion Jonas Vingegaard did his best to limit the damage but finished 37 seconds behind on stage four. The race crossed back into France after the opening stages in Italy.

The climb to the 2,642-meter (8,668-foot) Col du Galibier met expectations as the Tour's first decisive point.

"This was more or less the plan and

CYCLING

we executed it truly well," Pogacar said after his 12th career stage win at the Tour. "I wanted to hit hard today. I know this stage really well. I've been training here many days. It felt like a home stage.

"I had confidence in the start, I had good legs, and I had to try it. I know the downhill but I was a little bit surprised to see wet road in the first few corners. So it was a little bit scary."

The roads were slick from melting snow banks. Previous leader Richard Carapaz was dropped on the Galibier.

Tour rookie Remco Evenepoel, the Spanish Vuelta and world champion in 2022, crossed second in the stage, 35 seconds behind Pogacar. Juan Ayuso, Pogacar's UAE teammate, finished third with the same time.

Primoz Roglic crossed fourth and Vingegaard fifth.

Overall, Pogacar led Evenepoel by 45 seconds and Vingegaard by 50 seconds.

With Pogacar's UAE Team Emirates squad setting a fast pace on the climb, only Vingegaard and a handful of other riders were able to keep up to

Al Salmiya strengthen squad with Tunisian forward Louati

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Louati joins Salmiya's lineup of foreign players, which includes Moroccan Younes Al-Najjari, Brazilian Alex Lima, Libyan Senussi Al-Hadi, and Guinean Sang-Pierre, alongside the renewed contracts of Brazilian Sebastião de Freitas "Seba" and Ghanaian Abudu Issaka.



Tunisian forward Imad Louati.

Born on October 11, 1993, Louati has previously played for CS Sfaxien and Etoile du Sahel in Tunisia, Jig Yang Greentown and Gyeongnam in China, Delkord in Sweden, and Vejle Boldklub in Denmark, before moving to Iraqi club Dohuk last January.

Additionally, Salmiya Club's delegation will depart for Bosnia on Friday to set up an external camp lasting until July 21, which will include several friendly

matches in preparation for the new season.

The team will not conduct any training sessions before the camp, as requested by the technical staff led by Croatian coach Ante Misha. Coach Misha is scheduled to join the delegation on the same day, as he is currently on a personal vacation. The new Moroccan professionals, Younes El-Najjari from Olympique Safi and Tunisian Imad Louati, will also join the delegation.

Al Salmiya has bolstered its squad with several local players, including former Al-Arabi and Al-Qadisiya player Saif Al-Hashan, former Khaitan

SOCCER

Club goalkeeper Ali Fadel, former Kazma Club goalkeeper Youssef Al-Kandari, former Al-Arabi Club player Issa Walid, former Al-Shabab Club player Ahmed Abu Maryoum, and former Al-Jahra Club player Muhammad Al-Mahamid.

These new signings follow the departures of Athbi Shehab and Moaz Al-Dhafri to Al-Qadisiya, the retirement of goalkeeper Nawaf Al-Mansour, and the transfer of goalkeeper Saud Al-Jana'i to Yarmouk.

up to Vingegaard the last two years.

The last rider to win the Giro and the Tour in the same year was Marco Pantani in 1998.

The route from Pinerolo, Italy, to Valloire was relatively short at 140 kilometers (87 miles) but with two category two climbs to Sestriere and Montgenevre before the gruelling ascent to the Galibier, it marked the first true test of the Tour.

ward the top of the Galibier.

Then Pogacar attacked with 800 meters (yards) to go and created about a 10-second advantage over Vingegaard at the summit. There were about 20 kilometers of descending to the finish and Pogacar extended his lead over the more cautious Vingegaard, who suffered a high-speed crash in April, breaking his collarbone and ribs and leaving him with a collapsed lung.

Vingegaard was second at the summit and Evenepoel was third.

At the finish line, Pogacar had plenty of time to pound his chest and raise his fists in celebration.

Pogacar, who also wore yellow after Stage 2, is aiming for the rare Giro d'Italia-Tour double after dominating the Italian Grand Tour in May. He's also aiming for his third Tour title after wins in 2020 and 2021. He was runner-

Defending champion Marketa upset in Wimbledon 1st round



Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a forehand return to Vit Kopriva of the Czech Republic during their first round match at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London. (AP)

Osaka wins at Wimbledon for first time in 6 years

LONDON, July 2, (AP): Marketa Vondrousova became the first defending women's champion at Wimbledon to lose in the first round the next year since 1994, eliminated 6-4, 6-2 by Jessica Bouzas Maneiro at Centre Court on Tuesday.

Vondrousova was a surprise title winner in my life, in my career, here in this sport. This is amazing," said Bouzas Maneiro, a 21-year-old from Spain who is ranked 83rd this week, equaling her career high.

Serbia's Novak Djokovic opened with 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Vit Kopriva of the Czech Republic.

Now she enters the books in another - and less-wanted - historic way. The only other time in the sport's Open era, which dates to 1968, that a woman went from a championship at Wimbledon to an immediate exit a year later was when Steffi Graf was defeated by Lori McNeil 30 years ago.

Vondrousova was seeded No. 6 this time, but the left-hander, who also was the runner-up at the 2019 French Open and a silver medalist at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago, was never at her best on Tuesday. She appeared to still be suffering after-effects from a fall during a tuneup tournament on grass in Berlin last month that hurt her hip.

"This is one of the most important moments in my life, in my career, here in this sport. This is amazing," said Bouzas Maneiro, a 21-year-old from Spain who is ranked 83rd this week, equaling her career high.

Nasser Al-Waleed named First VP of Arab Modern Pentathlon Federation

ALEXANDRIA, July 2: The General Assembly of the Arab Modern Pentathlon Federation has approved Nasser Al-Waleed, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwaiti Football Federation, as the First Vice President of the Arab Modern Pentathlon Federation. The Arab Union General Assembly convened today in Alexandria.

Al-Waleed expressed his sincere gratitude to the members of the Arab Modern Pentathlon Federation for their valuable trust, asking the Almighty for success in this mission, and pledging to work with his colleagues in the Arab Federation to advance the sport of modern pentathlon at both the Arab and international levels.



Nasser Al-Waleed - First Vice President of the Arab Modern Pentathlon Federation.

"I was like, 'I have no pressure, just enjoy the moment, enjoy the tournament.' Just trying to be free playing, and I did it, so I'm happy for that," she said.

The initial signs of trouble for

Vondrousova on Tuesday came right away: She double-faulted three times in the very first game and got broken to trail 1-0.

She would wind up with seven double-faults, part of her total of 28

enforced errors, twice as many as Bouzas Maneiro in the 66-minute match.

How big a deal was this for Bouzas Maneiro?

She is competing in a Grand Slam tournament for only the third time and came into the day with an 0-2 record at those events. Bouzas Maneiro also had never won a match at a tour-level grass tournament and never beaten an opponent ranked in the top 10.

"I'm surprised with myself, honestly. At the beginning, I was a little bit nervous, but then ... the atmosphere was so nice," Bouzas Maneiro said. "I was comfortable here playing, and I was like at home. I don't know why."

Naomi Osaka had not won a match

TENNIS

at Wimbledon in six years. Hadn't even played there in five. Grass courts never were her favorite surface.

Twelve months ago at this time, Osaka was off the tour while becoming a mother - her daughter, Shai, turns 1 on Tuesday - and recalls flipping on the TV in the hospital and seeing a certain Grand Slam event on the screen.

"I'm just really excited to be here," Osaka said after pulling out a 6-1, 1-6, 6-4 victory over Diane Parry in the first round at the All England Club by taking the last two games from 4-all in the third set. "It's funny, because Wimbledon was the first tournament I watched after pregnancy."

Osaka had not entered Wimbledon since a first-round loss in 2019, and while she's topped the WTA in the past, she is now No. 113 in the rankings after being off the tour for 15 months until returning in January.



Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the fourth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 139.6 kilometers (86.7 miles) with start in Pinerolo, Italy and finish in Valloire, France. (AP)

Frankfurt sign promising Uzun

Ronaldo says he is playing his 'last European Championship'

HAMBURG, Germany, July 2, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo has confirmed this year's European Championship will be the last of his career.

The Portugal superstar, who is 39, is playing at the Euros for a record sixth time and has helped his country reach the quarter-finals - where Kylian Mbappé and France await in Hamburg on Friday.

Speaking to Portuguese public broadcaster RTP after the penalty-shootout victory over Slovenia on Monday, Ronaldo said: "It is, without doubt, my last European Championship."

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"But I'm not emotional about that. I'm moved by all that football means - by the enthusiasm I have for the game, the enthusiasm for seeing my supporters, my family, the affection people have for me."

Ronaldo, who is one of the most prolific scorers in soccer history and has a record 14 goals at European Championships, said his main motivation now was "making people happy." He was reduced to tears during the Slovenia game after having a penalty saved in extra time.

"It's not about leaving the world of football," he said. "What else is there for me to do or win? It's not going to come down to one point more or one point less."

Eintracht Frankfurt has signed the 18-year-old Turkey forward Can Uzun on a five-year contract for one of the most promising young players in German soccer.

Uzun, who was born and raised in Germany, scored 19 goals in 32 games for second-division Nuremberg last season. Frankfurt said he turned down other offers.

"Can Uzun is one of the biggest talents in Germany," Frankfurt board member for sport Markus Krösche said in a statement. "We're therefore delighted



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo reacts after scoring in penalties shootouts during a round of sixteen match between Portugal and Slovenia at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Frankfurt, Germany. (AP)

that he has chosen us ahead of several interesting offers that he received from all around Europe. He has incredible skills for his age. We've outlined our precise plans to Can and he's bought into them."

Uzun made his international debut for Turkey in March but was not in the squad for Euro 2024.

Chinese Super League (CSL) club Shandong Taishan announced on Tuesday that defender Ji Xiang has been loaned to Nanjing City, a Chinese second-tier league club.

Alongside Ji, goalkeeper Han Rongze was also loaned out by the Shandong outfit. He has joined the CSL side Cangzhou Mighty Lions, the Shandong club said in a brief statement.

Both players' loan terms will expire at the end of this year, according to the statement.

Ji, a former Chinese international, joined the Shandong side in 2021 from Jiangsu Suning, which folded after claiming their first CSL title in the 2020 season.

He won the CSL title in 2022 and the Chinese FA Cup the following season with the Shandong team.

Al-Azab continues as Al-Sahel coach

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The Board of Directors of Al-Sahel Club has decided to renew its confidence in Mohamed Al-Azab, allowing him to continue leading the technical staff of the first football team for the upcoming 2024-2025 season.

This decision aims to support Al-Azab in continuing the mission he began midway through last season,

focusing on a squad predominantly composed of young players.

Despite its efforts, Al-Sahel did not manage to secure a return to the Zain Premier League for the next season, finishing third in the first division standings with 25 points, just one point behind Al-Tadamon, who clinched the second qualifying spot after Yarmouk.

Best of the Rest

Romania to host tourney: Romania announced on Tuesday that it is ready to host the European Youth Archery Championships from July 8 to 13.

The event will see over 450 athletes from 38 countries and regions compete at the Hipodrom Complex in Ploiesti, about 56km north of Bucharest, according to Milan Cornel, president of the Romanian Archery Federation, in a press release.

Cornel expressed excitement about hosting the championship, highlighting it as a significant opportunity for Romanian archery, especially following Madalina Amaistroaie's recent qualification for the Paris Olympics. (Xinhua)

Chelsea sign Kiernan: Chelsea completed the signing of midfielder Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall from Leicester City on Tuesday.

Dewsbury-Hall has agreed on a five-year contract with the option of a further 12 months, the English Premier League club said. The cost of the transfer was not stated. "I'm really excited to get going

and can't wait to show everybody what I can do," said Dewsbury-Hall, who has followed coach Enzo Maresca by leaving Leicester for Chelsea this offseason. (AP)

The 25-year-old Dewsbury-Hall was part of Maresca's Leicester team that won promotion to the Premier League last season.

"I have made it pretty public about what I think of the new head coach. He is fantastic. He is top," he said. "He completely changed the way Leicester wanted to play last season and we saw it worked."

"I am very confident coming here that he is going to implement his style and that the lads are going to buy into it and are going to enjoy it."

Chelsea has endured a turbulent time over the past two years after being bought out by American investors Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital.

Maresca is the fourth permanent coach to work under the new ownership in that time, following Thomas Tuchel, Graham Potter and Mauricio Pochettino. (AP)



Belgium's Amadou Onana, (left), vies for the ball with N'Golo Kante of France during a round of sixteen match between France and Belgium at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Duesseldorf, Germany. (AP)

Sports

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Ronaldo tears turn to celebration in Portugal shootout win over Slovenia

France eliminate unlucky Belgium

FRANKFURT, Germany, July 2, (Xinhua): Cristiano Ronaldo experienced an emotional rollercoaster as Portugal survived Slovenia in a penalty shootout in the Euro 2024 Round of 16.

In a dramatic and gripping match, Ronaldo missed a penalty in extra time, shedding tears on the pitch, but redeemed himself by scoring the first penalty in the shootout.

With goalkeeper Diogo Costa's three consecutive saves, Portugal triumphed 3-0 over Slovenia to advance to the quarterfinals.

Portugal will face tournament favorites France in the next round, who narrowly defeated Belgium 1-0 in an earlier match the same day.

Costa, currently playing for Porto, was undoubtedly the hero of the match as he saved three penalties in a row from Josip Ilicic, Jure Balkovec, and Benjamin Verbic.

Meanwhile, his teammates Ronaldo, Bruno Fernandes, and Bernardo Silva converted their penalties, securing Portugal's 3-0 victory and a spot in the quarterfinals.

"This might be the best match of my career so far. I focused on my tasks on the pitch," the 24-year-old Costa said in a post-match interview. "I trusted my gut during the penalty shootout. Of course, we had analyzed the shooters, but players often change their minds on the field, so I trusted my gut." In addition to his heroics in the penalty shootout, Costa made a crucial save in the final stages of extra time, denying a one-on-one opportunity from Slovenia's forward Benjamin Sesko.

"Costa is our secret weapon. He showed his strength today," Portugal coach Roberto Martinez praised Costa.



Portugal's Bruno Fernandes kicks the ball ahead of Slovenia's Timi Elsnik during a round of sixteen match between Portugal and Slovenia at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Frankfurt, Germany. (AP)

KFA revises league system

Al-Qadisiya vs Kuwait Club moved to 8th Aug in Zain Premier League

By Hassan Musa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Kuwait Football Association's Competitions Department has decided to reschedule the Clásico match between Al-Qadisiya and Kuwait Club, moving it up by one day to August 8th, instead of the originally planned August 9th.

SOCCER



A file photo of players challenging for the ball.

26" next December.

The rest of the first round of the Zain Premier League will proceed the following day with matches between Al-Arabi and Kazma, Al-Salmiya and Al-Nasr, Khaitan and Al-Fahaheel, and Yarmouk and Al-Tadamon.

Additionally, the association has revised the league competition system. The league will now feature a home-and-away format for all ten teams, with the third stage—comprising the championship and survival groups—being held in a single round on neutral ground. This is a departure from last season's home-and-away format for the third stage.

These changes aim to provide Al-Azraq with better preparation for the decisive round of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers and align with the association's commitment to hosting "Gulf

couldn't beat Belgium goalkeeper Koen Casteels twice in quick succession.

However, Les Bleus had the last laugh. N'Golo Kante danced through Belgium's defense before feeding Randal Kolo Muani, whose effort deflected off Vertonghen, leaving Casteels hapless in the 85th minute.

"An own goal, if it's deflected, it means someone had to shoot. If that finishes in the net, so be it. The best teams are at this Euro and the games are played with high intensity. We have always got the capability to score more. It's been tricky for us since the start of the Euro, but we have always had chances," said France coach Deschamps.

"An hour after the final whistle and conceding a late own goal, it's hard to go into an analysis. We will analyze everything at this EURO and see in a few weeks," said Belgium coach Domenico Tedesco.

With this result, France will face Portugal in the quarterfinal encounter in Hamburg on Friday.

features matches between Al-Arabi and Sulaibkhat, Kazma and Al-Jahra, Al-Salmiya and Al-Sahel, Al-Nasr and Yarmouk, Khaitan and Al-Shabab, Al-Qadisiya and Burgan, and Al-Fahaheel and Al-Tadamon.

The draw for the Crown Prince Cup, also a knockout competition, resulted in the following pairings: Kuwait Club vs. Al-Tadamon, Kazma vs. Yarmouk, Al-Sulaibkhat vs. Khaitan, Al-Qadisiya vs. Al-Nasr, Burgan vs. Al-Salmiya, Al-Fahaheel vs. Al-Shabab, and Al-Arabi vs. Al-Sahel. Al-Jahra was exempt from the preliminary round.

In the Super Cup, Kuwait Club will face Al-Salmiya, and Al-Arabi will take on Al-Qadisiya, with the winners meeting in the final match.

The league will feature ten clubs and will follow the same format as the previous season, with a home-and-away system before splitting into two groups: six clubs competing for the championship in a single round, and four clubs playing a single-round league to avoid relegation to the first division.

The tournament promises strong matchups, including a first-round clash between Kuwait and Al-Qadisiya, and a match between Al-Arabi and Kazma in the same round. The derby between Al-Qadisiya and Al-Arabi is scheduled for the third round.

Kuwait teams ready for challenges



Players training for the upcoming games.

By Khaled El Anzi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Faisal Siwan, the technical director of the national handball teams, outlined that the association's plan for preparing Kuwaiti

HANDBALL

teams is progressing as scheduled by the board of directors and the coaching staff. The aim is to develop teams capable of competing in international tournaments and representing Kuwaiti handball effectively.

He elaborated, stating, "The national teams will embark on external camps to enhance talent, maintain continuity, and gain experience. The team will participate in Cairo next month for trial matches, while the youth team plans a Slovenian camp with friendly tournaments against European and lo-

cal teams, after filtering down to 30 players from an initial group of 42.

Siwan highlighted the upcoming competitions for various teams, including the Arab Championship, Gulf Championship, and Asian Championship for the youth team and the 10th Asian Championship in Iran for the junior team in September. Before their Asian campaign, the team will host the South Korean for friendly matches.

Meanwhile, the youth handball team is currently in Slovenia preparing for the 18th Asian Championship and the 2025 World Cup Qualifiers in Jordan from July 14-25.

Regarding the senior team, Siwan noted they have entered the second stage of preparation after a camp in Turkey and are participating in a friendly tournament in Slovenia. He added, "Currently, we have 30 players, which will be narrowed down to 24, with potential additions by the technical staff as needed."

Sheikh Al-Badr assures recovery of Kuwait's speedboat champs

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr, the head of Asian Swimming Sports Federation (AASF), conveyed his concern regarding the incident involving Kuwait's speedboat champions Bader Al-Dosari and Mohammed Al-Essayi during their participation in the second round of the World Championships in Belgium.

In a phone call with the accompanying administrative staff, Sheikh Al-Badr provided reassurance about the players' health, noting their recovery under excellent medical care and dedicated efforts.

In a press statement, Sheikh Al-Badr affirmed the Federation's unwavering support for the Kuwaiti champions, pledging full



Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr, the head of Asian Swimming Sports Federation.

resources until their safe return to Kuwait. He emphasized that Bader Al-Dossari and Mohammed Al-Isayi are esteemed competitors with a distinguished history in water sports.

The incident, involving the capsizing of their boat in the "B class" category for single-engine boats with 300 horsepower, occurred during intense competition where Kuwait was leading after 13 laps.

Sheikh Al-Badr expressed hope for a speedy recovery for Al-Dosari and Al-Essayi, anticipating their return stronger to continue their successful journey alongside other competitors, proudly representing Kuwait on regional and global stages.

Mitchell agrees to three-yr extension

CLEVELAND, July 2, (AP): All-Star guard Donovan Mitchell has agreed to a three-year, \$150.3 million contract extension with the Cleveland Cavaliers, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Mitchell's choice to commit to the Cavaliers had been expected for some time.

The 27-year-old said on numerous occasions this past season that he's happy playing with Cleveland, which acquired him in a 2022 trade from Utah. The Cavs have made the playoffs in both seasons with Mitchell.

BASKETBALL

He agreed to the deal in Los Angeles over the weekend, according to the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the NBA prohibits deals from being announced until its moratorium ends on Saturday. ESPN was first to report Mitchell's agreement.

The extension includes a player option for the 2027-28 season, the person said. Mitchell was under contract for one more season.

Shortly after word of Mitchell's extension emerged, he posted a video on social media from the film "The Wolf of Wall Street" in which actor Leonardo DiCaprio profanely announces to his colleagues, "I'm not leaving."

Mitchell was in LA hosting his "Spida Elite" basketball camp for some of the nation's top high school guards. He was visited by Cavs president of basketball operations Koby Altman and new Cavs coach Kenny Atkinson, who was formally introduced by the team at a news conference on Monday.