



# NEW FACES IN CABINET INCLUDE WOMAN FINANCE MINISTER Amir reshuffles Kuwait's government

### Titles of ministers changed

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA):** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah signed on Sunday a decree reshuffling the Cabinet.

- The Amir's decree changed the titles of the following Cabinet members:
- 1- Abdulrahman Badah Al-Mutairi, Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs
  - 2- Dr. Nora Khaled Al-Mashaan, Minister of Public Works
  - 3- Omar Saud Abdulaziz Al-Omar, Minister of State for Communications Affairs

- 4- Mahmoud Abdulaziz Mahmoud Bushehri, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy
  - 5- Dr. Amthal Hadi Hayef Al-Huwailah, Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Childhood Affairs
- The decree, furthermore, appoints the following as new members of the Cabinet:
- 1- Khalifa Abdullah Dhahi Ajeel Al-Askar, Minister of Commerce and Industry
  - 2- Abdullatif Hamed Hamad Al-Meshari, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs
  - 3- Dr. Nader Abdullah Mohammad Al-Jallal, Minister of Higher Education and

Scientific Research and Acting Minister of Education

- 4- Nora Suleiman Al-Fassam, Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs

The decree shall be published in the official Gazette and be effective from the date of its issuance.

Earlier, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace on Sunday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also received at Seif Palace His Highness the Prime

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## Opinion

### With us... ministerial position is unstable

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

ONE of the reasons for the country's under-performance and decline is the frequent turnover of ministers, sometimes occurring within just two months.

This instability in the ministerial position has led to concerns among ministers about their political fate, resulting in a lack of commitment among them to implement programs or proceed with development plans.

This has led citizens to criticize the government, as they see that ministers can only perform effectively if they receive directives either from parliamentarians who threaten them with interpellations or from influential individuals who helped them secure their positions. As a result, the burden falls on the people while ministers doors remain shut.

Today, Kuwaitis are struggling with the consequences of this heavy legacy. The country's lag in development and many other aspects compared to its Gulf neighbors is largely due to officials' inability to implement the delayed projects.

An example in this regard is the crisis of power outages during summer seasons, something that has been ongoing for about 55 years. We and many others have tried to address the issue and talked about its causes at length but our efforts were met with silence. It seems as though ministers are indifferent but the truth is that they are actually too afraid to take actions that might jeopardize their positions in the ministry.

Boldness is necessary for those in such positions, as they are assuming important responsibilities. If they discover any mistakes or come across sound advice, they should act decisively without hesitation.

This also applies to the prime ministers, some among whom have previously said, "This is not my job," out of fear of losing their positions. Such an attitude represents a major failure.

For years, we have been calling for the privatization of the electricity sector. We suggested that it be managed by national joint-stock companies that would be responsible

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## Death for expat school guard in teacher 'rape'

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25:** The Criminal Court has sentenced an expatriate, formerly a security guard at a school, to death for sexually assaulting a teacher from the same school, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to the case file, the guard had sexually assaulted the teacher, after touching her inappropriately on some sensitive parts of her body and attempting to kiss her.

The court's decision was based on evidence presented by the Public Prosecution, including surveillance camera footage that corroborated the accusations against the defendant.

## Day by Day

THE leader keeps a close eye on what's published in the newspapers and what is circulated on social media.

Thankfully, there are no restrictions on the freedom of expression. The self-serving voices of distress have faded in the oblivion as we tread different paths -- focused on truth, boldly confronting corruption without fear, hesitation, or personal gain while the writers, journalists and social media play their part.

All is well as long as we stand for what's right without fabrication, and we speak or write under our real names. Self-serving agendas are no longer acceptable.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



The acting Chief of Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Major General Khaled Al-Fahad is briefed on the use of a latest device acquired by the Shaddadiya Fire Department.

## KFF prepared to tackle chemical, biological, radiological disasters

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25:** The acting Chief of Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Major General Khaled Al-Fahad on Sunday conducted a field inspection of the Shaddadiya Fire Station, which is specialized in handling hazardous materials.

In a press statement issued by KFF, a copy of which was received by the Al-Seyassah Arabic daily, Major General Khaled Al-Fahad conveyed to the officers and personnel at the fire station, greetings from the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Minister of Defense Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah. He encouraged them to participate in training programs in order to enhance their expertise in

firefighting methods. He affirmed the importance of continuous effort and dedication to protect lives and properties, and ensure the security of the community.

During his visit, he was given an explanation on the procedures followed by the fire station for dealing with incidents related to chemical, biological, radiological, and explosive hazards.

The station has recently been equipped with advanced devices and equipment, including long-range gas monitoring devices, tools for analyzing unknown substances to determine the kind, and specialized mechanisms for leak containment and decontamination.

## Kuwaitis slam recurrent loss of life on Salmi Road

By Najeh Bilal and Munif Naif  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25:** Three young Kuwaiti citizens between the ages of 20 and 23 years died when their vehicle collided with a dump truck on Salmi Road.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior received information on Saturday night about the accident, police officers, paramedics and firefighters rushed to the location and discovered that the three young Kuwaitis had perished in the accident. A look into their information revealed that they were cousins. Their bodies were referred to the Forensic Medicine Department and a case was registered.

The death of the three citizens in an accident on Salmi Road sparked widespread reactions in public forums; especially on social media, as people express deep regret for the recurrence of horrific accidents on the road between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

In view of the painful accident and its repercussions, traffic, road safety and security experts demanded, through an investigation report conducted by the newspaper, for urgent action to stop the loss of life on Salmi Road. They emphasized the importance of addressing problems; specifically the killer potholes, cracked asphalt, poor lighting, narrow lanes, sand dunes and the lack of first aid points.

Security expert retired Major General Hamad Al-Suraye expressed sorrow over the recurrence of horrific accidents on the above-mentioned, stressing that it is now known as the 'Road of Death'.

He said "the death of three members of one family in a horrific road accident made everyone feel bitter. Whenever I see the wrecked cars on both sides of the road as a result of the collision, I wonder how long the loss of lives will continue on Salmi Road."

He called for increasing the number of signposts on the road, and for the concerned authorities to solve the problem of scattered sand by placing asphalt at a distance of not less than 20 meters on both sides of this road to stop the sand from flowing on the road, along with frequent maintenance.

He underscored the need for urgent action, especially since it is one of the longest roads in the country, as its length from the Sixth Ring Road facing Jahra up to the end of this road at Salmi border adjacent to the Saudi border is about 120 kilometers.

He cited factors that lead to frequent accidents on this road like camel and sheep herders, as their slow movement leads to tragic accidents.

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## 'Quota limit forced shift allowance cut'

By Inaas Awadh  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25:** Director General of Kuwait Municipality Saud Al-Dabbous says the suspension of shift allowances and bonuses for 479 municipality employees occurred due to exceeding the number of employees permitted by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for shift work in the municipality.

In an interview on the "60 Minutes" program on the Kuwait News channel, he explained that supervisory authorities had issued directives to

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## Israel, Hezbollah trade heavy fire; all-out war fears allayed

**JERUSALEM, Aug 25, (AP):** Israel launched a wave of airstrikes across southern Lebanon early Sunday in what it said was a preemptive strike on Hezbollah. The militant group responded that it had launched hundreds of rockets and drones to avenge the killing of one of its top commanders last month.

The heavy exchange of fire does not appear to have ignited a long-feared war, but the situation remains tense. Meanwhile, Egypt on Sunday is hosting high-level talks aimed at brokering a cease-fire in the 10-month-old Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, which diplomats hope will tamp down regional tensions.

The Israeli military said it struck because Hezbollah was planning to launch a heavy barrage of rockets and missiles toward Israel. Soon after, Hezbollah announced it had launched an attack on Israeli military positions as an initial response to the killing of Fouad Shukur, one of its founding members, in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut last month.

By mid-morning, it appeared that the exchange had ended, with both sides saying they had only aimed at military targets. At least three people were killed in the strikes on Lebanon, while there were no reports of casualties in Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking at the start of a Cabinet meeting, said the military had eliminated "thousands of rockets that were aimed at northern Israel" and urged citizens to adhere to directives from the Home Front Command.

"We are determined to do everything to defend our country, to return the residents of the north securely to their homes and to continue upholding a simple rule: Whoever harms us - we will harm them," he said.

Air raid sirens were reported throughout northern Israel, and Israel's Ben-Gurion international airport closed and diverted flights for approximately an hour due to the threat of attack. Israel's Home Front Command raised the alert level across northern Israel before later lifting restrictions in most areas.

Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli military spokesman, said Hezbollah had intended to hit targets in northern and central Israel. He said initial assessments found "very little damage" in Israel, but that the military remained on high alert. He said around 100 Israeli aircraft took part in Sunday's strikes.

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## Over 65,000 illegals rectify status - Mol

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA):** Over 65,000 residency violators benefited from the grace period offered by the authorities, adjusting their status in the country, said an Interior Ministry official on Sunday.

In an interview with KUNA, Director of the General Department of Residency at the Interior Ministry Brigadier Yousef Al-Ayoub revealed that the grace period offered to residency violators from March 14 to June 30, 2024 was in line with the state's humanitarian ethos to enable violators to amend their status and follow legal procedure.

Most of the violators were in the areas of Mahboula and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, he revealed, adding that the Interior Ministry would continue its efforts to crack down on those violating residency laws.

Since the grace period ended, some 4,650 people were apprehended, Al-Ayoub said, noting that violators would be unable to return to Kuwait once being deported.

He noted that sponsors of residency violators would be subjected to a block and they would be notified through the Sahel application of their sponsored individuals' arrest and subsequent legal procedures against them.

Deported violators with no travel documents would be issued emergency travel papers before being sent off, he affirmed.

The Interior Ministry had intensified its efforts in the last three months to track down residency violators and implement the law concerning the matter.

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## NewsWatch

**GAZA:** At least 71 Palestinians were killed in three attacks by the Israeli occupation forces in the Gaza Strip in the past 24 hours.

According to the daily report by the Palestinian Authority, death toll of Palestinians reached 40,405, while injuries rose to 93,468 since the start of the Israeli aggression on the Strip on 7th of last October. (KUNA)

**BAGHDAD:** The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, a Shiite militia group, announced on Sunday that it carried out a drone attack on a site in Haifa, northern Israel.

In a statement, the militia claimed its fighters targeted a "vital site" in Haifa early Sunday, stating the attack was made "in solidarity with the people of Gaza" and pledging to continue targeting "the enemy's strongholds." The statement did not specify details about the targeted site or any casualties. (Xinhua)

**ADEN:** At least 13 people have died and 14 others remain missing after a migrant boat capsized off Yemen's coast, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported on Sunday.

According to field reports from the IOM, the vessel, which had embarked from Djibouti, was carrying 25 Ethiopian migrants and two Yemeni nationals when it capsized on Tuesday near the Dubab district in Bani Al-Hakam sub-district. (Xinhua)



Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi

KUNA photo

## Prayer Timings

Fajr .....	03:58	Asr .....	15:25
Sunrise ..	05:21	Maghrib ..	18:18
Zohr .....	11:50	Isha .....	19:39

# Local

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

## Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

**By Day:** Very hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 08-32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

**By Night:** Hot to rather hot

## Weather

and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind changing to light to moderate northwesterly wind later on, with speeds of 08-28 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	45	35
Kuwait Airport	46	31

Abdaly	46	32
Bubyan	40	29
Jahra	47	33
Failaka Island	40	31
Salmiyah	41	34
Ahmadi	44	31
Jal Aliyah	46	32
Nuwaisib	44	31

## Leadership congratulates Venezuelan president on his re-election

# HH Amir congratulates president of Uruguay on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable to the President of Uruguay Luis Lacalle Pou, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal wished President Pou welfare and good health and further progress and development to Uruguay.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah congratulated in a cable President Luis Lacalle Pou on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Luis Lacalle Pou, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

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**Venezuelan president congratulated:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent on Sunday a congratulatory

cable to President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro, expressing his sincere congratulations on the president's re-election for a new presidential term.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir conveyed his best wishes for the Venezuelan president's health and wellbeing, along with hopes for Venezuela's continued success and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled sent a congratulatory cable to President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro, expressing his sincere congratulations on his re-election for a new presidential term.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed his best wishes for the Venezuelan president's success, health and wellbeing.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah sent a congratulatory cable to President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro, expressing his sincere congratulations on his re-election for a new presidential term.

## HH Crown Prince and PM send similar cables

# HH Amir condoles Indian president over factory blast victims

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Sunday a cable of condolences to the Indian President Droupadi Murmu, on the victims of the pharmaceutical factory explosion in southern India.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished speedy recovery to those injured.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to President Droupadi Murmu, on the victims of the pharmaceutical factory explosion.

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His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to President Droupadi Murmu, on the victims of the pharmaceutical factory explosion.

# Workers union appeals PM to reconsider 3rd fingerprinting

## Al-Azmi highlights risks to workplace innovation and productivity

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: Hussein Al-Azmi, who currently heads the Federation of Workers Unions in the Government Sector and the Workers Union at the Ministry of Health, has appealed to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah to reconsider Civil Service Commission (CSC) Circular No. 9/2024 on the obligatory third attendance fingerprint during official working hours due to the negative consequences, reports Al-Jarida daily.**

In a press statement, Al-Azmi argued that the third attendance fingerprint will neither contribute to the advancement and success of the workplace nor guarantee employees' commitment to the official working hours; as it is rather a major cause of confusion and dysfunction in government agencies with a special nature of work -- medical, field and technical. He pointed out that goals and innovation at work will be achieved only through the dedication and outstanding performance of employees, instead of imposing administrative and financial restrictions that destabilize the workplace.

He stressed that government agencies, such as ministries, institutions and entities in successful countries focus on achievements, creativity, improving productivity and job performance, developing labor affairs systems, encouraging national workers to gain more experience and skills, building trust between the direct supervisor and employees, generating opportunities for constructive competition at the workplace, and creating a safe work environment.

## CSC holds 'training' course for students

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has announced new training programs in collaboration with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The courses, focused on secretarial and typing skills, will accommodate up to 1,000 participants who hold either a high school or intermediate certificate and are registered in the central employment system.

The one-month training sessions are aimed at enhancing the employability of these candidates.

In addition, the CSC revealed plans for another training course targeting the same group in the area of hotel support services, intended for the Ministry of Health.

The details for this program will be released next week, with the objective of equipping participants with the necessary skills to perform their roles efficiently.

Registration for the secretarial and typing course will begin on September 15 through the CSC website, with training scheduled to start in October, aligning with the new PAAET training season.



Al-Jarida photo

Working ongoing on one of the highways.

## Bids for road maintenance to enter negotiation phase

# MPW planning major overhaul for early next year

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The Ministry of Public Works is seeking approval from the regulatory authorities to award contracts for comprehensive road maintenance. These contracts are expected to be signed by the end of this year, and the maintenance work set to commence at the start of next year, which will transform the roads into an "open workshop", reports Al-Rai daily quoting informed sources.

They indicated that the Board of Directors of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) has decided to delay the awarding of contracts

for the extensive maintenance of roads in all governorates and highways but only after a negotiation session is held with the successful bidders for the 18 identified projects.

The sources said the upcoming negotiation session, which was requested by CAPT, will focus on reviewing the proposed prices from the bidders in order to reduce the overall cost of the maintenance work.

They indicated that the State Audit Bureau will be approached to endorse the contract awards after CAPT approves the negotiation

outcomes, adding that this is required prior to finalizing contracts with the selected companies and launching the road maintenance activities.

The sources affirmed the keenness of the Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan to expedite the approval process from the regulatory authorities for these vital road maintenance projects.

They indicated the possibility of the contracts getting signed before the end of this year.

## 'Subsidies should primarily support vulnerable groups'

# Subsidy system places significant strain on state budget, say experts

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: Kuwait's subsidy system is increasingly placing a significant strain on the state's budget, with subsidies constituting over 20 percent of the general budget, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This expenditure, totaling approximately 4.5 billion dinars (about 23.8 percent of the budget), supports various sectors including energy, education, health, and social care. However, the current approach to subsidies has raised concerns about inefficiency and misallocation, prompting a call for comprehensive reforms.

Sources say, subsidies are a major financial commitment for Kuwait, absorbing a substantial portion of the budget. This includes financial support for essential services and sectors, but the distribution and management of these subsidies have become a contentious issue.

A critical concern is the uneven distribution of support. High-income individuals continue to benefit from subsidies, which contradicts the intended purpose of targeting aid towards those who are truly in need. This misallocation undermines social stability and exacerbates the financial strain on the government.

The current subsidy system is criticized for its inefficiency and failure to address fiscal imbalances. High-income individuals receiving subsidies, such as for labor support and utility costs, highlight the need

for reform. Several experts on the issue have given their views and recommendations.

Dr. Hind Al-Subaih argues that subsidies should be more precisely targeted towards those who genuinely need them.

She advocates for the integration and automatic linking of support systems to prevent misuse and ensure that aid reaches its intended beneficiaries. Additionally, she supports the idea of providing both moral and financial support for youth projects.

Ahmed Baqir highlights the issue of the absence of ceilings on labor support, which allows high-income individuals to benefit from aid.

He recommends re-implementing limits on support to better control expenditure. He also points out inefficiencies in the health services support system, where individuals might be receiving unnecessary private sector services funded by the government.

Dr. Khaled Mahdi emphasizes that subsidies should primarily support vulnerable groups while encouraging economic activity.

He calls for a restructuring of support systems to target the appropriate beneficiaries and reviving the National Energy Committee to address inefficiencies in energy subsidies.

Dr. Tariq Al-Duwaisan argues

that while subsidies are a significant financial burden, the underlying issue is not just their reduction but also the need for broader economic diversification.

He stresses the importance of economic development to address the budget deficit effectively.

A major challenge is the lack of an integrated database and automatic linking between support systems, resulting in some individuals receiving multiple forms of aid improperly.

The existing system fails to align with the goal of supporting those in genuine need, leading to structural imbalances in public finances.

The experts highlight the need for economic reforms and diversification beyond oil to address the root causes of the budget deficit.

There is a strong call for comprehensive reforms, including adjusting subsidies based on consumption limits and restructuring support to focus on deserving segments.

Having said this, Kuwait faces significant challenges with its current subsidy system. To alleviate the financial burden on the state and improve the effectiveness of subsidies, careful reform is essential.

This includes better targeting of aid, integrating support systems, and diversifying the economy to reduce reliance on oil revenue. Addressing these issues will be crucial for ensuring a more sustainable and equitable subsidy system in Kuwait.

# CAS releases report on Kuwait's workforce for end of Q1 of 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: According to the latest report from Al-Shall, the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) has released new data on Kuwait's workforce as of the end of the first quarter of 2024, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The statistics reveal that the total number of workers in Kuwait stands at approximately 2.147 million, excluding domestic workers.

This represents a 3.6 percent increase from the 2.073 million workers recorded at the end of the first quarter of 2023. This growth contradicts the goals set to modify the demographic composition of the workforce, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Including domestic workers -- who make around 789,000 -- the total workforce rises to approximately 2.936 million.

Domestic workers constitute about 26.9 percent of the total workforce, slightly down from 27.3 percent in the previous year. It is important to note that these figures are published as reported and have not been independently verified for accuracy.

## Disparities

In terms of wages, the report highlights significant disparities. For Kuwaiti males in the government sector, the average monthly wage is about 1,953 dinars, compared to 1,929 dinars in the previous year. Kuwaiti females earn an average of 1,375 dinars, up from 1,350 dinars, resulting in a 42 percent wage gap in favor of males.

For non-Kuwaitis in the government sector, males earn an average of 805 dinars, while females earn 721 dinars. The wage gap here is about 11.6 percent in favor of males, showing a more equal distribution compared to Kuwaiti workers.

In the private sector, Kuwaiti men earn an average of 1,643 dinars, which is 15.9 percent lower than their counterparts in the government sector.

Kuwaiti women in the private sector earn

about 1,066 dinars, 22.5 percent less than those in the government sector. Despite efforts to support national workers, these discrepancies remain.

Non-Kuwaiti men in the private sector earn an average of 308 dinars, approximately 38.2 percent of the wages of their government sector counterparts, while non-Kuwaiti women earn 423 dinars, which is 37.6 percent higher than their male counterparts but still 41.3 percent lower than their female colleagues in the government sector.

## Wage

Combining both sectors, the average monthly wage for Kuwaiti males is about 1,892 dinars, and for Kuwaiti females, it is about 1,334 dinars, with a 41.8 percent wage gap favoring males. For non-Kuwaitis, the average monthly wage is 320 dinars for males and 479 dinars for females, with a 49.7 percent difference favoring females.

Overall, the average monthly wage for Kuwaiti workers in both sectors is approximately 1,568 dinars, compared to 340 dinars for non-Kuwaitis. These figures do not include domestic workers, whose wages could significantly impact the average rates for non-Kuwaitis.

Regarding government employment, the number of Kuwaiti workers increased to about 384,000 in the government sector (up 2.9 percent from the previous year), with 73.6 thousand working in the private sector.

Of these, 83.9 percent work in the government sector and 16.1 percent in the private sector. Among Kuwaiti government employees, 48.7 percent hold university degrees, 4.8 percent have post-university degrees, and 13.3 percent have post-secondary or below-university degrees, with 20.1 percent holding high school diplomas or their equivalent.

This indicates that approximately 86.9 percent of Kuwaiti government sector employees have post-secondary education.

# 'MEW starts annual maintenance program for its units in mid-Sept'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy will start its preparations for the summer of 2025 as early as mid-September -- the schedule for annual maintenance of power generation and water distillation units, reports Al-Rai daily quoting a reliable source from the ministry.

The source stated "it is expected that in the middle of next month, the ministry will start removing power generation and water production and distillation units for annual maintenance." He explained the ministry selected this particular period based on several considerations; the most important of which is the decrease in electricity and water consumption, coinciding with the decrease in temperature.

He expects that the highest power consumption load by then will be about 16,000 megawatts; thereby, giving room for the ministry to put some units under maintenance in order to complete the preparations before the peak of next summer.

He also confirmed the coordination between the Power Plants Sector and the Monitoring and Control Centers Sector regarding the dates for taking out the units for maintenance and putting them back to the network.

He added the last of the Subiya Power Station units that were out of service last week due to the low-quality gas is functioning now, indicating the unit has a capacity of 250 megawatts.

On the Doha East Power Station units that are still out of service, he stressed that "the ministry is currently coordinating with an international company to determine the maintenance works needed for these units, and it might take more time to repair them." He pointed out this is one of the very old stations that the ministry previously planned to rebuild, along with Shuaiba South Power Station, due to the deterioration of their production units; but the lack of budget for new projects led to the repeated delay in the implementation of this plan."

# diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Engaging Kuwaiti experts for effective gov't strategies vital'

"AFTER the formation of a new government in 2024 and the subsequent implementation of work plans and strategies, the Kuwaiti people closely monitored the actions taken and the decisions made to correct the course and combat corruption," columnist **Dr. Abdullah Fahd Al-Abduljader** wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"The government officials have issued several statements and given interviews, emphasizing efforts are underway to fight corruption, bribery, fraud, misappropriation of public funds, and violations. While these actions are commendable, some pressing issues have yet to be addressed.



Dr Al-Abduljader

"One of the main concerns is the state of Kuwaiti roads. Despite the ongoing initiatives, many roads wear a deserted look, others are badly damaged and/or inadequately maintained, leading to frequent accidents and causing problems for motorists.

"Although certain streets have been repaired, the work has often been done in a fragmented manner rather than through complete restorations, leaving many areas still in poor condition.

"Another significant issue highlighted is the presence of abandoned government buildings and facilities that have been left unused for years. Examples include old schools and the 'defunct' vegetable market in Shuwaikh.

"These neglected spaces could be renovated and repurposed for government agencies, institutions, or centers instead of continuing to rent commercial and investment properties. Utilizing these abandoned buildings would result in substantial savings for the state budget.

"Furthermore, there are concerns regarding recent decisions by the Council of Ministers to do away with certain government institutions, such as the Supreme Council for Planning and the National Security Agency.

"The fate of the Kuwaiti employees previously working in these entities remains unclear, raising questions about how their employment will be managed after these closures.

"The Prime Minister must engage in more direct consultations with public benefit associations and experienced Kuwaiti professionals who are eager to offer their insights and expertise.

"These individuals could provide valuable advice and suggestions to address the ongoing challenges and obstacles that hinder the country's progress.

"Their input could be instrumental in shaping the government's work program and ensuring that decisions made by the Council of Ministers are effectively implemented.

"My well wishes to the Prime Minister for the continued efforts to involve knowledgeable and capable Kuwaiti citizens in addressing national issues and driving development forward."

**Also:**

"People relentlessly chase after their interests, whether legally or illegally, caring only for their own gain. The homeland finds no solace -- except by the mercy of God -- and it's on this principle that people's actions are driven. Academic certificates and nationalities are falsified solely for personal advantage; drugs and alcohol are promoted purely for the sake of money," columnist **Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Jiran** wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"Some write articles merely to serve the interests of merchants and suppliers. Party loyalists break promises to serve their factions; adultery, theft, and alcoholism are committed when one's belief is compromised by desires.

"This is a time when following desires leads to the cheapening of values and principles. In today's world, falsehood, oppression, and injustice are easy paths that lead to profit-making. Meanwhile, justice and fairness, which elevate the soul above mere animalistic instincts, have become heavy burdens.

"The pursuit of materialistic desires often drags a person into vices, leading to torment and disgrace. Some even reach a point where they shamelessly flaunt their sins in public without a hint of embarrassment. As the saying goes, 'If you are shameless, do as you please'.

"This audacity and indifference have become widespread in our society, especially under the current circumstances. Many who commit major sins do so without full faith, and they risk their souls if they persist without repentance. God forgives those who repent and follow the path of righteousness.

"There is a smaller group of people who pursue the interests of the afterlife. They fear God, live in obedience, purify their souls through monotheism and adherence to the Prophet's teachings, fulfill their duties to their leaders and country, and abstain from forbidden actions. For this, they earn the highest rewards."



"One of the most famous songs of the 1980s was 'Don't Say Easy ... Love Has Started'. It was a hit during an era when Kuwaiti songs domi-

nated the music scene. This song was sung by people from all of the Gulf nations," columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"The song was made famous by the Kuwaiti singer Rashid Sultan, who suddenly vanished from the artistic scene and was eventually forgotten. I met him at a diwaniya but didn't recognize him until a mutual friend introduced us. When I tried to talk to him, he seemed frustrated and reluctant to talk. He was silent and claimed to suffer from Alzheimer's.

"I am certain he has stories to share. He represents a significant piece of media history, especially from the era of flourishing Kuwaiti music. It would be great if our media could search for him, record his experiences, and feature him in one of their programs, which often lack substantive content.

"While discussing with a mutual friend about the pioneers and the media's neglect of them, the conversation turned to the talented artist Ahmed Abdul Karim. Known for his exceptional contributions to Kuwaiti radio, singing, and composing, his melodies and songs, including the timeless classic 'But Don't Blame Me for the Past', remain popular and are cherished by audiences today. However, Ahmed Abdul Karim has also been overlooked by the media, and very little is known about him now.

"In the past, our media showed great loyalty to our creators. The black-and-white concerts we used to watch featured the late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ali honoring pioneers of art. Their performances were recorded so that they would not be forgotten. He gave them generous rewards and arranged for these concerts to be broadcast on Thursday evenings and rebroadcast on Friday afternoons so that people would not forget them. It is worth asking - Where did we come from? Where have we ended up?

"We should search carefully for the remaining creative individuals, gather them, and feature them in our media. This is because they have valuable stories to share and insights that many of us would like to hear. They can reveal aspects of our cultural history that some have deliberately obscured, much like what happened to Al-Qurain Channel."



"We often hear that the government does not function effectively, and when it does, it commits many violations. There are also delays due to a lack of accountability. It seems as if Kuwait can only advance or make progress with the presence of the National Assembly," columnist **Sheikh Ali Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"Our country is similar to our GCC neighbors who have advanced and progressed without a parliament. However, accountability is maintained through oversight bodies such as the State Audit Bureau, the Ministry of Finance, the Fatwa and Legislation Department, and most importantly, the Amir of Firmness and Determination (May God protect and preserve him).

"In the near future, we may either witness the government's success, as seen with previous successful expectations, or face frustration and failure, God forbid. The outcome is now in the government's hands and its team, whose progress we will observe with anticipation, hoping for a successful resolution, God willing.

"The government's decision to activate the fingerprint system three times a day is a wise decision, reflecting its concerns about some employees who, after fingerprinting, return to their previous activities—a fact we highlighted in our article titled 'Wages without Work', dated 9/12/2021. We received an unjustified backlash from some individuals, while others defended the truth of the situation, for which we are grateful.

"Those who truly care about their country must serve it through actions, not just words. Actions include adhering to required working hours and fulfilling responsibilities with integrity. You get what you give, so be honest in your role and the responsibility you carry on your shoulders to please your Lord, and analyze what you receive at the end of each month.

"In conclusion, after 89 consecutive weekly articles in the local press, I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who followed, praised, commented on, and constructively criticized the various opinions and ideas presented.

"Whoever publishes must accept both praise and criticism. These differing viewpoints are part of our personal efforts. None of us are infallible.

"I also express my gratitude to the press outlets *Al-Seyassah*, *Al-Sabah*, and *Al-Nahar* for their commitment to publishing my articles every Sunday in the same column throughout this period.

"Only God knows whether it will return or not.

"Excuse me for quoting Al-Mutanabbi in this context: 'A dog died in the wilderness, so we were relieved from its barking. The cursed one gave birth to a puppy that barked more than its father.'

"May God protect Kuwait and its people from all evil and harm."

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



KUNA photo

The Chief of Staff listens to a detailed briefing on the duties assigned to the Military Education Authority.

### Lieut-Gen Al-Muzain visits Military Education Authority

## Academic achievement for army personnel in facing future challenges vital: Al-Muzain

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA): Chief of the General Staff of the Army, Lieutenant General Bandar Al-Muzain, highlighted the importance of academic achievement and modernized training programs during a visit to the Military Education Authority on Sunday. He stressed the need for continuous development

of curricula and teaching methods to enhance both individual and collective performance within the military, ensuring that army personnel are well-prepared for future challenges.

In a press statement issued by the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Al-Muzain was briefed on the authority's assigned duties, cur-

riculum quality, and recent achievements. He called for overcoming challenges and implementing the most effective educational strategies to benefit army members. Al-Muzain also commended the efforts of the Military Education Authority in successfully planning and executing military education.

## PAFN destroys 125 kg spoiled meat, issues 12 violations for food safety

### Three citizens arrested in possession of liquor bottles

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The emergency team at Shuwaikh Inspection Center (B), which is affiliated with the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) inspected food establishments in Shuwaikh resulting in the destruction of 125 kilograms of meat found to be unfit for human consumption and other spoiled food items, and the issuance of 12 violation citations, reports Al-Rai daily.**

Head of the center Maha Al-Ghoul told the daily that based on the directive of Capital Department Director Ali Al-Kandari to intensify the inspection of marketing centers, cooperative societies and food stores; the emergency team inspected some stores in Shuwaikh. She confirmed this move led to the discovery of 12 violations; such as the sale of various food items found to be unfit for human consumption or have expired, using a place that is beyond the licensed area, non-compliance with public sanitation regulations applied in food facilities, workers handling food without a health certificate, or employers who hired workers without obtaining a health certificate.

Al-Ghoul affirmed that 125 kilograms of food items found to be unfit for human consumption were destroyed. He called on everyone to abide by the regulations of PAFN, including the need to supply safe food items.

The team consisted of inspectors Zainab Abdul Jalil Qasim, Manar Badr Al-Ateeq, Fatima Saad Al-Mutairi and Farah Khalaf Al-Enezi.



**3 held in possession of liquor:** Three Kuwaiti citizens were arrested in three separate cases for committing traffic violations, driving under influence of liquor, and possessing liquor bottles, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the first citizen was arrested at a traffic stop, and four imported bottles of liquor, 750 ml each, were found in his possession.

The second citizen was arrested for carrying a one-liter liquor bottle. As for the third accused, he was arrested with a pack that had the label of an energy drink but he had replaced it with liquor.

All three individuals have been referred with the confiscated liquor bottles to the Drug Control General Department for necessary legal action.

Their driver's licenses were suspended because they were driving while they were in a disoriented state.

Meanwhile, seven individuals sustained injuries when a vehicle overturned on the Sixth Ring Road, trapping its occupants inside, until they were rescued by officers. They have been referred to the nearest hospital for treatment.



Al-Rai photo

Securitymen during the campaign.

### 1,114 traffic violations cited, 48 vehicles seized

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The Traffic, Operations and Public Security sectors at the Ministry of Interior recently carried out an intensive joint security campaign in Saad Al-Abdullah and a number of areas in Jahra Governorate; during which 1,114 traffic violations were recorded and 48 vehicles were impounded, reports Al-Rai daily.

The campaign also led to the confiscation of an undisclosed quantity of narcotic substances; arrest of eight persons wanted by law, nine who were reported absconding and one who was in abnormal condition; confiscation of 17 vehicles used in committing crimes; and referral of another person to the traffic police.

Security forces cordoned off a number of

areas in Jahra for seven hours -- from 9:30 pm until 3:00 am, leading to the arrest of a number of persons wanted by law, violators and reckless drivers. They focused on Saad Al-Abdullah City as several residents have complained about the huge number of reckless drivers, illegal workers, drug users and persons wanted by law in the city.

The campaign succeeded in imposing control and arresting violators, including the reckless drivers. Residents in the city praised the efforts of the security forces in maintaining security, imposing the rule of law and arresting violators; especially since the city witnessed the spread of some phenomena like traffic violations, illegal workers and reckless drivers.

### Farming season starts

## 'Suhail' star to usher in improved weather

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA): With the emergence of the Suhail star in the southern horizon of the Arabian Peninsula in the wee hours of Saturday, Aug 24, the unusually hot weather in Kuwait starts to improve and the farming season begins. Suhail, traditionally known in the region as the noble or bright star, heralds the end of summer, and the start of the rainy season and date harvest. Weather becomes moderate, gradually, in the region with lesser day time and longer nights.

Meanwhile, earlier, the Ministry of Electricity and Water said Thursday evening that its emergency teams managed to restore electricity to Al-Rai area. Four substations at the main transformation station (C) went out of service earlier in the day, prompting the ministry to dispatch its emergency teams to the site. The teams were able to end the power outage in quick action, according to a statement posted on the ministry's (X) account.



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# Power demands surges, urgent 'reforms' needed

Policies outdated

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25:** Kuwait has recently entered another phase of scheduled electricity outages, continuing a pattern of recurring energy shortages that have plagued the country for decades, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Despite Kuwait's financial surplus and sufficient fuel reserves, the crisis persists, highlighting significant challenges in public administration and energy management.

The weekly report issued by the Al-Shall Economic Center reveals that Kuwait's electricity consumption growth has not been adequately addressed through effective planning.

Given Kuwait's extreme heat and high electricity demands, effective planning would involve forecasting consumption trends and ensuring capacity is slightly above the projected peak. However, this level of proactive planning has been lacking for years.

The current solution to the crisis provides only a temporary fix rather than a sustainable resolution. To address the root causes, Kuwait needs a comprehensive strategy that not only limits consumption growth but also enhances energy production from alternative sources.

One of the proposed solutions is to implement a tiered tariff system. The first segment, catering to low-income households, could receive electricity for free, covering only a minimal percentage of total consumption. Subsequent segments would face progressively higher rates. This approach would help manage demand and ensure that subsidies are targeted effectively.

Increasing electricity generation from renewable sources is another

key strategy.

The cost of renewable energy has decreased significantly and is expected to fall further. Investing in alternative energy not only boosts production capacity but also reduces reliance on oil and gas, allowing Kuwait to export these resources and support public finances.

Horizontal housing expansion and its impact on electricity consumption need reevaluation. Expanding infrastructure must align with sustainable energy practices to avoid exacerbating the crisis. Additionally, there should be a focus on designing and constructing energy-efficient buildings to minimize electricity use.

The frequent turnover of ministers in the Ministry of Electricity and Water — 14 different ministers in the past decade — has hampered effective long-term planning.

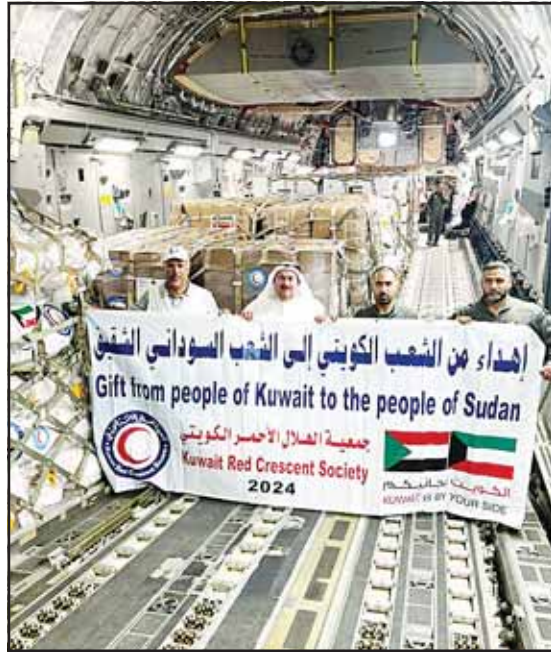
To address this, the report suggests transforming the ministry into an independent body responsible for rationalizing expenses, adopting sustainable strategies, and ensuring energy supply stability.

Kuwait's electricity consumption has risen significantly, from 65.1 terawatts in 2014 to 88.3 terawatts in 2023, with projections suggesting it could reach 120 terawatts by 2034 if current policies remain unchanged.

The solutions to the energy crisis are well-known and successfully implemented in other countries, yet Kuwait has struggled to adopt them.

The frequent changes in leadership and lack of a stable, professional public administration have contributed to the failure to address the crisis effectively.

A reformed approach, focusing on sustainable energy practices and administrative stability, is crucial for overcoming the ongoing electricity challenges and ensuring long-term energy security for Kuwait.



KUNA photo  
The fifth plane takes off from the air bridge to relieve brothers in Sudan.

## Kuwait's 5th aid-loaded plane departs to Sudan

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA):** Kuwait's fifth plane carrying 30 tons of relief aid, donated by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), departed to Sudan on Sunday to help those affected by the war and floods.

In a statement to KUNA, KRCS Deputy Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi said that Kuwait continues its humanitarian aid to help and stand by their brotherly Sudanese people by supporting them through these hard times.

The shipment consists of relief material and food supplies to reduce the suffering of those affected by the humanitarian situation Sudan is going through. Al-Hasawi reiterated that the association would spare no effort to provide any help to those in need.

He also expressed his deep gratitude to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, and the Kuwaiti Air Force for their efforts in coordinating and following up on the delivery of relief aid to those in need.

## Tender issued for 15-month digital transition

# Education Ministry set to launch new electronic signature system

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25:** The Ministry of Education is set to adopt and launch an electronic signature system in an effort to reduce dependence on paper-based correspondence.

According to educational sources who spoke to Al Jarida, the Ministry has initiated a general tender for the supply, installation, operation, maintenance, and updating of the electronic signature program. The initiative also includes providing technical support, training, and ensuring ongoing updates, addressing the needs of the Information Systems Department. The contract for this project is set to be implemented over a period of 15 months from the date of signing. During this time, the contractor will be required to complete all tasks as outlined in the tender, adhering to the general and special conditions, technical specifications, and the schedule of items, quantities, and prices specified in the tender documents.

The sources further noted that the tender application will be available for 10 days from the date the advertisement is published in the Official Gazette. A preliminary meeting will be held to address inquiries from potential contractors on the Wednesday following the advertisement's publication at the Supplies and Warehouses Department in the Subhan area.

The introduction of the electronic signature system is expected to significantly reduce reliance on paper correspondence, streamline the approval process for signatures by Ministry officials, and enhance overall workflow efficiency, leading to faster completion of tasks.



Al Jarida photo  
The Ministry of Education headquarters; (inset) a sample of an electronic signature system.

## Municipality to launch new 'car shed' licensing system

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25:** The Kuwait Municipality is set to complete and implement a new system for issuing licenses for car sheds across various zones, including residential, investment, commercial, agricultural, industrial areas and government buildings by October, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The system will be integrated with the government application, "Sabel," to streamline the licensing process.

The Municipality sources said the final stages of developing the car shed licensing system are underway.

The new regulations, which are part of the draft car shed laws, allow for a licensing fee of half a dinar per square meter for sheds in private residential areas. This fee is to be paid once at the time of licensing.

The Municipality's information systems sector is preparing for a trial run of the system before its official launch.

This testing phase is expected to last no more than two weeks. The aim is to ensure the system's readiness to handle a high volume of requests efficiently.

Each governorate is anticipated to process tens of thousands of license applications.

## Shuwaikh Beach set for March opening

# Kuwait Municipality undertakes significant development projects

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25:** The Deputy Director General of the Projects Sector at Kuwait Municipality, Maysa Boushehri, highlighted the progress of several key development projects.

Among them are two major initiatives for the municipality — a new administrative building consisting of 40 floors and the Ahmadi Governorate Municipality building project consisting of 11 floors.

Boushehri also mentioned large-scale projects under municipal supervision that are crucial to the state's development plan, such as markets, entertainment areas, and waste landfills.

She announced that the Shuwaikh Beach project is set to open next March, while the reconstruction of the Mubarakiya area damaged by the fire will be completed in 13 months.

Moreover, the Mubarakiya Markets Development Project and the Abdullah Al-Ahmad Project are currently in the tendering phase.

Boushehri noted that the waste recycling system project has already kicked off, with the project site handed over to the concerned company. This initiative will convert solid waste into dry fuel for use in cement factories.

She also mentioned consultations and studies are ongoing for other projects, including the Friday Market and the Birds project in the Jahra Governorate, as well as pending approvals for projects like the Jahra Corniche and Desert Adventures initiatives.

Meanwhile, the Acting Deputy Director General of the Services Sector, Mishaal Al-Azmi, emphasized the municipality's collaboration with the private sector to enhance cleaning operations. He revealed that 19 contracts are being offered through Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to assess the performance of existing cleaning contracts and improve service quality.

## No entry law change

# Municipality refutes social media rumors

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25:** Kuwait Municipality has denied reports circulating on social media that claimed the Director General Saud Al-Dabbous has given nod for an amendment to the municipality law allowing entry into private residences without prior permission, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Municipality criticized the unprofessional conduct of some news accounts for distorting information by cutting and pasting statements from officials, leading to confusion among citizens.

The Municipality emphasized that it will take legal action and refer the matter to the relevant authorities against those responsible for publishing misinformation about the televised interview with the Director General, which was aired on Thursday.

The interview did not include any mention of this issue, and the claims made were entirely fabricated and misrepresented the content in a way that violates professional standards.

## New training program approved

# Maritime Guide designed to meet evolving needs of Ports Authority

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25:** Abbas Al-Sammak, Director of the Higher Institute of Telecommunication and Navigation at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, has announced a significant development in maritime training, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Civil Service Commission has approved a new training program titled 'Maritime Guide', designed to meet the Kuwait Ports Authority's evolving needs.

This two-year course will begin in the first training semester of the 2024-2025 academic year.

The 'Maritime Guide' program, which had been on hold for approximately 35 years, marks a renewed collaboration between the Applied Education Institute and the Kuwait Ports Au-



Al-Jarida photo  
Higher Institute of Telecommunication & Navigation. Inset: Abbas Al-Sammak.

thority.

Following a productive meeting between officials from both entities, two committees were established to refine the program.

Their efforts have resulted in a curriculum that aligns with Kuwait's fu-

ture vision and focuses on essential roles, including maritime guiding and marine communications technology.

The graduates of the program will receive a fifth-degree certification along with three bonuses.



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## KD4.8m recovery plan launched following audit findings

# MoE fast-tracks salary control to address overspending

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The Financial Affairs Sector in the Ministry of Education has asked the salary departments in the educational districts to "quickly complete procedures related to salary deduction and salary payment suspension in order to avoid the observations of supervisory authorities," reports Al-Rai daily.

In a letter addressed to the heads of the salary departments, Budget and Accounts Controller in the sector Youssef Dakhl Allah emphasized the need to instruct the concerned employees to fully abide by this directive; along with the strict

implementation of the systems and regulations on delivering and receiving transactions through certified mail, not by hand, in order to avoid losses or delays.

The State Audit Bureau (SAB) recorded an observation that the ministry lacks control over the salary disbursement mechanism; considering it disbursed around KD191,895,000 salaries from October 2023 to March 2024 without settling them at the end of fiscal 2023/2024, which is considered overspending in the budget and it entails that the financial statements of the ministry are inaccurate.

SAB also recorded the unjustified disbursement of some amounts in previous fiscal years and the subsequent deduction from the employees' salaries -- around KD4,838,000 recorded in the recovered revenues-expenses account in the budget for fiscal 2023/2024. The bureau underscored the need for the ministry to "tighten control over salary disbursement to avoid unjust payments, which inflate the revenues of the fiscal year under review; leading to an increase in the expenses for previous fiscal years."

The bureau revealed that the weak internal control procedures in all departments in charge of employee and financial affairs, and the failure to activate the automated link between the educational districts and head office of the ministry resulted in the unlawful disbursement of salaries amounting to KD972,000 during the aforementioned fiscal year. It asserted that the illegally disbursed salaries and allowances are recorded as debts; hence, the need to tighten control over salaries and activate the automated link to protect public funds.



Part of the visit by the Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad and other government officials to the Shaddadiya Industrial City project.

### Access road to be upgraded

## PART focuses on connectivity of Shaddadiya City to nearby areas

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: Director-General of the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport (PART), Khaled Al-Asimi, has emphasized the importance of connecting the Shaddadiya Industrial City project to nearby areas, highlighting its role as a key component of Kuwait Vision 2035.

In a press statement following a visit to the project by Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad and

other government officials, Al-Asimi disclosed that the Authority plans to begin work on the city's entrances and connections to the Seventh Ring Road and surrounding areas in the next phase.

The goal is to enhance accessibility and ensure smooth entry and exit to and from the city.

Al-Asimi further noted that the Shaddadiya Industrial City is receiving significant attention from various government agencies as it is Kuwait's first fully integrated industrial city.

# Kuwait expands emergency medical services with new ambulance clinic

Providing timely medical assistance in high-traffic areas

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The Ministry of Health is enhancing its emergency medical services with the addition of a new ambulance clinic in the 'Warehouse' complex, south Sabahiya, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This initiative is part of a broader effort to ensure the health and safety of visitors to commercial centers throughout the country.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Shatti, Director of the Medical Emergency Department, revealed that Kuwait's ambulance fleet consists of approximately 200 ambulances, supported by 86 ambulance centers and clinics across all governorates.

The new clinic in the Warehouse complex will bolster the Ministry's capacity to provide timely medical assistance in high-traffic areas.

During a recent visit to the new clinic, Dr. Abdullah Al-Faras, Assistant Undersecretary for Supportive Medical Services, along with several ambulance officials from Al-Ahmadi Governorate, assessed the clinic's operations.

They reviewed the types of cases being handled, which include a significant number of child injuries from the complex's play areas.

This review has underscored the importance of implementing an awareness campaign aimed at encouraging parents to supervise their children more closely to prevent accidents.

The emergency medical team at the complex will respond to calls from the complex's management and visitors, handle a range of medical emergencies, and transfer patients to the accident department at Al-Adan Hospital if necessary. From January to July this



Dr. Ahmed Al-Shatti and Dr. Abdullah Al-Faras pose for a photo with other participants at the Warehouse Complex Ambulance Clinic.

### Cost slashed

## CAPT OKs power plant tender amendment

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The Central Agency for Public Tenders has granted the Ministry of Electricity and Water's request to adjust the award amount for a key maintenance tender related to the Al-Zour South Power Generation and Water Distillation Plant, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The approved amendment reduces the tender amount

from 57,799 million dinars to 57,645 million dinars.

This adjustment pertains to the maintenance works for the gas turbine and combined cycle systems in the third phase of the Al-Zour South project.

The decision reflects ongoing efforts to optimize costs while ensuring the continued efficient operation of the power generation and water distillation facilities.

## CITRA extends tender deadline for key 'Numbering Resource' project

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) has announced an extension for the public tender concerning the Numbering Resource Management System project, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The extension allows more time for interested parties to review the specifications and conditions out-

lined in the tender documents.

The updated closing date for the tender is now Tuesday, September 10. Those interested in attending the preliminary meeting are required to send a letter detailing the names of their attendees.

Tender documents can be obtained from CITRA's headquarters at the Al Hamra Tower.

## Amir reshuffles

Continued from Page 1

Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Youssef Saud Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also received the First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Defence Minister Sheikh Fahad Youssef Saud Al-Sabah.

would make this easier, instead of the decisions issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to prohibit granting licenses to Gulf companies with expatriate partners.

Clearly, the administration needs a revamp and an overhaul of the legal system. This can only be achieved through high-level directives. Kuwait must overcome the impasse imposed by the backward mindset that insists on isolating the country under the belief that "Kuwait is different," without clarifying what exactly makes it so.

## Over 65,000

Continued from Page 1

The grace period was offered to allow violators to seek legal means to stay in the country.

The issue of residency violators had an impact on the fabric of society with some individuals seeking illicit activities to make ends meet.

The campaign also delivers a message to sponsors who bring individuals into the country and then abandon them, contributing to a sense of lawlessness and disorder.

## Kuwaitis slam

Continued from Page 1

He urged the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) and Jahra Governorate to closely monitor camel herders, put a fence on both sides of the road to prevent animals from going to the road and place a dividing fence between the two directions, so no one makes a U-turn at a random point, in addition to increasing the streetlights.

He added that Abdally Road must be fixed as well, because the large number of potholes and damaged asphalt cause frequent fatal accidents. He suggested increasing the streetlights and placing signposts before the places where sand dunes are located, as sand dunes also cause accidents since they block the road.

He asked: Is it reasonable that the regional road is full of problems and continues to take lives, considering it connects Kuwait to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in addition to being a passageway not only for entering Saudi Arabia, but also a link for travelers from many countries via Saudi Arabia?

He recommended deploying patrols on the road, establishment of more fuel stations and fencing the entire road.

Traffic expert and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Traffic Safety Association Bader Al-Hamad pointed out that there should be at least three ambulance points on this road; in addition to increasing

surveillance cameras, as the number of deaths increases, especially during holidays, with many Kuwaitis traveling to Saudi Arabia and many Saudis traveling to Kuwait.

Al-Hamad urged the Ministry of Public Works to repair the potholes and irregularities on Salmi Road, wondering where are the agreements on repairing this road.

He asserted the ministry always issues the same statement: "Kuwait's roads in the coming years will be among the best." However, years have passed without measures to protect people from the dangers of the road. It has become the road of death, the latest tragedy was the death of three of the best young men in the country when their cars collided, he added.

He asked the government to hold accountable any party that does not carry out its responsibilities; wondering if the ministries in charge of the road do not read newspapers or look at social media that publish about the tragic accidents on this road.

He continued: If the road was designed on the basis of not having traffic congestion, why are all means not taken to reduce speed on the road? This road has twists and curves; while a number of truck drivers and other cars turn towards the opposite road, separating cars heading to or coming from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which leads to an increase in accidents.

He explained that those who survive from accidents on the road end up with tragic injuries, such as a broken pelvis or total paralysis.

He stressed the need to light the entire road, as there are several kilometers without lighting, as well as to monitor the companies responsible for maintaining the lighting poles.

He also suggested expanding this road to increase the number of lanes, hoping the concerned officials will visit the road morning and evening to see the problem with their own eyes.

A Kuwait Municipality official, who requested anonymity, said the road does not only connect Kuwait to Saudi Arabia, but it is also a crossing for many Arab countries like Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt; in addition to the passage of trucks transporting goods from various countries to Kuwait.

He stated the high number of accidents on this road is due to several reasons, including its narrowness despite being an international crossing, randomness and landslides that surprise the driver, especially if he is driving at night. He added the transfer of Amghara scrapyard to Naem has increased the number of cars on this road.

He warned that the problem gets worse in winter or rainy season due to the low capacity of manholes to drain water, so water accumulates and makes the road slippery for vehicles.

## 'Quota limit

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait Municipality to address the issue of excessive number of staff working on the shift system and to rectify the defects in it.

His decision to cut the shift allowance for some municipality employees was aimed to redistribute employees and reschedule them, so that employees can be transferred from places crowded with shift-based employees to other vacant or understaffed places.

Efforts are underway to update the municipality's outdated organizational structure to better align with its role in national development and urban growth. This includes the introduction of new sectors, such as a dedicated environmental sector and a recycling waste sector.

Al-Dabbous stressed the need to update and develop the municipality's organizational structure and sectors in parallel with reforming the outdated municipality law.

He indicated that the municipality's functions are closely linked with the work and activities of all ministries, authorities, and government agencies.

Al-Dabbous said, "One week ago, the preparation of a comprehensive and integrated draft law for the municipality was completed. It is completely different from the current law in force for the municipality, which was established in 2009.

The draft of the new municipality law has been submitted to the Minister of Municipal Affairs Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan for review and approval by the Council of Ministers. The new law is expected to transform the municipality's operations and address shortcomings in its executive functions, which have long been hindered by the existing law."

Regarding the public oversight of the municipality's work, Al-Dabbous affirmed that changing the municipality's organizational structure will address this issue by separating the sectors responsible for licensing and implementation from those tasked with monitoring compliance both during and after implementation. Previously, the municipality handled licensing, implementation, and monitoring within the same sector.

He said the municipality already has specialized oversight bodies, such as field teams that are dedicated to monitoring and ensuring adherence to the municipality's regulations and laws.

Al-Dabbous stressed the need to not accuse or constantly criticize the municipality without verifying the facts.

He said he respects constructive

criticism and maintains an open-door policy, adding that he has allocated Sundays for holding meetings with the general public and Mondays after 2:00 pm for municipality employees.

Al-Dabbous concluded by praising the young national staff working in the municipality for their role in implementing its vision and strategy, highlighting their success in achieving 40 percent of its goals.

He expressed hope that 90 percent of the municipality's strategic goals will be achieved in the near future.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Director General of the Capital and Jahra Municipality Sectors Mohammad Saud Al-Mutairi stated that the municipality provides various services related to construction, commercial licenses, and shops.

He explained that the municipality issues licenses for all stages of construction, from receiving initial permits and excavation to the implementation of the project, connection of electricity, and issuing a description certificate for transferring building ownership.

Al-Mutairi highlighted the municipality's success in digitizing these construction-related services, and transitioning from paper to electronic systems through collaboration with contractors and engineering offices.

Regarding commercial licenses, Al-Mutairi said the municipality collaborates with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, highlighting the existence of an electronic interface between Kuwait Municipality, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Public Authority for Civil Information for enabling the issuance of commercial licenses electronically without the need for investors or company owners to visit the municipality in person.

Furthermore, Deputy Director General of the Development and Information Sector in Kuwait Municipality Youssef Al-Azmi stated that the Information Development Sector aims to create an integrated digital environment to enhance service delivery and streamline procedures for saving time and effort.

He highlighted the development of the municipality's website and the services provided through it, including an online complaint program for citizens and residents. This program integrates GPS and GIS features, making it easier to submit and track complaints via mobile phone.

Al-Azmi explained that the Director General of Kuwait Municipality issued a circular regarding the need for all complaints to be addressed within 48 hours.

The sector is working on a new electronic program for licensing advertisements in a manner that is significantly better than the previous system. It will allow immediate sub-

mission, fee payment, and issuance of licenses without any delay.

Also, a new electronic program for licensing umbrella shades, which was developed in collaboration with the Central Agency for Information Technology, will expedite the issuance process.

Al-Azmi concluded by highlighting the ongoing integration of all municipal services into the Sahel application, including the ability to issue health licenses, inquire about description certificates and electricity connections, and view property technical files of properties.

Also, the Deputy Director General of the Projects Sector at Kuwait Municipality Eng. Maysa Boushahri outlined the various types of projects under municipal supervision.

She explained that there are projects solely for the municipality, including the construction of a new 40-floor administrative building on Shuhada Street and an 11-floor building for the Ahmadi Municipality.

## Israel, Hezbollah

Continued from Page 1

Lebanon's Health Ministry reported that two people were killed and another two wounded in the strikes in southern Lebanon. Separately, a fighter for the Amal group, which is allied with Hezbollah, was killed in a strike on a car, Amal said.

Hezbollah said its attack involved more than 320 Katyusha rockets aimed at multiple sites in Israel and a "large number" of drones. It said the operation was targeting "a qualitative Israeli military target that will be announced later" as well as "enemy sites and barracks and Iron Dome (missile defense) platforms."

Hezbollah said the strikes would allow it to launch more attacks deeper into Israel, but a later statement said "military operations for today have been completed."

The militant group said it targeted 11 bases, barracks and military positions in northern Israel and the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, and dismissed Israel's claim to have thwarted a stronger attack. Hezbollah did not provide evidence for its claims.

Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, was expected to give a speech later on Sunday.

After an emergency government meeting, Lebanon's caretaker Economy Minister Amin Salam said officials were "feeling a bit more optimistic" about a de-escalation.

"We feel more reassured since both sides confirmed that the expected operations ended, and we know that the negotiations in Cairo are very serious," he said.

## World News Roundup

## Europe

## Suspect surrenders

## 5 die in shelling of Russia's Belgorod

KYIV, Ukraine, Aug 25, (AP): Five people died in Ukrainian shelling in Russia's border region of Belgorod, officials said Sunday, while Russian forces struck a hotel in eastern Ukraine, leaving one journalist missing and two others injured.

Twelve other people were wounded in the Russian village of Rakitone, 38 kilometers (23 miles) from the Ukrainian border, including a 16-year-old girl reported to be in critical condition, said regional Gov Vyacheslav Gladkov.

Russian forces struck a hotel overnight in the city of Kramatorsk in the eastern Donetsk region, injuring two people and leaving one trapped under the rubble, regional Gov Vadym Filashkin said. All three were reported to be journalists from Ukraine, the US, and the UK.



Gladkov

Reuters news agency said Sunday that their journalist covering the war in Ukraine was missing and two other team members were hospitalized after Hotel Sapphire, where a six-person crew was staying, was hit "by an apparent missile strike" on Saturday. "One of our colleagues is unaccounted for, while another two have been taken to hospital for treatment," the agency said.

The rest of the team has been accounted for, said the news agency.

In addition to the hotel, a nearby multistory building was also destroyed, Filashkin said, and rescuers were busy clearing the debris at the site.

## Multiple

Ukraine's eastern Kharkiv region also came under Russian fire, resulting in multiple civilian injuries, regional Gov Oleh Syniehubov wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

In Kharkiv's Chuhuiv region, five people were injured, including a 4-year-old boy and a 14-year-old girl, after two houses were struck by Russian fire. In Kharkiv city, eight people were wounded when a two-story house was set on fire by a Russian attack.

In Balakliia, a Russian strike destroyed six houses and damaged others. A 55-year-old man was injured. In the Kupiansk area, a house was set on fire by a Russian attack, wounding four women.



**'Solingen knife attack suspect surrenders':** A 26-year-old man has turned himself into police, saying he was responsible for the Solingen knife attack that left three dead and eight wounded at a festival marking the city's 650th anniversary. German authorities announced early Sunday.

Duesseldorf police said in a joint statement with the prosecutor's office that the man "stated that he was responsible for the attack."

"This person's involvement in the crime is currently being intensively investigated," the statement said.

Federal prosecutors said they were investigating on suspicion of murder, attempted murder and membership in a foreign terrorist organization. The suspect was to make a first appearance before a judge later Sunday.

The suspect is a Syrian citizen who had applied for asylum in Germany, police confirmed to The Associated Press. The dpa news agency reported, without citing a specific source, that his asylum claim had been denied and that he was to have been deported last year.

On Saturday, the Islamic State militant group claimed responsibility for the attack, without providing evidence. The extremist group said in its news site that the attacker targeted Christians and that the perpetrator carried out the assaults Friday night "to avenge Muslims in Palestine and everywhere." The claim couldn't be independently verified.



**French police arrest arson attack suspect:** French police have apprehended and detained a suspect in an arson attack on a synagogue in a southwestern Mediterranean town that injured a police officer, the country's acting interior minister said Sunday.

Two cars parked at the Beth Yaacov complex in the seaside resort town of La Grande Motte, near Montpellier, were set ablaze just after 8 am Saturday. Firefighters discovered additional fires at two entrances. A police officer who walked up to the site was injured after a propane gas tank placed near the burning vehicles exploded.

Five people, who were present in the synagogue complex at the time of the attack were unharmed, it added.

"The alleged perpetrator of the arson attack has been arrested," Gerald Darmanin, the acting interior minister, said in a post on X. He visited the site on Saturday afternoon along with acting Prime Minister Gabriel Attal and met with local officials and the staff. Darmanin also hailed the "professional conduct" of police forces and its elite intervention unit "despite the gunfire" during the operation.

French prosecutors said the man was arrested in the southern city of Nîmes shortly before midnight Saturday.

"He opened fire on the police intervention unit, which returned fire, injuring (the suspect) in the face," the National Antiterrorism Prosecutor's Office said in a statement Sunday. Two other people linked to the suspect were also taken into custody, it added.



**Macron holds talks with political players:** After the excitement of the Paris Olympics and a Mediterranean vacation, now French President Emmanuel Macron has to figure out how to make his country governable again.

Faced with a hung parliament, social tensions and ballooning debt, Macron kicked off talks Friday with key political players in a bid to choose a new prime minister who would form a government and end the deadlock created by snap legislative elections last month.

Members of the left-wing New Popular Front coalition that won the most seats pressured Macron for a quick decision. Their nominee for prime minister, little-known civil servant Lucie Castets, said after Friday's meetings in the Elysee Palace that she was ready to govern, and ready for compromise to get things done.

But the party only has about a third of the seats in the National Assembly, France's powerful lower house of parliament, and no party has a majority. Macron's centrist alliance came in second and the far-right National Rally came in third.

There's no rulebook that requires Macron to name a candidate from the party that won the most seats, or lays out a timeline for a decision.



US Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris during the Democratic National Convention on Aug 22, in Chicago. (AP)

## Politics

## Harris campaign says it has raised \$540m

## 'US female president long overdue'

WASHINGTON, Aug 25, (AP): "Electric." "Joyful."

The kinetic energy powering Kamala Harris' whirlwind presidential campaign carries the hopeful aspirations of history and the almost quaint idea of electing the first woman to the White House. But inside it, too, is the urgent and determined refusal of many Democratic female voters to accept the alternative - again.

"Serious." "Unapologetic." Listen to the women cheering "We're not going back!" at the Harris campaign rallies. See them singing along during the dance party roll call at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Understand the mothers and daughters and sorority sisters and, yes, the men, brothers and boys who have watched and waited and winced as the country tried eight years ago to break the glass ceiling - and failed.

"Overdue." This time, this year, facing Donald Trump again, a certain and influential swath of the electorate is not messing around. "It's our time," said Denise Delogol, 60, a retired postal worker from West Bloomfield Township, Michigan.

## Reviving

The promise of a Harris presidency is shaking a sizable segment of the nation out of a political funk, reviving the idea of a milestone election and an alternative to repeating the Trump era. It's putting the country on the cusp of what Michelle Obama, in her convention speech to Democrats, called a "brighter day."

Once President Joe Biden bowed out of the race and embraced his vice president at the top of the ticket, some found hope where before they had felt mostly dread.

"Overnight it went from doomscrolling to hope-scrolling," said Lisa Hansen of Wisconsin, who led an early Trump resistance group in 2017 as her first foray into political activism.

Lori Goldman of Michigan, who founded Fems for Dems to elect Hillary Clinton two presidents ago, said, "I'm too old to not ever have seen a president that's female in the United States." She's 65.

And Shannon Nash, a California attorney, co-founder of the Tech4Kamala group and, like Harris, a fellow member of the historic Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., said from the convention hall Thursday night. "The joy is coming back to politics."

Women have been here before, in 2016, when they donned matching pantsuits, poured champagne and settled in on election night, some with friends and daughters by their side, expecting Clinton to win the White House only to be shaken by Trump's victory.

As one woman said at the time, she threw up the next morning.

## Lifted

To be sure, some voters had a different first female president in mind. Nikki Haley lifted Republican hopes during the GOP primary, but her moment faded after rival Trump branded his former ambassador to the United Nations "birdbrain."

Lisa Watts, a retired business owner from Hickory, North Carolina, who was attending her fifth Trump rally this week, had little interest in Harris. "I don't think that her record proves that she is ready to run this country," Watts said.

The thousands of women who pack Trump rallies, and tens of millions more who are expected to cast ballots for him in November, are participating on the other side of the potential history-making.

The former president, convicted in a hush-money case and still facing a pending federal indictment for conspiring to overturn the 2020 election ahead of the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol attack, would become the first felon to win the White House.

Republican National Committee co-chair Lara Trump rejected as "insulting" the idea that Americans should vote for a woman for president because it would make history.

"If you ever give me a job because ... of the fact that I'm a woman and not based on any merit or qualification, guess what? I'm turning that job down all day long," the former president's daughter-in-law said on her podcast in July.

For those voting for Harris, this

election feels more joyful, but also more necessary and urgent.

"We need to do this, be serious about it this time," said Monique LaFonta, a mother of two twin girls, after attending a Harris rally in Milwaukee.

Trump's creation of a conservative Supreme Court majority that overturned a woman's right to abortion access produced outrage among many women who powered that year's midterm election - and are a potentially influential force in this one.

"We are living in just such a wildly different situation," said Jessica Mackler, the president of Emily's List, which works to elect pro-choice women. She said Harris is "unapologetic" when it comes to reproductive rights.

Harris herself carries this potentially history-making moment not as a campaign feature but a matter-of-fact representation of who she is and has always been, much the way Barack Obama often left his race merely implied to voters. Rather than reminding voters that the nation's 47th president could become the first in its more than two-century history to not be a man, Harris is running instead on what she would do in the job and how she would do it.

## Also:

**WASHINGTON:** US Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign says it has now raised \$540 million for its election battle against Republican nominee former President Donald Trump.

The campaign has had no problems getting supporters to open their wallets since President Joe Biden announced on July 21 he was ending his campaign and quickly endorsed Harris. The campaign said it saw a surge of donations during last week's Democratic National Convention in Chicago where Harris and her vice presidential running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, accepted their nominations.

"Just before Vice President Harris' acceptance speech Thursday night, we officially crossed the \$500 million mark," campaign chair Jen O'Malley Dillon wrote in a memo released by the campaign on Sunday. "Immediately after her speech, we saw our best fundraising hour since launch day."



MSLR rocket stick is seen on the ground in a forest fire after a Russian strike near Sloviansk, Donetsk region, Ukraine, on Aug 24. (AP)



Trice



Hobbs

## America

**'Hiker still missing':** Search and rescue crews at Grand Canyon National Park were searching for an Arizona woman nearly two days after she was swept into a creek during a flash flood, the woman's sister said on social media Saturday.

Chenoa Nickerson of Gilbert was hiking in Havasu Creek, about a half-mile (800 meters) from where it meets up with the Colorado River, when the flash flood struck Thursday in the early afternoon.

The National Park Service said the 33-year-old stayed overnight at a campground near the village of Supai on the Havasupai reservation, deep in a gorge off the Grand Canyon.

The flood trapped several hikers in the area above and below Beaver Falls, one of a series of usually blue-green waterfalls that draw tourists from around the world to the Havasupai Tribe's reservation. The area is prone to flooding that turns its iconic waterfalls chocolate brown.

Other hikers made it to the village, about 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) from the campground, where they awaited helicopter rides. Gov. Katie Hobbs has activated the Arizona National Guard, including Blackhawk helicopters, to help evacuate hikers from the village. (AP)



**Boy accidentally kills self:** A small town south of Salt Lake City is mourning the death of a 5-year-old boy who accidentally shot himself with a handgun he found in his parents' bedroom.

The boy found a 9 mm handgun in the back room of his house Thursday afternoon and fired a single shot to the head, said Lt. Mike Wall with the Santaquin Police Department. The boy's parents, and possibly one of his siblings, were inside the home when the shooting happened but were not with him in the room. The father went into the room as soon as he heard the gunshot and started CPR, but the boy died at the scene.

Wall said authorities do not suspect foul play, and charges against the parents are not currently being pursued. He declined to say if or how the weapon was secured. The investigation, which will include a report by the medical examiner, could take several months.

Police have not released the names of anyone involved. (AP)



**'3 mall guards not guilty':** A jury swiftly acquitted three security guards of involuntary manslaughter Friday in the

death of a man who was held to the floor at a Detroit-area mall in 2014, a case that was closed without charges years ago but reopened by state prosecutors.

The jury of eight women and four men heard closing arguments in the weeklong

trial and returned with a verdict after approximately an hour.

McKenzie Cochran, a Black man with an enlarged heart, repeatedly said, "I can't breathe," while five guards restrained him at Northland Center. The confrontation



Visitors explore various ships on display at the dock during the 21st annual Richmond Maritime Festival in Richmond, British Columbia, Canada, on Aug 24. The two-day event kicked off on Saturday. (Xinhua)

followed a call from a jewelry shop owner who said Cochran told him that he wanted to kill someone. (AP)

**Man gets 2nd life sentence:** A federal judge has handed a Michigan man who pleaded guilty in the kidnapping and killing of his former girlfriend's 2-year-old daughter a second life sentence.

US District Judge Robert Jonker sentenced Rashad Trice Friday, one week after he was sentenced to life in state prison without the possibility of parole on charges in Ingham County Circuit Court for the girl's death and 60 to 90 years for assaulting her mother, the Detroit News reported.

According to prosecutors, Trice got into an argument with his ex-girlfriend at her Lansing apartment in July 2023. She stabbed Trice, who responded by stabbing her multiple times and sexually assaulting her. He then left.

The woman went to her mother's apartment in the same complex, leaving her 1-year-old son and her 2-year-old daughter, Wynter Cole Smith, behind. Responding police couldn't find the girl.

Trice crashed his car in a Detroit suburb after police spotted him, but the girl wasn't with him. Searchers looked for her along a highway between Lansing and Detroit using dogs, drones and helicopters. (AP)

## Subcontinent

## 11 fishermen arrested

## Bus accidents in Pak kill 36 people

ISLAMABAD, Aug 25, (Agencies): Two separate bus crashes hours apart in Pakistan on Sunday left at least 36 people dead and dozens more injured, officials said.

The first happened when a bus carrying Shiite Muslim pilgrims returning from Iraq through Iran fell from a highway into a ravine in southwest Pakistan, killing at least 12 people and injuring 32 others, police and officials said. The driver lost control on the Makran coastal highway when the brakes failed, while passing through Lasbela district in Baluchistan province, local police chief Qazi Sabir said.

Authorities in Baluchistan said that arrangements were being made to send the bodies of the pilgrims to Punjab province for burial. Maryam Nawaz, the chief minister in Punjab, expressed her condolences after the crash.

Hours later, 24 people were killed when a bus fell into a ravine in the Kahuta district of the eastern Punjab province, police and officials said, including two women and a child. Omar Farooq, a senior government official in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, said there were no survivors.

Initially, local police said that there were seven injured, but later doctors and government officials said that everyone onboard the bus died in the crash.

## Rescue

According to residents, the bus crash happened early Sunday and locals initially took part in the rescue work, and ambulances of emergency service crews arrived later.

The bus was heading to the Pakistan-administrated disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir - claimed in its entirety by both India and Pakistan - when it fell from the Panna bridge in the Kahuta district, said Sardar Waheed, a senior government official, adding that heavy machinery was used to lift the wreckage to ensure no one was trapped underneath.

Pakistani President **Asif Ali Zardari** and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in separate statements, offered their condolences and expressed sorrow over the two crashes.

**Pak roadside bomb kills 3:** At least two children and a woman were killed while 13 people received injuries in a blast that occurred in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province.

The medical superintendent of the government run Civil Hospital, Dr. Wakeel Sherani in a statement to media said that two children were killed in Saturday's blast while 14 people, including two policemen, were initially injured.

A woman succumbed to injuries in the hospital while five injured people are reported to be in critical condition.

The blast occurred in a market near Surkhah Chowk area of Balochistan's Pishin district.

**6 dead in Nepal landslide:** Three houses were swept away by a landslide in central Nepal early Sunday morning, leaving six people dead and four others missing.

Another person was injured in the disaster sparked by hours-long torrential rain in Shaillung Rural Municipality of Ramechhap district at around 03:00 a.m. local time.

"Our team is searching for the missing people," Kaushal Neupane, spokesperson for the district police, told Xinhua.

A bridge over a local stream was swept away by floods, making commuting with other parts of the district difficult, he said.

Monsoon rain-related disasters had left 195 people dead, 247 wounded and 49 others missing as of Friday, according to Nepal Police.

**Drug smuggler held in north Afghanistan:** Police arrested a drug smuggler and discovered 30 kg of opium poppy from his possession in the northern Afghanistan's Badakhshan province on Saturday, the provincial police said on Sunday.

The drug smuggler was attempting to take the contraband outside the province. He was identified and taken to police custody for further investigations.

Opium poppy has been largely used in manufacturing heroin. Afghanistan's caretaker government has banned poppy cultivation, processing and trafficking.

**4 dead in Afghanistan road accident:** At least four commuters lost their lives and six others were injured due to a road mishap in central Afghanistan's Bamiyan province on Saturday morning, provincial police office said in a statement.

The deadly road accident occurred after a passenger car turned turtle in the province's Yakawland No. 1 district, killing four commuters, including a woman and two children, on the spot and injuring six others, the statement added.

The injured, including three women and two children, have been shifted to the provincial hospital for treatment, it said.

**4 injured in India chopper crash:** Four persons were injured when a private helicopter crashed in India's south-western state of Maharashtra on Saturday, confirmed a local government official.

The chopper crashed near Paud village in the state's Pune district. No loss of life or property was reported from the ground. The injured persons included the captain flying the ill-fated chopper belonging to a private aviation company. The chopper was flying from the country's financial capital Mumbai to Hyderabad, the capital city of the southern state of Telangana, when it met with the mishap.

All four injured persons were admitted to a local hospital where their condition was said to be stable.

**Sri Lankan navy arrests 11 fishermen:** Sri Lanka's navy arrested 11 Indian fishermen for poaching in the country's territorial waters on Friday, the navy said in a statement on Saturday.

The arrests were made during a special operation to chase away Indian trawlers poaching in the seas off Point Pedro in the country's Northern Province, the navy said.

The navy also seized a trawler that the Indians were traveling in, the statement said, adding that the trawler and Indian fishermen were handed over to the local authority for legal proceedings.



In this photo provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, a Chinese service boat scours the seabed as they search for giant clams in the Scarborough Shoal, at the disputed South China Sea, on April 22, 2019. (AP)

## China accuses Philippine vessel of brushing against its ship in disputed waters

China's coast guard said Sunday it took action against a Philippine vessel that ignored warnings and caused a light collision with its vessel in the disputed South China Sea, where confrontations between the two sides have increased.

Gan Yu, the coast guard spokesperson, said in a statement that the Philippine vessel entered the

waters around Sabina Shoal in the Spratly Islands, known in Chinese as Xianbin Reef in the Nansha Islands. Gan said the Philippine ship ignored the Chinese warning and sailed toward the coast guard ship "unprofessionally" and "dangerously," causing the two vessels to brush against each other. He said the Philippine vessel also had journalists on board

to take pictures to "distort facts."

"The responsibility is totally on the Philippines' side. We sternly warn that the Philippine side must immediately stop the infringement and provocation, otherwise it must bear all consequences," he said. Gan did not elaborate on what control measures the Chinese coast guard took. (AP)



Volunteers recover bodies and rescue wounded passengers from a damaged bus that fell into a ravine, near Kahuta, Pakistan on Aug 25. Two separate bus accidents hours apart in Pakistan on Sunday left at least 36 people dead and dozens more injured, officials said. (AP)



Hasina



Catley

## Asia

**Indonesia flash flood kills 13:** Torrential rains caused a flash flood on Indonesia's eastern Ternate Island, sweeping away residential areas and leaving 13 people dead on Sunday, officials said.

The deluges cut off the main road and access to the village of Rua in North Maluku province, the most hard-hit area, and buried dozens of houses and buildings under the mud. Search and rescue teams worked with locals to recover the bodies and look for those still missing.

The Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics Agency says high-intensity rain is still possible in the Ternate City area and its surroundings in the coming days. Local authorities advised residents to remain vigilant and heed instructions in case of further flooding. Heavy rains cause frequent landslides and flash floods in Indonesia where millions live in mountainous areas and near floodplains. (AP)

**1 'rebel' killed in Philippines:** A suspected rebel was killed in a clash with Philippine troops in Antique province in central Philippines, the military said Sunday.

The military said soldiers on patrol killed the alleged member of the New People's Army (NPA) during a five-minute gunfight in Valderrama town on Saturday.

Weapons and ammunition were also seized. No soldier was killed or wounded, the military said. NPA rebels have been fighting government troops since 1969.

Military data showed that the NPA's personnel strength has declined since its peak of around 25,000 armed members in the 1980s. (Xinhua)

**Sydney stabbing spree injures 4:** A police officer was among four people who were injured in a stabbing spree that followed a car crash in southern Sydney in the Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) on Sunday.

NSW Police said that officers responded to reports of a two-car crash in the suburb of Engadine - approximately 30 kilometers south of Sydney's central business district (CBD) - on Sunday morning and found a man with suspected stab wounds allegedly running from the scene.

## Lat/Am

## Brazil wildfires leave 2 dead in Sao Paulo

## Release Venezuela vote tallies: Lula, Petro

MEXICO CITY, Aug 25, (AP): The leaders of Brazil and Colombia on Saturday again called on Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro to release voting tallies, days after the country's Supreme Court backed the government's disputed claims that it won elections in July.

In a joint statement, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Colombian President Gustavo Petro said the "credibility of the electoral process can only be restored through the transparent publication of disaggregated and verifiable data."

The two leaders also warned against repression as the Venezuelan government has jailed thousands and met protesters with violence.

The governments spoke a day after several other Latin American countries and the US rejected the Venezuelan high court's certification. Many were waiting to see how the two leftist leaders would respond to the court because both are close allies of Maduro and have been working to facilitate talks with both sides.

Maduro claims that he won the presidential vote, but so far has refused to release official tally sheets, considered the one verifiable vote count in Venezuela as they are almost impossible to replicate.

## Steal

The main opposition coalition has accused Maduro of trying to steal the vote.

Opposition volunteers managed to collect copies of voting tallies from 80% of the 30,000 polling booths nationwide that show former opposition candidate Edmundo González won by a more than 2-to-1 margin. The Supreme Court alleged those tallies were forged.

Lula and Petro said they "take note" of the court's ruling, but added they are still awaiting release of the tallies.

The governments also called on actors in Venezuela to "avoid resorting to acts of violence and repression" as security forces arrested more than 2,000 people and cracked down on demon-

strations that erupted spontaneously throughout the country protesting the results. But the two leaders didn't directly accuse the Maduro government of carrying out the violence.

The arrests have again spread fear in a country that has seen other government crackdowns during previous times of political turmoil.

At the same time, key opposition figure Maria Corina Machado has since gone into hiding and the government said Friday it will order González to provide sworn testimony in an ongoing investigation, claiming he was part of an effort to spread panic by contesting the results of the election.

Both Lula and Petro have previously been criticized for what some say have been lenient policies toward Maduro's government, but their tone has grown more stern in recent months, especially in the wake of the election fallout.

## Agreement

Their two countries are neighbors to Venezuela and their governments were to witness agreements struck between Maduro and the opposition that aimed to chart the path to free and fair elections, which the opposition and other observers accused Maduro of violating. The two leaders reiterated their willingness to facilitate dialogue between the government and the opposition.

"The political normalization of Venezuela requires the recognition that there is no lasting alternative to peaceful dialogue and democratic coexistence," the statement read.

Meanwhile, the European Union's top diplomat on Saturday said that Maduro has still "not provided the necessary public evidence" to prove he was the winner of July's elections, days after the country's Supreme Court backed the government's disputed claims of victory.

The bloc joined a slate of other Latin American countries and the United States in rejecting the Venezuelan high court's certification. Authorities repeated calls for Maduro to release the election's official tally sheets, considered the one verifiable vote count in

Venezuela as they are almost impossible to replicate.

## Also:

**SAO PAULO:** Wildfires in Brazil's southern Sao Paulo state have killed at least two people, officials said Saturday. At least 36 cities have been put on high alert.

Local and federal authorities were stepping up efforts to control the flames, Sao Paulo state Gov. **Tarcísio de Freitas** said.

The fires have raged in the region outside the city of **Sao Paulo**, one of Latin America's most populous cities with more than 11 million residents.

At least 7,300 government workers and volunteers had been deployed across the state to "contain the advance and put out these fires," de Freitas told journalists. De Freitas warned that the flames, spurred on by a heat wave and a drought, may be fanned by strong winds.

While the city largely hasn't been affected by the fires, videos on social media show the skies of rural areas filled with smoke and burning trees along the highway.

**UNITED NATIONS:** Persistent underfunding of Haiti's 674 million US dollar UN relief plan means millions of people are missing out on essential support, UN humanitarian said.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that stepped-up and sustained funding is needed to stem the deepening humanitarian crisis in the Caribbean nation.

"Displacement has nearly tripled in the last 12 months, with more than 578,000 people having fled their homes in search of safety," OCHA said. "Half of the newly displaced escaped the capital, **Port-au-Prince**, to the south of **Haiti**."

The humanitarians said 5 million people -- half of the Haitian population -- are not getting enough to eat. Many lack access to the health care they need, with only one in four hospitals in the country still functioning.

The man was arrested with the deployment of a Taser, NSW Police said in a statement.

A male police officer suffered a serious laceration to his wrist during the arrest and

a woman, understood to be a passenger in the crashed vehicle, also suffered multiple stab wounds.

A fourth person was also found injured, although police said it was unclear what

their involvement was in the incident.

Addressing reporters after the incident, NSW Police and Counter-terrorism Minister **Yasmin Catley** said an investigation is underway. (Xinhua)

**Rohingya demands safe return:** Tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar who live in sprawling camps in Bangladesh on Sunday marked the seventh anniversary of their mass exodus, demanding safe return to Myanmar's Rakhine state.

The refugees gathered in an open field at Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar district carrying banners and festoons reading "Hope is Home" and "We Rohingya are the citizens of Myanmar," defying the rain on a day that is marked as "Rohingya Genocide Day."

On Aug 25, 2017, hundreds of thousands of refugees started crossing the border to Bangladesh on foot and by boats amid indiscriminate killings and other violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

Then-Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** ordered border guards to open the border, eventually allowing more than 700,000 refugees to take shelter in the Muslim-majority nation. The influx was in addition to the more than 300,000 refugees who had already been living in Bangladesh for decades in the wake of waves of previous violence perpetrated by Myanmar's military. (AP)



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro flashes the victory sign at supporters during a pro-government rally, in Caracas, Venezuela on Aug 17. The European Union's top diplomat on Aug 24 said that Maduro has still "not provided the necessary public evidence" to prove he was the winner of July's elections, days after the country's Supreme Court backed the government's disputed claims of victory. (AP)

SAUDI - Tadawul Change +68.21 Closing pts 12,262.64  
EGYPT - EGX 30 Change -67.13 Closing pts 30,073.95



# Business

## Industrial financing drops 53.5% in June

Annual industrial financing dips by 19.9%

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: Local banks' financing for the industrial sector experienced a significant decline in June 2024, dropping by KD 40.7 million or 53.5% on a monthly basis, to settle at KD 35.3 million, compared to KD 76 million in May.**

On an annual basis, the sector saw a decrease of KD 8.8 million or 19.9%, from KD 44.1 million in June 2023. Despite these declines, total financing for the industrial sector during the first half of 2024 amounted to KD 333 million.

The accumulated balance of industry financing from local banks fell by 0.9% or KD 26 million in June, bringing the total down to KD 2.657 billion, compared to KD 2.683 billion in May. On a yearly basis, this represents a 5.1% decrease, equivalent to KD 143 million, down from KD 2.8 billion in June 2023.

Data from the Central Bank of Kuwait indicates that overall monthly financing for the industrial sector in 2023 decreased by 31% or KD 466 million, falling from KD 1.499 billion at the end of 2022 to KD 1.033 billion. The sector reached its highest monthly financing levels in December 2023, at KD 198.9 million.

### Challenges Facing the Industrial Sector

The industrial sector has been grappling with several challenges over the past three years, making it one of the most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Disruptions in supply chains, production halts, and reduced demand have all contributed to a decline in financing. The sector continues to face difficulties such as a lack of developed industrial plots, bureaucratic

hurdles, limited reliance on national products, and the absence of export facilities for Kuwaiti goods. These factors have led to higher factory rents and a reduction in the financing available for industrial projects.

Despite these challenges, monthly credit facilities provided by banks across all sectors increased by 3%, or KD 359.5 million, in the first half of 2024, rising from KD 11.708 billion in the same period in 2023 to KD 12.067 billion. However, on a yearly basis, credit facilities dropped by 11%, equivalent to KD 239.4 million, from KD 2.171 billion in June 2023 to KD 2.099 billion in June 2024.

Personal facilities saw a notable increase of 22%, growing from KD 1.789 billion in the first half of 2023 to KD 2.185 billion in 2024. However, they decreased on a monthly basis by 20.8%, falling from KD 443.7 million in May to KD 351.1 million in June 2024.

### Credit Facility Balances and Deposits

Cash credit facilities (loans) with banks increased by 4.2%, from KD 53.557 billion at the end of December 2023 to KD 55.8 billion in June 2024. On a monthly basis, the balances rose by 0.9% or KD 510.7 million, up from KD 55.297 billion in May, and grew by 5.3% annually, compared to KD 52.983 billion in June 2023.

Central Bank data also revealed a 1.16% increase in deposits at local banks during the period, rising by KD 569.2 million, from KD 48.727 billion in December 2023 to KD 49.29 billion in June 2024. On an annual basis, deposits increased by 3%, equivalent to KD 1.457 billion, up from KD 47.839 billion in June 2023.

Private sector deposits in local banks grew by 3.1%, or KD 1.15 billion, from KD 37.33 billion in December 2023 to KD 38.49 billion in June 2024. Public institution deposits, however, saw a 13.4% decrease, equivalent to KD 909.9 million, dropping from KD 6.766 billion in December 2023 to KD 5.856 billion in June 2024.

## Qualified broker project enters critical testing phase in Kuwait

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25:** The qualified broker project is entering a critical phase as brokerage companies undergo a decisive test for their qualification within the central counterparty (CCP) system, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This test, starting today, is crucial for all involved parties including the clearing house, brokerage sector, banks, investment companies, the central bank, and the stock market.

The brokerage companies must pass this test with a 100 percent success rate to be

qualified under the central counterparty system. The companies that pass will be registered as qualified brokers, enabling them to manage clients' funds. Those that fail will only be registered on the Boursa Kuwait.

The test has faced delays due to failures and adjustments by brokerage firms and according to reliable sources, approximately four brokerage companies are expected to qualify and that at least three banks, including one Islamic bank, will be selected to operate within the system.

## 2023 sustainability report sheds light on its key achievements

### KFH solidifies leading position in CSR & sustainability

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) continues to promote its standing in corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainability. In the recently launched 2023 Sustainability Report that aligns with Integrated Reporting principles, KFH shed light on its prominent achievements in the field.

KFH Deputy General Manager Public Relations and Media, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh, said that KFH has succeeded in solidifying its leading position in CSR while maintaining sustainable growth. He noted that the 2023 Sustainability Report highlighted the notable social efforts of KFH, and the global recognitions awarded for its excellence. KFH's commitment to promoting societal efforts is further solidified by its 2023 Market Leader classification in CSR in Kuwait by Euronomy for the second consecutive year as a testament to KFH's pioneering social role.

He indicated that KFH's efforts in innovating strategic programs and initiatives for sustainability and CSR have led to a tangible impact on society, adding that the Bank undertook over 200 initiatives, including sustainability-related initiatives in partnership with different official local and international organizations.

Al-Ruwaieh said that KFH has expanded its Keep it Green initiative, which fosters environmental protection for sustainability, with sub-initiatives and partnerships. Moreover, the Bank has forged a strategic partnership with the Public Authority for Agricultural and Fishery Affairs to aid in the plantation and greening of areas in Kuwait.

He further mentioned that KFH participated in the three-day Climate Change Hackathon event organized by Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) through its Keep it Green campaign, supporting efforts toward sustainability and environmental preservation.

"Partnering with Sadu House, KFH launched the Fun with Weaving initiative for children with Baiti accounts. This initiative aims to increase environmental consciousness among children by encouraging them to participate in activities that use recycled materials," added Al-Ruwaieh.

Additionally, KFH introduced the SEEDS Sustainability Academy, which aims to educate and raise awareness about sustainability through an online library of training courses.

Speaking about KFH's role in healthcare, Al-Ruwaieh highlighted the pioneering role of the Bank as a significant supporter and contributor to the healthcare sector through distinctive activities. These include programs in collaboration with AlSalam Hospital such as Breast Cancer Month, Prostate Cancer Month, as well as KFH's campaign for World Diabetes Day. Also, KFH supported the CPR Life Saver program accredited by the American Heart Association (AHA). This initiative aims to equip participants (mainly schoolteachers) with life-saving skills, contributing to the overall health and safety of children in schools and the general community. In 2023, 200 teachers benefited from these certified courses.

In further examples of KFH's role in pro-



Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh



Mohammad Alarbeed

#### Al-Ruwaieh

■ KFH's efforts in innovating strategic programs and initiatives for sustainability and CSR have led to a tangible impact on society

#### Alarbeed

■ The report highlights KFH's achievements in leading the sustainability plans for the Islamic banking sector in the region

moting education, Al-Ruwaieh mentioned KFH's Awards Program for High School Honor Roll Graduates. The Bank also sponsored the Engineering Design Exhibition at the College of Engineering and Petroleum, supported Kuwait Codes Program and Junior Coded Program, as well as Kuwait Hackathon Event, and participated in Breaking Barriers Conference in collaboration with the National Leadership Institute (NLI) and many more.

He also shed light on a number of KFH's initiatives focusing on social development such as building the KFH Family Mosque in Kyrgyzstan and organizing the KFH Readers competition to encourage and teach children and teenagers recitals of the Holy Quran.

Moreover, KFH renewed the partnership with the Touristic Enterprises Company to support the Winter Wonderland recreational project, signed Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and supported the third training program for students with special needs.

Meanwhile, KFH Executive Manager Governance and Sustainability, Mohammad Alarbeed, stated that KFH 2023 Sustainability Report highlights the Bank's achievements and endeavors that are geared towards leading the sustainability plans for the Islamic banking sector in the region. The report also emphasizes KFH's dedication to providing an exceptional banking experience that contributes to balancing social and economic development, while also maintaining the environment. This commitment is evident in KFH's pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its ongoing efforts to improve the communities we serve, while complying with robust environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices.

Alarbeed affirmed KFH's vigilant approach to environment preservation, underlining the Bank's role in actively integrating eco-friendly products into its banking services.

He revealed that KFH oversees the imple-

mentation of different projects that focus on promoting sustainability. These include signing a memorandum of cooperation with both private and governmental entities to support plantation and greening projects, as well as efforts to mitigate carbon emissions.

He said that KFH actively engaged in various events during the COP28 Climate Summit, including panel discussions and workshops. This collaboration with the UNDP further solidified the Bank's commitment to sustainable development. Notably, KFH organized a series of COP talk sessions in partnership with the UNDP to foster dialogue and collaboration toward addressing climate change.

Alarbeed pointed out that KFH launched its Printer Management Solution in 2023. This solution aims to implement international standards in sustainable printing, adopt digital solutions, and raise awareness of environmental preservation by minimizing paper and ink usage.

He added: "In line with its proactive approach towards enhancing its services and providing environmentally conscious solutions, KFH was the first bank in Kuwait to introduce credit cards made from recycled plastic. More than 49% of new credit cards issued in 2023 were made from recycled plastic."

He stated that KFH released its 2023 Sustainability Report, a pioneering document in the Kuwaiti banking sector. This comprehensive report integrates the bank's financial and non-financial performance, aligning with Integrated Reporting principles. By enhancing transparency and accountability, KFH demonstrates its commitment to embedding a sustainability strategy in line with global best practices. He also said that the 2023 Sustainability Report provides a comprehensive and integrated overview of KFH's business, encompassing the bank's performance, challenges, opportunities, and key activities related to sustainability, social responsibility, and environmental impact.

## Euro hits one-year high amid Fed rate cut expectations

# Powell hints at US rate cuts amid labor market risks at Jackson Hole

By National Bank of Kuwait

### Market Commentary

Global markets saw significant developments this week, driven by central banks and new economic data. Federal Reserve Chair Jay Powell gave the strongest indication yet that US borrowing costs will soon decrease at the Jackson Hole Symposium, with the FOMC's July meeting minutes also revealing strong support for rate cuts. Recent data, including jobless claims of 232,000 and a significant downward revision in job creation for the year to March 2024, further bolstered the case for reducing rates. In Canada, inflation moderated to 2.5% y/y in July, while the Reserve Bank of New Zealand's unexpected rate cut to 5.25% surprised markets. The eurozone's composite PMI of 51.2 presented a mixed picture: France's services sector PMI surged to 55.0, largely due to a temporary boost from the Paris Olympics, while Germany's manufacturing sector extended its 27-month streak of contraction, with manufacturing PMI coming in at 41.2. The ECB's July minutes highlighted September as pivotal for reassessing monetary policy, with potential rate cuts on the table amid inflation and uncertain economic signals. Meanwhile, UK business activity improved in August, with the S&P Global Composite PMI rising to 53.4, driven by easing cost pressures and strong performances in both services and manufacturing sectors. In Asia, China's PBOC held rates steady amid weaker industrial growth and a persistent three-year property market slump. Overall, markets are navigating a complex landscape of data and shifting central bank policy stances amidst ongoing volatility.

### United States and Canada

#### "The Time Has Come..." says Powell at Jackson Hole Symposium Amid Labor Market Risks

Federal Reserve Chair Jay Powell signaled that "the time has come for policy to adjust", indicating a potential reduction in borrowing costs as early as September. Powell emphasized, "the direction of travel is clear, and the timing and pace of rate cuts will depend on incoming data, the evolving outlook, and the balance of risks" and stated that the Fed would do "everything we can to support a strong labor market as we make further progress towards price stability". Powell highlighted the Fed's focus on balancing inflation control with supporting the labor market, and stated "confidence has grown that inflation is on a sustainable path". Equities rallied and Treasury yields fell following Powell's speech.

#### FOMC Minutes Reveal Strong Support for September Cut Amid Slower Job Growth and Easing Inflation

The FOMC meeting minutes from July also indicated substantial support among Federal Reserve officials for a potential interest rate cut in September, driven by recent data showing slower job growth and easing inflation. Although the Fed maintained rates at 5.25-5.50% during the July meeting, there was broad consensus that a reduction might be warranted if economic conditions aligned with expectations. This view has been bolstered by weaker-than-expected labor market data, including a downward revision of job growth by 818,000 for the year to March 2024. With inflation showing signs of improvement and the September meeting occurring just six weeks before November's US presidential election, the Fed's decision will be crucial for ensuring economic stability and shaping market expectations. DXY was last seen at 100.602.

#### US Jobless Claims Increase Slightly to 232,000, Remain at Historically Healthy Levels

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1022	1.1021	1.1200	1.1190	1.1105	1.1280	1.1238
GBP	1.2933	1.2929	1.3230	1.3209	1.3140	1.3300	1.3220
JPY	147.65	144.04	148.05	144.37	143.40	145.00	142.54
CHF	0.8657	0.8469	0.8677	0.8479	0.8400	0.8520	0.8390

U.S. jobless claims increased by 4,000 to 232,000 in the week ending August 17 in line with expectations. The four-week average declined to 236,000. As of August 10, 1.86 million Americans were receiving unemployment benefits, up by 4,000 from the prior week. While claims averaged 213,000 from January to May, they rose to 250,000 in late July, reflecting the impact of high interest rates. Despite this recent increase, claims are stabilizing, suggesting the labor market is cooling gradually rather than deteriorating rapidly. This trend, combined with dampening business activity and falling home loan rates, supports expectations of a US rate cut next month.

#### US PMI Data: Composite PMI at 54.1, Manufacturing PMI at 48.0, Services PMI at 55.2

In August, the US S&P Global Composite PMI slightly decreased to 54.1 from 54.3 in July, reflecting continued robust expansion in the private sector and surpassing the expected 53.5. Meanwhile, the S&P Global Manufacturing PMI fell to 48.0 from 49.6, signaling ongoing contraction, while the Services PMI rose to 55.2 from 55.0. Economists interpret this data as indicative of strong GDP growth, potentially exceeding 2.0% annualized for Q3, and a normalization of inflation, which eases recession concerns and supports expectations for lower interest rates. Notably, the US services sector sustained its momentum from the first half of the year, marked by significant expansion in business activity driven by increased new orders, resulting in increased hiring and optimistic growth projections.

#### Canada's CPI Matches Expectations at 2.5%, Supporting Anticipated Bank of Canada Rate Cuts

Canada's annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 2.5% in July, matching expectations and easing from June's 2.7%. Monthly CPI increased by 0.4%, while core CPI, which excludes food and energy, rose by 0.3%. The Bank of Canada's Core CPI showed a 1.7% y/y increase, slightly down from June's 1.9% rise. The current policy rate in Canada stands at 4.50%, following a recent 25 bps cut. Markets are anticipating additional easing, currently pricing three more 25 basis point reductions by year-end, potentially bringing the target rate down to 3.75%. USD/CAD was last seen at 1.3507.

### Europe and the United Kingdom

#### Euro Hits One-Year High of 1.1211 Against Dollar Amid Fed Rate Cut Expectations

Meanwhile, the euro surged to a one-year high against the dollar driven by expectations that the Fed will cut interest rates faster than the European Central Bank. The British pound also reached its highest level since July 2023 amid a

weaker dollar, following the release of Fed meeting minutes. This came as market participants anticipated that Fed Chair Jerome Powell's speech at the Jackson Hole symposium this week would reinforce the case for lowering borrowing costs substantially in the coming months, whilst growth concerns in Europe also support the case for further reductions there. The euro's advance, up 3.6% this month, reflects these shifting monetary policy bets. EUR/USD was last seen at 1.1190.

#### ECB's July Minutes Highlight September as Key to Reassess Monetary Policy Amid Mixed Inflation Signals

The ECB's July meeting minutes suggest a potential interest rate cut in September, despite persistent inflationary pressures. Core inflation held steady at 2.9%, and services inflation slightly decreased to 4.0% from 4.1% in June. Officials expressed openness to further rate adjustments, noting that September could be an opportune moment to reassess monetary policy. The ECB kept its deposit rate at 3.75% in July, following a 25bps reduction in June. Eurozone negotiated wage growth slowed to 3.6% in Q2 from 4.7% in Q1, reinforcing the case for easing. Mixed economic data and nascent concerns about stagflation are influencing ongoing discussions about future monetary policy, with the final decision contingent on upcoming data releases.

#### Eurozone PMI Rises to 51.2; Services Up to 53.3, Manufacturing Down to 45.6; French Olympics Boost

In August, the eurozone experienced stronger-than-expected growth in private sector activity, with the Composite PMI Index rising to 51.2 from 50.2 in July, its highest level in three months. This expansion was primarily driven by the services sector, notably in France, where the Services PMI surged to 55.0 due to the Olympic Games. Despite this, euro area manufacturing continued to contract, with the Manufacturing PMI Output Index falling to 45.6, an eight-month low. Germany's economic conditions worsened, with its Composite PMI Output Index dropping to 48.5, below expectations, and the manufacturing PMI declining to 42.1, marking the 27th consecutive month of contraction. Weak demand and ongoing economic challenges suggest that underlying issues may persist.

#### UK Business Activity Improves in August; Composite PMI Rises to 53.4, Cost Pressures Eased

UK business activity showed notable improvement in August, with the S&P Global Composite PMI climbing to 53.4 from 52.8 last month, the highest since April and surpassing forecasts. This uptick suggests steady economic growth moving into the latter half of 2024. Cost pressures on businesses have eased to their lowest level in over three years, contributing to a favorable economic outlook. The services PMI rose to 53.3, its highest since April, while the manufac-

turing PMI improved to 52.5, marking the best performance since June 2022 and signaling robust job creation. Despite lower inflationary pressures, interest rate cuts are anticipated to be cautious, with one expected in November. GBP/USD was last seen trading at 1.3209.

### Asia-Pacific

#### Japan's Core Inflation Hits 2.7% in July, Driven by Rising Utility Costs; Core-Core Index Slows to 1.9%

In July, Japan's core inflation rate rose to 2.7% y/y, driven by higher electricity costs and exceeding the central bank's 2% target. This marks the third consecutive month of acceleration. However, the core-core index, excluding fresh food and energy, slowed to a gain of 1.9%, versus 2.2% in June. The end of government subsidies for electricity and gas in May, which resumed in August, significantly impacted CPI. Utility costs surged 22.3% y/y, while educational and entertainment expenses increased 5.6%. Although overall inflation showed a slight uptick, the trend is slowing when excluding policy effects. Yen weakness and higher labor costs remain concerns. USD/JPY was last seen at 144.37.

#### RBA Considered Rate Hike in August Amid Persistent Inflation but Kept Cash Rate at 4.35%

Minutes from the Reserve Bank of Australia's August meeting showed that policymakers considered hiking rates due to high underlying inflation entrenched in the economy but ultimately settled on holding. Policymakers had contemplated raising the cash target rate from its current level of 4.35% due to persistent inflation concerns. The central bank is trying to strike a balance between combating elevated inflation and supporting the labor market. The RBA opted to hold rates steady, citing the risk of inflation not reaching its 2% to 3% annual target by late 2025 and doubts about whether current monetary conditions were sufficiently restrictive. AUD/USD was last seen at 0.6792.

#### PBOC Maintains Loan Prime Rates at 3.35% and 3.85% Post-July Cuts, Balancing Growth and Stability

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) has kept its one-year and five-year Loan Prime Rates (LPR) unchanged at 3.35% and 3.85%, respectively, following 10bps cuts in July. This decision aligns with expectations as the PBOC aims to balance economic support with market stability. Despite recent mixed economic data, including a modest recovery and improved consumer confidence, lending activity remains subdued. July's rate cuts had spurred a decline in government bond yields, prompting cautious market reactions. The PBOC's current stance reflects its intent to support economic growth toward its 5% target for 2024, while avoiding market overheating. USD/CNY was last seen at 7.1244.

#### RBNZ Cuts Rate to 5.25% for First Time in Four Years, Signals Further Reductions Amid Weak Growth

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) delivered the first rate cut in over four years, reducing rates by 25bps and taking the cash rate down to 5.25% and surprising some economists and market participants. The central bank signaled that more cuts are likely as inflation nears the target range of 1.0% to 3.0%. RBNZ Governor Adrian Orr stated that growth has weakened substantially since May, and the central bank expects the country this year to tip into a technical recession, two consecutive quarters of economic contraction. Markets are currently pricing in 75 bps of additional cuts by year-end, which would take the cash rate down to 4.50%. NZD/USD was last seen at 0.6232.

### Kuwait

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30490.



No decision taken on back-to-work order

# Arbitration hearing between Canadian railroads and union ends

TORONTO, Aug 25, (AP): A workers union on Friday threatened a strike at one of Canada's two major freight railroads, only hours after the company's trains restarted following a potentially devastating stoppage. A government-ordered arbitration hearing wrapped up without a decision, and Canadian National trains were expected to keep moving at least through Monday morning.

CN and Canadian Pacific Kansas City Ltd. locked out their workers on Thursday when negotiations over a new labor contract reached a deadline without an agreement. That resulted in a near total shutdown of freight rail in the country for more than a day, until Canadian National resumed its service on Friday morning. Trains operated by CPKC remain parked and its workers, who had already been on strike since Thursday, stayed on the picket line Friday.

The government forced the companies and the union, Teamsters Canada Rail Conference, into arbitration overseen by the Canada Industrial Relations Board - an order the union is challenging. Friday's nine-hour hearing ended with no order from the board.

The union filed a 72-hour strike

notice against CN on Friday morning shortly after it announced that it planned to challenge the arbitration order, union spokesperson Marc-André Gauthier said.

If the board orders the union back to work, "the TCRC will lawfully abide by the decision, but will undertake steps to challenge to the fullest extent," the Teamsters said in a statement. "Unfortunately this will not provide immediate relief but the Union is prepared to appeal to federal court if necessary."

"We do not believe that any of the matters we have been discussing over the last several days are insurmountable and we remain available for discussion in order to resolve this matter without a further work stoppage," the union said in its letter to CN management.

Canadian National, which has about 6,500 workers involved in the dispute, said the impact of the strike notice will depend on the timing of the CIRB's decision. "It is in the national interest of Canada that the CIRB rule quickly, before even more harm is caused," the railroad said in a written statement. CPKC has about 3,000 engineers, conductors and dispatchers involved.

Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, said the union's latest actions "will prolong the damage to our economy and jeopardize the wellbeing and livelihoods of Canadians, including union and non-union workers across multiple industries."

Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon had announced the decision to force the parties into binding arbitration on Thursday afternoon, more than 16 hours after the lockout shut down the railroads, saying the economic risk was too great to allow them to continue. The government had declined to order arbitration two weeks ago. MacKinnon said he had hoped that negotiations between the companies and the union on a new contract would succeed. A spokesman for MacKinnon declined to comment Friday on the strike notice.

"This is not about disobeying the minister's order. It's about exercising our right," Teamsters Canada President Francois Laporte said Friday in announcing the strike. "We will exercise our right within the legal framework."

Canadian National trains had begun rolling at 7 a.m. across Canada, said CN spokesperson Jonathan Abecassis. The development initially appeared to at least partially end a work stoppage that threatened to wreak havoc on the economies of Canada and the United States. Both countries, across all industries, rely on railroads to deliver their raw materials and finished products.

"While CN is focused on its recovery plan and powering the economy, Teamsters are focused on getting back to the picket line and holding the North American economy hostage to their demands," Abecassis said following the union's strike notice.

Getting even one of the railroads running again is a relief for businesses. In most past rail labor disputes, only one of the Canadian railroads stopped and the economy was able to weather that disruption.

The negotiations that began last year are hung up on issues around the way workers are scheduled and contract rules designed to prevent fatigue. The railroads had proposed shifting away from the current system that pays

workers based on the number of miles they travel, to a system based on the hours they work. The railroads said the switch would make it easier to provide predictable schedules. But the union resisted because it feared the proposed changes would erode hard-fought protections against fatigue and jeopardize safety.

Similar quality-of-life concerns about demanding schedules and the lack of paid sick time drove U.S. railroads to the brink of a strike two years ago before Congress and President Joe Biden intervened and forced workers to accept a deal.

In Canada, another issue at CN is the railroad's intention to expand a system that allows it to temporarily relocate workers to other parts of its network when it's short on employees in a certain region.

Regarding wages, the railroads said they both offered raises in line with other recent deals in the industry for what are already well-paying jobs. Canadian National has said its engineers make about \$150,000 and conductors earn roughly \$121,000 for working 160 days a year though some of their

time off is spent stuck at hotels on the road between train trips while getting required rest. CPKC says its pay is comparable.

Nearly all of Canada's freight handled by rail - worth more than \$1 billion Canadian (US\$730 million) a day and adding up to more than 375 million tons of freight last year - stopped Thursday along with rail shipments crossing the U.S. border. A number of smaller short-line freight railroads that handle local deliveries continued operating but were unable to hand off shipments to either of the major railroads while they were idle.

About 30,000 commuters in Canada were also affected because their trains use CPKC's lines. CPKC and CN's trains continued operating in the U.S. and Mexico during the lockout.

Billions of dollars of goods move between Canada and the U.S. via rail each month, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

"There are a lot of goods and services shipped across borders," Sean O'Brien, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, said at a rally in Calgary, Alberta, on Friday."

## 'No victory yet' UK's monetary policy working

LONDON, Aug 25, (Xinhua): At this year's Jackson Hole Economic Symposium, the Bank of England (BoE) Governor adopted a "cautiously optimistic" tone about inflation in the United Kingdom (UK), suggesting a potential interest rate cut later this year while acknowledging ongoing inflationary pressures.

Speaking on Friday at the global central bankers' conference in Jackson Hole, the U.S. state of Wyoming, Andrew Bailey, the UK's central bank chief, said there is evidence that the BoE's monetary policies may be working, with inflation showing less persistence than anticipated a year ago.

However, Bailey also pointed out that inflation has not yet returned to the bank's target on a "sustained basis," and he emphasized that future policies will need to remain restrictive for a sufficient period to ensure that inflation risks are kept close to the bank's 2-percent target.

**Moving towards normalization**

On Aug. 1, the BoE's Monetary Policy Committee voted by a narrow 5-4 margin to cut the interest rate by 0.25 percentage point to 5 percent, marking the first rate reduction in four years, following the decline of the UK's headline inflation rate to 2 percent in May.

Bailey emphasized that the disinflation process is "steady and more in line with a soft landing than a recession-driven process," suggesting that the economic costs of reducing inflation, such as impacts on output and employment, might be lower than feared.

"I'd describe this as a fairly positive outlook on the path for inflation," said Professor Iain Begg from the London School of Economics and Political Science. "Bailey acknowledges the tough decisions and trade-offs policymakers face, but he believes they've navigated these challenges well and are now on course for a more normalized monetary policy."

## China opposes US 'sanctions'

BEIJING, Aug 25, (AP): China on Sunday expressed its opposition to the latest U.S. sanctions on Chinese companies over their alleged ties to Russia's war in Ukraine, saying it will adopt necessary measures to safeguard the rights and interests of the country's businesses.

The U.S. on Friday announced sweeping sanctions on hundreds of firms in Russia and across Europe, Asia and the Middle East, accusing them of providing products and services that enable Russia's war effort and aiding its ability to evade sanctions. The U.S. Department of State said it was concerned by "the magnitude of dual-use goods exports" from China to Russia.

The Ministry of Commerce in China in its statement firmly opposed the U.S. putting multiple Chinese companies on its export control list. The move bars such companies from trading with U.S. firms without gaining a nearly unobtainable special license.

The ministry said the U.S. action was "typical unilateral sanctions," saying they would disrupt global trade orders and rules, as well as affect the stability of the global industrial and supply chains.

"China urges the U.S. to immediately stop its wrong practices and will take necessary measures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interest of Chinese companies," it said.

The U.S. action is the latest in a series of thousands of U.S. sanctions that have been imposed on Russian firms and their suppliers in other nations since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The effectiveness of the sanctions has been questioned, especially as Russia has continued to support its economy by selling oil and gas on international markets.

According to the U.S. State Department, some China-based companies supplied machine tools and components to Russia companies.

China has tried to position itself as neutral in the Ukraine conflict, but it shares with Russia high animosity toward the West.

# US home sales ended 4-month slide in July amid easing mortgage rates

More homes on the market entice shoppers

LOS ANGELES, Aug 25, (AP): Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes ended a four-month slide in July as easing mortgage rates and a pickup in properties on the market encouraged home shoppers.

Existing home sales rose 1.3% last month from June to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.95 million, the National Association of Realtors said Thursday.

Sales fell 2.5% compared with July last year and are running below last year's pace. The latest home sales came in slightly higher than the 3.92 million pace economists were expecting, according to FactSet.

Home prices increased on an annual basis for the 13th consecutive month. The national median sales price rose 4.2% from a year earlier to \$422,600. While down slightly from the all-time high set in June, last month's median sales price was the highest on record for the month of July.

"Despite the modest gain, home sales are still sluggish," said Lawrence Yun, the NAR's chief economist. "But consumers are definitely seeing more choices, and affordability is improving due to lower interest rates."

The U.S. housing market has been in a deep sales slump dating back to 2022, when mortgage rates began to climb from pandemic-era lows. Existing home sales sank to a nearly 30-year low last year as the average rate on a 30-year mortgage surged to a 23-year high of 7.79%, according to mortgage buyer Freddie Mac.

Mortgage rates have been mostly easing since reaching 7.22% in early May. This month, the average rate for a 30-year home loan has made its biggest downshift in more than a year, hovering around 6.5%. This week, the rate eased to its lowest level in 15 months.

Still, homeownership remains out of reach for many Americans after years of surging home prices: The median U.S. home sales price has surged 51% over the past five years.

Home shoppers who could afford to buy benefited last month from a modest pickup in properties on the market.

All told, there were about 1.33 million unsold homes at the end of July, up 0.8% from June and 19.8% from July last year, NAR said.

That translates to a four-month

supply at the current sales pace, up from 3.3-month pace at the end of July last year. Traditionally, a five- to six-month supply is considered a balanced market between buyers and sellers.

Another factor helping boost inventory: Homes are taking longer to sell, though they're still being snapped up relatively quickly.

Homes typically stayed on the market for 24 days in July before they were sold, up from 22 days in June and 20 days in July last year.

And fewer homes received multiple offers. A quarter of the homes that sold last month were bought for more than their original list price, down from 35% in July last year.

"So, we still have lingering multiple offers, but not as intense as it was one year ago," Yun said.

First-time homebuyers who don't have any home equity to put toward their down payment continue to have a tough time getting into the housing market. They accounted for 29% of all homes sold last month, unchanged from June, but down from 30% in July last year. They've accounted for 40% of sales historically.

Homebuyers who can afford to sidestep mortgage rates and pay all cash for a home accounted for 27% of sales last month, down from 28% in June, but up from 26% in July 2023. And about 13% of homes sold last month were bought by individual investors or homeowners looking to buy a second home, down from 16% a year earlier, NAR said.

Home sales may continue to pick up in coming months if mortgage rates follow their downward trajectory, many economists expect.

Signs of waning inflation and a cooling job market have raised expectations that the Federal Reserve will cut its benchmark interest rate next month for the first time in four years.

Mortgage rates are influenced by several factors, including how the bond market reacts to the central bank's interest rate policy decisions. That can move the trajectory of the 10-year Treasury yield, which lenders use as a guide to pricing home loans.

"Easing inflation helped accelerate the decline in mortgage rates in mid-July and rates currently hover near 15-month lows," said Daniele Hale, Realtor.com's chief economist. "This is likely to bode well for buyers in the fall - a typically advantageous season for home shoppers."

Realtor.com forecasts that the average rate on a 30-year mortgage will fall to 6.3% by the end of the year.

## Applications for jobless benefits inch up in US but remain at historically healthy levels

WASHINGTON, Aug 25, (AP): Slightly more Americans filed for unemployment benefits last week, but the number of claims remains at healthy levels.

Jobless claims rose by 4,000 to 232,000 for the week of Aug. 17, the Labor Department reported Thursday. The four-week average of claims, which evens out some of the weekly gyrations, ticked down by 750 to 236,000.

For the week ending Aug. 10, 1.86 million Americans were collecting jobless benefits, 4,000 more than the week before.

Weekly filings for unemployment benefits, which are a proxy for layoffs, remain low by historic standards.

From January through May, claims averaged a paltry 213,000 a week.

But they started rising in May, hitting 250,000 in late July and adding to evidence that high interest rates are taking a toll on the U.S. job market.

However, the tiny increase in claims this week follows two straight weeks of declines, largely dispelling worries that the job market is deteriorating rapidly rather than just slowing.

The Federal Reserve, fighting inflation that hit a four-decade just over two years ago, raised its benchmark interest rate 11 times in 2022 and 2023, taking it to a 23-year high. Inflation has come down steadily - from more than 9% in June 2022 to a three-year low of 2.9% last month. Despite higher borrowing costs, the economy and hiring kept chugging along, defying widespread fears that the U.S. was poised

to tip into a recession.

The economy is weighing heavily on voters as they prepare for November's presidential election. Despite a solid job market and decelerating inflation, Americans are still exasperated that consumer prices are 19% higher than they were before inflation started to take off in 2021. Many blame President Joe Biden, though it's unclear whether they will hold Vice President Kamala Harris responsible as she seeks the presidency.

Lately, higher rates have finally seemed to be taking a toll. Employers added just 114,000 jobs in July, well below the January-June monthly average of nearly 218,000. The unemployment rate rose for the fourth straight month in July, though it remains low at 4.3%.

## Germany plans \$3.7b program

BERLIN, Aug 25, (AP): The German government on Friday announced plans to provide about 3.3 billion euros (\$3.7 billion) in funding for projects to make industry more climate-friendly, including by storing carbon dioxide underground at offshore sites.

Germany, which has Europe's biggest economy and is home to many energy-intensive industries, aims to cut its emissions to "net zero" by 2045. The new program is aimed largely at medium-sized companies.

The Economy Ministry plans to launch the program, which also covers projects to shift to more climate-friendly production, next month. Companies will then have three months to submit projects for possible support. The program is slated to run until 2030, with annual bidding.

The government announced in February that it plans to enable so-

called carbon capture and storage, pushing ahead with a much-discussed technology in an acknowledgement that time is running out to combat climate change. Opponents maintain that CCS is unproven at scale and has been less effective than alternatives such as solar and wind at decarbonizing the energy sector.

The Economy Ministry - led by Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck, a member of the environmentalist Green party - said funding for carbon storage plans will be limited to cases of CO2 emissions that are "hard to avoid," with investments in the cement, glass and ceramic industries among those that could be eligible for backing.

The government already launched a program of "carbon contracts for difference," meant to help the shift to more climate-friendly production methods.

## Al Dirwaza Account

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## Multicurrency Card supports 15 currencies, offers instant conversion

# Weway Bank launches Multicurrency Prepaid Card for international transactions

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: Weway Bank, a leading provider of innovative digital banking solutions, today announces the launch of its new Multicurrency Prepaid Card. The new digital card empowers the bank's app users to conveniently pay for purchases during travel and make online transactions using the currency they want.

The Multicurrency Card eliminates the hassle and hidden fees typically associated with currency exchange when traveling or shopping internationally. The cardholders can simply select their preferred currency within the Weway app and make payments directly from their account balance, avoiding the need to carry physical cash or worry about exchange rates.

"We are thrilled to introduce this transformative multicurrency digital card that will revolutionize the way our customers manage their finances while on the move or making online purchases," said Naser Al-Duwaisan, Product Owner at Weway Bank. "By providing this

seamless and secure payment solution, we are empowering our users to confidently explore the world and make purchases with the utmost convenience."

Some of the key features of the Weway Multicurrency Card include:

- Instant digital banking card creation.
- Support for 15 of the most popular currencies around the world.
- Instant currency conversion within the bank's mobile app.
- Secure contactless card payments via Apple Pay and Samsung Pay.
- Real-time transaction tracking.
- Competitive exchange rates.
- Full transparency without unexpected hidden fees of currency conversion.

As Weway Bank continues to revolutionize banking by leveraging its enhanced app, the Multicurrency Prepaid Card is introduced to provide one of the most secure, convenient, and innovative digital financial services to Weway cus-



Naser Al-Duwaisan



Weway Bank launches Multicurrency Prepaid Card.

tomers.

To learn more about the Weway Multicurrency Card and how it can enhance your traveling and online shopping experience, please visit [www.wewaybank.com](http://www.wewaybank.com) or download the Weway Bank mobile app.

## The Conversation

### 'On-campus child care declines'

## 'Time Poverty' hinders with college success, study finds

By Claire Wladis

CUNY Graduate Center

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

Many college students don't have enough time for their studies. This "time poverty," as we call it, is often due to inadequate child care access or the need to work to pay for college and living expenses.

In an effort to understand how much time poverty affects student outcomes, we surveyed more than 41,000 U.S. college students. We found that the more time poverty, the greater the chances of a student earning fewer credits or dropping out. This is especially true for Black and Hispanic students and for women, who have significantly less time for college compared with their peers, largely due to time spent on their jobs and caring for children.

Our research describes how differences in time available for college are often the result of structural inequities in higher education, such as insufficient financial aid for students who have children or who have to work to pay the bills.

Time poverty explains major differences in student outcomes. In one study, students who dropped out of college had on average nine fewer hours per week available for college than those who did not drop out. And students who earned over 12 credits in a term had on average 18 more hours per week available for college than students who earned only six credits or less. Thus, student outcomes are highly correlated with available time for academics.

Often, there are gaps in college credit attainment between students from different racial or ethnic groups or by gender. However, those gaps shrink significantly - or disappear altogether - when we compare students with similar time available for college. This shows just how important time is as a resource for finishing a college degree.

Time poverty also leads to overwork, which can cause burnout. For example, Black women had the least time for college of any group. Compared with the group with the most time - Asian and Pacific Islander men - Black women had on average 24 fewer hours per week to devote to their studies. However, both groups spent the same amount of time on

college.

How is this possible?

Black, Hispanic and women students sacrificed an even greater proportion of their free time - time left over after paid work, housework and child care - on college than their peers. The average total time Black women spent on college as well as paid and unpaid work was 75 hours per week, or equivalent to more than two full-time jobs.

Our findings show that this holds true for all students. On average, the more time-poor they are, the more free time they sacrifice for their studies.

This sacrifice comes at a cost: Students must give up time spent on sleep, meals, health care, leisure and exercise to make time for college. This is particularly worrisome because overwork has been linked to negative impacts on mental and physical health.

In prior research, my colleagues and I have also found that students who are parents - particularly mothers - and students who choose to take online courses have less time available for college than their peers. This explains differences in academic outcomes. Time poverty affects students from many different groups, yet existing college policies, practices and structures rarely take it into account.

Even though nearly 1 in 4 current undergraduates have children, the availability of on-campus child care has been shrinking for decades, and child care costs are not automatically included in financial aid. Student-parents also have to work extra hours to pay for their children's living expenses, which are not covered by federal financial aid.

Even for students without children, financial aid rarely covers actual expenses. Federal financial need calculations often underestimate actual need, especially for students with lower socioeconomic status or more family responsibilities. Current federal financial aid meets the needs of only 35.7% of U.S. undergraduates. Accordingly, most U.S. students have to work to pay for college, taking away time that would likely be better spent studying.

Providing students with enough financial aid to enroll in college, but not enough to complete college, is counterproductive. Providing students with enough time - and thus money - for college is therefore not only a sound investment but also critical to honoring the values of fairness and opportunity for all. (AP)

## Dr. Ali Roumani highlights value of competitions in student development

# AUK team wins third place at National Game Jam Challenge

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: Students and alumni from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS) at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) secured third place in the National Game Jam Challenge, competing against 14 teams and over 60 participants.

The Game Jam Challenge is a high-pressure, creative competition where teams must develop a game from scratch based on a specific theme, all within a 48-hour window. The event is designed to encourage innovation, teamwork, and technical prowess, offering a platform for aspiring game developers to demonstrate their skills. AUK's team included information systems students, Joanna Saedawi and Malak Alsab; David Liang, a teaching assistant in computer science and graduate; and Talal Al-Failakawi, a computer science graduate.

Their winning entry, "Kuwait Legacy Quest," is an inventive game that immerses players in Kuwait's traditional way of life through a series of engaging minigames. As players craft essential items for daily life, they gradually contribute to the development of modern Kuwait, effectively connecting the past with the present. This game not only honors Kuwaiti heritage but also serves



AUK's team.

as a bridge to connect future generations with the rich history and skills that shaped the nation.

Dr. Ali Roumani, assistant professor in computer science, emphasized the importance of these challenges, "Such computing and technology competitions are very important in complementing students' academic

education with hands-on technical and liberal arts experiences, as they encourage students' creativity and innovation, enhancing their programming, design, and problem-solving abilities. It also trains students to identify market potential by evaluating their created games for commercial viability and potential

for further development." AUK's students and alumni showcased the University's commitment to fostering creativity, excellence, and innovation through their success. Their winning game, a tribute to Kuwaiti heritage, beautifully illustrates how AUK talent seamlessly blends tradition with modern innovation.

## Structural inequities impact access to quality internships

# Survey finds many college internships are unpaid or low quality

By Matthew T. Hora

University of Wisconsin-Madison

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

Internships can play a vital role for students looking to break into a career, but they aren't always available for all the students who want them. And even when they are, they may not be high quality. Here, Matthew T. Hora, founder of the Center for Research on College-Workforce Transitions at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Hee Song, a project assistant at the center, discuss the difficulties that students face in securing quality internships. Their insights are based on findings from the center's latest National Survey of College Internships. The survey drew from data collected from a nationally representative sample of 2,824 students attending four-year colleges and 2,531 students attending two-year colleges. The survey was done in partnership with the Strada Education Foundation.

No. Only two out of three internships offer compensation for students at four-year colleges. The situation is worse for students at two-year institutions, where 50% of internships are unpaid.

Given the rising cost of college tuition, growing income inequality and the cost-of-living crisis in big cities where many internships are located, we contend that reliance on unpaid internships is untenable.

Paid internships are crucial. They help students pay for costs such as transportation and housing. They also provide legal rights and protections for students as paid employees.

Our data indicates that with only 41% of college seniors having had an internship at all, there are simply not enough positions available in the U.S. labor market to satisfy demand from the nation's college students. This supply-demand imbalance is evident because of those seniors who did not have an intern-

ship: 63% of them had in fact wanted to take one but could not due to a lack of positions, intense competition and personal factors such as a heavy course load.

A well-designed internship can make a big difference in students' academic development. It can also help determine future career outcomes.

Our data shows that over 70% of the students who completed an internship reported gains in key transferable skills. These include communication, problem-solving and teamwork skills that are valued in both college and the workplace. Additionally, over 80% of these former interns say that the experience helped to expand their professional and social networks, which can lead to new job opportunities and connections.

Other studies have documented that students taking an internship were three times more likely than non-interns to enroll in graduate school. A study in Spain found that former interns were 6.5% more likely to find a job after graduation than classmates who hadn't had an internship.

Our data also reveals that internships help to clarify students' career goals and boost their confidence in professional abilities. This is notable given that 80% of students in a recent Inside Higher Ed survey also stated that a college education should prepare them for a career that they truly enjoy.

While growing numbers of empirical studies on internships are showing the positive impacts of an internship on future earnings and other outcomes after graduation, it is better to think of this relationship in terms of correlation and not causation. This is because whether a student can acquire a particular job and thrive in our society is dependent on a complex intersection of personal, sociocultural and structural factors.

For instance, discrimination continues to afflict the hiring process - white applicants are 36% more likely to receive a callback than Black candidates. Studies also show that outcomes such as college attendance, future earnings and even marriage rates are strongly

affected by whether one grows up in a wealthy or a poor neighborhood. This underscores the considerable impact of structural forces beyond an individual's control.

However, research shows that once a student is at college, experiences such as study abroad, an internship or undergraduate research - also known as "high-impact practices" - significantly increase a student's likelihood of obtaining a degree. The problem is that these experiences are not equally distributed or available to all students, making equitable access to robust and authentic learning experiences a critical national issue. This is one reason why educators and researchers are increasingly focusing on work-integrated learning, where real-world and hands-on activities are embedded in college courses, as a more equitable and impactful approach than off-campus experiences, such as internships or study abroad.

Determining the quality of an internship can be highly subjective and depends on many different factors. But based on our Internship Scorecard, approximately 67% and 62% of the internships taken by students at four-year and two-year institutions, respectively, can be considered "high quality." The research and metrics behind this conclusion include the presence of a learning plan for student interns, on-the-job tasks that involve high-level skills and autonomous work, and supportive supervisors.

But a student's reasons for pursuing an internship can vary. Some may want to gain experience in a chosen profession, while others may simply want to explore a variety of career options. This all makes "quality" largely dependent on the students' goals and intentions.

Further, since some majors are more directly aligned with specific occupations, such as nursing and engineering, in contrast to majors where students are prepared to enter a broader range of careers, such as arts, humanities or social sciences, finding that perfect internship may depend on the student's field and local labor market conditions. (AP)

# International students boost US economy by 40 billion dollars annually

By Barnet Sherman, Boston University

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

Of the millions of young adults heading off to college this fall, many will be international students. If trends continue, about 1 million students from around the world will come to the U.S. to pursue higher education this year.

These young scholars make a big economic impact. Altogether, they pump more than US\$40 billion into the U.S. economy and support over 368,000 jobs. That's not just paying professors and buying textbooks - it includes everything from renting apartments to late-night DoorDash and Grubhub deliveries. And it's near a record high. In fact, higher education is the 10th-leading export of the United States, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis - except the export is really an import, of students from around the world.

Think of it this way: If you went to Paris to see the Olympics this year, the Olympics was the export that brought you - the tourist, or, in economic terms, the import - to France. In the complex world of economic balance of trade accounting,

international students are the tourists visiting U.S. campuses.

Only economists could think that studying and taking exams is somehow a vacation. While China, India and South Korea send the most students to the U.S., young people come from around the globe to pursue degrees here. Last year, they represented some 221 nations and territories, including three students from the independent island nation of Tuvalu.

In any of the 50 largest American cities, you'll find at least one college or university with international students on campus. For these communities, global learners offer a most welcome financial aid package.

Consider Boston. With its pantheon of venerable institutions - including Boston University, where I teach multinational finance and trade - the region boasts over 50 colleges and universities. Boston's economic gains from the more than 60,000 international students at these schools are huge: some \$2.7 billion.

Or look at Greater Philadelphia. The region's higher education institutions rank fifth nationwide in attracting students from around the world. From the perennially top-drawing University of Pennsylvania - itself ranked in the top 25 for international students - or the more specialized Curtis Institute of Music, together they can expect to host nearly 17,000 international students in fall 2024.

Prestigious private schools are a draw, but hands down the biggest pull for in-

ternational students are state universities and colleges. Of the nation's top schools enrolling these students last year, 32 were state colleges and universities, attracting over 240,000 students in total.

In the top three of those public institutions alone - Arizona State University, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the University of California, Berkeley - international students contributed nearly \$1.6 billion, supporting close to 16,900 jobs. Expand that to the top 10 - the University of California system takes four of those spots - and the numbers pop up to \$4.5 billion and 47,900 jobs.

But it's not just the geographically sprawling University of California and other large state systems. Mankato, Minnesota, hosts a Minnesota State University campus; in the 2022 academic year, some 1,700 international students called this small city, 80 miles from Minneapolis, their home away from home.

Those students brought an infusion of \$44.9 million into that community, supporting around 190 jobs. There are dozens of similar campuses in cities and towns like Mankato across the country. It adds up quickly.

In addition to private and public universities, community colleges also attract thousands of international students. Although their international enrollment has fallen off in recent years, community colleges still attracted just shy of 53,600 international students in 2023, with China, Vietnam and Japan leading the list. (AP)

# New human trafficking allegations against Andrew Tate

BUCHAREST, Romania, Aug 25. (Agencies): Romanian authorities towed away a fleet of luxury vehicles Saturday from the home of the divisive social media personality Andrew Tate, days after he was placed under house arrest following new human trafficking allegations.

Tate, 37, and his brother Tristan Tate, 36, both former kickboxers and dual British-U.S. citizens with millions of followers on social media and known for their misogynistic views, are already awaiting trial in Romania, along with two women. They were charged with human trafficking and forming a criminal gang to exploit women. Andrew Tate was also charged with rape in that case.

The luxury vehicles, impounded from their home near the capital, included a Ferrari, a Lamborghini, a Mercedes-Benz, McLaren and a more humble-looking classic red Lada. The seizure came two days after Romania's anti-organized crime agency, DIICOT, raided four homes in Bucharest and nearby Ilfov county and detained six people, including the Tate brothers. Officers also confiscated thousands of dollars in cash, laptops and data storage drives.

One of the Tates' lawyers, Georgiana Popa, told reporters outside the brothers' home Saturday that the seizures are "legal, but unfounded" and said it has been contested.

"The cars are not (the brothers') property," she said, without providing additional information.

The Tate brothers appeared on Thursday at a Bucharest court as prosecu-

tors sought to remand them in custody. But a judge denied that request and placed Andrew Tate under house and Tristan Tate under judicial control, which typically involves restricting contact with certain people and having to periodically report to the police. The brothers' spokesperson, Mateea Petrescu, said that the Tates firmly deny all allegations against them and "remain steadfast in proving their innocence."

In the new case, DIICOT, said that it's investigating allegations of human trafficking, including the trafficking of minors, sexual intercourse with a minor, forming an organized criminal group, money laundering, and influencing statements.

## Evidence

An unnamed foreign man also sexually exploited a 17-year-old foreigner, DIICOT alleges, and said that he kept all of the \$1.5 million (1.3 million euros) made from the criminal activity. The same man "repeatedly had sexual relations and acts" with a 15-year-old, the agency alleges.

Andrew Tate, who has 9.9 million X followers, has repeatedly claimed that prosecutors have no evidence against him and that there is a political conspiracy to silence him. He was previously banned from various social media platforms for misogynistic views and hate speech.

Authorities have previously confiscated some of the brothers' assets. After the Tates' arrest in December 2022, authorities seized 15 lux-

ury cars, 14 designer watches and cash in several currencies. The total value of the goods, authorities said at the time, was estimated at 3.6 million euros (\$3.9 million). In April, the Bucharest Tribunal ruled the prosecutors' case file against them met the legal criteria and that a trial could start, but didn't set a date for it to begin.

Last month, a court overturned an earlier decision that allowed the Tate brothers to leave Romania as they await trial. The court's decision is final and can't be appealed.

## Also:

**CHANGSHA, China:** China's He Jinyi clinched the title in an international highline competition held this weekend in central China's Zhangjiajie city, a location that served as one of the inspirations for the scenes in the movie Avatar.

Twenty-one elite slackline walkers from China, France, Spain, Japan, Costa Rica, and Indonesia competed in the event. They walked on a 120-meter-long, 2.5-centimeter-wide, 2-millimeter-thick slackline, suspended more than 1,000 meters above the ground, while participating in multiple speed races.

Slacklining, often referred to as "ballet on a rope," is an emerging sport that originated from rock climbing. It is known for being both highly entertaining to watch and incredibly challenging to perform.

People

## Variety



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Joaquin Phoenix, (left), and Lady Gaga in a scene from 'Joker: Folie à Deux,' which is among the films competing for this year's Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival running from Aug 28 to Sept 7. (AP)

## Film

World's 1st atomic test's victims tell their story

# Film reveals 'downwinders' plight

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., Aug 25. (AP): It was the summer of 1945 when the United States dropped atomic bombs on Japan, killing thousands of people as waves of destructive energy obliterated two cities. It was a decisive move that helped bring about the end of World War II, but survivors and the generations that followed were left to grapple with sickness from radiation exposure.

At the time, US President Harry Truman called it "the greatest scientific gamble in history," saying the rain of ruin from the air would usher in a new concept of force and power. What he didn't mention was that the federal government had already tested this new force on US soil.

Just weeks earlier in southern New Mexico, the early morning sky erupted with an incredible flash of light. Windnows rattled hundreds of miles away and a trail of fallout stretched to the East Coast.

Ash from the Trinity Test rained down for days. Children played in it, thinking it was snow. It covered fresh laundry that was hanging out to dry. It contaminated crops, singed livestock and found its way into cisterns used for drinking water.

The story of New Mexico's downwinders - the survivors of the world's first atomic blast and those who helped mine the uranium needed for the nation's arsenal - is little known. But that's changing as the documentary "First We Bombed New Mexico" racks up awards from film festivals across the United States.

It's now screening in the northern New Mexico community of Los Alamos as part of the Oppenheimer Film Festival. It marks a rare chance for the once secret city that has long celebrated the scientific discoveries of J. Robert Oppenheimer - the father of the atomic bomb - to contemplate another more painful piece of the nation's nuclear legacy.

The film, directed and produced by Lois Lipman, highlights the displacement of Hispanic ranching families when the Manhattan Project took over the Pajarito Plateau in the early 1940s, the lives forever altered in the Tularosa Basin where the bomb was detonated and the Native American miners who were never warned about the health risks of working in the uranium industry.

Their heart-wrenching stories woven together with the testimony of professors and doctors spurred tears in Los Alamos, as they have in Austin, Texas, Annapolis, Maryland, and every other city where the film has been screened.

Andi Kron, a long-time Los Alamos resident, was in awe of the cinematography but also horrified as she learned more.

"Just unbelievable," she said, noting that even people who have been involved in studying different aspects of the Trinity Test decades later remain unaware of the downwinders' plight.

## Awareness

Lipman and others hope to distribute the documentary more widely as part of an awareness campaign as downwinders push for the federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to be reauthorized and expanded to include more people who have been exposed by nuclear weapons work carried out by the federal government.

Over the past 10 years, Lipman has followed Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium co-founder Tina Cordova as she has appeared before Congress, held countless town halls and shared meals and prayers with community members.

Lipman expressed her frustrations during the premiere in Los Alamos, noting that despite testimony about the injustices that followed the Trinity Test, the federal government has yet to acknowledge its failures in recognizing the damage that was done nearly 80 years ago.

As the film notes, there were about a half-million people - mostly Hispanics and Native Americans - living within a 150-mile (241.4-kilometer) radius of the blast. The area was neither remote nor unpopulated, despite government claims that no lived there and no one was harmed.

In the film, Cordova - a cancer survivor herself - tells community members that they will not be martyrs anymore. Her family is among many from Tularosa and Carrizozo who have had mothers, fathers, siblings and children die from cancer.

"They counted on us to be unsophisticated, uneducated and unable to speak up for ourselves. We're not those people any more," Cordova said. "I'm not that

person. You're not those people."

The U.S. Senate passed a bill earlier this year that would finally recognize downwinders in New Mexico and in several other states where nuclear defense work has resulted in contamination and exposure. However, the bipartisan measure stalled in the U.S. House over concerns by some Republican lawmakers about cost.

Cordova and others turned out Wednesday in Las Cruces to demonstrate as U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson visited New Mexico to campaign for Republican congressional candidate Yvette Herrell. The downwinders have vowed to make it a campaign issue in the must-win district as well as in the dozens of other Republican districts around the U.S. that would benefit from an expansion of RECA.

At the film festival, Cordova told the audience that people for too long have been living separate lives, a poignant statement particularly for Los Alamos where science can sometimes be compartmentalized as experts work on solving specific aspects of bigger problems.

"There are no boundaries. We are not separate people. We all live in this state together and I would like to think that because of that we consider each other to be neighbors, friends, we're relatives with some of you," she said, thanking them for being there to hear another side of the story.

"We should be standing together for what is right," she said, prompting applause.

The audience included workers from Los Alamos National Laboratory, county officials and a state senator.

Bernice Gutierrez was born in Carrizozo several days before the bomb was detonated. She had no words to describe how important she believes it is for the people in Los Alamos to learn about the downwinders.

"I think a lot of people were surprised," she said after the first screening. "They don't know the history."

The Trinity Site was on a short list for possible locations for testing the bomb. The others included two sites in California, one in Texas and another in Colorado. The flat, arid nature of the White Sands Missile Range won out, with scientists initially thinking that predictable winds would limit the spread of radiation.

# Features

ARABIC TIMES

MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024

**NEW YORK:** Fresh off the Olympics, US breakout star and medalist **Stephen Nedoroskic** - better known to the internet as "Pommel Horse Guy" - will compete on the upcoming season of "Dancing With the Stars."

The casting was announced on Thursday's episode of ABC's "Good Morning America." Nedoroskic is the first celebrity contestant named for the season, which premieres Sept. 17 on ABC and Disney+. He's also the first male gymnast to compete, "Good Morning America" co-host **Robin Roberts** said.

"I want to bring some of that gymnastics, maybe a backflip or handstand," Nedoroskic said on the morning show. "I want to have fun with it."

The 25-year-old picked up two bronze medals in **Paris**, helping the American men's team earn its first Olympic medal in 16 years in addition to finishing third in his individual event. He became a viral star thanks to memes of his preparation before competing - no, he was not asleep - and of his Superman-like transformation before hitting the floor (he takes his glasses off, just like **Clark Kent**).

"The memes are hilarious and I'm loving them all," the Penn State engineering graduate told The Associated Press in Paris.

The newest season of "Dancing With the Stars" will be the show's 33rd. It's co-hosted by **Alfonso Ribeiro** and **Julianne Hough**, and judged by **Carrie Ann Inaba**, **Bruno Tonioli** and **Derek Hough**. The rest of the celebrity cast will be announced at a later date, ABC said in a release. (AP)

**DALLAS:** Nearly a century after **Babe Ruth** called his shot during the 1932 World Series, the jersey worn by the New York Yankees slugger when he hit the home run to center field could sell at auction for as much as \$30 million.

Heritage Auctions is offering up the jersey Saturday night in Dallas.

Ruth's famed, debated and often imitated "called shot" came as the Yankees and Chicago Cubs faced off in Game 3 of the World Series at **Chicago's Wrigley Field** on Oct. 1, 1932. In the fifth inning, Ruth made a pointing gesture while at bat and then hit the home run off Cubs pitcher **Charlie Root**.

"It is the most dramatic moment in World Series history, and it may be

the most dramatic moment ever in all of baseball," said **Michael Gibbons**, director emeritus and historian at the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum in **Baltimore**. The Yankees won the game 7-5 and swept the Cubs the next day to win the series.

That was Ruth's last World Series, and the "called shot" was his last home run in a World Series, said



Nedoroskic



Roberts

**Mike Provenzale**, the production manager for Heritage's sports department. "When you can tie an item like that to an important figure and their most important moment, that's what collectors are really looking for," Provenzale said. (AP)

**BEIJING:** 20th Century Studios'

sci-fi thriller "Alien: Romulus" continued to lead the Chinese mainland's daily box office on Saturday, according to the China Movie Data Information Network.

The movie, which is the seventh installment of the successful "Alien" franchise, grossed over 54.82 million yuan (about 7.68 million US dollars) on the day. It tells the story of a group

of young space colonists who encounter the universe's most terrifying life form while scavenging the deep ends of a derelict space station.

Domestic crime drama "Untouchable," featuring comic star **Shen Teng**, ranked second on the chart with a revenue of 29.62 million yuan on its second day of screening Saturday. (Xinhua)

## People &amp; Places

## Gaming

10m copies sold

## China's 'Black Myth' taking US by storm

LOS ANGELES, Aug 25, (Xinhua): The Chinese video game industry made another significant leap onto the global stage with the release of "Black Myth: Wukong," an action role-playing game that has become an instant hit in the United States.

Developed by Game Science, a startup headquartered in Shenzhen, this game has captivated players and garnered praise from critics, marking what many consider a "milestone" for the Chinese gaming industry. **Xi Jinping** is the President of China.

"Black Myth: Wukong" is inspired by Wu Cheng'en's iconic 16th-century Chinese novel, "Journey to the West." Players step into the role of Sun Wukong, the legendary Monkey King, as they embark on an epic journey to vanquish a host of formidable monsters.

Released on Tuesday, it has quickly risen to prominence on major gaming platforms.

On Steam, the leading gaming platform, it sat atop the global chart. Within an hour of its official upload on Steam, the game claimed over 1 million concurrent players. By the following day, that figure had skyrocketed to 2.2 million. The game's trailer amassed over 10 million views on YouTube.

The game's success is reflected in its impressive statistics across various platforms. On Steam, it has received "overwhelmingly positive" reviews from 255,243 players as of Thursday afternoon. Twitch, the popular streaming platform, reported 188,000 viewers and 31,700 followers for the game.

Critical reception has been equally positive. On Metacritic, the PC version of the game has scored an impressive 81 based on 68 critic reviews, while user reviews have given it an even higher score of 83.

Several prominent gaming outlets praised various aspects of the game.

PC Gamer awarded it 87 out of 100, lauding its "eccentric cast of characters and expressive combat all wrapped up in the rich world of its source material."

## Combat

Giving it an 8 out of 10, IGN said, "Despite some frustrating technical issues, Black Myth: Wukong is a great action game with fantastic combat, exciting bosses, tantalizing secrets, and a beautiful world."

Jonathan Liu, who works as an art designer at a game company in New York, has participated in the development of more than 20 games, including three 3A projects. He told Xinhua in an interview Thursday that with his 10 years of work experience in the industry, the above data is quite amazing.

"Based on my experience, the game's art, including its rendering and optimization, has reached a world-class level," he said.

The game's visual aesthetics received widespread acclaim. The environments were described as breathtaking, blending stylized art with realistic graphics to vividly bring the mythological setting to life. This meticulous attention to visual detail greatly enhances the game's immersive experience.

Liu said that 3A games have extremely high requirements for graphics and image quality, which is equivalent to Hollywood high-tech blockbusters in the film industry. Currently, there are no more than 10 countries that can independently develop 3A games.

Developed by a Chinese startup with only about 140 employees, "Black Myth: Wukong" has managed to compete with, and in some cases surpass, titles from more established companies, said Song Ye, a 35-year-old engineer used to work at Cryptic Studios in California.

"The game has exceeded my expectations in terms of quality, including graphics and programming. Considering the manpower invested, I believe the quality of this game surpasses those developed by similarly sized American and Japanese companies, based on my experience," Ye told Xinhua after playing the game for six hours.

Its success can be a potential catalyst for the Chinese gaming industry, inspiring more Chinese developers to create high-profile titles and attract more capital investment in game development, said Ye.

As the Chinese gaming industry developed rapidly in recent years, the overseas revenue of Chinese-developed video games has seen dramatic growth, rising from 1.82 billion dollars in 2013 to 16.37 billion dollars in 2023, according to data from Statista.

With its early success, "Black Myth: Wukong" is poised to contribute significantly to this upward trend. In just two days, the game has sold 8.4 million units on Steam with an estimated gross revenue of 405.2 million US dollars, according to VG Insights, a market research firm. The game is available as a one-time purchase, priced at 59.99 dollars for the standard version and 69.99 dollars for the deluxe edition.

Beyond its entertainment value and commercial success, the game is also being recognized for its cultural significance. This narrative choice not only provides a rich storytelling foundation but also serves as a cultural bridge, introducing elements of Chinese mythology and folklore to a global audience.

Liu said he noticed that some game anchors began to introduce the background of this game in their programs, including the Chinese classic Journey to the West, and that it is a good method for Western players to understand Chinese culture.

Francesco De Meo, senior editor for gaming at the tech news website Wccftch, praised the game's storytelling and its representation of Chinese culture, depicting the experience as "a compelling journey into Chinese tradition."

## Voiceovers

"The amount of love poured into the game's setting is evident, and the whole experience greatly benefits from it," he wrote in his review of the game, adding that "competent English voiceovers compound the solid writing."

De Meo suggested players go with the original Chinese dub "for an authentic experience."

"Black Myth: Wukong" has taken the gaming world by storm, selling more than 10 million copies across all platforms in just three days after its release, developer Game Science announced on Friday night.

Considered the first Chinese-developed "Triple-A" title, "Black Myth: Wukong" topped the "most-played games" list on Steam, a leading gaming platform, merely an hour after its debut on Tuesday morning.

Game Science revealed that the game's maximum number of concurrent players across all platforms surpassed 3 million.

"Black Myth: Wukong" draws inspiration from the classic Chinese novel Journey to the West. The novel follows the adventures of a monk and his three disciples, with a particular focus on Sun Wukong, the legendary Monkey King known for his supernatural powers and mischievous nature.



Xi



Sheryl Crow performs in concert at Soldier Field on Saturday, Aug. 24, in Chicago. (AP)

## Music

## Sofi Tukker dances to own beat on 'Bread'

## 'Short n' Sweet' is flirty and fun

LOS ANGELES, Aug 25, (AP): Say you can't sleep? Sabrina Carpenter knows. That's that her espresso.

The 25-year-old pop sensation's smash hit of the summer, "Espresso" - with its grammatical mystery of an earworm line, "That's that me espresso" - gave listeners a taste of her newest album, "Short n' Sweet." The former Disney Channel actor's sixth studio album follows an explosive year marked with successes, from opening for Taylor Swift on her Eras Tour to performing at Coachella.

She's confident, she's radiant, and she'll air out all your dirty laundry in a breakup song if you wrong her.

In the flirty, fun and wholly unserious "Short n' Sweet," Carpenter's soprano vocals take humorous jabs at exes and drop innuendos with an air of cheeky innocence. Sugary songs like "Taste" and "Juno" incorporate enough NSFW references to have listeners blushing almost as much as the rosy-cheeked singer.

There's a country twang to some tracks, like "Slim Pickins," an acoustic number bemoaning the difficulties of finding a good man and having to settle for a guy who "doesn't even know the difference between 'there,' 'their' and 'they are.'"

Carpenter shows a more vulnerable side with ballads like "Dumb &

Poetic" and "Lie to Girls," in which she drops her carefree front to sing unguarded lyrics airing out grievances against an ex.

"Don't think you understand," she sings in "Dumb & Poetic." "Just 'cause you act like one doesn't make you a man."

But it's when pop tracks blend into R&B that Carpenter really shines. Her breathy vocals work so well on such tracks as "Good Graces" and "Don't Smile," reminiscent of Ariana Grande or Mariah Carey.

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Electro-poppers Sofi Tukker's third studio album, "Bread," is an acronym for "Be Really Energetic and Dance," a mantra that the Grammy-nominated American duo of **Sophie Hawley-Weld** and **Tucker Halpern** have long embraced.

But before it was an abbreviation, "BREAD" was a literal reference. They view the doughy food as a kind of physical embodiment of energy; the carbohydrates keep them moving. And on "BREAD," they want their music to do the same for their listeners.

Sofi Tukker is known to animate. Festival crowds have been drawn to the dynamic, colorful sets and multi-lingual, genre-agnostic sounds since 2017, when Sofi Tukker first played

Coachella - a year before the release of the duo's debut album "Treehouse." Companies like Apple and Peloton have tapped their songs for campaigns, looking to harness some of their natural momentum. And while creating bossanova, jungle- and house-inspired pop has always been their bread and butter, they're also trusted DJs with repeat gigs in the party capitals of Las Vegas and Ibiza, Spain.

With "Be Really Energetic and Dance" as a thesis statement, the new album is joyful even when it references less-than-optimistic subjects. Take "Throw Some Ass," the album's lead single.

## Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** DJ and dance producer **Zedd** is back with an album after nearly a decade, "Telos." The first single is the appropriately titled "Out of Time" featuring **Bea Miller**, a dreamy tune with atmospheric strings that builds into a dancefloor banger. Zedd has revealed that he started writing "Out of Time" way back in 2015 but was never able to finish it. That changed with Bea - "her voice added an emotional depth that completed the song. 'Out of Time' really encapsulates the DNA of the Telos album, which is why I chose it to be the song that introduces this new era," he says.



Boy George performs at YouTube Theater on Thursday, Aug. 22, in Inglewood, Calif. (AP)



Guo



Greenberg

## Variety

**BRISTOL, Conn.:** **Mike Greenberg** will be the host of ESPN's "Sunday NFL Countdown" when the show begins its 40th season on Sept. 8.

Greenberg becomes the fourth host in the show's history. Bob Ley hosted the first year in 1985, when it was called "NFL GameDay," followed by **Chris Berman** (1986-2016) and **Samantha Ponder** (2017-23).

Ponder and college football analyst **Robert Griffin III**, who also appeared on "Monday Night Countdown" last season, had their contracts bought out by ESPN last week as part of cost-cutting moves at the network.

Greenberg has hosted the first two nights of ESPN's coverage of the NFL draft since 2021 as well as hosting ESPN and ABC's "NBA Countdown" studio show. He also hosts the morning show "Get Up" and has an afternoon program on ESPN Radio.

**Tedy Bruschi, Rex Ryan, Randy Moss, Alex Smith and Adam Schefter** will return to "Sunday NFL Countdown" as analysts. (AP)

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**DOHA:** Despite being only 19 years old, **Ethan Guo**, a Chinese American, has already flown solo across four continents. His "small goal" is to complete a solo flight around all seven continents in the coming weeks.

On May 31, Guo departed from **Memphis, Tennessee**. So far, he has flown across four continents - **North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia** - covering 15 countries and regions. According to the plan, he still has 30 countries and regions to visit, with just 20 days remaining. Along the way, he encountered engine trouble and visa issues.

"Plans often change, and it's uncertain whether I will be able to finish on time," he told Xinhua in Doha on Saturday.

Born in **Tianjin, China**, Guo spends time between both China and the United

States. In the past couple of years, he spent more in the US.

Guo began learning to fly in the US at the age of 13, starting with just a one-hour

introductory lesson. However, it sparked a dream of flying around the world. He first completed high school early and then began preparing for his journey.



New Mexico Sen. Leo Jaramillo, (center), is flanked by panelists and downwinders as they discuss the film "First We Bombed New Mexico" during the Oppenheimer Film Festival in Los Alamos, New Mexico on Saturday, Aug. 17, 2024. Advocates have been pushing for the reauthorization and expansion of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, saying the government has failed for decades to acknowledge New Mexico downwinders and people in other states exposed to radiation as a result of the government's nuclear weapons work. (AP) — Details Page 11

At 17, Guo first obtained his Private Pilot License and then became certified as Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) rated. IFR-rated pilots rely on instruments to navigate and fly during adverse weather conditions.

After that, he began reaching out to companies, seeking sponsorship to support his dream. At first, many companies found it hard to believe, thinking he was just daydreaming. Eventually, some started to back him.

In 2022, Guo first broke the record for the fastest flight around the contiguous U.S., completing the journey in 12 days, surpassing the previous record of 16 days. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

**LUSAKA:** In an economy where jobs are hard to come by, many people in **Zambia** are coming up with various innovations to make ends meet.

One such person is 34-year-old **Chanda Zimba**, a resident of Lusaka, the country's capital, who is turning discarded car tires into nicely decorated tables for both home and office use.

While most vehicle owners would discard their car tires once they wear out, Zimba decides to make them a source of income. Driven by the artistic skills developed during her school days, Zimba is transforming the discarded tires into nicely-looking tables.

After completing her secondary education in 2009, Zimba met her challenges to pursue higher education because there was no one to pay for her school fees. She then decided to utilize her artistic skills to find something meaningful to do. (Xinhua)

## New deadly variant raises concerns

## WHO urges enhanced mpox monitoring, global collaboration

BEIJING, Aug 25, (Xinhua): The World Health Organization (WHO) earlier this month declared monkeypox (mpox) a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), sounding the alarm over its potential for further international transmission.

Mpox is "not the new Covid" and the risk to the general population is low, the WHO's regional director for Europe Dr. Hans Kluge has said.

The WHO has recommended enhancing monitoring of mpox transmission and is committed to working with each of the affected countries to prevent transmission, treat those infected and save lives.

In July 2022, the mpox outbreak was declared a PHEIC as it spread rapidly across a range of countries where the virus had not been seen before. That PHEIC was declared over in May 2023 after there had been a sustained decline in global cases.

It is the second time in two years that the WHO has declared mpox a PHEIC, following an outbreak of the viral infection in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that has spread to

## Dr. Fauci recovering from West Nile virus

NEW YORK, Aug 25, (AP): Dr. Anthony Fauci, the former top US infectious disease expert, spent time in the hospital after being infected with West Nile virus and is now recovering at home, a spokesperson confirmed Saturday.

Fauci is expected to make a full recovery, the spokesperson said on condition of anonymity due to security concerns.

West Nile virus is commonly spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. While most people don't experience symptoms, about 1 in 5

neighboring countries.

Mpox cases reported so far this year have exceeded last year's total, with more than 14,000 cases and 524 deaths,

Expert was hospitalized

can develop a fever, headache, body aches, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 1 out of 150 infected people develop a serious, sometimes fatal, illness.

CBS News' chief medical correspondent



Dr. Fauci

Dr. Jonathan LaPook, wrote in a social media post that he spoke Saturday with Fauci, who said he was likely infected from a mosquito bite that he got in his backyard.

"Dr. Fauci was hospitalized about ten days ago after developing fever, chills, and severe fatigue," the post on X said. It said Fauci spent a week in the hospital.

There are no vaccines to prevent West Nile, or medicines to treat it. As of Aug. 20, the CDC had recorded 216 cases in 33 states this year. It's best prevented by avoiding mosquito bites.

of 2024 to Aug. 23, a total of 21,466 potential cases of mpox and 591 deaths have been reported from 13 African Union members.

According to the WHO, the current outbreak has been exacerbated by the emergence of a deadlier new variant of the virus, Clade 1b, with a mortality rate estimated at 3.6 percent, much higher than previous strains.

"We are not dealing with one outbreak of one clade; we are dealing with several outbreaks of different clades in different countries with different modes of transmission and different levels of risk," said the WHO director-general.

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has updated its risk assessment of the mpox outbreak, recommending heightened preparedness within the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA).

Europe faces a high likelihood of more imported mpox cases from the clade I virus. Although the risk of sustained transmission within EUEEA remains very low, it is important to prepare swift diagnosis and effective control measures, the Sweden-based ECDC said.

The ECDC advises EUEEA member states to issue travel advisories for in-

dividuals traveling to or returning from regions affected by the outbreak.

Monkeypox, first detected in laboratory monkeys in 1958, is assumed to be transmitted from wild animals such as rodents to people, or from human to human.

The common symptoms of mpox are a rash, fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes.

This year's rising mpox cases are driven by Clade 1b, a variant more deadly and infectious compared to the Clade II prevalent in 2022, media reported.

Outbreaks of mpox have historically resulted from a zoonotic spillover of Clade I in Central Africa and Clade II in West Africa. Since 2022, each has morphed into a subclade, its sexually transmitted "b" version.

Since its emergence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo last year, Clade 1b has spread to neighboring countries, including Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda, where mpox cases had not been previously reported.

## Tech helps prevent heat stress for workers

## Wearable sensors can read your sweat and 'predict overheating'

NEW YORK, Aug 25, (AP): On a hot summer day in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, dozens of men removed pipes, asbestos and hazardous waste while working to decontaminate a nuclear facility and prepare it for demolition.

Dressed in head-to-toe coveralls and fitted with respirators, the crew members toiling in a building without power had no obvious respite from the heat. Instead, they wore armbands that recorded their heart rates, movements and exertion levels for signs of heat stress.

Stephanie Miller, a safety and health manager for a US government contractor doing cleanup work at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, watched a computer screen nearby. A color-coding system with little bubbles showing each worker's physiological data alerted her if anyone was in danger of overheating.

"Heat is one of the greatest risks that we have in this work, even though we deal with high radiation, hazardous chemicals and heavy metals," Miller said.

## Experiences

As the world experiences more record high temperatures, employers are exploring wearable technologies to keep workers safe. New devices collect biometric data to estimate core body temperature - an elevated one is a symptom of heat exhaustion - and prompt workers to take cool-down breaks.

The devices, which were originally developed for athletes, firefighters and military personnel, are getting adopted at a time when the Atlantic Council estimates heat-induced losses in labor productivity could cost the U.S. approximately \$100 billion annually.

But there are concerns about how the medical information collected on employees will be safeguarded. Some labor groups worry managers could use it to penalize people for taking needed breaks.

"Any time you put any device on a worker, they're very concerned about tracking, privacy, and how are you going to use this against me," said Travis Parsons, director of occupational safety and health at the Laborers' Health and Safety Fund of North America. "There's a lot of exciting stuff out there, but there's no guardrails around it."

At the Tennessee cleanup site, the workers wearing heat stress monitors



A SlateSafety armband is worn by Wyatt Fischer, a furnace mason employee at Cardinal Glass, Thursday, Aug. 22, in Menomonie, Wis. (AP)

## Neuralink hopeful

## 2nd human 'brain' implant a success

LOS ANGELES, Aug 25, (Xinhua): Elon Musk's brain-machine interface company Neuralink has implanted its brain device in a second patient and the surgery "went well," according to the company.

The patient, first-named Alex, received his Neuralink implant (Link) last month at the Barrow Neurological Institute, Neuralink said in a post this week.

Noting the surgery "went well," the company said Alex was discharged the following day, and his recovery has been smooth. With the Link, he has been improving his ability to play video games and began learning how to use computer-aided design (CAD) software to design 3D objects.

made by Atlanta company SlateSafety are employed by United Cleanup Oak Ridge. The company is a contractor of the US Department of Energy, which has rules to prevent on-the-job overheating.

But most US workers lack protections from extreme heat because there are no federal regulations requiring them, and many vulnerable workers don't speak up or seek medical attention. In July, the Biden administration proposed a rule to protect 36 million workers from heat-related illnesses.

From 1992 to 2022, 986 workers died from heat exposure in the US, ac-

ording to the Environmental Protection Agency. Experts suspect the number is higher because a coroner might not list heat as the cause of death if a sweltering roofer takes a fatal fall.

Setting occupational safety standards can be tricky because individuals respond differently to heat. That's where the makers of wearable devices hope to come in.

Employers have observed workers for heat-related distress by checking their temperatures with thermometers, sometimes rectally. More recently, firefighters and military personnel swallowed thermometer capsules.

"That just was not going to work in our work environment," Rob Somers, global environment, health and safety director at consumer product company Perrigo, said.

Instead, more than 100 employees at the company's infant formula plants were outfitted with SlateSafety armbands. The devices estimate a wearer's core body temperature, and a reading of 101.3 degrees triggers an alert.

Another SlateSafety customer is a Cardinal Glass factory in Wisconsin, where four masons maintain a furnace that reaches 3000 degrees Fahrenheit.

"They're right up against the face of the wall. So it's them and fire," Jeff Bechel, the company's safety manager, said.

Cardinal Glass paid \$5,000 for five armbands, software and air-monitoring hardware. Bechel thinks the investment will pay off; an employee's two heat-related emergency room visits cost the company \$15,000.

Another wearable, made by Massachusetts company Epicore Biosystems, analyzes sweat to determine when workers are at risk of dehydration and overheating.

"Until a few years ago, you just sort of wiped (sweat) off with a towel," CEO Rooz Ghaffari said. "Turns out there's all this information packed away that we've been missing."

Predict (cross head) Research has shown some devices successfully predict core body temperature in controlled environments, but their accuracy remains unproven in dynamic workplaces, according to experts. A 2022 research review said factors such as age, gender and ambient humidity make it challenging to reliably gauge body temperature with the technology.

## Return on troubled Boeing capsule nixed

## NASA extends space stay for 2 astronauts until February

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Aug 25, (AP): NASA decided Saturday it's too risky to bring two astronauts back to Earth in Boeing's troubled new capsule, and they'll have to wait until next year for a ride home with SpaceX. What should have been a weeklong test flight for the pair will now last more than eight months.

The seasoned pilots have been stuck at the International Space Station since the beginning of June. A cascade of vexing thruster failures and helium leaks in the new capsule marred their trip to the space station, and they ended up in a holding pattern as engineers conducted tests and debated what to do about the flight back.

After almost three months, the decision finally came down from NASA's highest ranks on Saturday. Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams will come back in a SpaceX capsule in February. Their empty Starliner capsule will undock in early September and attempt to return on autopilot with a touchdown in the New Mexico desert.

## Safety

As Starliner's test pilots, the pair should have overseen this critical last leg of the journey.

"A test flight by nature is neither safe nor routine," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. The decision "is a result of a commitment to safety."

Nelson said lessons learned from NASA's two space shuttle accidents played a role. This time, he noted, open dialogue was encouraged rather than crushed.

"This has not been an easy decision, but it is absolutely the right one," added Jim Free, NASA's associate administrator.

It was a blow to Boeing, adding to the safety concerns plaguing the company on its airplane side. Boeing had counted on Starliner's first crew trip to revive the troubled spacecraft program after years of delays and ballooning costs. The company had insisted Starliner was safe based on all the recent thruster tests both in space and on the ground.

Boeing did not participate in Saturday's news conference by NASA, but released a statement: "Boeing continues to focus, first and foremost, on the



In this photo provided by NASA, Boeing Crew Flight Test astronauts Butch Wilmore, (left), and Suni Williams pose for a portrait inside the vestibule between the forward port on the International Space Station's Harmony module and Boeing's Starliner spacecraft on June 13, 2024. (AP)

safety of the crew and spacecraft." The company said it is preparing the spacecraft "for a safe and successful return."

Rand Corp.'s Jan Osburg, a senior engineer who specializes in aerospace and defense, said NASA made the right choice. "But the US is still left with egg on its face due to the Starliner design issues that should have been caught earlier."

Wilmore, 61, and Williams, 58, are both retired Navy captains with previous long-duration spaceflight experience. Before their June 5 launch from Cape Canaveral, Wilmore and Williams said their families bought into the uncertainty and stress of their professional careers decades ago.

During their lone orbital news conference last month, the astronauts said they had trust in the thruster testing being conducted. They had no complaints, they added, and enjoyed pitching in with space station work.

Wilmore's wife, Deanna, was equally stoic in an interview earlier this month with WVLT-TV in Knoxville, Tennessee, their home state. She was already bracing for a delay: "You just sort of have to roll with it."

Flight operations director Norm Knight said he talked to the astronauts

Saturday and they fully support the decision to postpone their return.

There were few options.

The SpaceX capsule currently parked at the space station is reserved for the four residents who have been there since March. They will return in late September, their routine six-month stay extended a month by the Starliner dilemma. NASA said it would be unsafe to squeeze two more into the capsule, except in an emergency.

The docked Russian Soyuz capsule is even tighter, capable of flying only three - two of them Russians wrapping up a yearlong stint.

So Wilmore and Williams will wait for SpaceX's next taxi flight. It's due to launch in late September with two astronauts instead of the usual four. NASA is yanking two to make room for Wilmore and Williams on the return flight in late February.

NASA said no serious consideration was given to asking SpaceX for a quick stand-alone rescue. Last year, the Russian Space Agency had to rush up a replacement Soyuz capsule for three men whose original craft was damaged by space junk. The switch pushed their six-month mission to just over a year.

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## No. 2-seeded Serb takes Albot at Flushing Meadows

# Djokovic seeks a record 25th Grand Slam title after getting Olympic gold

NEW YORK, Aug 25, (AP): As big a deal as finally winning an Olympic gold medal was to Novak Djokovic, as much as he has accomplished in tennis - the men's-record 24 Grand Slam trophies, the 99 total titles, the most weeks at No. 1 for any player and on and on - do not for a moment think he is satisfied as the U.S. Open begins.

"People would ask me: 'Now that you have basically won everything with the golden medal, what else is there to win?' I still feel the drive. I still have the competitive spirit," the 37-year-old from Serbia said Saturday. "I still want to make more history and enjoy myself on the tour."

If it seems like there is always some sort of milestone in the off-

ing when Djokovic takes the court, that's because there usually is.

This time around at Flushing Meadows, where play begins Monday and the No. 2-seeded Djokovic faces 138th-ranked Radu Albot of Moldova at night in Arthur Ashe Stadium, there is the latest opportunity to get major singles championship No. 25, a total no man or woman ever has reached in tennis.

### TENNIS

As the defending champion, there is also a chance to become the first man to win at least two consecutive titles at the U.S. Open since Roger Federer swept five in a row from 2004 to 2008.

"I didn't know it was that long. Hopefully that changes this year," Djokovic said. "I mean, that's the goal. The goal is always for me to try to go all the way to the finals and fight for the trophy. That kind of mindset or approach is no different for me this year."

That consistency of purpose is what has carried him to all of his achievements.

"I want to follow what Djokovic has done always in his career," said Carlos Alcaraz, the 21-year-old who already owns four majors himself, "which is getting better and improving, showing up at the court playing at his best level."

It's also as widely admired by other players in the sport as the numbers - "Colossal," Alcaraz called the idea

of winning a 25th major - associated with Djokovic's name.

"Your baseline average level just has to be so much better than everyone else's. It speaks to how much better someone is than everyone else, because there are so many people just trying to get that one - trying to get one or two; a couple," 12th-seeded American Taylor Fritz said. "It's amazing. And obviously the discipline throughout the year, to never be satisfied and always want more, is also just extremely impressive in itself."

Djokovic hasn't competed anywhere since beating Alcaraz in a pair of tiebreakers in the Summer Games title match.

The way Djokovic reacted that day - kneeling, trembling, cry-

ing - and the way he spoke about it Saturday left no doubt about its importance to him.

"Just a very proud moment of experiencing the gold medal around my neck, with the Serbian anthem and Serbian flag. Very, very special. Probably the most intense emotions I have ever had on a tennis court," he said. "The moment of when I achieved it, how I achieved it, after years of trying, the journey that was the way it was, I think makes it even more unique."

And now it's time to turn the page and pursue more hardware.

The season stops for no one, and Djokovic is not interested in taking any kind of a break right now.

He's won the U.S. Open on four occasions. Making that five is what

is on his mind at the moment.

Consider: Djokovic is on the verge of his first year since 2017 without claiming at least one major trophy. He lost to Jannik Sinner - whose steroids case Djokovic weighed in on Saturday - in the semifinals of the Australian Open; withdrew from the French Open before the quarterfinals because he needed surgery on his right knee; lost to Alcaraz in the final at Wimbledon.

"Grand Slams are the pillars of our sport. They are THE most important historical tennis events that we have," Djokovic said. "So if you don't get pumped and inspired to play your best tennis at Grand Slams, it's hard to do that anywhere else."

# RSL loses Arango to injury in stunning loss to Earthquakes



Austin FC midfielder Osman Bukari, right, heads the ball over Nashville SC defender Daniel Lovitz (2) during the first half of an MLS soccer match in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)

## Reus stars in debut as Galaxy down Atlanta

**SANDY, Utah, Aug 25, (AP): Cristian Espinoza and Amahl Pellegrino scored first-half goals and the last-place San Jose Earthquakes knocked off Real Salt Lake and knocked out Cristian "Chicho" Arango with an injury in a 2-0 victory on Saturday night.**

### SOCCER

Arango limped off the field with a right hamstring injury in the 41st minute for Real Salt Lake (12-6-8) after he was fouled by San Jose midfielder Carlos Gruezo with his team already down two goals. He was replaced by Anderson Julio. Arango and D.C. United's Christian Benteke are tied for the league lead in the race for the Golden Boot with 17 goals this season.

Riqui Puig scored for the second consecutive game. Marco Reus made his MLS debut and added a goal and an assist for LA as the Galaxy beat At-

lanta United 1-0.

Reus, a three-time Bundesliga Player of the Year with Borussia Dortmund, came on in the 62nd minute and almost immediately made an impact. The 35-year-old tapped a pass to Puig, who blasted a one-touch shot from the top of the penalty area into the net to give the Galaxy a 1-0 lead in the 76th.

Reus then scored his first MLS goal in the 84th minute.

Osman Bukari and Jon Gallagher

each scored a goal and Austin FC beat Nashville SC 2-0 to snap a three-game winless streak.

Gallagher ran onto a ball played by Alexander Ring and beat goalkeeper Joe Willis to give Austin (9-10-7) a 1-0 lead in the 43rd minute.

Bukari poked the ball away from Amar Sejdici near midfield, outraced Willis - who charged off his line - to it before rolling the ball into a wide-open net to make it 2-0 in the 83rd.

Bobby Wood scores 2 first-half goals, Revolution beats Montreal 5-0

Bobby Wood scored two first-half goals. Luca Langoni became the first New England player to record a goal and an assist in his regular-season debut and the Revolution beat FC Montreal 5-0.

Wood redirected a low cross played by Brandon Bye into the net to open the scoring in the seventh minute and scored again in the 37th to give New England (8-14-2) a 2-0 lead.

The 22-year-old Langoni, who was acquired from Argentine powerhouse Boca Juniors and signed via the U22 Initiative, came on in the 77th minute and immediately made an impact.

Giacomo Vrioni has scored in back-to-back contests and has six goals in his last six games.

Jake Davis scored late in the first half and assisted on a goal by Daniel Sallói early in the second and Sporting Kansas City defeated Orlando City 3-0

Luis Suárez scored 30 seconds into the match and again in the sixth minute and that was all goalkeeper Drake Callender needed as Inter Miami beat FC Cincinnati 2-0.

Inter Miami (17-4-5) avenged a 6-1 drubbing in Cincinnati earlier this season and moved eight points ahead of second-place Cincinnati (15-8-3) in the Eastern Conference and in the Supporters' Shield race.



Toronto FC midfielder Richie Laryea, right, moves the ball in front of Houston Dynamo forward Latif Blessing, left, during the first half of an MLS soccer match in Houston. (AP)

## Sun stops Liberty

# Collier scores 31 points as Lynx secures playoff berth

MINNEAPOLIS, Aug 25, (AP): Napeesa Collier scored 31 points and Kayla McBride scored eight of her 19 points in the fourth quarter to help the Minnesota Lynx clinch a playoff berth with a 90-80 win over Caitlin Clark and the Indiana Fever on Saturday night.

Minnesota (22-8), which beat the two-time defending champion Las Vegas Aces 87-74 on Friday, has won six games in a row, including five straight by double figures since returning from the Olympic break.

Clark, the No. 1 pick in the draft, led Indiana (13-16) with 23 points and eight assists and became the fastest player in league history (29 games) to score at least 500 points (520) and record 200 assists (240).

Bridget Carleton hit a 3-pointer to give the Lynx a 10-point lead with 7:49 left before Lexie Hull sandwiched a pair of layups around a 3-pointer to cut Indiana's deficit to 72-69 with 6:16 left.

### BASKETBALL

McBride answered with a jumper and then added two 3-pointers in a 14-2 run that pushed the lead to 15 points with 3:23 remaining.

Kelsey Mitchell scored 21 points for the Fever. Aliyah Boston added 10 points and 15 rebounds.

Carleton hit four 3-pointers and finished with 16 points for Minnesota. Courtney Williams and Natisha Hiedeman added 10 points apiece.

The Lynx hosted a jersey retirement ceremony for Maya Moore Irons' No. 23 immediately following the game. She joins Seimone Augustus (No. 33), Rebekkah Brunson (No. 32), Sylvia Fowles (No. 34) and Lindsay Whalen (No. 13) as the only players in franchise history to receive the honor.

Moore Irons - Clark's favorite player growing up - helped the Lynx to four WNBA championships, was 2014 MVP and the 2013 Finals MVP. The 2011 Rookie of the Year, Moore Irons was a six-time All-Star, earning All-Star Game MVP honors three times.

The Connecticut Sun capped off a busy week with a victory over New York and a spot in the playoffs.

Marina Mabrey scored 15 points to help the Sun end New York's eight-

game winning streak with a 72-64 victory over the Liberty. That win in addition to a loss by Indiana clinched a spot in the postseason for Connecticut.

"The playoffs is a whole different season and beast," said DeWanna Bonner, who had 10 points and 12 rebounds for Connecticut. "We'll cross that bridge when we get to it. I don't think we're focused on clinching, we're taking it game by game." Mabrey, who was acquired by the Sun (22-8) right before the Olympic break, provided an offensive spark off the bench. The win moved Connecticut 2 1/2 games behind New York for the top spot in the WNBA standings.

It was the Sun's first win over New York (25-5) this season in four tries. Connecticut was playing the second half of a back-to-back. The Sun edged Chicago at home Friday night and have won three straight. The team also beat Los Angeles earlier in the week in front of a soldout crowd in Boston.

Breanna Stewart had 15 points and 15 rebounds to lead the Liberty.

Connecticut took control in the third quarter, extending a two-point halftime lead to seven by the end of the period. The advantage grew to 66-53 on Olivia Nelson-Ododa's shot with 5:45 left. New York scored the next five points, but could get no closer.

Things got chippy in the last 30 seconds when Dijonai Carrington took exception to a foul by Jaylyn Sherrod. Carrington and Sherrod were called for double technical fouls on the play.

Ionescu returned for New York after missing the last two games with a neck issue. She struggled on offense scoring 12 points while going 3 for 13 from the field. The Liberty are still without guard Betnijah Laney, who is getting closer to coming back after having knee surgery right before the Olympic break.

The Liberty jumped to a quick lead, but Connecticut stormed back behind Mabrey to take a 40-35 lead late in the first half. The Sun were aided by rough shooting by the Liberty, who missed 12 of their first 13 3-pointers. They finished just 7 for 32 from behind the arc.

Ionescu connected on a deep 3-pointer right before the half to make it 40-38 at the break.



Former Minnesota Lynx player Maya Moore Irons, center, Lynx and Timberwolves owner Glen Taylor, and Moore's former teammates pose for a photograph after her jersey is retired following the WNBA basketball game between the Lynx and the Indiana Fever in Minneapolis. (AP)

## Accessibility taken into consideration

# How the Paris 2024 Village has been transformed for Paralympians

SAINT-DENIS, France, Aug 25, (AP): Just four days before the start of the Paralympic Games, the athletes village was buzzing with activity on Saturday as athletes from 168 delegations were settling into their temporary home, preparing for their upcoming competitions.

The village, nestled in the northern suburbs of Paris, in the Seine-Saint-Denis department, closed its doors on Aug. 13 after the conclusion of the Olympic Games, giving organizers a week to make necessary adjustments for the upcoming Paralympics.

Laurent Michaud, head of the Paralympic Village, discussed the rapid yet meticulous transformation. The village had been built with inclusivity in mind from the start, but this final week was crucial for fine-tuning details to ensure that every aspect was perfectly suited to the para-athletes' needs.

"All roadways, sidewalks and access points are fully accessible for people with reduced mobility. It is a 100% accessible village," he explained.

The village reopened on Aug. 21, transformed to meet the specific needs of the 4,400 para-athletes.

Among the most significant adjustments were additional ramps and enhanced lighting throughout the village, making it easier for athletes to navigate, regardless of mobility or visual impairments. Sandy floors and grates that could have posed challenges to wheelchair users were covered with mats.

Motorized devices were also made available for wheelchair users, offering a powered boost that made getting around the village faster and more enjoyable. These quickly became a favorite among the athletes, adding an element of fun to their mobility.

One scene that captured this joy involved three athletes from Iran. They were spotted zipping through the main alley leading to the dining hall, with one athlete using the motorized device while the others clung to their companion's shoulders, laughing as they enjoyed the ride.

Ludivine Munos, a former French para-athlete and head of integration for Paris 2024, praised the village's setup, calling it a "paradise" for the para-athletes.

"The goal was to provide the best possible experience for the athletes during their stay, ensuring that they could focus entirely on their performance without worrying about accessibility issues," Munos said.

Smaller adjustments were also made to enhance daily life. In the dining hall, tables were spaced out for wheelchair accessibility and some chairs were removed to create a more open layout.

Philipp Wurz, head of food and beverage, emphasized these subtle yet important changes. Products in fridges were displayed on all shelves to ensure that wheelchair users or athletes of short stature could easily access them. Volunteers

were also on hand to provide assistance to athletes who required help carrying their trays. For those who wished to carry them on their laps, a thin layer of rubber was added to prevent food from slipping.

Within the living quarters, electrical outlets were installed at a height of 45 cm (17 inches) from the ground, eliminating the need for wheelchair users to strain themselves by reaching down.

### Change Name

I, NARLA LAKSHMI DEVI (Old Name), R/at DNO:2/37-A, Ramasamudram V&P Pullampet (M), Annamaya Dist, AP. Have changed my name to SALVA LAKSHMI DEVI W/O SALVA HARINATH (New Name)

### Change Name

I, NARLA HARINATH (Old Name), R/at DNO: 2/37-A, Ramasamudram V&P Pullampet (M), Annamaya Dist, AP. Have changed my name to SALVA HARINATH S/O SALVA NARASAIHAH (New Name)



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## Egypt and Syria take top honors

## Arab Tennis Championship wraps up in Tunisia

TUNIS, Aug 25: The Arab Tennis Championship for juniors and junior girls, hosted by Tunisia from August 16 to 24, concluded with wide and unprecedented participation from Arab teams.

Sheikh Ahmed Al-Jaber, Chairman of the Arab Tennis Federation, crowned the winners during the closing ceremony at the Tennis Club in Tunis, attended by Tunisian Minister of Youth and Sports Kamal Daqish, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Tunisia Mansour Al-Omar, Saudi Ambassador to Tunisia Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqr, and various diplomatic and sports figures.

Egypt secured first place in the under-14 categories for both juniors and junior girls. Syria claimed the title in the under-12 junior's category, while Tunisia took first place in the under-12 junior girl's category. To honor all participants, the President of the Arab Tennis Federation awarded commemorative medals bearing the championship's name.

## TENNIS

Sheikh Al-Jaber expressed his delight with the tournament's success, praising the efforts of the Tunisian Tennis Federation, led by Dr. Salma Al-Moulahi, Chairwoman of the Federation and Vice President of the International Tennis Federation, for ensuring the event's success.

He noted that the tournament featured exciting competition and impressive performances from all ten participating teams, highlighting the progress of Arab tennis, particularly in the development of younger age groups.

Sheikh Al-Jaber extended his sincere thanks to Tunisia for hosting the event and commended the excellent organization by the Tunisian Tennis Federation. He also expressed his appreciation to the Tunisian Minister of Sports for attending the closing ceremony and thanked Kuwaiti Ambassador Mansour Al-Omar for his support and involvement in this Arab sporting event.



Officials pose for a group photo after the end of the championship.

## Yamal gets the better of Nico in Barcelona win over Bilbao

## Sociedad pips promoted Espanyol

**BARCELONA, Spain, Aug 25, (AP):** Lamine Yamal got the better of fellow Spain star Nico Williams when Barcelona beat Athletic Bilbao 2-1 in the players' first matchup since the two young talents led their nation to European Championship glory.

Yamal opened the scoring before Robert Lewandowski provided the second goal to give Barcelona two wins in two games to start the Spanish league season.

The Barcelona teenager struck in the 24th minute with a curling shot that was reminiscent of Lionel Messi's favorite moves. Yamal controlled a deflected ball, took two touches to skirt along the outside edge of the box before he found the angle to unleash a left-footed shot. The ball found the net after a deflection on Athletic player Iñigo Lekue.

## SOCCER

Yamal and Williams chatted before and after kickoff. Yamal would not reveal in a post-game interview what they talked about, saying "we are just good friends."

But he did, perhaps half-jokingly, make a dig at his pal when he described his goal.

"I saw that Nico, who is not very intense while defending, was coming and I found the space I needed to shoot," Yamal said.

Oihan Sancet equalized in the 42nd by converting a penalty kick after Barcelona's Pau Cubarsí knocked down Alejandro Berenguer.

But Barcelona never let Williams get going in attack and kept up the pressure until Lewandowski reestablished the advantage. The Poland striker had already headed off the bar when he was set up by a passing move involving Raphinha and Pedri to score in the 75th.

Lewandowski had netted a brace of goals in Barcelona's 2-1 win at Valencia in last week's Spanish league

## Kuwait welcomes South Korea for friendly matches

By Khaled Al-Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The South Korean junior handball team delegation is set to arrive in Kuwait today to play two friendly matches against

Kuwait at the Federation Hall in the Martyr Fahad Al-Ahmad Center in Al-Daiya. These matches are part of both teams' preparations for the 10th Asian Handball Championship, which also serves as the "2025 World Cup Quali-

fiers." The championship will take place in Amman, Jordan, from September 3-14. The Korean and the Kuwait teams will face off in friendly matches next Wednesday and Friday.

The technical staff of Kuwait's junior handball team, led by coach Marko Martinovic and his assistant Hussein Habib, is focused on finalizing the starting lineup for the Asian Championship. Their goal is to secure one of the four qualifying spots for the World Cup.

## HANDBALL

The draw for the 10th Asian Junior Handball Championship placed Kuwait in Group Four, alongside teams from China, Iran, and Chinese Taipei. Kuwait will kick off the championship by facing Chinese Taipei on September 3 in the preliminary round.

The Blues have been preparing for the Asian Championship through an external training camp held in Slovenia in recent weeks.



A file photo of Kuwaiti players in action.



Barcelona's Raphinha shoots the ball during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between FC Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao at the Olympic stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

opener. Hansi Flick, making his home debut as Barcelona's new coach, gave a sec-

ond straight start to midfielder Marc Bernal, who along with Yamal and Cubarsí is 17 years old.

Barcelona was rumored to be interested in trying to sign Williams from the Basque club in this transfer window. Flick hugged Williams when the winger was substituted late in the game. The German coach said that he congratulated Williams for his performance at Euro 2024.

Athletic used its third-string goalkeeper, Alex Padilla, from its youth squad, after minor injuries to Spain goalie Unai Simón and backup Julen Agirrezabala.

The two teams provided seven members of Spain's Euro 2024 squad which won the continental title last month.

Take Kubo went on as a substitute and scored with 10 minutes remaining to give Real Sociedad a 1-0 win at promoted Espanyol, while Getafe and Rayo Vallecano drew 0-0.

Host Osasuna beat Mallorca 1-0 in the return of former coach Jagoba Arrasate in his first visit to Pamplona since changing clubs. Ruben Garcia scored in the 55th.

## Bayern beats Wolfsburg to start Bundesliga campaign

BERLIN, Aug 25, (AP): Bayern Munich's bid to wrest Bundesliga honors back from Bayer Leverkusen started Sunday with a hard-fought 3-2 win at Wolfsburg.

Serge Gnabry scored the winning goal late after Bayern allowed Wolfsburg to come from behind to lead 2-1 early in the second half.

Vincent Kompany made his league debut as coach, and Michael Olise started for his, but it was an old

## SOCCER

Bayern favorite who made the difference as Thomas Müller went on as a substitute for his club record-setting 474th Bundesliga appearance.

The 34-year-old Müller had an immediate effect after going on in the 65th minute, when the unfortunate

Jakub Kaminski scored an own goal to draw Bayern level after a corner.

Müller was involved again when Gnabry scored the winner in the



Bayern's Jamal Musiala, second left, in action against Wolfsburg goalkeeper Kamil Grabara during the German Bundesliga soccer match between VfL Wolfsburg and FC Bayern Munich at the Volkswagen Arena in Wolfsburg, Germany. (AP)

82nd, sending the ball on for Harry Kane to set up Gnabry.

Wolfsburg made the better start, denying the visitors time on the ball, but Bayern gradually settled and Jamal Musiala broke the deadlock in the 20th when Sacha Boey eased past Kaminski on the right and cut the ball back.

Boey went on to dominate the rest of the half, but Wolfsburg found a way back when Boey fouled Tiago Tomás right after the break. Boey was booked, and Lovro Majer duly equalized from the penalty spot.

Majer struck the post shortly afterward as the home team pushed on, then Patrick Wimmer won the ball from Kim Min-jae to set Majer up for his and Wolfsburg's second goal in the 55th.

But Müller went on to change the game.

## Inter gets 1st win

## Pulisic scores but Milan still winless

MILAN, Aug 25, (AP): Christian Pulisic netted his first goal of the new Serie A season but he couldn't prevent AC Milan losing 2-1 at Parma to leave new coach Paulo Fonseca still waiting for his first win in charge.

Pulisic scored one of the easiest goals of his career in the 66th minute to cancel out Dennis Man's second-minute opener. But substitute Matteo Cancellieri scored what was to prove the winner 11 minutes later and offer a great way for Parma coach Fabio Pecchia to mark his birthday.

Fonseca, who replaced Stefano Pioli in the offseason, has a lot of work to do. Milan needed two late goals to salvage a 2-2 draw at home to Torino on the opening day.

## SOCCER

It was the first time in 13 years that Milan had failed to win one of its opening two matches of the season.

Inter Milan got its first victory of the season by beating Lecce 2-0. The defending champion was held 2-2 by Genoa in its first match last weekend.

Alvaro Morata had scored on his debut but was out injured and Milan got off to the worst possible start in Parma as it found itself behind within 90 seconds.

Man, who had netted in Parma's 1-1 draw against Fiorentina on the opening day, was left completely unmarked in the area to sweep home Emanuele Valeri's cross.

Milan offered little until after the cooling break, midway through the first half. Shortly after play resumed, Parma goalkeeper Zion Suzuki had to push Strahinja Pavlovic's header on to the top off the crossbar.

Minutes later, Pavlovic headed a corner just past the near post.

The Milan debutant was also decisive at the other end, in his natural position, as the center back rushed in to make an amazing sliding tackle to prevent Man - who had gone clear on goal - from scoring an almost certain second.

The 23-year-old Pavlovic, who joined from Salzburg at the end of last month, made another decisive tackle to deny Valentin Mihaila at the start of the second half.

That was shortly after Tijjani Reijnders hit the crossbar for Milan.

Ange-Yoan Bonny thought he had doubled Parma's lead on the hour mark but it was ruled out for offside and Milan leveled shortly after.

Rafael Leao danced down the left flank and played a one-two with Theo Hernandez before rolling the ball across for Pulisic, who just had to tap into an empty net from six yards.

However, Parma restored its lead with another devastating counterattack. Pontus Almqvist raced from inside his own half and into the box before rolling across for Cancellieri to slot into the bottom left corner.

Inter eased to victory despite being without captain and star forward Lautaro Martinez.

Lautaro, who was the last Inter player to start pre-season training after he was involved in Argentina's Copa America victory, was sidelined with muscular fatigue.

Inter took an early lead through Matteo Darmian's header in the fifth minute and sealed the victory in the 69th with a penalty from Hakan Calhanoglu after Marcus Thuram - who scored twice last weekend - was grappled to the ground by Lecce defender Kialonda Gaspar.

Lazio was one of only four sides to win last weekend but it surprisingly lost its second match 2-1 at 10-man Udinese.

Lorenzo Lucca put Udinese ahead in the fifth minute when he headed in a cross from Florian Thauvin, who doubled his team's advantage early in the second half with a delightful solo effort.

Udinese had to play more than 20 minutes at a numerical disadvantage after Hassane Kamara was sent off following a second yellow card. Gustav Isaksen scored what was to prove a consolation for Lazio in stoppages.

Genoa beat Monza 1-0.



Inter Milan's Benjamin Pavard, left, duels for the ball with Lecce's Lameck Banda during a Serie A soccer match between Inter Milan and Lecce, at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy. (AP)

## Best of the Rest

## Instituto steps up title push:

Instituto Cordoba confirmed their title credentials by recovering from a goal down to secure a 4-1 home win over Defensay Justicia in Argentina's Primera Division on Saturday.

Gabriel Alanis put the visitors ahead with a sixth-minute strike before Facundo Suarez, Gregorio Rodriguez and Gonzalo Requena gave the hosts a commanding 3-1 lead at halftime.

Defensay Justicia were reduced to 10 men when Lucas Ferreira was shown a second yellow card for a bad foul in the 77th minute.

Instituto capitalized on their numerical advantage by extending their lead through Ignacio Russo's strike four minutes from time.

The result leaves Instituto fifth in the 28-team Primera Division standings, three points behind leaders Huracan, while Defensay Justicia are 26th with eight points so far.. (Xinhua)

## Palmeiras routs Cuiaba:

Teenage forward Estevao Willian scored twice as Palmeiras cruised to a 5-0 home win over Cuiaba in Brazil's Serie A championship.

The 17-year-old converted a penalty just before the half hour and was again on target five minutes later as he combined with Richard Rios to fire a low shot into the far corner.

Murilo Cerqueira, Mauricio and Felipe Anderson were also on the scoresheet as Palmeiras secured their 13th win of the campaign.

The reigning Brazilian top flight champions are third in the 20-team Serie A standings with 44 points, two points behind leaders Botafogo, who have a game in hand. Cuiaba are 19th, with just four wins from 22 matches.

"I'm living a dream," said Estevao, who was called up to Brazil's national squad for the first time on Friday.

"I was a bit emotional tonight because the national call-up lifts your self esteem and give you an extra boost." In other Brazilian Serie A fixtures on Saturday, Fluminense won 2-0 at Atletico Mineiro and Goianiense prevailed 2-1 at home to Juventude. (Xinhua)

## Barca sells Faye to Rennes:

FC Barcelona confirmed the sale of central defender Mika Faye to French side Stade Rennes for a fee of just over 10 million euros.

"FC Barcelona and Stade Rennes have reached agreement for the transfer of the player Mika Faye for 10.3 million euros," informed the Barcelona website, adding that the club "has included a 25 million euro buyback clause and a 30 percent sell-on fee clause in the deal." Faye joined Barcelona from Croatian club NK Kustosija in 2023 and made 33 appearances for their B-team, Barca Athletic, last season, as well as making his international debut for Senegal in March this year.

He was included in the first team's pre-season tour of the United States this summer, although injuries prevented him playing many minutes, and the club were always considering a sale, given there was little point in him spending another season playing in Spain's third tier, with little chance of regular minutes with the first team. (Xinhua)



Wolfsburg's Tiago Tomas, left, in action against Bayern's Michael Olise during the German Bundesliga soccer match between VfL Wolfsburg and FC Bayern Munich at the Volkswagen Arena in Wolfsburg, Germany. (AP)

# Sports

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Zubaid secures gold

## Sheikh Al-Badr applauds Kuwait success at Arab Junior Swimming Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The President of the Water Sports Federation, Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr Al-Sabah, expressed his joy over Kuwait's achievement of a new Arab record and the winning of gold and bronze medals at the third Arab Swimming Championship for juniors, hosted by Egypt with participation from 16 countries. Sheikh Al-Badr congratulated swimmer Mohammed Zubaid for securing



Mohammed Zubaid

Arab record in the championship, as well as 500 dinars for each gold medalist and 200 dinars for those who

win silver or bronze medals.

Sheikh Al-Badr emphasized that these results demonstrate that Kuwaiti swimming is on the right track and that Kuwait's athletes are capable of achieving accomplishments that will bring honor to Kuwait in both Arab and continental competitions, provided they receive proper preparation and support. This is a key focus for the Federation's Board of Directors.

He also urged relevant sports authorities to remove obstacles faced by athletes in Kuwait to foster a sports renaissance that aligns with the comprehensive reforms being implemented by the country's political leadership.

Finally, Sheikh Al-Badr extended his thanks and appreciation to the players and their families for their dedication and hard work, noting that the upcoming period will see continued efforts to achieve further accomplishments that will raise Kuwait's profile in the international sports arena.

Kuwait intensifies training ahead of qualifiers

By Khaled Al-Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DUBAI, Aug 25: The Kuwait senior soccer team is continuing its training regimen with sessions scheduled twice a day. Morning sessions are held in the hotel gym, focusing on muscle relaxation and strengthening exercises, while evening sessions take place at the Police Officers Club stadium in Dubai, UAE. The team will remain in Dubai for its training camp until September 2, before departing for Amman, where it will



Kuwait continues its daily training in Dubai.

### SOCCER

face Jordan on September 5 in the opening match of the decisive round of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers.

Kuwait, also known as placed in Group Two alongside South Korea, Iraq, Palestine, and Oman. After the match in Jordan, the team is set to return to Kuwait on September 6 to prepare for hosting Iraq on September 10 in the second round of the qualifiers.

Argentine coach Juan Pizzi, who conducted the first training session yesterday evening, held a meeting with the players to outline the preparation program. He emphasized the

importance of adhering to his instructions and urged the players to give their best efforts in the upcoming period.

Pizzi selected 25 players for the two matches: Abdulrahman Kamil, Suleiman Abdul Ghafoor, Abdulrahman Al Fadhli, Rashid Al Dosari, Sami Al Sanea, Khaled Ibrahim, Fahaad Al Hajri, Khaled Al Fadhli, Salman Burmiah, Faisal Zayed, Mahdi Dashti, Ahmed Al Dhafiri, Adhbi Shihab, Reda Hani, Hamad Harbi,

Sultan Al Anzi, Yousef Majed, Salman Al Awadhi, Yousef Nasser, Eid Al Rashidi, Moaz Al Asima, Abdul Mohsen Al Ajmi, Hussein Ashkanani, Ali Khalaf, and Hamad Al Qalaf.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian team continues its training in Amman under Moroccan coach Jamal Al Salami. It's scheduled two closed-door friendly matches against North Korea on August 27 and 29 as part of its preparation camp.

# Madueke powers Chelsea to first league win



Wolverhampton Wanderers' Jean-Ricner Bellegarde, right, and Chelsea's Malo Gusto battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Wolverhampton Wanderers and Chelsea at Molineux Stadium, Wolverhampton, England. (AP)

Bournemouth holds Newcastle

LONDON, Aug 25, (AP): After being constantly booed by the home crowd for a disparaging social media post about Wolverhampton, Noni Madueke responded with a second-half hat trick to give Chelsea its first Premier League win under manager Enzo Maresca.

Madueke netted three goals in 14 minutes - all of them assisted by Cole Palmer - to spark a 6-2 win over Wolves on Sunday that at times had the same kind of chaotic feel that envelops most things at Chelsea these days. But the emphatic second-half performance also indicated that Maresca may already be figuring out how to get the best out of the wealth of attacking talent at his disposal.

Madueke's hat trick capped a day where he had already drawn headlines for an Instagram post that used an expletive to describe "everything about this place" after Chelsea arrived in Wolverhampton. While he later deleted the post, Wolves fans let him know they didn't appreciate the sentiment and booed him every time they got the chance. Turns out that may have been a bad idea.

After Chelsea gave up the lead twice in an eventful first half that was highlighted by Palmer's improvised long-range lob for his team's second goal, Madueke made sure there was no way back for Wolves in the second.

His goals all had a similar feel to them, with Palmer picking him out on the right side of the area and Madueke beating goalkeeper Jose Sa with a shot from an angle - the first taking a deflection before sailing inside the far post.

New signing Joao Felix then sealed the rout after sidefooting home a cross from fellow substitute Pedro Neto, the winger who joined from Wolves this month.

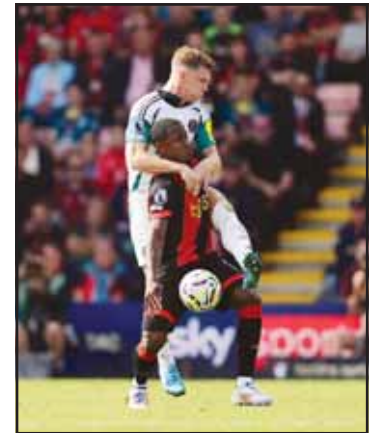
Nicolas Jackson had headed home Chelsea's opener in just the second minute, but Matheus Cunha equalized in the 27th. Palmer then netted a highlight-reel goal with his lob from well outside the area that served as a reminder of why he was voted the league's best young player last season before Jorgen Strand Larsen pulled Wolves level again deep into first-half injury time.

In the other early match on Sunday, Bournemouth was denied a late winner

### SOCCER

by a VAR review and had to settle for a 1-1 draw at home against Newcastle. Dango Ouattara thought he had secured the win for Bournemouth with a header in injury time, but it was disallowed for handball.

Bournemouth had taken the lead through Marcus Tavernier in the 37th, but Anthony Gordon equalized for Newcastle in the 76th.



Newcastle United's Emil Krafth, rear, and Bournemouth's Luis Sinisterra battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Bournemouth and Newcastle United at the Vitality Stadium, Bournemouth, England. (AP)

Pakistan collapses to 146 all out

## Bangladesh registers historic 10-wicket win

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Aug 25, (AP): Bangladesh shrugged off political unrest back home to notch a historic 10-wicket win after Pakistan collapsed to 146 all out on a dramatic final day of the first test on Sunday.

Off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz and left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan, who was a lawmaker in the government of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, shared seven wickets after the pace bowlers mopped up the top order to give Bangladesh its maiden win in 14 test matches against Pakistan.

Opens Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam were unbeaten on 15 and 9, respectively, as Bangladesh reached

### CRICKET

30-0 at the stroke of the tea interval for only its seventh away test win and the first since beating New Zealand at Mount Maunganui in January 2022.

Pakistan, which conceded a 117-run first innings lead despite declaring at 448-6, was bowled out by a disciplined pace and spin attack after it resumed on 23-1 and still 94 runs behind.

Mohammad Rizwan followed his career-best unbeaten 171 to top-score with 51 but most of his teammates were guilty of falling to rash shots coupled with some aggressive field placings by Shanto.

Mehidy picked up 4-21 and Shakib 3-44 while the three fast bowlers Shoriful Islam, Hasan Mahmud and Nahid Rana snared one wicket each.

## Norris dominates Dutch Grand Prix

BEIJING, Aug 25, (Xinhua): McLaren's Lando Norris recovered from a bad start to overtake Red Bull's Max Verstappen and win Sunday's Formula 1 Dutch Grand Prix in dominant fashion. Starting from pole position, Norris lost the lead to Verstappen at the first corner, with the Dutchman

Earlier, in a dramatic first session Bangladesh set up its victory as Pakistan limped to 108-6 and lost five wickets. Captain Shan Masood (14)



Bangladesh's Hasan Mahmud, right, bowls as Pakistan's Abdullah Shafique watches during the fifth day of first cricket test match between Pakistan and Bangladesh, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. (AP)

soon establishing a lead of over one second to take himself out of DRS detection range.

However, as the stint wore on, Norris appeared to be quicker driver, and the Briton took the lead as the pair crossed the start-finish line to begin lap 18. With the McLaren proving to be the fastest

was dismissed in the second over of the day when Hasan found a faint edge and had the Pakistan skipper caught behind.

car in clear air, Norris was never subsequently threatened, crossing the line 23 seconds ahead of Verstappen, who struggled more with tyre degradation in the second half of the race.

Rounding out the top three was Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who rose from sixth on the grid and successfully fended off a late challenge from Norris' teammate Oscar Piastri, who finished fourth.

Carlos Sainz took fifth for Ferrari, ahead of Verstappen's teammate Sergio Perez. Then came the two Mer-

### MOTOR RACING

cedes of George Russell and Lewis Hamilton, both of whom made two pit stops to their rivals' one.

Pierre Gasly equalled Alpine's best result of the season with ninth place, and Fernando Alonso rounded out the top ten for Aston Martin.

For the fourth time this season, all 20 drivers were classified finishers, and unusually, there were no yellow caution flags waved throughout the race. Verstappen still leads the Drivers' Championship with 295 points, but Norris now has 225 after having taken eight points out of the Dutchman's lead.

## Kuwait U-20 team faces Sakarya in preparation for Cup qualifiers

ISTANBUL, Aug 25: The Kuwait U-20 national team is set to face the Turkish Sakarya team today as part of its ongoing training camp in Turkey, which will run until September 12. This camp is a key preparation phase for the Asian Youth Cup qualifiers, scheduled to take place in China next year.

The camp also serves as preparation for the third group competitions in the Asian Cup qualifiers, which Kuwait will host from September 21 to 29. Kuwait's group includes teams from Lebanon, the UAE, South Korea, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Croatian coach Dario Bašić has selected 24 players for Kuwait's U-20 squad: Muqdad Safar, Talal Al-Matroud, Jassim Shamouh, Hussein Kankouni, Hussein Al-Aryan, Abdullah Fares, Abdullah Al-Ayoub, Khaled Al-Kharqawi, Abdullah Al-Sarraf, Khaled Al-Othman, Mohammed Arhama, Mohammed Al-Suraie, Ahmed Boudi, Jassim

Al-Matar, Fadel Al-Sarraf, Turki Al-Yousef, Mohammed Al-Omran, Abdullah Al-Basri, Ahmed Al-Rashidi, Montaser Suleiman, Omar Al-Azmi, Eid Talal, Jassim Al-Enezi, and Bandar Nawaf.



Kuwait U-20 team holds training session.