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## Iran, Oman mull Hormuz costs

Rubio: US won't accept tolls or fees • UN to evacuate 11,000 stranded sailors

### Amir receives Kuwait SC after Asian triumph



**KUWAIT:** HH the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Tuesday, in the presence of Acting Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Youth Affairs Dr Tareq Al-Jalahma, Kuwait Football Association President Sheikh Ahmad Yusuf Al-Sabah, Kuwait SC Chairman Khaled Al-Ghanem, board members

and players of Kuwait SC football team. The reception was held on the occasion of the club's victory in the AFC Challenge League. HH the Amir congratulated the team on the achievement and praised its outstanding performance in the final, which secured the continental title. He stressed the importance of continued efforts and cooperation to achieve further sporting

success, wishing the team continued progress and advancing Kuwaiti sports at regional and international events. The attendees expressed their appreciation for HH the Amir's continued support and encouragement, affirming that it serves as a key motivation for achieving further accomplishments and strengthening Kuwait's sporting standing regionally and internationally. — KUNA

**MUSCAT/ABU DHABI:** Iran and Oman will study the costs to be charged for services provided in administering the Strait of Hormuz, the two countries said Tuesday, insisting they held sovereignty over the waterway. Tehran has repeatedly said it plans to charge what it calls maritime service fees for crossing the strait, as opposed to tolls, a plan fiercely opposed by the United States. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Tuesday that no country is allowed to impose tolls or fees on the Strait of Hormuz, as he arrived in the United Arab Emirates. "It's an international waterway. No country is allowed to charge tolls or fees on an international waterway. That's existing international law," he said. In a joint statement on Tuesday, Iran and Oman emphasized their "sovereign rights over their territorial waters", but Muscat's foreign minister said on X that both sides were committed to "toll-free safe passage". They "agreed to maintain their dialogue on this issue through a joint working group between the two foreign ministries", the statement said. The working group was aimed at reaching "agreement on the future administration of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and the services that will be provided in this regard and the costs associated with them in accordance with international standards", they said. The statement followed meetings in Muscat between top officials from the two nations. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf met Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and

Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi. Last week, Iran's foreign ministry said the country would impose what it called maritime service fees for crossing the strait. Ghalibaf has said the fees will come into effect after a 60-day period without charges that is stipulated in a memorandum of understanding signed with the United States. The MoU states that Iran and Oman, which border the strait, will discuss its "future administration and maritime services" alongside other Gulf countries. Meanwhile, the UN's International Maritime Organization said Tuesday it will begin evacuating more than 11,000 sailors stranded in the Gulf following a US-Iran deal aimed at ending the Middle East war. "This large-scale operation will be carried out in close cooperation with Iran, Oman, all other coastal states in the region, the United States and the maritime industry," IMO secretary-general Arsenio Dominguez said in a statement. "We have secured the necessary safety guarantees and have thoroughly verified the conditions for safe navigation to support these operations," he added. Two temporary routes through the strait could be used under the evacuation plan, with vessels being contacted individually for further instructions, according to Oman's notice to mariners provided by the IMO. The IMO said it will issue a daily report on the number of ships leaving the region safely. At least 36 commodity vessels passed through the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, a record level of traffic since the beginning of the war, according to data from the Kpler platform. — Agencies

### Call to adhere to safety measures amid searing heat



**KUWAIT:** A man walks along a street with a plastic bag on his head to protect himself from the scorching sun. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Fire Force on Tuesday urged citizens and residents to follow safety guidelines during the summer season, warning that rising temperatures and increased use of electrical appliances heighten the risk of fires. Fire Force Spokesperson Brig Gen Mohammad Al-Gharib said prevention is a shared responsibility, citing overloaded circuits, faulty wiring, prolonged use of appliances and unsafe storage of flammable materials among the leading causes of summer fires.

He called for regular maintenance of electrical systems and air conditioners, avoiding overloading outlets, installing smoke detectors and fire extinguishers and preparing evacuation plans. Al-Gharib stressed that compliance with safety measures helps reduce casualties and material losses, affirming the readiness of fire teams around the clock and urging the public to report emergencies via 112. — KUNA (See Page 3)

### US, Iran spar over nuclear inspections

**TEHRAN:** Iran said Tuesday that the UN's nuclear watchdog will not be able to inspect key nuclear sites bombed by the US and the Zionist entity last year, as the first round of talks to end the Middle East war wrapped up in Switzerland. Tehran and Washington have signed a memorandum of understanding to end a war that sowed chaos across the Middle East and rattled the global economy, embarking on a 60-day period to settle broader issues including Iran's nuclear program and sanctions relief. Diplomacy on that final deal ramped up on Tuesday, with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian heading to

mediator Pakistan, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio setting off on a tour of Gulf allies, and Lebanon and the Zionist entity due for direct talks in Washington. But Iran denied the claim of US Vice President JD Vance that Tehran had agreed to invite International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors back, after Iran blocked them from nuclear sites struck by its arch foes in a 12-day war last year. "We have not had a meeting with the director general of the IAEA, nor do we have any plans for the agency to inspect Iran's nuclear facilities damaged by the US and Zionist military aggression," foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei told a press briefing. But US President Donald Trump later said Iran had signed off on comprehensive nuclear inspections. "Iran has fully and completely agreed to highest level Nuclear inspections long into the future (Infinity!!!)," he posted on social media. — AFP (See Page 6)

### Zionists deliberately targeting children in Gaza genocide: UN

**GENEVA:** The Zionist entity is deliberately targeting Palestinian children in what has become a key factor in an ongoing "genocide" in Gaza, United Nations investigators charged on Tuesday. The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry said it had found evidence that "Palestinian children have been deliberately targeted and killed by Israeli security forces". This, it said, was a key factor in establishing "the genocidal intent of the Israeli authorities

and security forces to destroy the larger Palestinian group in Gaza". The first determined in a report last September that the Zionist entity had committed genocide in the war in Gaza. In Tuesday's follow-up report, they said the intense scale and systematic nature of Zionist military operations had continued, resulting in the "unprecedented" death, injury and trauma of Palestinian children. There were "reasonable grounds" to conclude that the Zionist entity's authorities and security forces "have continued to commit the crime of genocide" in Gaza, they said. "Israeli authorities and security forces have deliberately targeted Palestinian children resulting in genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in the Gaza Strip, and war crimes in the West Bank," the team said in a statement. — AFP (See Page 6)

### Cristiano Ronaldo first to score at six World Cups

**HOUSTON:** Cristiano Ronaldo finally found the back of the net again, scoring six minutes into Portugal's match against Uzbekistan on Tuesday in Houston to become the first player in history to score at six editions of the World Cup. Joao Cancelo penetrated the right wing and sent in a cross that met Ronaldo's

boot perfectly at the 6-yard line for a one-timer past Uzbekistan goalkeeper Abduvohid Nematov. Ronaldo, whose first World Cup goal came all the way back in 2006, also became the second-oldest goalscorer in the tournament's history at 41 years old. Only Cameroon's Roger Milla was older at 42 in 1994. Ronaldo added a second goal in the 39th minute to put Portugal on top 3-0. Bruno Fernandes slipped a through-ball into the right of the box and Ronaldo slid it into the bottom-left corner. Ronaldo's heroics prompted both jubilation and relief for Portugal, as the team drew criticism after last week's opening 1-1 draw with DR Congo as well as questions about whether Ronaldo should be central to Portugal's attack. — Reuters



**ISLAMABAD:** Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian meets Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House on June 23, 2026. — AFP



**GAZA:** Five-year-old Musa Al-Habil lies wrapped in a shroud at Al-Shifa Hospital after he and his father were killed in a Zionist strike on their home in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza City on June 15, 2026. — AFP



**HOUSTON:** Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal celebrates scoring his team's first goal against Uzbekistan at Houston Stadium on June 23, 2026. — AFP

