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Amir receives Crown Prince, PM



Amiri Diwan photo
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Wednesday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



Crown Prince Diwan photo
His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace Wednesday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Cornerstone of oil strategy

Al-Zour marks milestone with 615,000 bpd output

KUWAIT CITY, June 19, (KUNA): Kuwait's Al-Zour refinery stands as among the region's most impactful oil projects, besides being the cornerstone of state-run Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's (KPC) future plans and strategies that aim to ratchet up oil refining capacity, the facility's fully-operational output has reached 615,000 barrels per day (bpd).

The refinery, some 90 kilometers south of Kuwait City, has long been one of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's core concerns, as evidenced by his attendance of a lavish ceremony last month to mark the facility's operation at full capacity.

Ranked seventh in the world's list of the biggest oil refineries based on daily capacity, a statistic that shows the sheer magnitude of the facility, Al-Zour looks poised to propel KPC to regional prominence given its contributions towards bringing the company's major goals to fruition, which subsequently triggers a positive ripple effect on the national economy.

On the intricacies of Al-Zour's daily output, the refinery churns out some 86,000 bpd of premium Naphtha, in addition to 99,000 bpd of jet fuel and 147,000 bpd of low-sulfur diesel, respectively, all the while keeping carbon emissions in check in line with Kuwait's commitment towards environmental sustainability goals.

With its operation at full-fledged capacity, Al-Zour refinery will now be able to boost Kuwait's competitiveness in the global market through its production of oil-based products of sublime quality, with KPC chief executive Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah saying the nation will now "reap the benefits" of the facility, chief among them being a sharp rise in Kuwait's crude oil exports.

He went on to say that he was "proud" of the dedication and commitment of KPC's national workforce, saying their experiences in handling such a critical project would serve them well over the course of their professional careers, enabling them to better deal with future endeavors.

Echoing his sentiments, Wadha Al-Khatib, acting chief executive of KPC affiliate Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company, said the opening of Al-Zour refinery would "usher in a new era" in Kuwait's oil industry, in addition to a "launchpad" for greater output capacity in line with environment safety standards.

Some 30 countries from across the world have become the beneficiaries of the rise in Kuwaiti oil exports, while Al-Zour has boosted total refining capacity from 800,000 bpd to a million and 415 thousand bpd, the official underlined, giving due credit to the national workforce for coping with the arduous journey that culminated in the facility's full-fledged operations.

52°C heat spurs power outages across Kuwait

Around 40 areas hit as calls for energy conservation echo

By **Mohammad Al-Musleh, Abdel Nasser Al-Aslami and Mohammed Ghanem**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: Around 40 areas across Kuwait witnessed a power outage on Wednesday due to some transformers being out of service as a result of the increase in air temperature.

The affected areas include Abdullah Al-Mubarak, Abdullah Port, Andalus, Ardiya, Bneid Al-Gar, Dasma, Al-Dhahr, Faiha, Fahaheel, Farwaniya, Funaitees, Hawally, Hattin, Ishbiliya, Jaber Al-Ali, Jabriya, Khaitan, Khaldiya, Mangaf, Mansouriya, Nuzha, Oyoun, Qadsiya, Rabiya, Al-Rai, Rawda, Rehab, Rumaithiya, Saad Al-Abdullah, Sabah Al-Salem, Al-Salam, Salmiya, Salwa, Shamiya, Shuwaikh Industrial Area, South Surra, Subhan, Surra, Umm Al-Hayman, Waha and Yarmouk.

Earlier, citizens reported about a power outage in Block One in Saad Al-Abdullah expressing their hope and confidence in the ability of the Ministry of Electricity to immediately address the problem. Then, electricity was restored in some parts of Block 12 in Salmiya, specifically Nasser Al-Badr Street, Avenue 10, after the emergency teams dealt with the outage.

The ministry revealed that the power outage is due to high temperature that breached 50 degrees Celsius on Wednesday; thereby, increasing pressure on the electrical network. It added this is expected in light of the increased loads and pressure on the electricity network due to rising temperatures and increasing demand for energy. It affirmed that emergency teams were immediately dispatched to the stations that caused the outages to repair the fault and restore power.

In a related development, the Meteorological Department at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) announced that Kuwait recorded a temperature of 52 degrees Celsius.

Head of the Marine Forecast Unit at the Meteorological Department Yasser Al-Balushi revealed in a statement to the newspaper that the temperature ranged between 51 to 52 degrees Celsius in most land and open areas. He explained that the noticeable rise is due to the presence of air mass resulting from the extension of the Indian monsoon low; along with the extremely hot, fast and dusty north-westerly winds.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior said that due to the power outage in some areas and the resulting stoppage of traffic lights at some intersections, the General Traffic Department (GTD) immediately provided traffic patrols to manage the affected areas. It urged road users to take caution and follow the instructions of the security personnel to guarantee the safety of everyone.

Official sources from the Ministry of Electricity and Water disclosed that the failure of a power generation unit in South Zour Station with a capacity of 300 megawatts was behind the out-



Photo by Mohamad Morse
Seeking relief from scorching heat, a young man cools off with water as Kuwait hits 52°C on a blistering Wednesday afternoon.



Photo by Samer Shiker
Khaitan shops forced to close as Kuwait grapples with power outage.

ages in different parts of the country. They added this is one of the old stations with eight units whose lifespan ended, affirming that the ministry recently signed a contract to carry out the maintenance works.

Another official source from the ministry said "many countries around the world are resorting to a programmed voluntary power cut in order to ration consumption, but we have not taken such a decision yet. We hope we will not be forced to take this step. The co-operation of consumers will greatly help in rationalizing consumption and avoiding programmed disconnection. There have been calls for the ministry to intervene in order to regulate consumption in other ministries and agencies that do not require the use of electricity throughout the day, as it is a more valid option than

programmed disconnection for citizens." Prior to the outages, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Dr. Mahmoud Bushehri assured the public about the stability of the country's electrical energy situation.

He emphasized that the ministry is fully equipped with the necessary capabilities and personnel to meet the nation's electricity demands and handle any potential emergencies resulting from increased loads due to high temperatures.

During his inspection visit to the National Control Center to oversee operations and management of the national electricity grid -- from production facilities to consumer distribution, Bushehri urged consumers to practice energy conservation during

peak hours, specifically from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. He highlighted that such efforts significantly contribute to sustainable electricity usage.

Acting Undersecretary of the ministry Eng. Haitham Al-Ali joined the minister in this visit. They reviewed the readiness of the electrical network to manage high loads expected during the summer season.

The inspection covered key operational rooms; such as the computer room, communications room, and the control and monitoring center, all essential for monitoring and managing the electricity network effectively.

In addition, the electricity consumption index near the orange zone at 15,844 megawatts on Tuesday.

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Oil sector slump drives decline

Kuwait's economy contracts 4.35% in Q4 2023



Photos by Mahmoud Jadeded
Kuwaiti pilgrims receive warm embraces and a festive welcome from family and loved ones upon their return to Kuwait International Airport after completing Hajj. -- See Also Page 2

Kuwait welcomes back pilgrims after Hajj

Kuwait International Airport on Wednesday received Kuwaiti pilgrims after performing Hajj for the year 1445 AH (2024).

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is working with full ca-



capacity to facilitate the return of the guests of Almighty Allah from the Holy Land of Makkah, through co-ordination with Kuwaiti Hajj campaigns.

The DGCA announced Tuesday

that the total number of flights allocated for the return of pilgrims from Saudi Arabia will reach 38 flights, starting from the June 19th, and will continue for three days. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: In the fourth quarter of 2023, Kuwait's gross domestic product (GDP) at constant prices experienced a decline of 4.35 percent compared to the same period in the previous year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The GDP was recorded at 10.33 billion dinars (\$33.77 billion), down from 10.80 billion dinars (\$35.31 billion) in the fourth quarter of 2022. This decline was primarily attributed to a 6.4 percent decrease in the added value of the oil sector, influenced by reduced crude oil production quantities. Additionally, the non-oil sector's added value decreased by 2.3 percent during the same period.

The breakdown of contributions to the economy in the fourth quarter of 2023 showed that oil and natural gas extraction activities, along with related services, contributed 49.7 percent.

The manufacturing sector, including oil refining activities, contributed 8.5 percent, while public administration, defense,

Continued on Page 5

News watch

VIENNA: Kuwait on Wednesday urged the international community to step up efforts and put an end to what it called the "aggressive" war against the Gaza Strip, subsequently putting the Palestinians out of their misery.

Vowing to keep aid to the Palestinians intact, Kuwait's permanent representative to the United Nations Nasser Al-Heyn told the UN Human Rights Council that Israeli occupation forces continue to wage a "destructive" war against the Palestinians, lamenting the silence of the international community.

He went on to say that the situation continues to exacerbate as a result of the impeded delivery of aid to the Palestinian enclave, calling for the immediate relief to be given to innocent civilians there. (KUNA)

DUBAI: A bulk carrier sank days after an attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels believed to have killed one mariner on board, authorities said early Wednesday, the second ship sunk in the rebels' campaign.

The sinking of the Tutor in the Red Sea marks what appears to be a new escalation by the Iranian-backed Houthis in their campaign targeting shipping through the vital maritime corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

The attack comes despite a months-long U.S.-led campaign in the region that has seen the Navy face its most-intense mari-

time fighting since World War II, with near-daily attacks targeting commercial vessels and warship. (AP)

UNITED NATIONS: The Sudanese government accused the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday of fueling the 14-month war in the African country by providing weapons to a rival paramilitary force. The UAE dismissed the allegation as "ludicrous," calling "a shameful abuse by one of the warring parties."

The clash came during a U.N. Security Council meeting at which Assistant Secretary-General Martha Pobe warned that atrocities are being committed along ethnic lines in Sudan's western Darfur region. (AP)

TEHRAN: The death toll of the earthquake that hit Iran's northeastern city of Kashmar on Tuesday has risen to four, according to Iranian authorities.

"The toll of victims has risen to four and 120 others have been injured," Kashmar's Governor Hajarollah Shariatmadar was quoted as saying by Iran's official news agency (IRNA).

Earlier in the day, Iranian authorities announced that an earthquake measuring five degrees on the Richter scale had hit Kashmar City in the country's northeastern Razavi Khorasan province, 1:24 am local time. (KUNA)

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:13 Asr 15:23
Sunrise .. 04:48 Maghrib .. 18:50
Zohr 11:49 Isha 20:22

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-32 km/h.
By Night: Hot to rather hot with

Weather

light variable wind to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	50	38

Kuwait Airport	50	32
Abdaly	51	31
Jahra	52	33
Salmiyah	45	38
Nuwaisib	48	32
Wafra	50	30

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

HH Crown Prince and Prime Minister send greetings

HH Amir congratulates South African president on re-election

KUWAIT CITY, June 19, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, on his re-election.

His Highness the Amir wished President Ramaphosa success and long-lasting health, and the country of South Africa and its people, further progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown

Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, congratulating him on his re-election. The Crown Prince wished the president good health, and the country of South Africa and its people, further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable to South African president, congratulating him on his re-election.

25 flights bring home thousands of Kuwaiti pilgrims from S. Arabia

Kuwait airport eases all entry procedures for pilgrims

By Mohammad Al-Musleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: In the midst of tears of joy and bouquets of roses, Kuwait International Airport received the first group of pilgrims who returned home on Wednesday after performing Hajj in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The airport eased all the entry procedures for the pilgrims -- from the time they got off the plane until they left the airport gates.

A total of 25 flights from Jeddah with thousands of pilgrims on board arrived on Wednesday. The first flight by Saudi Airlines arrived at 12:30 pm with about 250 pilgrims on board.

A number of officials from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) warmly welcomed the pilgrims and followed up the entry procedures to ensure the smooth flow of movement inside the airport.

Pilgrims on board Kuwait Airways flights were received in the passenger terminal (T4), Jazeera Airways flights in terminal (T5), and Saudi Airlines and Flynas flights in the main passenger terminal (T1).

Barriers

DGCA placed barriers throughout the reception area until the point where the pilgrims exited the airport in order to prevent crowding of those receiving pilgrims.

The airport's entrances and exits witnessed the heavy presence of security and traffic personnel to guarantee the smooth flow of traffic, reduce congestion in front of the departure and arrival halls, and to organize the parking process designated for loading passengers.

The arriving pilgrims confirmed that Hajj this year was easy and simple, praising the role of Saudi authorities and their successful management of pilgrims' affairs and facilitating Hajj rituals for them without obstacles.

They indicated that the excellent organization by the Saudi authorities contributed to overcoming the difficulties, especially during the stoning ritual. They affirmed that the Kuwaiti Hajj delegation was in constant contact with the Hajj caravans to check on the Kuwaiti pilgrims and provide them with all assistance in terms of medical and service aspects.

Pilgrim Umm Khaled affirmed her happiness in performing the Hajj rituals, saying: "My happiness is indescribable. Since entering the Holy Land, we have been feeling joyful despite the fatigue and hot weather, but closeness to Allah alleviated our fatigue."

She indicated that the Saudi authorities played a major role in facilitating the performance of the rituals, "as we did not find any crowding during the stoning ritual, except for the farewell circumambulation, but those in charge were worthy of appreciation for facilitating the movement of pilgrims."

Pilgrim Abdullah Al-Fadaani said: "Praise be to Allah, we performed the Hajj rituals and returned to the country safely. We ask Almighty Allah to accept our obedience and we praise Him for performing the Hajj. The Hajj rituals this year were more than excellent, and that the Saudi authorities provided all facilities and services so that the rituals could be performed to perfection and at ease."

Shafi Al-Mazal confirmed that Hajj procedures were eased this year, without any noteworthy observation. He praised the role of the Kuwaiti Hajj delegation, which did not fail to monitor the Kuwaiti pilgrims and provide them with all services.



KUNA photo
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Al-Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting, June 19.



KUNA photo
On June 19, 1961, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah officially announced the independence of Kuwait after canceling the Kuwaiti-British Treaty that was signed in 1899.

A historic turning point in 1961

Kuwait celebrates 63rd Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 19, (KUNA): June 19 of 1961 is a pivotal day in the history of Kuwait as it marked the end of the British protection treaty and the emergence of the modern state.

On this day, Kuwait, a newly independent sovereign state, took its first steps in the journey of development.

The late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem had signed the declaration of independence with the British Government Chief Political Resident in the Arabian Gulf Sir George Middleton.

Three years after the declaration, a decree was signed on May 18, 1964 merging the national day with the day in which Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem assumed office, making it February 25. Celebrations were held on that day as of 1965.

Since assuming office in 1950, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem took carefully measured steps paving the way for independence, and achieving stability.

The 15-year reign of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem, who was dubbed, "father of independence" and "father of constitution" was peppered with achievements.

The State of Kuwait became member in the Arab League on July 20, 1961.

Sheikh Abdullah signed decree on August 26,

1961 to hold elections of the Constituent Assembly, mandated with writing the constitution.

The 183-article comprehensive constitution was completed in nine months, it laid the foundations for a sturdy democratic regime putting the Kuwaiti people on a path of progress and prosperity.

On September 7, 1961, an Amiri decree was signed specifying the shape and colors of the Kuwaiti flag, the very first flag to be flown following the independence.

At that time, the State of Kuwait accomplished 43 laws and legislation, including the nationality law, monetary law, passports law and the organization of government departments.

New departments were established in order to cope with the development of the nation, like public works, health, publication, knowledge, municipality, post and telephone, electricity and water, social affairs, awqaf, radio and television.

Over the past 63 years, Kuwait had become reputable for its humanitarian contributions and its levelheaded foreign policy.

Kuwait remains on a steady path of preventative diplomacy, crises mediation and effort contributing to solving outstanding regional and international issues.

Bid to assess ongoing work, address any challenges

Minister pays surprise visit to care home for disabled

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: The Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Dr. Amthul Al-Huwailah, conducted a surprise inspection visit to the Care and Rehabilitation Center for the disabled in the Sabahiya area, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the ongoing work and address any challenges faced by the center's employees, visitors, and beneficiaries of its services.

In a press statement, Al-Huwailah emphasized that these surprise tours are part of her regular practice to closely monitor operations, identify any issues encountered by staff and residents of the center, and take proactive steps to resolve them.

During the visit, the minister was briefed by officials on the latest developments aimed at enhancing service delivery to clients and overcoming obstacles



Photo by Rizk Taufiq
Dr Al-Huwailah during the visit to care home.

faced by people with disabilities and their families.

Dr Al-Huwailah underscored the importance of improving the quality of services, expediting processes, ensuring swift completion of transactions, and fully meeting the needs of the

center's beneficiaries.

The inspection visit reaffirms the government's commitment to enhancing care and support for individuals with disabilities, aiming to optimize their rehabilitation and integration into society.



Photos by Mahmoud Jadedd
Top and above: Pilgrims being received by their family members at the Kuwait International Airport after their return from Hajj.

Kuwait preps for talks with Philippines

Lifting of ban on recruitment of Filipino domestic workers eyed

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: According to a specialist in domestic labor affairs Basam Al-Shammari, the meeting between the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Al-Sabah and the Philippine Congressman and Chairman of Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs Ron P. Salo contributed to settling part of the Kuwait-Philippines domestic labor dispute, reports Aljazeera daily.

Al-Shammari explained that an official delegation from the Philippines will soon visit Kuwait to hold discussions with relevant Kuwaiti institutions regarding the cancellation of the ban and the resumption of export of domestic labor from the Philippines. If the ban is lifted, domestic labor offices are prepared to travel to Manila to finalize job orders.

Kuwait's labor market is experiencing a shortage of Filipino domestic workers, who are highly preferred for their convenience, education, and familiarity with

Kuwaiti customs. Currently, there are 200,000 Filipino domestic workers, constituting 50 percent of the total domestic labor force.

Al-Shammari anticipated that the upcoming meetings would cover several issues, such as the management of shelters operated by the Philippines Embassy in Kuwait, expediting the resolution of labor disputes to ensure workers receive their entitlements like indemnities and timely salaries, safeguarding their documents including civil identity cards and passports, and improving the shelters for domestic workers managed by the Public Authority of Manpower (PAM).

He revealed that the delegation from the Philippines that visited Kuwait in response to the recent fire incident in Mangaf also visited the shelter center operated by PAM where laborers reside until their issues are resolved, adding that they made sure the residents are receiving appropriate care.

Int'l Day of Countering Hate Speech

UN Representative in Kuwait calls for concerted efforts to fight hate speech

KUWAIT CITY, June 19, (KUNA): The UN Secretary-General's Representative and Resident Coordinator Ghada Al-Taher on Tuesday underlined the need to step up efforts to fight hate speech amid accelerating political, economic, social, military and ideological conflicts.



Al-Taher

The UN official made the call in a statement to KUNA to mark the International Day of Countering Hate Speech, which falls on June 18.

She added that the conflicts had triggered a crisis of displacement and asylum in conflict-hit regions, not to mention a racial, ethnic and cultural crisis, and had even heightened social, economic and demographic pressure, buoyed by media discourses that instigate division and hatred.

She noted that widespread digital platforms had led to shaping the discourse and restoring the ideological

system among the recipients, particularly young people, billing them as a driver of political, social, religious and racial conflicts.

Al-Taher stressed that this discourse is driven by such conflicts, be they internal, regional or international, adding that media messages, via such platforms, had culminated in various patterns of hate waves, leading up to a disastrous human atmosphere and aggravated gaps among people as well as disequilibrium among the segments of the same national fabric.

She went on to say that the United Nations (UN) had declared June 18th as the International Day of Countering Hate Speech as a priority for creating a closer and more tolerant global atmosphere. She regarded this occasion as an opportunity to promote the No to Hate Campaign through mass media and social media, focusing on the role of young people in fighting this phenomenon.

In this regard, Al-Taher quoted UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as having underlined the need to involve youth in UN efforts in fighting hate speech.

Other Voices

South Africa's recent elections: A new era of national unity

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

South Africa's recent elections have ushered in a significant political transformation, marking a new chapter in the nation's democratic journey. The election results have led to the formation of a government of national unity, a move that many hope will bring stability, inclusivity, and renewed economic growth to the country.

27.7 million South Africans registered to vote ahead of the elections on May 29th. However, on election day, a mere 16.2 million votes were cast, yielding the lowest voter turnout of 58.64% in South Africa's 30-year democratic history. The African National Congress (ANC), the historical ruling party, faced stiff competition from opposition parties such as the Democratic Al-

liance (DA) and the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF). For the first time since the end of apartheid in 1994, the once-dominant party (ANC) needed to enter into negotiations with other parties to form a Government of National Unity (GNU).

The new GNU is composed of the African National Congress, Democratic Alliance, Inkatha Freedom Party, Patriotic Alliance, and GOOD. This GNU aims to bridge the political divides that have often hindered South Africa's progress. President Cyril Ramaphosa, leader of the ANC, has been re-elected to lead this GNU. His leadership is



Al-Hajeri

seen as crucial in navigating the complexities of coalition politics and driving the nation towards a more inclusive and prosperous future.

One of the first major tasks for the new government is the formation of a balanced and effective cabinet. The anticipated new cabinet is expected to reflect the diverse political spectrum of the GNU, incorporating members from all five parties. This inclusive approach aims to ensure that different voices and perspectives are represented in the decision-making process, fostering a sense of collective ownership and responsibility.

Key portfolios such as finance, health, education, and infrastructure are expected to be helmed by experienced and competent individuals from various parties. This strategic allocation of ministries is designed to harness the strengths of each partner, thereby enhancing the

overall effectiveness and productivity.

The new government faces significant challenges, including high unemployment and economic inequality. However, there is a cautious optimism that this new government can bring about meaningful change. The spirit of cooperation and shared governance is expected to foster innovative solutions to the country's pressing issues.

In conclusion, South Africa's recent elections have paved the way for a government of national unity, reflecting the electorate's desire for collaborative and inclusive governance. The anticipated new cabinet, with its diverse representation, holds the promise of driving the country towards stability, economic growth, and social progress. As the nation embarks on this new political journey, there is hope that unity and cooperation will prevail, leading to a brighter future for all South Africans.

Kuwait's banking sector boasts top liquidity from varied deposit terms

Total deposits hit 63.9 billion dinars in Q1

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: Total deposits in Kuwaiti dinars and foreign currency in the banking sector reached 63.9 billion dinars by the end of the first quarter of this year, marking the highest liquidity observed, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This reflects a diverse range of deposit sources spanning terms from one month to over three years. Demand deposits accounted for approximately 13.2 billion dinars, representing mostly cost-free liquidity.

Term deposits for up to one month totaled about 19.3 billion dinars,

slightly down from the previous year's peak of 21.2 billion dinars.

Deposits for longer periods varied from one to three months, they rose from 10.3 billion to 11.4 billion dinars, while deposits over three months to six months decreased from 6.8 billion to 5.19 billion dinars.

There was a notable increase in deposits for periods exceeding six months to nine months, rising from 2.4 billion to 3.3 billion dinars, showing a 37.5 percent increase, indicating a trend towards longer-term investments with attractive returns.

Deposits for periods exceeding nine months to a year grew slightly from 3.2 billion to 3.4 billion dinars.

Longer-term deposits from over one year to three years also saw modest growth from 3.2 billion to 3.61 billion dinars, a 10 percent increase.

The smallest growth was observed in deposits maturing over three years, growing by 3 percent from 4.17 billion to 4.3 billion dinars.

Overall, the sector appears well-positioned financially with ample liquidity and a balanced distribution of deposit terms, offering competitive rates to both local and foreign customers. This stability is reflected in the reduced interbank market activity, which decreased by 18.4 percent from December 2023 to April 2024, indicating sufficient liquidity across all sectors.

KRCS rolls out Eid Al-Adha meat program for refugees in Jordan

AMMAN, June 19, (KUNA): Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) launched on Wednesday a program in Jordan to deliver Eid Al-Adha sacrificial meat to Syrian refugees and the poor.

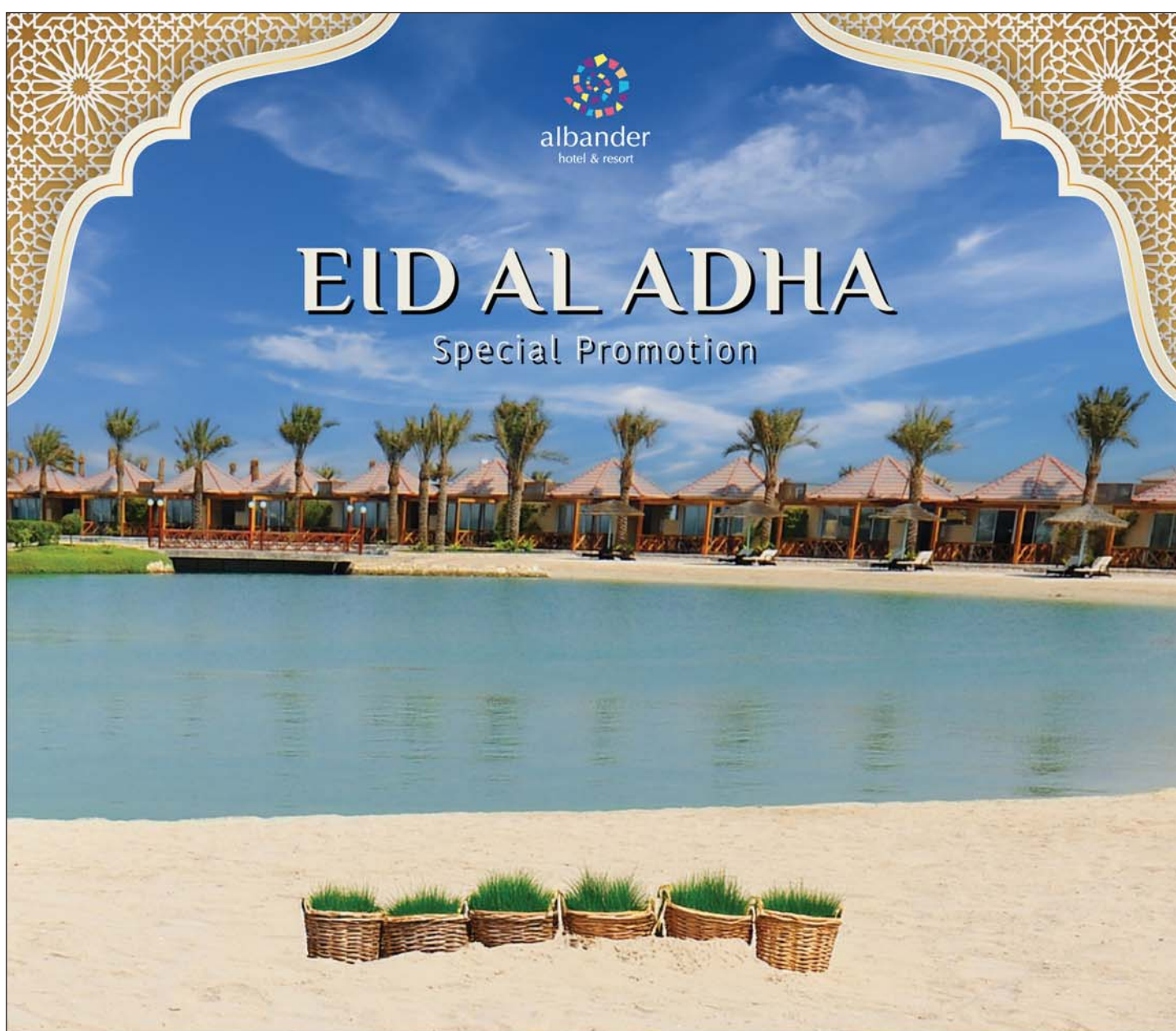
According to the KRCS statement, the program would benefit around 6,000 individuals throughout Jordan.

The KRCS had launched similar campaigns in Palestine and Lebanon.



KUNA photo

Kuwait Red Crescent Society launched a program in Jordan to deliver Eid Al-Adha sacrificial meat to Syrian refugees and the poor.



Room Promotion

From June 12th - 22nd of June 2024

Book for One-night (Inclusive of breakfast)	Queen Cabana (2 persons) 2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons)	BHD 76.230 BHD 170.247
Book for Two nights and get 10% discount (Inclusive of breakfast) (Non-refundable/Non-Cancellable)	Queen Cabana (2 persons) per night. 2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons) per night	BHD 69.000 net BHD 153.222
Book for Three nights and get 20% discount (Inclusive of breakfast) (Non-refundable/Non-Cancellable)	Queen Cabana (2 persons) per night. 2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons) per night	BHD 61.000 net BHD 136.198

Food & Beverage Promotion

- First three days of Eid, at the **Fish Market Restaurant** warmly welcomes everyone to enjoy a **15% discount**.
- 15% discount on Room Service
- First three days of Eid, lunch Buffet will be served at **Café Marisol Restaurant** with price of **BD6.500 per person**. Starts from 12:30 PM to 16:00 PM.

Terms and conditions apply

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Well-being in summer conditions

Dermatology expert emphasizes impact of eczema on skin health

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: According to Dr. Muhammad Al-Adwani, a dermatologist, skin serves as the body's primary defense against external threats like bacteria and viruses, making its integrity crucial, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Conditions such as eczema can compromise this defense, manifesting in symptoms like skin dryness, cracking, peeling, and inflammation, which not only affect physical health but also impact psychological well-being significantly.

As summer approaches and temperatures rise, eczema patients often experience exacerbations of their condition, including heightened redness, itching, and susceptibility to infections.

Dr. Al-Adwani, highlighted that eczema ranks among the most common skin disorders, often worsening in summer due to heat and inadequate hydration.

Severe cases of eczema can lead to skin barrier damage, reducing its ability to protect against microbial invaders. Despite its physical symptoms, Dr. Al-Adwani emphasized that eczema's psychological toll can sometimes be more severe than its physical effects. However, he reassured that eczema is manageable through effective treatment, which can alleviate symptoms such as itching, bacterial or fungal infections, and skin redness.

Eczema is characterized by red, itchy, dry, and inflamed skin, affecting individuals across all age groups but particularly prevalent among children.

Its severity can be exacerbated by dry skin conditions, which are exacerbated during summer due to factors such as increased sweating and exposure to chlorine in swimming pools. Moreover, indoor environments with air conditioning can worsen symptoms by drying out the skin further.

The exact cause of eczema remains unknown, though it is associated with immune system dysfunction, weakening the skin's natural defenses against environmental allergens and irritants. Genetic factors also play a role in predisposing individuals to the condition.

In conclusion, while eczema poses challenges to both physical comfort and psychological well-being, comprehensive management strategies can effectively control symptoms and improve quality of life for affected individuals.

Dr. Al-Adwani explained said that eczema appears at any age, and is not limited to a certain age group, but it affects children more. He stated that it is not a contagious disease as some people think, and he mentioned that there are several types of eczema, including:

- Endogenous eczema (atopic eczema is more common)
- Exogenous eczema (contact)
- Cholestatic eczema (varicose veins - varicose eczema)
- Stasis dermatitis (congestion eczema - gravitational dermatitis - gravitational eczema)
- Seborrheic eczema.

He explained that the severity of eczema ranges from mild to severe, and varies greatly from one person to another. The most prominent symptoms are skin dryness, redness and irritation of the skin, severe itching, skin color change, rough spots or crusts appear on the skin and swelling of some areas.

A person with eczema may suffer from the following complications:

Neurodermatitis, a disorder caused by severe skin itching that causes the skin to

thicken and change color; viral or bacterial skin infections resulting from ulcers and skin wounds, especially when scratched severely and psychological complications of the disease, such as depression and anxiety disorders, are very tiring and reduce the patient's quality of life, so it is necessary to follow up with a dermatologist and seek medical care.

Dr. Muhammad Al-Adwani outlined various treatment approaches for eczema, tailored to the severity of the condition and the patient's specific needs.

For mild to moderate cases, topical ointments are commonly prescribed to soothe and heal affected areas of the skin. In more severe instances, where eczema significantly impacts the patient's quality of life, treatment options may include biological therapies administered via injections.

Dr. Al-Adwani noted that biological injections have shown excellent results in managing severe eczema.

In addition to topical and biological treatments, alternative therapies such as anti-allergic medications (like antihistamines) are used to alleviate itching, a common symptom of eczema.

If a bacterial infection complicates the eczema, antibacterial ointments may also be prescribed to address the infection and prevent further complications.

Dr. Al-Adwani emphasized the critical role of hydration in eczema treatment, highlighting its importance as a fundamental aspect of recovery and long-term management of the condition.

Proper hydration helps restore and maintain the skin barrier, which is crucial for protecting against irritants and maintaining overall skin health.

Dr. Al-Adwani provided important tips for eczema patients to prevent complications and effectively manage their symptoms:

Regular Dermatologist Visits - Ensure regular appointments with a specialist dermatologist to monitor the condition and adhere to the treatment plan. This helps improve treatment outcomes and prevents worsening of the condition.

Avoid Irritants - Stay away from potential triggers such as clothing made from wool and direct use of aromatic substances on the skin, which can exacerbate eczema and increase its severity.

Moisturize Frequently - Apply moisturizer to the skin three to four times daily to maintain hydration and protect against dryness. Dry skin aggravates eczema symptoms, so consistent moisturization is crucial.

Use Gentle Soap - Use mild, chemical-free soap for hand and body washing to avoid further irritation to sensitive skin affected by eczema.

Apply Sunscreen - Protect the skin from sun damage by applying sunscreen with a high SPF (protection factor) of at least 50 percent, as ultraviolet rays can worsen eczema symptoms.

Avoid Allergens - Identify and avoid allergens that trigger eczema, such as certain foods (especially those high in sugars), animal dander, and pollen.

Bathe Wisely - Take lukewarm baths instead of hot showers, and limit bathing time to prevent drying out the skin, which can aggravate eczema.

Avoid Temperature Changes - Rapid changes in temperature can trigger eczema flare-ups, so try to maintain a consistent environment and avoid sudden exposure to extreme temperatures.

Japanese 'beat poetry' icon Kazuko Shiraishi dies at 93

Obituaries

TOKYO, June 19, (AP) — **Kazuko Shiraishi**, a leading name in modern Japanese "beat" poetry, known for her dramatic readings, at times with jazz music, has died. She was 93.

Shiraishi, whom American poet and translator Kenneth Rexroth dubbed "the Allen Ginsberg of Japan," died of heart failure on June 14, Shichosha, a Tokyo publisher of her works, said Wednesday.

Shiraishi shot to fame when she was just 20, freshly graduated from Waseda University in Tokyo, with her "Tamago no Furu Machi," translated as "The Town that Rains Eggs" — a surrealist portrayal of Japan's wartime destruction.

With her trademark long black hair and theatrical delivery, she defied historical stereotypes of the silent, non-assertive Japanese woman.

"I have never been anything like pink," Shiraishi wrote in her poem. It ends: "The road / where the child became a girl / and finally heads for dawn / is broken."

Shiraishi counted Joan Miro, Salvador Dali and John Coltrane among her influences. She was a pioneer in performance poetry, featured at poetry festivals around the world. She read her works with the music of jazz greats like Sam Rivers and Buster Williams, and even a free-verse homage to the spirit of Coltrane.

Born in Vancouver, Canada, she moved back to Japan as a child. While a teen, she joined an avant-garde poetry group.

Shiraishi's personality and poems, which were sometimes bizarre or erotic, defied Japan's historical rule-bound forms of literature like haiku and tanka, instead taking a modern, unexplored path.

Rexroth was instrumental in getting Shiraishi's works translated into English, including collections such as "My Floating Mother, City" in 2009 and "Seasons of Sacred Lust" in 1978.

Over the years, her work has been widely translated into dozens of languages. She was also a translator of literature, including works by Ginsberg.

In 1973, Paul Engle invited her to spend a year as a guest writer at the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa, an experience that broadened her artistic scope and helped her gain her poetic voice.

Anouk Aimée, the radiant French star and dark-eyed beauty of classic films including **Federico Fellini's** "La Dolce Vita" and **Claude Lelouch's** "A Man and a Woman," has died. She was 92.

Aimée's agent, **Sébastien Perrolat** said in a text message to The Associated Press that Aimée died Tuesday morning "surrounded by her loved ones." He did not give a cause of death.

"I was beside her when she died this morning, at her home in Paris," Aimée's daughter **Manuela Papatakis** wrote on Instagram.

Aimée worked with an array of acclaimed directors, including **Jacques Demy**, **Bernardo Bertolucci**, **Jacques Becker**, **Robert Altman** and **Sidney Lumet**. She was perhaps best known for 1966's "A Man and a Woman," in which she starred opposite **Jean-Louis Trintignant** as a widow who meets a widower race-car driver (Trintignant) at the boarding school where each has a child attending.

The film was an enormous success, winning the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. Aimée won a Golden Globe for her performance and was nominated for an Oscar. The film won Academy Awards for

Lelouch's screenplay and for best foreign language film.

But Aimée's career spanned seven decades — she reunited with Lelouch and Trintignant for 2019's "The Best Years of a Life" — and across that time remained a uniquely elegant and enigmatic presence. She starred in Fellini's "La Dolce Vita" (1960) as the seductive socialite Maddalena and again in the director's "8 1/2" (1963) as the estranged wife of Marcello Mastroianni's filmmaker.

Fellini once said Aimée "represents the type of woman who leaves you flustered and confused — to death." He said she belonged among the pantheon of cinema's "great, mysterious queens," comparing her to **Greta Garbo**, **Marlene Dietrich** and **Joan Crawford**.

"A film is always much richer when actors have the confidence not to explain, but just to do; when they feel secure enough to leave things open," Aimée told The Guardian in 2007.

Aimée was born **Nicole Françoise Florence Dreyfus** on April 27, 1932, to actor parents **Henri Dreyfus** (who acted under the name Henry Murray) and **Genevieve Sorya**. At the age of 13, Aimée was walking down a Paris street when the director **Henri Calef** stopped her and asked if she would like to be a movie. Aimée later said she was on the way to see "Double Indemnity" with her mother.

Aimée took her character's name, Anouk, from her first film: "The House Under the Sea." "Aimée" — the French word meaning "loved" — came from the poet Jacques Prévert who co-wrote her first lead role in 1951's "The Lovers of Verona," a modern-day "Romeo and Juliet."

Following "La Dolce Vita," Aimée starred in Jacques Demy's "Lola" (1961) a New Wave soap opera about a cabaret entertainer with a string of lovers. "Lola," Demy's first film, was less appreciated at the time but is now considered a standout of French New Wave cinema.



Shiraishi

Variety

Features

ARABIC TIMES

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This image released by Focus Features shows Tom Hardy in a scene from 'The Bikeriders.' (AP)

Film

Jeff Nichols' 20-year dream comes to life

'Bikeriders' channels 1960s rebel vibes

LOS ANGELES, June 19, (AP) — Jeff Nichols had dreamt of making a film about a 1960s motorcycle club for over 20 years.

The obsession started when he first cracked open Danny Lyon's book "The Bikeriders," a New Journalism-style account of the Chicago Outlaws Motorcycle Club in the mid-1960s. He saw it as a story about rebels, romantics, frauds and the end of an era.

But he didn't quite realize just how terrifying it would be to film the motorcycles in motion.

The bikes were vintage. The actors, including Austin Butler and Tom Hardy, would be riding at high speeds. And there would be no helmets. At some point, one of his stunt coordinators just came out with it: "There is no way to make this 100% safe."

They went for it. The danger was kind of the point. And everyone made it out unscathed.

"The Bikeriders" (racing into theaters nationwide Friday) is a rare summer gem: An original film with stars (including Jodie Comer, Michael Shannon, Norman Reedus and Mike Faist), cool cred, pathos and a clear-eyed wistfulness for a brief moment and a type of guy.

"This is a film that's really about nostalgia," Nichols said. There is a sadness that comes with that. But there's also a joy in remembering it.

Nichols has always had luck with casting, getting movie stars in his films right as they're about to break big (like Jessica Chastain in "Take Shelter").

For "The Bikeriders," it was Butler. "Elvis" had yet to come out, but when he met him, he was certain: This is a movie star.

"I read a lot of scripts and this one just felt different," Butler said. "It felt full of humanity and these cinematic moments... I felt like I was being invited into this other world. And he was one of the coolest characters I've ever read."

Butler's Benny is also the most enigmatic of the bunch: A guy whose face is never shown in Lyon's book and who is never interviewed — just talked about.

"I love how Jeff talks about him as being this empty cup that everybody wants to fill with their own expectations and their own responsibilities. He doesn't want any of that," Butler said. "That's when he wants to cut loose and be free."

Nichols wanted Benny to be bottled up until the end and remembered telling his star to "pull it back" a few times.

"Like, stop smiling," Nichols laughed. "When that kid smiles the whole world smiles."

But he soon realized that was missing the point of casting someone like Butler — an emotive actor with a big heart. "That character got better because of him," Nichols said.

One of Nichols' biggest breakthroughs was when he realized the narrator should be Kathy, who falls for Benny at first sight and gets wrapped up in the club.

Character

"She just pops off the page," Nichols said. "She's witty, she's introspective, she's self-deprecating, she's infuriating at times. She is a real person."

Comer saw in her a fascinating character, an "ordinary" but still extraordinary person that reminded her of women she knew growing up in Liverpool. She worked tirelessly to nail Kathy's very specific working-class Chicago accent.

But on another level, she was just a better voice for what he wanted to say.

"The ultimate truth, and a subtext of the film, is that men are really bad at sharing their emotions," he said. "Observing this group in the hands of a male narrator I think would be really boring."

"The Bikeriders" is a work of fiction. Nichols didn't want to be the historian of the Outlaws, a group which still exists. He mostly wanted to capture this time and culture and evoke the feeling he got when he opened that book so many years ago.

But he also draws heavily on Lyon's images, some of which are recreated, and reporting. Much of

Kathy's dialogue are things the real Kathy, who was married to Benny, said. Hardy's character Johnny was also apparently inspired by the Marlon Brando film "The Wild One" to start the club. He was the leader and also a bit of a fraud — a suburban dad with a real job on the side.

Nichols chose to make the film in color, instead of mimicking Lyon's famous use of black-and-white photography.

"They're beautiful, but they're romanticized," Nichols said. "I think when you put them in color, they become less affected. They become more realistic."

Like Butler, Hardy came into the film with some motorcycle know-how. But neither would describe it as a leg up — antique bikes are a different beast.

"It just happens to be a convenience because I can ride as opposed to lying about skiing," Hardy said. Still, once they got it down it could be rather exciting.

"It was exhilarating riding in a giant group," Butler said. "You feel the energy of every motorcycle coming together."

Comer said riding on the back of Benny's bike, in the Cincinnati night with engines roaring and street lights twinkling, was "a really magical kind of movie moment."

And the danger was ever-present. But it also resulted in some real movie magic, like the near-impossible recreation of one of Lyon's most famous photographs with a single rider speeding across the Ohio Bridge.

In the film, Butler is the rider. They had shut down a bridge. They couldn't do it more than twice (both logistically and because they couldn't risk anything with their star). They had a 35mm film camera mounted on a car with a moving crane, attempting to speed alongside Butler.

"All of a sudden we lock in the cameras in the right spot, the bridge is in the right spot, Austin looks back, then he drives off," Nichols said. "And you're like (expletive): 'We got it.'"

Monday night during a performance of "Player Kings" at London's Noel Coward Theatre.

"They have assured me that my recovery will be complete and speedy and I am looking forward to returning to work," he said on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

Performances on Tuesday and



Timberlake



McKellen

Wednesday were canceled after the accident and are scheduled to resume on Thursday.

The stage and screen veteran, who played Gandalf in the "Lord of the Rings" films, cried out in pain after the fall, according to a BBC journalist at the theater. McKellen was playing the roguish **John Falstaff** in "Player

Kings," an adaptation of **William Shakespeare's** two "Henry IV" history plays, directed by **Robert Icke**. (AP)

BEIJING: The 30th Beijing International Book Fair commenced in Beijing on Wednesday, drawing a wider participation of foreign

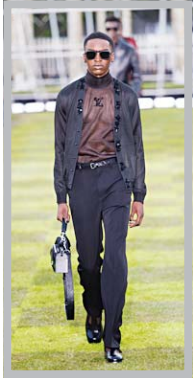
exhibitors compared to last year.

With an expanded exhibition area of 55,000 square meters this year, the five-day event has gathered around 1,600 exhibitors from 71 countries and regions, showcasing 220,000 Chinese and foreign publications to visitors, according to the organizers. (Xinhua)

People & Places

PARIS

a guy thing



Louis Vuitton



Louis Vuitton



Louis Vuitton



Louis Vuitton

Louis Vuitton

Louis Vuitton

Above and below: Models wear creations as part of the Louis Vuitton Spring Summer 2025 collection, that was presented in Paris, France, Tuesday, June 18, 2024. (AP)

Ode to multiculturalism

Pharrell's show honors 'human skin' diversity

PARIS, June 19, (AP): In the run-up to the Paris Olympics, Louis Vuitton celebrated the beauty of humans and their skin in a star-studded menswear showcase at the headquarters of the UN cultural agency UNESCO in Paris. Models wearing garb in all the hues of human flesh paraded around a giant globe on grass patterned in Vuitton's signature Damier check, creating a visual symphony of diversity.

"It was an homage to human beings," said menswear designer Pharrell Williams on Tuesday night, who name-checked the Summer Olympics, for a show that felt like a journey across continents against a backdrop of the Eiffel Tower and a giant shell globe. "It went from black to dark brown to brown to light brown to beige, a little bit of gray ... and then finally to white," the singer-turned-couturier said of the spring display celebrating diversity.

The spectacular collection prominently featured checks in shades of green, blue, and black, drawing inspiration from the designs of Air Afrique luggage. This airline, which operated from the 1960s and for decades, has become a symbol of diasporic creativity, according to Vuitton. With contributions from creatives like Lamine Diaoune and Djiby Kebe, Williams infused the collection with a sense of global unity.

Inspired by the UN cultural headquarters populated with ambassadors, Williams explored various archetypes. The diplomat was featured in deep, rich tones of 1970s-inflected tailoring. The explorer appeared in sturdy yet stylish outerwear, including utility jackets and vests. The dandy, another key figure, strutted down the Damier-check grass runway in jackets and coats adorned with rhinestones and pearl embroidery.

Set against a dramatic sky, with shifting clouds and fluttering world flags, the collection's progression of colors mirrored the diversity of the models, moving from darker to lighter tones. This gave way to a more integrated mix, symbolizing multicultural harmony. This theme extended to the garments, which included pixelated python skin patterns and world maps centered on Africa. A reinterpretation of the Damier pattern featured pale brown checks with multicolored accents. Soccer ball leather designs paid tribute to the world's favorite sport.

Enamel maps were embedded in buttons, and the LV logo appeared subtly embossed on materials. Intricate details like black-on-black embroidery and crystal and pearl accents added layers of sophistication.

It also featured a range of luxury accessories, including vintage-inspired designs in soft leather with oversized monogram patterns and aged leather trims.

Also:

NEW YORK: When Team USA walks with the world's athletes at the Paris Olympics' opening ceremony, they'll be doing so in snappy tailored navy blazers from Ralph Lauren - and blue jeans.

Just regular, everyday denim blue jeans.

Ralph Lauren, which unveiled Tuesday its ninth turn creating Olympic parade looks for the Americans, is billing the pairing as "unexpected" yet classic.

David Lauren, the company's chief branding and innovation officer and its founder's son, was unbothered by the casualness of blue denim.

"We work very closely with Team USA to make the athletes feel at once dressed up, feel like a team, but at the same time comfortable and very distinctively American," he told The Associated Press on Monday during a media preview at the company's posh New York headquarters.

Style



Louis Vuitton



Louis Vuitton



Louis Vuitton



Louis Vuitton

Fashion

music business known for representing artists like **Justin Bieber** and **Ariana Grande**, will no longer work as a music manager.

On Monday, the executive and entrepreneur announced the news on his Instagram page. Instead, he will focus his attention on his current roles: As a board member of Hybe, and CEO of Hybe America, the **South Korea** entertainment company.

The announcement comes nearly a year after Braun's direct management of his superstar roster was subject of intense speculation.

"After 23 years this chapter as a music manager has come to an end," he wrote in a lengthy statement. "I was really just 19 years old when I started. So for my entire adult life I played the



Braun



Quavo

role of an artist manager on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And for 20 years I loved it. It's all I had known. But as my children got older, and my personal life took some hits.

"Every client I have had the privilege of working with has changed my life, and I know many of them are just beginning to see the success they deserve," he continued. "I will cheer for every single one of them." (AP)

MAYVILLE, N.Y.: The New Jersey man accused of repeatedly stabbing author **Salman Rushdie** is not interested in an offered plea deal that would shorten his time in state prison but expose him to federal prison on a separate terrorism-related charge, his lawyer said Tuesday.

Hadi Matar sat silently in Chautauqua County Court as lawyers outlined a proposal they said was worked out between state and federal prosecutors and agreed to by Rushdie over the past several months.

The agreement would have Matar plead guilty in Chautauqua County to attempted murder in exchange for a maximum state prison sentence of 20 years, down from 25 years. He would then also plead guilty to a yet-to-be-filed federal charge of attempting to provide material support to a designated terrorist organization, which could result in an additional 20 years, attorneys said. (AP)

BEIJING: Fifteen individuals from 12 countries have been given the Special Book Award of **China**, the highest award that honors foreigners in the publishing sector, for their outstanding efforts at telling China's stories to the world.

The awardees, who have paid continuous attention to China's development and made in-depth research into Chinese culture, have translated, published and created a number of books telling the world the stories of the Communist Party of China and the Chinese people.

They have helped make the country better known to the world and promote cultural exchanges and mutual learning, according to the awarding ceremony of the 17th Special Book Award of China held on Tuesday.

Since it was initiated in 2005, a total of 203 translators, publishers and writers from 63 countries have won the award. (Xinhua)

Variety

LOS ANGELES: Migos rapper **Quavo's** quest to transform his nephew Takeoff's tragic shooting into a force for change convened with a summit against gun violence on what would have been the late rapper's 30th birthday.

Quavo held the inaugural Rocket Foundation Summit at the Carter Center in **Atlanta** on Tuesday - the same day as Takeoff's birthday. The music performer was joined by Vice President **Kamala Harris** in a fireside chat during the one-day summit, which included panel discussions about gun violence prevention and youth programs.

For Quavo, it's been a rough road since Takeoff's untimely death in

2022. But many of his family members - including his nephew's mother - often encourage him to keep pushing forward.

"It's super hard every day. I'm still crying. I'm still grieving. I'm still mourning," said Quavo, who along with his family launched the Rocket Foundation in honor of Takeoff and committed millions to invest into community violence intervention. Last year, the Grammy-nominated

rapper attended the Congressional Black Caucus legislative conference where he met with political figures including **Harris** and **Greg Jackson**, who is now the deputy director of the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention after his stint with the Community Justice Action Fund. (AP)

NEW YORK: Scooter Braun, one of the most recognizable names in the

