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## Opinion

### Amendments needed for parliamentary subjugation laws

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

I HOPE that our words regarding the recent ministerial changes will provide reassurance to those concerned.

Over the last 50 years, Kuwait has navigated on a journey of interests that were tribal, sectarian, or familial. During this time, legislation and decisions often favored specific categories of people, which negatively impacted the political, economic, and social administration of the country.



Al-Jarallah

Successive parliaments have imposed these laws and the governments often yielded to them instead of rejecting them in order to prevent any changes to Kuwait's social, economic, and political nature. This has contributed to the backwardness we are currently facing.

Undoubtedly, parliamentarians have the right to operate in a populist manner, as they seek to serve their own interests and remain in their parliamentary seat for as long as possible. They hence rejected all measures that could alleviate the burden on public funds, irrespective of whether they were related to increase in fees or other constraints.

However, it is clear that this situation cannot continue indefinitely. There will eventually be a moment of truth when parliamentarians, ministers, and heads of cabinets must be held accountable for the extent of their harm to Kuwait.

We continue to reiterate that this situation does not build a strong state that is capable of dealing with

the global changes. We are faced with multiple deficits in administration, finance, projects, infrastructure, strategic areas, and our international relations.

There is no doubt that decisive solutions are urgently needed. We must begin by dealing with the issues created by parliamentary populism, ministerial inaction, and governmental hesitation, through the correction of decisions and the amendment of laws.

This has also led to the proliferation of bodies and councils, now numbering 25 or more, most of which, if not all, serve self-interests and aim to seize administrative control. These entities often promote partisan ideologies, as seen in various laws, such as the co-education ban, negative phenomena committee or the increase in tribal and sectarian interests.

This situation has either revealed the huge corruption or the personal interests of influential individuals who have placed their allies into key institutions.

To mask these issues, they all raised the slogan of "not touching the citizen's pocket" or "preventing the removal of subsidies". Meanwhile, the consciences of some individuals were bought off with "overseas medical trips", which led to administrative collapse and the misappropriation of public funds. This has negatively impacted public trust in institutions and reinforced the belief that "connections" are the only way to fulfill one's needs.

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### Zain Great Idea opens up growth & opportunities for entrepreneurs

- Details Page 9 -

### Tech-savvy scammers find new victims in real estate deception

By P.F.X. Fernandes

Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Scammers use various fraudulent methods and schemes to deceive people. These tactics often include phishing emails, fake investment offers, lottery scams, and impersonation frauds, where they pose as legitimate businesses, officials, or friends to gain trust.

Common methods involve sending fake links, creating fraudulent offers, or using other techniques. As scams become more sophisticated, staying alert and cautious is crucial.

In one such incident, a Pakistani family fell victim to a scam, but fortunately for the family all that was lost was 100 dinars. One young member of the family, who identified himself as M.G. visited the Arab Times office to narrate what happened to him a few days ago.

The young man said the family was searching for an apartment online when he came across a TikTok video purportedly uploaded by a real estate agent who had significant following and regularly posted videos.

He messaged the agent, expressing interest in finding an apartment and singled out one apartment which his family liked, and the agent told him the apartment he had chosen had been sold out and offered another one, which according to the agent was better and much cheaper but in a different area.

The family decided to visit the said apartment in Ishbilya and, after looking around, found it to their liking since the rent (according to the agent) was only 180 dinars. The family messaged the agent to confirm their interest and the agent demanded 100 dinars down payment, sent the copy of his Civil ID -- to gain the family's trust -- and the link to pay the money.

Although the family had concerns about the possibility of being scammed, MG reasoned that since the family had

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## Day by Day

BERNARD Shaw once said: "One of the drawbacks of democracy is that you are forced to listen to the opinion of fools."

By God, I tell you, in the Arab world we have heard the opinion of fools a lot.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

### Visa peddling gang nabbed

By Munif Nayef

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: A three-member gang consisting of a Kuwaiti citizen, an Egyptian and a Lebanese has recently been arrested for their involvement in visa trading, forgery and manipulation through freight transport companies, for which they received payments.

In a press statement issued by the Ministry of Interior, it affirmed that the arrest was part of the ongoing campaign by the ministry against visa traders, based on directives from the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef.

The ministry explained that the Investigation Department of the Directorate General of Residency Affairs Investigations arrested the three individuals who were involved in visa-trading, forgery and manipulation through freight transport companies.

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### Qatar agrees to supply Kuwait with gas over 15-year period

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and QatarEnergy Company have announced the signing of a long-term agreement under which KPC will import up to three million metric tons of liquefied natural gas (LNG) over the next 15 years.

The agreement was signed on behalf of KPC by Deputy Chairman and CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah. On the Qatari side, the agreement was signed by the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, Managing Director, and CEO of QatarEnergy Eng. Saad bin Sherida Al-Kaabi.

The signing ceremony was attended by senior officials from the oil sectors

of both the State of Kuwait and the State of Qatar.

During the signing ceremony at the KPC headquarters, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah affirmed the importance of this agreement, which builds on the foundation laid by the two parties in 2020 when they signed the first agreement. That agreement saw the Qatari side supply KPC with approximately three million metric tons of liquefied natural gas for 15 years, starting in 2022.

Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah highlighted that signing the second agreement within a short period with QatarEnergy reflects the strength of the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries in all fields, particularly in the energy sector.

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Left: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the Qatari Minister of State for Energy Affairs and Managing Director and CEO of QatarEnergy, Engineer Saad bin Sherida Al-Kaabi. Right: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets the visiting Qatari Minister of State for Energy Affairs.



Amiri/PM Diwan photos

### Amir, PM receive Qatari Minister of State for Energy Affairs

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Monday the Qatari Minister of State for Energy Affairs and Managing Director and CEO of QatarEnergy, Engineer Saad bin

Sherida Al-Kaabi, on the occasion of his visit to Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Chairman and CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, Sheikh Nawaf Saud Nasser Al-Sabah, the Managing

Director of International Marketing at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, Sheikh Khaled Ahmad Faisal Al-Malik Al-Sabah, and senior state officials.

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# Cooperate, work for country, improve gov't output - Amir



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah poses for a picture with the new ministers after the oath-taking ceremony.

### New ministers take oath

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in attendance of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, received at Bayan Palace on Monday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who presented Their Highnesses with the newly-appointed ministers.

The Ministers took the constitutional oath on occasion of their appointments; Khalifa Abdullah Dhahi Ajeel Al-Askar swore in as Minister of Commerce and Industry, Abdullatif Hamed Hamad Al-Meshari as Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Dr. Nader Abdullah Mohammad Al-Jallal as Minister of

Higher Education and Scientific Research and Acting Minister of Education, and Nora Suleiman Al-Fassam, as Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs.

His Highness the Amir gave the Ministers directives on the importance of cooperation and prioritizing interest of the country, as well as improving government performance to achieve aspirations of the people.

His Highness the Amir wished them all success in their future endeavors, while His Highness the Prime Minister thanked the Amir for his trust and his directives. Attending the ceremony were also state senior officials.

CVs of new Cabinet members:

The following are brief CVs of the four new ministers who joined the Kuwaiti Cabinet, of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Ahmad Al-Sabah, on Sunday upon a decree from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

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## NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable of condolences to the Prime Minister of Lebanon Najib Mikati on the passing away of the former prime minister of Lebanon Salim Al-Hoss.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy with Lebanon and its people, and the family of the deceased. (KUNA)

GAZA: At least seven Palestinians were killed on Monday in an Israeli airstrike on a gathering on the beach in Gaza City, Palestinian security and medical sources said.

An Israeli drone targeted the gathering of Palestinians, killing seven and wounding dozens of others, the sources told Xinhua. (Xinhua)

### Minister vows to address MEW employees' multiple demands

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Coordinator of the Workers Union in the Ministry of Electricity and Water Hassan Al-Roudhan affirmed that Minister Mahmoud Boushahri is keen on approving the demands of the employees.

Al-Roudhan made the announcement in a press statement following the minister's meeting with the representatives of the union; during which they discussed the following:

- Demands of employees including the shift system
- Ways to overcome obstacles
- Establishment of the current system and the risks of changing it due to the special nature of work in various sectors of the ministry
- Implementation of occupational safety rules
- Protecting thousands of national employees from job burnout

### Renewed power cuts on the anvil

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26, (KUNA): The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy said on Monday that power cuts might occur in non-residential areas due to emergency repairs in some power-generating stations.

- Pollution and risk allowances
- Magnitude of the dangers and pollutants that employees in various facilities face; which confirm the need to approve the pollution and risk allowances
- Classification of hard work; as the union stressed the importance of classifying hard, harmful or dangerous work considering the employees deal with all

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KUNA photo

Group photo during an event to introduce and try the new frequencies.

### Kuwait to phase out 3G by June 2025

### CITRA sets up stage for 5G-A

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26, (KUNA): Kuwait's Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) introduced Monday new frequencies to prepare for the rollout of the 5G-Advanced network, which provides the world's most sophisticated communications services.

During an event to introduce and try the new frequencies, CITRA Acting Chairman Abdullah Al-Ajmi unveiled that Kuwait will phase out 3G services by June 2025 and redirect resources to enhance and expand 4G and 5G services.

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## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 03:59 Asr ..... 15:24  
Sunrise .. 05:22 Maghrib .. 18:17  
Zohr ..... 11:50 Isha ..... 19:38

# Local

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

## Weather

## Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

**By Day:** Very hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-35 km/h.

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

ing at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-40 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	47	36
Kuwait Airport	48	33

Abdaly	48	32
Bubyan	40	29
Jahra	49	33
Failaka Island	41	30
Salmiyah	39	35
Ahmadi	40	31
Jal Aliyah	48	32
Nuwaisib	42	31

## Head of each team to present results, minutes of meetings to technical panel

# MoE okays forming teams to handle employees' bonus disbursement

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Chairman of the ministry's technical committee for studying the formation of work teams and committees Mansour Al-Daihani has approved the proposal to form work teams tasked with disbursing excellent performance bonuses to employees in in-

stitutes, schools, and kindergartens for the 2023/2024 academic year.

In a letter addressed to the Undersecretary of Public Education, Al-Daihani explained that he discussed the matter during meeting No. 6/2024 of the technical committee.

The committee approved the formation of work teams across several sectors - the Public Education Sector, the Administrative Affairs and Administrative Development Sector, the Financial Affairs Sector, the

Legal Affairs Sector, and the Private and Qualitative Education Sector.

It adheres to the guidelines set by Civil Service Commission's Resolution No. 16/2011 regarding the work team system in government agencies, and its amendments under Civil Service Commission's Resolution No. 40/2016.

One work team will be formed in each educational zone under the Public Education Sector, and another will be formed under the

General Department of Private Education within the Private and Qualitative Education Sector.

The head of each team will select members, ensuring the total does not exceed 10, in accordance with Article 4 of the Civil Service

Commission's Resolution No. 16/2011. No additional members may be added without the undersecretary's approval.

The head of each team is also responsible for presenting the results, minutes of the meetings, and achievement rates to the technical committee upon completing their tasks.

The work teams are not permitted to create sub-teams or committees. The draft decision to form each team must include details

such as the name, civil number, work center, job title, and the team's assigned role.

Priority should be given to Kuwaiti members. The draft decision must be submitted to the undersecretary of the ministry for approval, with a copy also sent to the representatives of the Financial Controllers Bureau within the ministry. Also, the Public Education Sector is tasked with preparing draft decisions relevant to its domain.



Governor honors Al-Omar and Al-Shatti.

Al-Jarida photo

## Capital governor honors CID personnel

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem, the Governor of the Capital, commended the Criminal Investigations Department personnel for their dedication in maintaining security and prosecuting criminals, reports Al-Jarida daily.

During a ceremony at the Governor's Office, Brigadier General Saleh Al-Omar, Director of Capital Investigations Department, and his assistant, Colonel Abdullah Al-Shatti, were honored for their exception-

al service.

Sheikh Abdullah highlighted the importance of recognizing and rewarding security personnel for their role in combating crime and ensuring public safety.

He expressed gratitude for their efforts and hoped for continued success under the leadership of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, and His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled.

## 'Need to boost capabilities of KISR'

# KISR provides unique environment to develop science, talents: official

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26, (KUNA): The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) creates a unique environment and ground to develop science and talents in the country, said a KISR official on Monday.

Speaking to KUNA, Manager of the Energy Efficiency Technologies Program at KISR Dr. Fotouh Al-Ragom -- who recently was chosen as the 2024 Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) Energy Managers Hall of Fame Inductee -- said that this honor reflected Kuwaiti scientists' talents in the global arena.

She affirmed her great pride in being chosen by the American association, noting that the selection was based on her achievements in the field of energy management whether in the field of research or invention.



Dr Al-Ragom

Dr. Al-Ragom, who has many accolades including a 2013 research on production hydrogen via separating water molecules through chemical means -- indicated that KISR played a crucial role in allowing her to pursue science excellence through research and experimentation.

Such support would help in finding solutions to challenges facing the region and world within energy, water, and environment protection, which in turn would contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), she added.

KISR had contributed immensely in decreasing the state's financial burdens especially within power generation and lessening electrical grid overload in Kuwait, she said.

Dr. Al-Ragom stressed the need to boost the capabilities of KISR, taking strategic steps to increase the institute's budget and financially support Research and Development (RnD) budgets through public and private sector involvement and contribution.

## MPW completes design of project

# Special Education Schools Complex soon

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Ministry of Public Works has announced that the Special Education Schools Complex project for students with disabilities will be launched in October.

Sources revealed the ministry will implement the project on behalf of the Construction Projects Sector in its education counterpart for a period of four years.

Sources said the complex will be established in Egaila, serving Ahmadi and Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorates with an area of 100,000 square meters. Sources disclosed the complex will include a building for education, rehabilitation and treatment of speech difficulties; another for physical therapy with swimming pools, playgrounds; and an administrative building.

Sources affirmed the project was included in the ministry's budget for fiscal 2006/2007 -- around 18 years ago, with the aim of establishing the complex in three areas: Hawally, Egaila and Jahra with a total area of 430 square meters. Sources said the

launching of the complex in Egaila will be followed by the launching of the same in other areas.

Sources confirmed the ministry has completed the design of the complex, which is considered one of the important projects for students with special needs -- boys and girls with autism, Down syndrome, physical disability, mental disability, deafness, muteness, and visual disability.

Sources stressed that the complex will be equipped with the best and most advanced technologies in the interest of students with disabilities.

Sources stated that the project is in line with the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which mandates the government to provide facilities for this category, including educational and educational services.

Once the complex is established in the three governorates; it will serve more than 8,600 students with disabilities, while making the public treasury save KD 174,007,638 of fees paid to schools that provided educational services for students registered at the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA) over the last five years, sources concluded.

# PAM faces criticism as over 30K domestic workers seek transfers

'Move underscores persistent imbalances within labor market'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Public Authority for Manpower is once again under scrutiny for its management of Kuwait's labor market, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Over 30,000 domestic workers have taken advantage of a new transfer decision, with expectations that this number may reach 40,000 before the deadline of September 12.

Bassam Al-Shammari, an expert in domestic labor affairs, highlighted that the surge in transfer requests underscores persistent imbalances within the labor market.

This situation reflects longstanding issues with the regulatory framework that has restricted worker recruitment, leading to economic sector disruptions and significant workforce shortages.

The transfer decision, issued by Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef, allows domestic workers to move to the private sector under specific conditions. The high volume of workers seeking this transfer demonstrates a critical need for labor in the private sector and exposes flaws in the Public Authority for Manpower's procedures.

Al-Shammari noted several positives of the decision, including addressing the severe labor shortage and reducing disputes among domestic workers, which in turn alleviates pressure on expatriate workers' shelters.

He also advocated for extending the transfer period or making it permanent to better address the labor market's needs and support Kuwait's vision of becoming a global financial and commercial hub.

However, the transfer of such a large number of workers risks exacerbating existing shortages in the domestic sector.

Al-Shammari has called on government agencies to expedite agreements with labor-exporting countries to mitigate potential negative impacts on the market and ensure a steady supply of workers.

The decision, effective from July 14 to September 12, allows workers to transfer with the employer's consent after one year of service, subject to a fee.

## Dust wave alert ... Mol urges caution

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior on Monday urged citizens and residents to exercise caution amid the ongoing dust wave and adverse weather conditions affecting visibility on several roads across the country.

In a statement, the General Department of Security Relations and Media advised the public to contact the Emergency Hotline (112) for any security or traffic-related assistance, available 24/7. The ministry also reminded seagoers to reach out to the Coast Guard operations at (1880888) in case of emergencies while at sea.

## 'Excellent bonus'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The General Administration of Customs has announced that it has finalized the list of employees eligible for the "excellent work" bonuses for 2023, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Following directives from First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef, the lists of the employees have been sent to the Central Bank and the money will be deposited into the respective accounts of the beneficiaries.



Dr. Al-Awadhi poses for a photo with nutritionists.

KUNA photo

## Dr. Al-Awadhi highlights vital role of nutritionists

The Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, has expressed his appreciation for the significant contributions of nutritionists, emphasizing the importance of strengthening cooperation to achieve shared objectives in improving healthcare standards, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This statement was made during his meeting with the Nutrition Workers Union from both govern-

ment and private sectors. The meeting was also attended by the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs, Dr. Al-Mundhir Al-Hasawi.

During the discussions, perspectives were exchanged on matters related to the field of therapeutic nutrition, and the crucial role nutritionists play in promoting community health and preventing diseases was underscored.

## \$15.24 million initiative to address traffic and safety issues

# MPW focuses on major road maintenance amid outcry

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Ministry of Public Works is progressing with substantial road and street maintenance in the Qurtoba region as part of a major infrastructure overhaul, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This initiative, led by Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, aims to significantly enhance the infrastructure of the Yarmouk and Qurtoba regions.

The first phase of the contract focuses on upgrading essential services, including sewage, rainwater drainage, telephone, and street lighting networks, alongside comprehensive road repairs. The value of this maintenance contract for the Qurtoba region is 15.24 million dinars.

Recently, the residents have voiced concerns about delays in road repair work, particularly on Al-Salmi Road, where safety of commuters has been the main issue.

Moreover, the high traffic volume on Kabad Road has led to frequent accidents, further compounding the



Maintenance work ongoing in Qurtoba.

Al-Jarida photo

urgency for repairs.

The complainants have been lamenting the deteriorating conditions on streets in Al-Daiya and Bneid Al-Qar, as well as hazardous situations on roads on bridges on major highways.

The Ministry of Public Works has responded by emphasizing its com-

mitment to expediting the completion of maintenance projects and addressing these critical issues.

Efforts are underway to finalize and sign contracts for further radical road maintenance across the governorate, aiming to improve road safety and infrastructure throughout the country.

## MoH launches year-long awareness campaign

# Ministry emphasizes critical role of family support, oversight, school involvement to combat drug use

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Ministry of Health has launched a comprehensive year-long awareness campaign under the slogan "The evidence is clear... let us invest in prevention" to address the urgent issue of drug addiction, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The campaign is spearheaded by the Health Promotion Department, which will organize a health exhibition this weekend featuring medical consultations, public Q&A sessions, and distribution of educational materials and brochures about drug addiction.

The department is also conducting a public survey to assess awareness levels across different age groups regarding drug addiction. This initiative aims to gauge soci-

etal understanding and improve preventive measures. The ministry has highlighted Kuwait's ongoing efforts to prevent the entry of narcotic substances into the country.

It acknowledged that drug addiction is a chronic condition affecting the brain and behavior, making it challenging for individuals to control their drug use. The psychological effects of addiction include intense cravings, depression, impaired memory, and mental disorders such as hallucinations and delusions.

The complications associated with drug addiction include viral hepatitis, HIV, complications during pregnancy, and fetal deformities.

The treatment stages include de-

toxication, managing withdrawal symptoms, psychological counseling, and attending both individual and group therapy sessions.

The ministry emphasized the critical role of family support, parental oversight, and school involvement in combating drug addiction. It noted that addiction often stems from psychological instability, poor companionship, family dysfunction, and weak religious faith, leading to emotional and psychological failures.

Additionally, the campaign underscores the dangers of alcohol and drug use, including damage to brain cells, impaired memory, and increased risk of hepatitis C and HIV from needle use.





## 'Understanding need for trust reassessment vital'

"THE positive engagement with my articles, particularly those that delve into social and psychological themes, has been remarkable. I often turn to these topics for a change of pace and to step away from the complexities of politics and societal issues intertwined with national concerns," columnist and former deputy director-general of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) **Iqbal Al-Ahmed** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"The saying 'Expand the circle of knowledge and reduce the circle of trust' is one that resonates deeply, especially as we grow older.

"At a certain point in life, each person must decide when to embrace this stage, identifying the new key figures in their life and charting a fresh course for relationships and interactions.

"When does one reach this phase? When does it become clear that past connections and interactions, whether close or distant, need reevaluation?

"Life's experiences and relationships provide the wisdom to reassess these connections, driven by shifts in priorities, interests, and trustworthiness.

"While it's natural to expand one's social circle at any stage -- especially in later life -- it is equally important to shrink the circle of trust accordingly.

"This process involves carefully selecting who remains in your life, based on whether they still deserve your trust.

"Over the years, some people may have held your trust, but time and changing circumstances might reveal the need to reposition them in your life. This distancing, though sometimes difficult, can actually bring greater peace and comfort.

"Though this phase may feel harsh at times, it ultimately leads to a more fulfilling life. Just as programs and projects require periodic review to ensure their success, people too need to reprogram their relationships, realigning them according to their psychological, familial, and emotional well-being."



Iqbal Al-Ahmed

### Also:

"Kuwait recently made headlines with reports of missing out on global initiatives to resolve the country's electricity crisis. These reports highlight the neglect of offers from companies proposing independent supplier systems to provide energy at no cost to the state," columnist **Talal Abdul Karim Al-Arab** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"The proposals, primarily commercial, involved selling energy and water at competitive prices lower than current costs, aimed at addressing the nation's urgent energy needs.

"Unfortunately, despite their importance, these initiatives remain shelved, reflecting a recurring pattern in Kuwait, known for missing out on significant investment and development opportunities through delays and indecision.

"This news, if accurate, is both disappointing and concerning. The repeated rejection or stalling of beneficial investment and development proposals, whether from local or international sources, raises serious questions.

"It casts doubt on the motives of those who blocked these opportunities, as rejecting initiatives that clearly benefit the country is neither logical nor in the national interest.

"It suggests the influence of powerful, corrupt figures, whose vested interests impede the nation's progress and the implementation of solutions to pressing issues.

"Given the significance of this issue, it is crucial that the relevant authorities clarify the truth behind these offers.

"Speculation has also emerged that some of the companies involved may be fictitious and were introduced by a former, well-known MP, who allegedly has a questionable reputation and recent legal judgments against him.

"However, if the offers are genuine, the authorities must investigate why they were rejected. In such a case, dismissing these proposals would be a grave disservice to the country."

"The recent power outage affecting multiple areas in Kuwait has raised several questions. The Ministry of Electricity attributed the issue to a change in the specifications of the feed gas by the National Oil Company, which allegedly pumped liquefied gas into some stations.

"On the other hand, the National Oil Company placed the blame on the Ministry of Electricity, claiming that it had cut off the cooling water supply to its units.

"The situation presents a perplexing problem, as liquefied gas is typically used in low-pressure gas fuel systems, while all power stations in Kuwait -- except Shuaiba -- operate on high-pressure gas.

"This raises the question of how low-pressure liquid gas reached these stations and why alternative fuels, which are available, were not used.

"The incident cannot be brushed aside, and there is a pressing need for an official technical statement to clarify the matter. The explanations given so far do not fully account for the failure, which could be due to maintenance issues, delays in building new stations, or, worst of all, inefficiency.

"The situation reflects broader concerns about missed opportunities, persistent failures, and delays in completing critical projects in Kuwait. It is essential that the right officials are appointed to the right positions, ensuring

that such issues do not recur."



"A new yet familiar phenomenon has become widespread across several areas of the State of Kuwait, causing inconvenience for citizens in their once-comfortable neighborhoods. It is the phenomenon of neglected vehicles," columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"These vehicles are abandoned by their owners for some reason or the other. They are often found in the parking lots of mosques, schools and hospitals all across Kuwait. They accumulate and crowd the spaces.

"Dirt yards are also cluttered with abandoned vehicles. Some trucks have been transformed into warehouses in front of shops. This is particularly prevalent in industrial areas, such as Shuaikh Industrial Area, where many cars are left under the pretense of requiring repair. They occupy parking spaces and streets, thereby causing difficulties for those in need of these spaces.

"In addition, there is also the phenomenon of using private cars for passenger transport without proper licensing. They stop anywhere and everywhere without any fear or shame, and are parked haphazardly without any regard for regulations. This raises the question - What exactly is the situation?

"To be fair, the municipality is working tirelessly day and night to remove abandoned cars after issuing warnings or placing stickers. For instance, municipal vehicles with sound and image warnings have been active for seven consecutive days in Khaitan but still many abandoned cars remain before the team moves on to other areas.

"There needs to be an urgent, effective, and practical solution to deal with these abandoned vehicles, which have encroached upon residential areas and caused inconvenience to citizens. It is not uncommon for citizens to find unknown cars parked in front of their homes.

"If a tripartite committee was formed to pursue violators of residency laws, then why not form a similar committee to address the issue of abandoned cars? Such a committee could focus on removing, confiscating, crushing, or selling these vehicles for the benefit of the state. It could also be tasked with inspecting and cleaning all areas of Kuwait, as the municipality alone cannot tackle this issue effectively. Despite citizens' efforts to report abandoned cars, it remains a significant problem that directly affects them.

"We have repeatedly warned about the 'soft invasion' that we are exposed to, and has increasingly encroached upon our living spaces. Unfortunately, there seems to be a lack of effective response to this pressing issue.

"For your information, the neglected cars that have made God's vast earth narrow for us are the result of the soft invasion."



"The Salmi Road, also known as the 'Road of Death', has not changed. This road, the state of which continues to be miserable, was intended to meet international standards similar to those in developed countries or even those less wealthy than us that borrow funds from us to improve their infrastructure for their citizens' comfort, while our own people continue to endure great hardship due to our poorly maintained roads," columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"We must reiterate that this dangerous road continues to claim lives. Even though we are aware that the ultimate fate of those who have died is in the hands of the Almighty, this neglected road, on which many dangerous and fatal accidents have repeatedly occurred, has become a relentless cause of many tragedies.

"Despite these many incidents, the authorities remain unresponsive. Almost everyday, we have been witnessing severe and increasingly deadly accidents. A recent accident resulted in the tragic death of three young men, who were in the prime of their lives, when their vehicle collided with a truck. We do not know who is at fault but what we know is that the road itself is the primary culprit behind these fatal accidents. There is no power or strength except with God.

"Oh Council of Ministers, I urge you to fear God Almighty and address this matter urgently. With the current condition of this road, we cannot delay any longer. It has suffered severe damage from heat, lack of maintenance, and neglect, compounded by summer winds and the accumulation of dust. As a result, the road is now surrounded by dangers from every direction, which pose a threat to the road users.

"The issue is not just a matter of repair. It requires all state agencies to cooperate to save us from the dangerous 'Road of Death'. The Ministry of Interior must enforce stricter controls, the municipality should focus on cleaning and removing dust and other obstacles on the road, the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources should expedite the planting of protective trees, the General Traffic Department should increase road monitoring, and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry should attract investors to establish rest stops along the route to break its lonely environment. In addition, the Ministry of Oil should grant licenses for new fuel stations on either side of the road to revive this isolated area. If these actions are not taken, we will continue to hear about tragic accidents on this road on a daily basis. May God be our helper."

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



The five accused with the seized contraband.

Mol photo

## Customs officers among 5 held for smuggling 60 kilos of drugs

448 wanted persons arrested, 56,069 traffic violations issued in 8 days

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: A network of five individuals, including two Customs officers, who have been smuggling drugs into the country from Europe via Kuwait International Airport, has been exposed and dismantled. During the operation, 60 kilograms of marijuana and hashish, with an estimated market value of KD 750,000, were seized, reports Al-Anba daily.**

The Ministry of Interior revealed that the International Anti-Narcotics Department of the Criminal Security Sector had obtained information about this international drug-smuggling network, and uncovered. Out of the five suspects, two work as customs officers at the airport and they had exploited their positions to carry out the drug-smuggling activity.

The suspects were referred with the seized items to the Narcotics Prosecution for necessary legal action.

The Ministry of Interior said, "The hand of justice will reach anyone who dares to harm the security and stability of the country without exception".

It highlighted that this operation reflects the ongoing intensive efforts of the Criminal Security Sector to combat drug trafficking and thwart all smuggling attempts, irrespective of the methods or strategies employed.

The ministry affirmed that the vigilance and readiness of the Drug Control General Department played a crucial role in the success of the operation.



**448 wanted persons arrested:** The security campaigns carried out by the Rescue Police General Department and General Traffic Department in the Interior Ministry for eight days resulted in the arrest of 448 persons wanted by law for committing various crimes; recording of 56,069 traffic violations; and seizure of 181 vehicles wanted by law for being used in committing crimes, while 309 vehicles and 108 motorcycles were taken to the garage for impounded vehicles, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Traffic Affairs and Operations Sector at the ministry disclosed that the security campaigns conducted from Aug 17-22 on the main and secondary roads throughout the country led to the impounding of 299 vehicles and 108 motorcycles; recording of 44,178 traffic violations; seizure of 70 vehicles used in theft and other crimes; arrest of 38 persons wanted by law for absconding, expired residency, failure to present valid identification documents and other violations; detention of 48 persons as a precautionary measure and referral of 24 juveniles to the Juvenile Prosecution.

Meanwhile, the statistics of the Operations Unit at the General Traffic Department revealed that it received 1,789 reports and dealt with 897 accidents -- 733 collision and 164 crash accidents.

In addition, the campaigns carried out by rescue police from Aug 18-24 resulted in 26 operations of confiscating suspected narcotic substances; arrest of 410 persons wanted by law for criminal conviction, absconding and failure to present valid identification documents; impounding of 111 vehicles wanted by law; recording of 11,891 traffic violations and impounding of 10 vehicles for various reasons.

Moreover, the emergency police controlled 14 fights and carried out 392 humanitarian assistance operations.



**'Intentionally burnt young girl's hand':** A woman has lodged a report at Sulaibiya Police Station, claiming that the brother of her ex-husband intentionally burned the hand of her four-year-old daughter, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source revealed that the woman submitted a medical certificate to prove her claim. The source quoted the woman as saying that her daughter was at her grandmother's house in Sulaibiya and when the daughter returned home, she noticed traces of assault and burns on the girl's body. She thinks the ex-husband's brother -- a Bedoun -- deliberately burned the hand of the child. She then went to Jahra Hospital to document what happened to the child, the source added.

As per the directive of the Attorney General's representative, a felony case was registered. Investigations are ongoing to verify the report and arrest the suspect once proven guilty.



**Expat files deception case:** A fraud and deception case has been filed against the expatriate owner of a vegetable shop for denying his relative's partnership in the business and refusing to return the borrowed capital, claiming a lack of documentation to prove the agreement, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, an expatriate went to a police station in Hawally Governorate and explained that his relative had asked him to be a business partner in a vegetable shop that he wanted to open, because he was suffering from financial difficulties, as he had been dismissed from work. He agreed to be a partner in the business and gave him KD 3,000. Eventually when the business flourished and his relative's financial situation improved, he asked for a cut from the profits. However, the shop owner denied the partnership, claiming there were no documents to prove the partnership, and refused to return the capital amount.

The victim said since the amount was given in cash, there was no proof that his relative had borrowed the money.

A case of fraud and deception was filed, and the suspect was summoned for questioning but he denied the allegations. Hawally detectives conducted investigations, which later revealed that the suspect had lied about the partnership, as he wanted to monopolize the business after it became successful. He had also disavowed the person who had offered him a helping hand at a time when he needed someone to help him. Necessary measures will be taken regarding the case.

## PAY completes employees list

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26:** Deputy Director General of the Support Services Sector at the Public Authority for Youth (PAY) Dr. Mishaal Al-Janoubi confirmed that the authority has completed the list of its employees with above high school qualifications, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a press statement, Al-Janoubi disclosed this procedure is in compliance with the circular of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for government agencies to submit the list of employees -- Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis -- with the abovementioned qualifications, including the relevant information.

He stressed that the authority is always willing to cooperate with various State institutions in the interest of the public and to contribute to the advancement of the wheel of development.



One of the abandoned cars being lifted on a trailer.

Al-Anba photo

### Police patrol vehicle damaged in accident

## Municipality removes 19 abandoned vehicles, places stickers on 86 others

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26:** The joint security campaign carried out by Ahmadi Security Directorate and the Kuwait Municipality branch in Ahmadi Governorate resulted in the removal of 19 abandoned vehicles, while warning stickers were placed on 86 other abandoned vehicles in the governorate, reports Al-Anba daily.

A number of Ahmadi security and non-commissioned officers participated in the campaign under the supervision of General Supervisor of the Sanitation Unit in the Ahmadi Municipality branch Dr. Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mujawb and in the presence of inspectors Mohammad Qunais Al-Hajri and Shift C head Abdulaziz Mutalib.



**Patrol police car damaged:** A vehicle driven by a Bedoun resident collided with a police patrol vehicle affiliated with the rescue unit of the Ministry of Interior, resulting in damages to the pa-

rol vehicle, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, a policeman reported the accident to the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior, explaining that a luxury Japan-made vehicle driven by a 1986-born Bedoun resident unintentionally collided with the patrol vehicle, resulting in damages to the patrol vehicle. A case was filed in this regard.



**MoCI targets car rental offices:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, has launched an inspection campaign targeting car rental offices to ensure compliance with laws and safeguard consumer rights, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The campaign has already uncovered several violations, such as the lack of a visible price list and the practice of forcing customers to rent vehicles only on specific days.

**WEDDINGS, UPTO 140**

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# Gov't revises remote area allowance & leave policies

Adjustments linked to employment start date



A thousand Yemeni female students benefit from Idris School, which was established and equipped with Kuwaiti funding.



KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: According to the current regulations, remote area allowance for employees is calculated from the actual date of their commencement of work at a government agency, and not from the date of their appointment. This only applies to employees who reside outside the approved areas for the allowance, reports Al-Anba daily quoting informed sources.

They explained that this is more apparent when applied to employees in government schools, who often begin their actual work on a date different from their appointment date. The value of the remote area allowance can vary based on the actual start date of employment.

Regarding the review of laws and regulations governing government employees' leave, in accordance with the Cabinet's mandate, other sources explained that the four controls implemented by the Bureau during the summer have successfully achieved stability and organization for both employees and the work environment. These controls include:

1. Employees must submit their leave requests to their direct manager by June 12 at the latest.
2. Requests should specify the leave duration, start, and end dates.
3. The direct manager is responsible for preparing a schedule to ensure that the number of employees on leave does not exceed 50 percent of the total employees during any given period.

These controls benefit all categories of employees by meeting work requirements and ensuring continuation of services for visitors in a smooth manner as well as avoiding undue pressure being placed on the remaining staff and preventing disruptions to citizens' interests.

## Kuwait's Rahma Charity opens Idris School for girls in Yemen

ADEN, Aug 26, (KUNA): Rahma Charity opened Idris School for girls in Yemen, Marib city, with total cost of KD 330,000 donated through Kuwait by your side campaign.

Speaking to KUNA on Monday, CEO of Tawasul human development establishment, Raed Ibrahim, described the school as a two-story building with some 12 classrooms and facilities built over a 4,500 square meters land plot.

The project, overseen by Rahma International, holds a capacity of 1,000

student split in two periods, morning shift and night shift, he explained, adding that they currently working on adding another floor to make room for more students.

Education deputy minister Ali Al-Abab commended the humanitarian role of Kuwait, its active support and sustainable projects.

He stated that the school will provide great opportunities for young girls whether refugees or hosting community, to escape woes of illiteracy.



Al-Jarida photo Group photo during the blood donation campaign organized by the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.

## AI-Mutla'a electricity applications open

### Blood donation drive draws strong support

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Public Relations and Media Department at the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy organized a blood donation campaign entitled, "Small Drop ... Huge Life", in cooperation with the Central Blood Bank.

Director of the Public Relations Department Ahmed Al-Jafira affirmed that the ministry is keen on organizing a blood donation campaign every year with the participation of its employees in order to support the Central Blood Bank and contribute to preserving lives.

He added: "A huge number of employees donated blood and the campaign will continue until Aug 29."

Director of the Hospitality and Media Department Aqab Mujbil praised the huge turnout of employees who donated blood. He said the ministry set up a special corner for the female employees to donate blood.

In another development, two 11 kV sub-feeders in Jabriya C main transformer went out of service recently, resulting in power outage in some parts of Block 8 in Jabriya. The emergency teams took the necessary measures to restore electricity as soon as possible.

In addition, the ministry has announced the start of receiving applications for connecting electricity to Mutla'a

## Municipal inspection results in 60 violations, 75 ads removed

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Audit and Follow-up Department for Municipal Services at the Kuwait Municipality branch in the Capital Governorate carried out an inspection tour, which resulted in the issuance of 60 violation citations, and removal of 75 violating advertisements along the streets and in public squares.

The Public Relations Department at the Municipality disclosed that the violations uncovered during the inspection include the failure to renew or maintain the advertisement, setting up or adding an introductory advertisement for the activity without a license, and utilizing spaces without a license.

Residential City, District N5, parts of plots 1, 3 and 4 -- a total of 474 plots, in coordination with the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW).

## Over 1,000 transactions processed

### Al-Mutairi lauds PADA employees for efficient handling of disability cases

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Director General of the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA) Al-Humaidi Al-Mutairi says the authority Sunday received over 1,000 transactions from people with disabilities.

He detailed the transactions as follows: the counter for social security and housing processed 180 cases, the counter for financial allocations 120 cases, the counter for care workers 125 cases, the counter for medical records 253 cases, and the counter for education 210 cases. Hall 2 processed 280 cases of transactions ready for receipt, including traffic plates, disability IDs, disability proof certificates, work reduction, and other related matters.

During a tour with the Deputy Director General for Psychological, Social, and Medical Services and Welfare Homes and the Deputy Director General for Financial and Administrative Affairs Amer Al-Enezi, Al-Mutairi praised the efforts exerted by the PADA's employees, and their dedication in managing the influx of visitors from people with disabilities and their families, which exceeded the daily capacity.

He also inspected the customer lounges and studied the work mechanism, confirming that the lounges are now operating at full capacity following a temporary shutdown of the automated system for several days due to a power outage.



Al-Seyassah photo Director General of the Public Authority for the Disabled, Al-Humaidi Al-Mutairi, while inspecting the progress of work.

## PAHW activates 23 substations to serve 870 plots in Al-Mutla'a

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has announced the activation of 23 power substations in the N4 district of Al-Mutlaa Residential City, in cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This step will contribute to providing electricity to 870 residential plots.

PAHW revealed that electricity has been supplied to dozens of plots ahead of the scheduled contract deadline.

The authority highlighted that the project for extending cables to the main and sub-electrical stations for the residential plots is progressing well, with a completion rate of 14.7%.

Furthermore, the work on the plots was completed earlier than the contractual deadline, which was originally set for December 2025.

The authority added that it will start receiving applications for electricity connection certificates from eligible citizens through the Sahel government app to complete the process of connecting electricity in coordination with the Ministry of Electricity.

## Over 17,000 students admitted

### PAAET releases admission results for upcoming 2024/2025 academic year

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Dr. Hassan Muhammad Al-Fajjam, Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, has confirmed the release of admission results for the Authority's colleges, institutes, and training courses for the 2024/2025 academic year, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The announcement includes acceptance for both the first and second semesters, with a total of 17,171 students being admitted.

Dr. Al-Fajjam congratulated the students who have been accepted and wished them success in their studies.

The Dean of Admission and Registration, Prof. Dr. Fawzi Abdul Latif Al-Dokhi, explained that all candidates who met the admission criteria were accepted according to the Authority's regulations and the approved basic admission plan.

Prof. Dr. Al-Dokhi noted that the distribution of students was based on the approved budget, minimum acceptance percentages, and their preferences for specializations.

Personal interviews are required for final admission, scheduled for Sept 16 and 17, 2024, for the College of Basic Education



Al-Jarida photo Public Authority for Applied Education and Training building.

and the College of Health Sciences. The College of Nursing will conduct interviews on September 17, 2024.

The accepted students are also required to take an English language placement test, with sessions held from Sept 17 to 19, 2024, at the College of Business Studies and the College of Nursing.

The female students at the College of Basic Education will receive a questionnaire via the Times platform to select their preferred study building.



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## Collaboration promises enhanced job prospects, hands-on experience for students

# PAAET, Kuwait Airways launch new Aviation Sciences program

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26, (KUNA): The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) and Kuwait Airways signed a cooperation protocol on Sunday to create a new academic program for graduate students called Aviation Sciences and Air Transport at the Higher Institute of Communications and Navigation.

Director General of PAAET, Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam, emphasized in a press statement following the signing the authority's commitment to strengthening cooperation and joint integration with various state agencies and expanding labor markets by creating programs and specializations for high school graduates.

Al-Fajjam explained that the aim of signing this protocol is to provide these agencies with highly professional national workers and to create a new diploma program called Aviation Sciences and Air Services, which will be offered in the second semester of the 2024/2025 academic year at the Higher Institute of Communications and Navigation.

He added that this cooperation marks a distinguished beginning with Kuwait Airways and demonstrates the authority's ongoing efforts to open new opportunities for high school graduates by creating new programs and specializations that will contribute to advancing development and progress in Kuwait.

For his part, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Airways, Abdul Mohsen Al-Faqan, stated in a similar statement that this cooperation includes implementing field training for students at the company's operational facilities. He indicated that Kuwait Airways will provide the Higher Institute of Communications and Navigation with all modern technologies to keep pace with the latest technical developments in aviation sciences and air transport.

Al-Faqan further explained that the management of Kuwait Airways will organize and prepare programs, arrange visits, and hold workshops to exchange technical expertise and conduct joint scientific and applied research in areas that will

serve the development of specializations between the two parties.

He added that Kuwait Airways will also create job opportunities for students and graduates by providing them with training courses in various operational sectors, such as destination planning, shipping, sales, and operations, preparing them to become company members according to specific conditions.

Deputy Director General of Training at PAAET, Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, stated that PAAET is in the process of creating three other new programs to strengthen Kuwaiti cadres with a group of distinguished individuals in various fields in the labor market.



Group photo during the ceremony.

KUNA photo



Part of the inspection tour of Al-Jahra Specialized Dental Center.

KUNA photo

## Enhance maritime and trade links

### AD Ports, TASNEEF open offices in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26, (KUNA): The Abu Dhabi Ports and the Emirates Classification Society (TASNEEF) announced on Monday, the opening of two offices in Kuwait: (SAFEEN-Kuwait) and (TASNEEF Maritime) to enhance maritime transportation cooperation, facilitate trade flow and develop logistical services in region.

On this occasion, UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi said, in a ceremony held by the UAE embassy, that the opening of the two offices aims to achieve the vision and aspiration of wise leaderships of both countries.

He continued that this step is meant to enhance cooperation and integration in various fields and strengthen economic and investment relations by improving the connectivity between local, regional and international markets.

Al-Neyadi praised the efforts of Abu Dhabi Ports Group and TASNEEF in entering Kuwaiti market and taking advantage of the benefits that this market offers, providing distinguished and diverse services to local, regional, and international clients and traders.

Noting that (SAFEEN-Kuwait) of-

ice is part of AD Ports Group, which is a major driver of global trade. Industry and logistics services, as it includes key business sectors such as ports, economic cities, free zones, maritime and shipping services, as well as logistics and digital services.

With SAFEEN as the first office in AD Group in the Gulf Cooperation Council states, he mentioned that the group has expanded its global markets, opening in 50 countries with a portfolio of more than 33 international ports and terminals.

He said that UAE hosts many Kuwaiti companies invested in various sectors, as UAE's markets are open to increase these investments with the private sector in Kuwait.

He expressed his wishes to advance the maritime and logistics sector to new levels of prosperity, progress, and leadership, which represents the backbone of global trade.

On his part, the Executive Vice President of the Emirates Classification Society, Waleed Al Tamimi, said in press release that Kuwait is the second market to enter after Indonesia, highlighting Kuwait's importance as a fertile ground for opportunities and achievements.

The Abu Dhabi Ports Group was established in 2006 and specializes in managing and operating local and international ports.

## Direct Aid Society conducts 400 eye surgeries in Yemen

ADEN, Aug 26, (KUNA): The Kuwait-based Direct Aid Society has conducted 400 eye surgeries for patients in Al-Makha city in the southern Yemeni governorate of Taiz.

In a statement to KUNA on Sunday, the regional director for the Direct Aid office in Yemen, Ali Bteit, said the society conducted 400 glau-

coma surgeries, lens implantation.

The Kuwaiti society's doctors also examined about 3,078 patients and they distributed over a thousand awareness-raising brochures on eye diseases prevention.

The society also provided medicines to 1,200 patients and distributed free sunglasses to 1,210 others.

## Amendments needed

Continued from Page 1

Today, after exiting this dark tunnel to move forward and enable ministers to effectively address their responsibilities, we must consider increasing their number so that each minister can focus on the challenging task of reform.

On the other hand, according to the Constitution, increasing the number of ministers requires a simple constitutional amendment. It is also essential to review the existing bodies and councils. Those suitable for serving the country should be assigned a dedicated minister, while others should be abolished.

It is unreasonable for these institutions to be managed by ministers, some of whom have a large ministry but whose primary responsibilities lie elsewhere, simply because the constitution imposes restrictive limits.

Decision-makers must consider this issue carefully. Kuwait needs more than 20 or 25 ministers who were selected with great care from among specialists who are not tainted by any form of corruption, sectarianism, tribalism, or familial bias.

When we highlighted in our previous editorial that the ministerial position is unstable, it was based on factual evidence and poor choices. The "work silently" predicament is a clear example.

Over the next four years, as directed by His Highness, ministers must establish themselves in their roles, and their achievements should become evident starting today.

The task at hand is to implement previously established plans, amend outdated laws, and get rid of the legacy of parliamentary corruption and self-interest that has long plagued Kuwait.

## Cooperate, work

Continued from Page 1

**Khalifa Abdullah Dhahi Ajeel Al-Askar**, Minister of Commerce and Industry

- Served as Financial Apparatus Inspection chief since 2019
- Capital Market Authority Board of Commissioners member from April 2014 to September 2019
- Chairman of OSOS Holding Group from May 2013 to April 2014
- Chairman of Al-Waseet Financial Business Company from November 2008 to April 2014
- Served as a member of the Board of Trustees in a number of private sector firms dealing with financial business from 2003 to 2014

**Abdullatif Hamed Hamad Al-Meshari**, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs

- Holds a BA in Architecture from



**Abdullatif Hamed Al-Meshari**  
Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs



**Dr. Nader Abdullah Al-Jallal**  
Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Acting Minister of Education

the University of South California and a Master's degree in Architecture from Harvard University

- Served as advisor to the Kuwaiti Cabinet
- Deputy chief of the Kuwaiti Cabinet's Housing and Urban Development committee
- Kuwaiti Cabinet's Grand Development Projects higher committee member from 2014 to 2017
- Member of jury panel at Boston Architectural College in 2008 and at Kuwaiti University from 2010-present
- Member of technical team overseeing Kuwait's Silk City development project

**Dr. Nader Abdullah Mohammad Al-Jallal**, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Acting Minister of Education

- Obtained a PhD degree in organic chemistry from the University of Reading in England in 1984
- Got a Master's degree from the Kuwait University in non-organic chemistry in 1981
- Holds a Bachelor's degree in chemistry from the Kuwait University in 1979
- Served as president of the Kuwait University from 2002 to 2006
- Secretary general of the Kuwait University from 1999 to 2002
- Dean of the College of Graduate Studies at the Kuwait University from 1994 to 1999
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training in 1999
- Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the College of Science at the Kuwait University in 1996
- Member of the Board of Directors and Secretary of the Kuwait Chemical Society from 1987 to 1992
- Head of the Chemistry Department at the Kuwait University from 1991 to 1992
- Visiting professor in the Chemistry Department at the University of Bahrain from 1990 to 1991

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

■ Holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Kuwait University

■ Has a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering and Systems with grade of honor from the Kuwait University

■ Occupied several leading posts in the financial, banking and investment sectors

■ Worked for several government and private entities such as the Public Investment Authority, the National Bank of Kuwait, the National Investment Company and Boubyan Bank

■ The first Kuwaiti woman to obtain the approval from the Central Bank of Kuwait to occupy the post of the Head of Strategic Planning at Boubyan Bank at the level of Kuwaiti banks due to her extensive investment experience of over 25 years

■ Board member of many local and regional companies

■ She managed deals in the private equity sector and helped establish companies worth one billion US dollars.

## Minister vows

Continued from Page 1

types of danger and hard work in all climatic conditions

— Resumption of the payment of engineering or caliber bonus to deserving employees

Al-Roudhan praised the minister's willingness to protect the rights of employees, address their demands, and prioritize them in order to develop the work system.

He also expressed his pride and appreciation for the vital role that national workers play; as they work round the clock to produce electricity and water, in addition to the tremendous efforts they exerted during the electricity crisis.

Furthermore, the ministry has hinted on the possibility of cutting off power in certain parts of some non-residential areas due to the emergency repair of some power generation units.



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



**Khalifa Abdullah Ajeel Al-Askar**  
Minister of Commerce and Industry

KUNA photos

## Amir, PM

Continued from Page 1

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also received the Qatari Minister of State for Energy Affairs and Managing Director and CEO of QatarEnergy, Eng. Saad Al-Kaabi.

The meeting was attended by the Head of the Prime Minister Diwan Abdulaziz Al-Dakhil, the Ambassador of Qatar to Kuwait Ali bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud, Deputy Chairman and CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Sheikh Nawaf Saud Nasser Al-Sabah and Managing Director of International Marketing at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Sheikh Khaled Ahmad Faisal Al-Malik Al Sabah.

## Tech-savvy

Continued from Page 1

seen the apartment in person and the agent had shared the PACI number, it was unlikely to be fraudulent. He proceeded to pay the 100 dinars down payment through the link.

The agent fixed the appointment the next day to pay the rest of the money and meet the landlord in person -- which was never going to happen.

Nonetheless, the next day the family contacted the agent before going to Ishbiliya, and the latter claimed the landlord was not available at the moment and insisted the rest of the money also should be paid via the link before finalizing the deal.

Instead of complying with his demand, MG and his family decided to meet the landlord. When they arrived at the apartment, the landlord was shocked to listen to their side of the story and denied having any agent to take care of his property.

He suggested the family should go to the police station. When MG confronted the agent and demanded

refund he did not hear from the latter anymore -- he was blocked.

It turned out that the agent was part of a larger operation that targets vacant apartments, takes videos and photos of the PACI numbers, and uses them to deceive people.

When the family later reported the scam to the police, they were shocked to learn three other families had filed similar complaints. When MG showed the police the Civil ID copy of the agent, it turned out to be fake.

MG has shared with the Arab Times screenshots of the messages, voice notes, and even a photo of the payment link.

## Qatar agrees

Continued from Page 1

He added that this agreement reflects KPC's commitment to ensuring reliable and sustainable energy supplies, in line with its transformation strategy for 2050, as KPC aims to meet the country's clean energy needs, particularly for electricity generation.

Furthermore, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah said the use of liquefied natural gas will help reduce harmful gas emissions and improve local air quality.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Energy Affairs and President and CEO of QatarEnergy Eng. Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi said, "This long-term partnership between Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and QatarEnergy is a pivotal element in supporting the sustainability goals of the State of Kuwait, particularly in electricity generation. It also reflects our commitment to meeting the future needs of all our clients, especially Kuwait Petroleum Corporation."

It is worth highlighting that, under the new agreement, LNG shipments are set to start arriving at the LNG facility of the Zour Refinery from the beginning of 2025. This agreement represents a major step that confirms

# Health Minister reviews Jahra Dental Center ops

## Al-Awadhi vows to overcome challenges

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, accompanied by Assistant Undersecretary for Dental Affairs Dr. Ahmad Asad, conducted an evening inspection tour of Jahra Specialized Dental Center.**

This visit reflects Dr. Al-Awadhi's commitment to overseeing the progress of work in specialized health facilities and closely monitoring the quality of services provided to patients.

During the tour, the minister met with the medical, technical, and administrative staff at the center. The center's achievements were reviewed, and the challenges faced by the medical and administrative teams in performing their duties to the fullest extent were discussed.

Dr. Al-Awadhi also conducted a field tour of the center's various departments where he interacted with patients and gathered their feedback and suggestions about the services provided.

He stressed the importance of prioritizing patients' needs and working to meet these requirements to ensure the deliv-

ery of comprehensive and high-quality health care services. At the end of the tour, Dr. Al-Awadhi met with several employees of the center, and listened to their perspectives on the work environment and the challenges they face in delivering health care services.

He stressed the need to overcome all obstacles that impede daily operations. He affirmed the ministry's commitment to supporting medical and technical staff and ensuring the provision of all necessary supplies to deliver high-quality health services.

Dr. Al-Awadhi said the tour is part of the Ministry of Health's efforts to enhance the health care level at all specialized centers.

He stressed the importance of collaborative efforts to address existing challenges and improve health services provided in line with the aspirations of Kuwait's citizens and residents.

Meanwhile, Minister Dr. Al-Awadhi met with a delegation from the Union of Nutrition Workers in both the public and private sectors, alongside Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs Dr. Munther Al-Hasawi.

During the meeting, they discussed issues related to therapeutic nutrition and highlighted the crucial role of nutritionists in promoting community health and disease prevention.

the strength of the regional energy sector and highlights the expertise and excellence of both Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and QatarEnergy.

## Visa peddling

Continued from Page 1

Investigations revealed that the suspects transferred residency permits of workers who were already in the country to the company and registered their personal vehicles to obtain as many vehicle operating licenses as possible. These licenses were then submitted to the relevant authorities to increase the company's quota. This allowed it to attract more workers and issue Kuwaiti driving licenses in exchange for payments. This practice benefited individuals who did not meet the General Traffic Department's requirements.

The three suspects were referred to the concerned authorities for necessary legal action.

The Ministry of Interior affirmed its full commitment to implementing the law firmly, stressing that the security forces will remain on the lookout for anyone who attempts to violate the law.

## CITRA sets

Continued from Page 1

He added that the 5G-A technology will bolster the country's leadership in adopting the latest technologies.

This represents a significant leap in supporting digital services and applications, as well as in the continuous improvement of users' experience with mobile communication network services, Al-Ajmi clarified.

The CITRA official explained that this cutting-edge technology will increase the capacity of mobile communication networks, allowing more 5G subscribers to enjoy high-quality services.

He noted that this step will also pave the way for the adoption of modern applications such as the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence, virtual and augmented reality, 3D video, and cloud services. Al-Ajmi highlighted that these advancements will cater to the needs and applications of smart cities, enabling ultra-high-speed data transfer at rates of up to 10 gigabits per second in future projects.

This will benefit various sectors, including government, industry, commerce, and individual users, he said. Al-Ajmi concluded by inviting users to experience the 5G-A technology starting today for three days at the Al-Hamra Tower shopping center, near Gate 5.



## World News Roundup

## Europe

**German leader vows tougher knife laws:** German Chancellor **Olaf Scholz** vowed to toughen knife laws and step up deportations of rejected asylum-seekers Monday as he visited the scene of the knife attack in which a suspected Islamic extremist from Syria is accused of killing three people.

Scholz, speaking after he joined regional officials in laying a white flower at a makeshift memorial in the western city of Solingen, said he was "furious and angry" about the attack, in which eight people also were wounded.



Scholz

The suspect turned himself in to police on Saturday evening, a day after the attack at a festival marking the city's 650th anniversary. Federal prosecutors said Sunday that he shared the radical ideology of the Islamic State group, which he joined at a point that remains unclear, and was acting on those beliefs when he stabbed his victims repeatedly from behind in the neck and upper body.

The 26-year-old had had his asylum application rejected and was supposed to be deported last year to Bulgaria, where he first entered the European Union, but that failed because he disappeared for a time, according to German media reports.

That has revived criticism of the government on migration and deportation, an issue on which it has long been vulnerable. It has taken steps to defuse the issue, for example with legislation intended to ease deportations of unsuccessful asylum-seekers that was approved by lawmakers in January. It also has launched legislation to ease the deportation of foreigners who publicly approve of terrorist acts.

"We must do everything to ensure that such things never happen in our country, if possible," Scholz said of the attack. He said that would include toughening knife laws in particular "and this should and will happen very quickly."

Interior Minister Nancy Faeser earlier this month proposed allowing only knives with a blade measuring up to 6 centimeters (nearly 2.4 inches) to be carried in public, rather than the length of 12 centimeters (4.7 inches) that is allowed now. (AP)

**Fire engulfs apartment building in London:** A fire engulfed an apartment building in east London early Monday, sending thick black smoke into the air and sending two people to the hospital for medical treatment.

The London Fire Brigade said the fire was reported at 2:44 a.m. and the entire building was affected, including scaffolding surrounding the property and the roof.

The building has been evacuated and a significant search and rescue operation is underway. The London Ambulance Service said four people were treated at the scene and two were taken to the hospital.

As many as 40 fire engines and about 225 firefighters responded to the fire at the building, which has both residential and commercial units. The cause of the blaze isn't yet known. (AP)

**3 stabbed during Notting Hill Carnival:** Three people were stabbed during the first day of the Notting Hill Carnival, Europe's biggest street festival, with a 32-year-old woman suffering "life-threatening" injuries, London's Metropolitan Police Service said.

More than 1 million people are expected to attend the carnival, a celebration of Afro-Caribbean culture that takes place every year on the streets of the Notting Hill neighborhood in west London. Some 7,000 police officers have been assigned to the event, which concludes Monday.

Police said they made 90 arrests on Sunday, including 10 people who were detained for assaulting emergency workers, 18 for possession of offensive weapons and four for sexual offenses.

"Hundreds of thousands of people came to Notting Hill Carnival today to enjoy a fantastic celebration," the Met said in a statement. "Regrettably, a minority came to commit crime and engage in violence." (AP)

**Member of British journalist team dies:** A British safety adviser working with a team of Reuters journalists was killed when a Russian missile struck a hotel in the Ukrainian city of Kramatorsk, the news agency confirmed.

Ryan Evans, 38, was staying at the Hotel Sapphire with colleagues in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region when it was hit by a Russian missile Saturday night.

Two other members of the six-person Reuters crew were hospitalized with injuries.

Local officials said the hotel was struck by an Iskander-M Russian ballistic missile, leaving the reporters with blast injuries, concussions and cuts on the body.

Associated Press reporters at the scene described the hotel as "rubble," with excavators being used to clear debris hours after the attack.

Besides the hotel, a nearby multistory building was also destroyed, Donetsk regional Gov. Vadym Filashkin said.

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

**Ukraine prez condemns Russia overnight attack:** Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday condemned Russia's overnight and early morning barrage on his country as "vile" and said it involved over 100 missiles of various types and about 100 "Shahed" drones.

Ukraine's leader said there were deaths and dozens of injuries and that the attack caused a lot of damage to Ukraine's energy sector.

"Like most previous Russian strikes, this one was just as vile, targeting critical civilian infrastructure. Most of our regions - from the Kharkiv region and Kyiv to Odesa and our western regions," Zelenskyy said.

The barrage began around midnight and continued beyond daybreak in what appeared to be Russia's biggest attack against Ukraine in weeks.

Russian forces fired drones, cruise missiles and hypersonic ballistic Kinzhal missiles at 15 Ukrainian regions - more than half the country, Ukraine's Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said Monday morning.

"The energy infrastructure has once again become the target of Russian terrorists. Unfortunately, there is damage in a number of regions," Shmyhal said, adding that Ukraine's state-owned power grid operator, Ukrenergo, has been forced to implement emergency power cuts to stabilize the system.

He called on Ukraine's allies to provide Kyiv with long-range weapons and permission to use them on targets inside Russia.

According to Ukraine's air force, there were multiple groups of Russian drones moving toward eastern, northern, southern, and central regions of Ukraine, followed by multiple cruise and ballistic missiles. (AP)

**Iceland ice cave collapse kills 1 tourist:** Icelandic authorities searched Monday for two tourists missing since an ice cave partially collapsed the previous afternoon, killing one person and injuring another.

The search, which was suspended overnight when conditions made it too dangerous to continue, resumed at about 7 a.m., Icelandic broadcaster RUV reported. Up to 60 researchers are already on the scene, with more expected to arrive throughout the day, RUV said.

Local police said a group of 25 tourists from two countries were exploring an ice cave at the Braidamerkurjokull glacier in southeastern Iceland when the incident occurred shortly before 3 p.m. Sunday. Four people were struck by falling ice, with one dying at the scene and another flown to the hospital by helicopter.

Ice caves are a popular destination for visitors to Iceland, with tour operators offering customers the chance to "explore the insides of glaciers" and see the blue color and "stunning patterns" in the ice.

Glaciers cover about 11% of the territory of Iceland, an island nation in the north Atlantic that sits on the southern edge of the Arctic Circle. The largest is Vatnajokull, which covers 7,900 square kilometers (3,050 square miles). Braidamerkurjokull is a tongue of Vatnajokull that ends at the Jokulsarlon Lagoon, where icebergs constantly break off from the glacier.

Local news site Visir said the group that was at the cave during the collapse was on an organized tour accompanied by a guide. (AP)



The aftermath of a deadly landslide is seen in Ketchikan, Alaska on Aug 25. (AP)

## Alaska landslide kills 1 person, injures 3 in Ketchikan: authorities

One person was killed and three were injured by a landslide that prompted a mandatory evacuation in the Alaska city of Ketchikan, authorities said.

Three people were transported to Ketchikan Medical Center following the landslide, which struck around 4 p.m. Sunday and damaged homes and infrastructure, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and

City of Ketchikan said in a joint statement Sunday.

Alaska Gov Mike Dunleavy declared an emergency for Ketchikan, while Borough Mayor Rodney Dial and city Mayor Dave Kiffer issued a separate emergency declaration.

"Friends, is with a heavy heart we relay that a landslide in the city has taken a life, caused several

injuries, damaged homes and impacted our community," Dial said in the statement.

Kiffer said the loss of life was "heartbreaking, and my heart goes out to those who lost their homes."

Two of the victims were admitted to the hospital and one was treated and released. All other individuals have been accounted for, the statement said. (AP)

## Politics

## Harris isn't backing away from Biden democracy focus

## Walz's military record criticized

WASHINGTON, Aug 26, (AP) — John Kolb, a retired Minnesota National Guard colonel, knew Tim Walz by reputation as an "excellent leader" who adroitly guided the enlisted troops in his field artillery battalion. But Kolb was stunned by what he saw when Walz left the military and entered politics.

Walz retired from the National Guard in 2005 to run for Congress just before his unit received an order to mobilize for the war in Iraq. Then during the campaign, Walz overstated the rank he held at the point he left the service.

"That is not the behavior I would expect out of a senior noncommissioned officer," Kolb said in an interview.

Those two sides of Walz's service have been in the spotlight now that the Minnesota governor is the Democratic nominee for vice president. Supporters have lauded Walz's 24 years of service in the National Guard, where he rose through the enlisted ranks and received an honorable discharge.

"What I know about Tim Walz is he did his job diligently," said retired Minnesota National Guard Brig. Gen. Jeff Bertrang. "He was in charge of troops under him, and he made sure they were taken care of."

## Attack

Republicans have seized on criticism by Guard veterans as a major line of attack on Walz and Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris. Some of that criticism, like Kolb's, is measured. Others offer harsher appraisals.

It's far from clear whether Republicans can turn Walz's military record into a liability. His decades of service stand in contrast with former President

Donald Trump, the Republican presidential nominee who received a series of deferments to avoid serving in Vietnam, including one attained with a physician's letter stating that Trump suffered from bone spurs in his feet.

Trump's running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, was a Marine Corps corporal, including six months as a military journalist in Iraq. After four years, he left the military for college and later a career in venture capital and as a best-selling author. Vance has led the criticism of Walz.

For many Democrats, the GOP salvos are an eerie reprise of the tactics used to sully their 2004 presidential candidate, John Kerry, by questioning his leadership as a swift boat commander in Vietnam, even though Kerry was a decorated combat veteran and his Republican opponent, President George W. Bush, did not fight in the war.

## Tenure

But the criticism stems not so much from Walz's service record but from how he has characterized his time in uniform and how he ended his tenure.

An Associated Press review of Walz's statements as a congressional candidate, congressman and governor shows that Walz has toggled between being precise and careless about key details.

Walz's supporters reject the criticism as politically motivated and say it denigrates the sacrifices he and other troops have made. The Harris campaign provided a letter signed by hundreds of veterans and military family members that said Vance's broadsides against Walz are not surprising given reports that Trump expressed disdain for those who served. Trump has de-

nied the claim.

"After 24 years of military service, Governor Walz retired in 2005 and ran for Congress, where he was a tireless advocate for our men and women in uniform — and as vice president of the United States he will continue to be a relentless champion for our veterans and military families," the campaign said.

In a speech this past week at the Democratic National Convention, Walz said he "proudly wore our nation's uniform for 24 years." He made no reference to his rank or the circumstances of his retirement, framing his service as part of a larger urge to "contribute" to the nation.

## Also:

**CHICAGO:** Before dropping his bid for reelection, President **Joe Biden** framed voters' choice in November in dark and ominous terms, painting Republican nominee **Donald Trump** as a menace to American democracy and questioning whether the country could survive if he won.

The Democratic Party's new nominee, Vice-President **Kamala Harris**, isn't exactly shrinking from that message, warning in her Thursday night acceptance speech of "extremely serious" consequences of Trump returning to the White House.

But Harris is putting her own spin on what has been a central messaging strategy for Democrats. Rather than focusing on the existential threat a second Trump term could pose to the country's foundational institutions and traditions, she is expanding Democrats' definition of what's at stake in this election: It's about preserving personal freedoms.



US Democratic vice presidential nominee Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz speaks on stage to speak during the Democratic National Convention on Aug 21 in Chicago. (AP)



Adams



Green

## America

**Hone sweeps past Hawaii:** Hone passed south of Hawaii and weakened from a hurricane to a tropical storm on Sunday, dumping so much rain that the National Weather Service called off its red flag warnings that strong winds could lead to wildfires on the drier sides of the islands. Hawaii's governor is **Josh Green**.

Meanwhile, the eastern Pacific saw a new threat emerge as Tropical Storm Hector formed, packing top sustained winds of 45 mph (75 kph). There were no coastal watches or warnings in effect as Hector churned far out at sea, the National Hurricane Center said.

Hone (pronounced hoe-NEH) had top winds of 70 mph (110 kph) Sunday night as it swirled slowly past Hawaii about 180 miles (290 kilometers) southwest of Honolulu and 185 miles (300 kilometers) south of Lihue, according to an 11 pm advisory from the Central Pacific Hurricane Center.

Jon Jelsema, a senior forecaster at the Central Pacific Hurricane Center, said earlier Sunday that tropical storm force winds were blowing across the island's southeast-facing slopes, carrying up to a foot (30 centimeters) or more of rain.

Floods closed Highway 11 between Kona and Hilo, and a higher-altitude alternative, the Cane Road, was closed by flooding as well, isolating properties like the Aikane Plantation Coffee Co outside Pahala, where owner Phil Becker said his 10-inch (25-centimeter) rain gauge overflowed in the deluge. (AP)

**Hiker's missing body recovered:** The body of an Arizona woman who went missing in the Grand Canyon National Park after a flash flood days earlier was recovered Sunday, park rangers said.

The body of Chenoa Nickerson, 33, from the Phoenix suburb of Gilbert, Arizona, was discovered by a group rafting down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon around 11:30 a.m. Sunday, the park said in a statement.

Rangers recovered Nickerson's body, which was transported to the rim by helicopter and transferred to the Coconino County Medical Examiner's office.

In a statement issued Sunday, her family

thanked searchers and supporters and asked for privacy.

"We regret to inform you that our sweet Chenoa has been found deceased. Our hearts are heavy with grief," the statement said. "Chenoa's light will forever be a part of all of us, and we will ensure that her spirit continues to shine brightly. Her memory will never fade, and we will honor her by carrying forward the joy and love she

brought into all of our lives."

National Park Service officials said Nickerson was swept into Havasu Creek above the Colorado River confluence around 1:30 pm Thursday. She wasn't wearing a life jacket. (AP)

**NY police probe deaths of 5:** Police on Sunday were investigating the deaths of five



Britain's Queen Camilla speaks during a visit to open the Bustardthorpe Development at York Racecourse, North Yorkshire, England on Aug 24. (AP)

people at a suburban Long Island home.

Officers responding to a report of shots fired in Syosset at midday found the body of a man outside a home with an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. The bodies of four other people were found inside the residence about 15 miles (24 kilometers) east of New York City, according to a release from the Nassau County Police Department. Mayor of New York City is **Eric Adams**.

Police said all five victims were pronounced dead by a police medic and that a homicide squad was investigating.

Police did not release further information. (AP)

**Coney Island Cyclone shut down:** The famous Coney Island Cyclone roller coaster in New York City was shut down indefinitely after coming to a stop mid-ride this week.

The 97-year-old wooden roller coaster at Luna Park was on its ascent on Thursday when ride operators took it out of service due to a damaged chain sprocket in the motor room. The operator stopped the ride and several people were removed from the roller coaster without injury, according to New York City's Department of Buildings.

Video posted on social media shows a person being carefully escorted down the tracks.

Inspectors with the buildings department were at the scene Friday and issued the owners of Luna Park violations for the damaged equipment and for failure to immediately notify the department about the incident. (AP)



## Africa

## Dam collapses in Sudan

## Drone attack kills 21 civilians in Mali

BAMAKO, Mali, Aug 26, (Agencies): Airstrikes on a village in northern Mali near the Algerian border Sunday killed 21 civilians, including 11 children, a spokesman for a coalition of Tuareg-majority pro-independence groups said.

If confirmed, the attack on the village of Tinzouatine would mark the largest number of civilians killed by drones since the breakdown of a peace agreement between the country's ruling military junta and armed pro-independence groups in northern Mali last year.

The Strategic Framework for the Defense of the People of Azawad is a coalition of Tuareg-majority groups fighting for the independence of northern Mali, which they call Azawad.



Lyammouri

The strikes Sunday targeted a pharmacy, then other strikes followed that targeted people gathering in the vicinity of the initial damage, the coalition said in a statement.

"The provisional toll of these criminal strikes stands at 21 civilians killed, including 11 children and the pharmacy manager, dozens wounded and enormous material damage," said the statement signed by Mohamed Elmaouloud Ramadan, spokesman for the rebel coalition present in the village.

## Strikes

In a statement broadcast on national television, Mali's armed forces confirmed the strikes.

"The General Staff of the Armed Forces confirms airstrikes in the Tinzouatine sector on the morning of August 25, 2024. These precision strikes targeted terrorists," the statement said.

The strikes come a few weeks after the Malian army and mercenaries from the Russia-based Wagner Group were defeated by Tuareg rebels and fighters from the Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin, an al-Qaida linked group.

The strikes Sunday targeted a pharmacy, then other strikes followed that targeted people gathering in the vicinity of the initial damage, the coalition said in a statement.

"Malian forces along with Russian mercenaries lack strong presence on the ground in the Kidal region, so the use of air assets, including drones is the only way they could engage against armed groups in the area," said Rida Lyammouri, a senior fellow at the Policy Center for the New South, a Moroccan think tank.

**Dam collapses in Sudan:** A dam collapsed in Sudan's eastern Red Sea state, sending water flooding over nearby homes, the country's health ministry said. Local media said dozens of people are missing.

In a statement late Sunday, the ministry said that the Arbaat dam had collapsed and that resources had been deployed to the area to help the people who had been stranded.

The statement said at least four people had died in the floodwaters but did not give an estimate of how many were missing. However, a local official told the Sudanese news site Al-Tagheer that he believed there to be at least 60 dead. Amr Eissa Taher, the head water resources official for the Red Sea state, said the damage was extensive.

The Sudanese news outlet Medameek, citing the country's air force, reported more than 100 people were missing, and that many other villagers had climbed to hilltops to avoid the rising waters.

The dam, which is 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of the city of Port Sudan, where many of the country's top officials have fled since a brutal conflict broke out in the country in April 2023 between the country's military and a paramilitary known as The Rapid Support Forces.

The war has wrecked civilian infrastructure and an already battered health care system. It has killed thousands of people and pushed many into starvation, with famine already confirmed in a sprawling camp for displaced people in the wrecked northern region of Darfur. Diplomats and aid officials say it is in the midst of the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Sudan's conflict has created the world's largest displacement crisis. More than 10.7 million people have been forced to flee their homes since fighting began, according to the International Organization for Migration.

**Landslide kills 10 in Ethiopia:** Ten people were killed Saturday in a landslide triggered by heavy rainfall in northern Ethiopia, a local official said.

The deadly landslide, which occurred in Telemet district, Amhara State, left 10 people dead and injured eight others, said Tesfaye Workneh, head of the government communication office of the district, in a statement.

Workneh said so far the dead bodies of four people had been retrieved as locals and rescue teams continued searching for the six others missing.

The landslide also killed 35 heads of cattle and caused damage to crops standing on 30 hectares of land, he said Saturday. According to the official, 480 households with a total of 2,400 family members have been subjected to displacement due to the latest landslide in the East African country.

The official warned of possible risk of floods and landslides in surrounding areas and urged residents to take precautions.

The deadly landslide occurred as Ethiopia is in the midst of a rainy season, which started in July and is expected to last until mid-September.

**Kenya sends peacekeepers to DRC:** Kenya's military said Sunday its troops have departed for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to join a United Nations peacekeeping force tasked with calming deadly tensions fuelled by armed groups.

The Kenya Defense Force (KDF) said the first batch of the fourth contingent of the Kenya Quick Reaction Force (KENQRF 4) to the DRC was officially flagged off Saturday, marking the commencement of their peacekeeping mission.

Stephen Kapkory, the base commander of Embakasi Air Base, said the KENQRF 4 will join the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), which is focused on stabilizing the eastern regions of the DRC where armed groups continue to cause instability.

"I am confident in your level of training and professionalism. Be good ambassadors of the Republic of Kenya by maintaining a high sense of professionalism and discipline in all your undertakings and uphold the exemplary performance registered by your predecessors," Kapkory said in a statement issued in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.



Soldiers cover M1167 HMMWV (High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle) anti-tank missile carriers during military drills in Pingtung County, southern Taiwan on Aug 26. (AP)

## Asia

## China conducts military patrols near Myanmar border

## NKorea shows new drone attacking target

SEOUL, South Korea, Aug 26, (AP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised a demonstration of new exploding drones designed to crash into targets, state media said Monday, as the U.S. and South Korea engage in joint military drills.

North Korean test photos showed a white drone with X-shaped tails and wings supposedly crashing into and destroying a target resembling South Korea's main K-2 battle tank. Most combat drones stand off from targets and fire missiles.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said Saturday's test involved various types of drones built to fly different ranges to attack enemy targets on land and sea and flew along various routes before accurately hitting test targets. After the test, Kim pledged to spur the development of drones that explode on impact, conduct reconnaissance or attack targets underwater to boost his country's war readiness, saying the North's military should be equipped with advanced drones "as early as possible," KCNA said.

## Focus

The drone test came as the US and South Korean militaries conduct the large-scale Ulchi Freedom Shield drills, which continue through Thursday. The exercises focus on enhancing their readiness against North Korean threats and include computer-simulated war games and live-fire training, with a combined aerial drill involving 60 warplanes that began its three-day run on Monday.

The United States and South Korea also began Monday a separate amphibious landing drill involving dozens of aircraft and vessels from their navies and marines, including US F-35 fighters and amphibious assault ship USS Boxer. South Korea's military said the Ssangyong Exercise, which will continue through Sept 7, is aimed at sharpening combat interoperability.

Lee Chang Hyun, spokesperson of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said during a briefing that South Korea's military was closely examining North Korea's drone capabilities and that the South's military is equipped with systems to detect and intercept them, without providing further details.

Some analysts suggest the North Korean drones shown in state media

photos resemble Russia's Zala Lancet-3 drones, and Lee said the South was looking into the possibility Russia had helped North Korea acquire its drone capability.

**China conducts military patrols:** China's military is carrying out armed patrols near the Myanmar border this week, where the government is concerned about potential fallout from fierce fighting in a civil war on the other side.

Troops were deployed to Yunnan province in southwestern China on Monday to test their ability to maintain security in border areas, the military's Southern Theater Command said.

An alliance of ethnic militias has dealt a series of setbacks to Myanmar's military in the country's northeast, which is near China. Five people were injured on the Chinese side in January by a stray artillery shell. Live-fire drills will be held from Tuesday to Thursday in four locations including two in Ruili city, the Yunnan government said.

The units will carry out armed patrols and joint air-ground patrols to test their ability to mobilize quickly, block and control and strike together, the southern command said in a statement.

**Taiwan drills with missiles:** Taiwan drilled Monday with anti-amphibious landing missiles as part of strategy to remain mobile and deadly in an attempt to deter an attack from China, which claims the democratically ruled island as its own territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary.

Troops fired tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-guided missiles known as TOW 2A missiles mounted on M1167 Humvees at floating targets off a beach in Pingtung County during the two days of exercises. The area on Taiwan's southern tip faces both toward the Taiwan Strait and China, and toward the Pacific Ocean.

The missiles are among the most effective and popular anti-tank weapons in the world and a key component in what some experts say is Taiwan's best strategy to resist a potential Chinese invasion. China has ramped up its military threat in recent years based on its vast edge in numbers of warplanes, ships and missiles.

charged with cyberterrorism.

After a hearing Monday, the judge ordered the release of Asif, who walked free. He told the judge that he deleted his post on social media only six hours after realizing that it was not correct.

Federal investigators told the judge that they had no evidence to prove that he was guilty of intentionally spreading misinfor-

**Japan protests to Beijing:** Japan's government protested to Beijing that a Chinese reconnaissance plane violated its airspace on Monday and forced it to scramble fighter jets, officials said.

A Chinese Y-9 reconnaissance plane circled above Danjo Island off the southwestern coast of Japan's main southern island of Kyushu for two minutes, the Joint Staff of the Japanese Self Defense Force said, adding that officials were analyzing the latest Chinese military activity.

The Joint Staff said Japan scrambled fighter jets that warned the Chinese plane to exit the airspace.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Masataka Okano summoned acting Chinese Ambassador Shi Yong to strongly protest the airspace violation. Okano also demanded that China take preventive steps to avoid such incidents.

According to Japan's military, it scrambled jets nearly 669 times between April 2023 and March 2024, about 70% of the time against Chinese military aircraft, though that did not include airspace violations.

Japanese defense officials are increasingly concerned about growing military cooperation between the Chinese and Russian air forces, and China's increasingly assertive activity around Japanese waters and airspace. It led Tokyo to significantly reinforce defenses of southwestern Japan, including remote islands that are considered key to Japan's defense strategy in the region.

**Malaysia naval ship sinks:** Malaysian authorities were working Monday to salvage a 45-year-old fast attack naval ship that sank after it struck an unknown underwater object.

The navy said in a statement that a leak was first detected in the engine room of the KD Pendekar on Sunday, which quickly flooded the vessel. The crew failed to fix the hole and the 260-ton ship sank underwater hours later off the coast of southern Johor state, it said. All 39 crew members were evacuated safely, with no injuries.

"The leak is believed to be caused by the ship hitting an underwater object," it said, adding that salvage operations were underway. An investigation has been launched into the cause of the incident, it said.



People look at burnt vehicles, torched by gunmen after killing passengers, at a highway in Musakhail, a district in Baluchistan province in southwestern Pakistan on Aug 26. Gunmen in southwestern Pakistan killed at least 38 people in two separate attacks on Monday and security forces killed 12 insurgents, officials said, in one of the deadliest days of violence in the restive Baluchistan province, with reports of other shootings and destruction in the area. (Xinhua)



People sit in front of their home damaged by floods in Meroe, north of Khartoum, Sudan on Aug 20. Food aid is on the way to an area of Sudan facing famine amid the northeast African country's grinding conflict, a group of countries and the United Nations said in a joint statement on Aug 23. (AP)



Zardari



Naqvi

## Subcontinent

**Gunmen kill dozens in Pakistan:** Gunmen in southwestern Pakistan killed at least 38 people in three separate attacks on Monday, officials said, while the military said security forces killed 21 insurgents, marking one of the deadliest days of violence in the restive Baluchistan province, with reports of other shootings and destruction in the area as well.

Twenty-three people were fatally shot overnight after being taken from buses, vehicles and trucks in Musakhail, a district in Baluchistan, senior police official Ayub Achakzai said. The attackers burned at least 10 vehicles before fleeing.

In a separate attack, gunmen killed at least nine people, including four police officers and five passersby, in Baluchistan's Qalat district, authorities said. The bodies of six people were found in Bolan, where insurgents also blew up a railway track. They also attacked a police station in Mastung and attacked and burned vehicles in Gwadar, all districts in Baluchistan. No casualties were reported in those attacks. The military said 14 security forces were "martyred" while responding to the attacks. Those appeared to be included in the overall death toll.

"Sanitization operations are being conducted and the instigators, perpetrators, facilitators and abettors of these heinous and cowardly acts, targeting innocent civilians, will be brought to justice," the military said in a statement.

Baluchistan has been the scene of a long-running insurgency in Pakistan, with an array of separatist groups staging attacks, mainly on security forces. The separatists have been demanding independence from the central government in Islamabad. Although Pakistani authorities say they have quelled the insurgency, violence in Baluchistan has persisted.

The attack in Musakhail came hours after the outlawed Baluch Liberation Army separatist group warned people to stay away from highways as they launched attacks on security forces in various parts of the province.

But there was no immediate claim of responsibility for the latest killings.

Interior Minister **Mohsin Naqvi** said in a statement that security forces in Baluchistan responded to the latest attacks on Monday, killing 12 insurgents.

Pakistani President **Asif Ali Zardari**, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Naqvi in separate statements called the attack in Musakhail "barbaric" and vowed that those behind it would not escape justice. (AP)



## gold prices hit record high of \$2,512 per ounce

Gold prices reached a new historical high, hitting \$2,512 per ounce at the end of last week's trading. This surge is attributed to remarks made by US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell regarding potential interest rate cuts and the increasing geopolitical tensions worldwide, reports Al-Jarida daily.

According to a report by Dar Al-Sabaek Company, the rise in gold prices followed Powell's

indication that the Federal Reserve might lower interest rates before the end of the year, enhancing gold's appeal as a safe haven for investors.

The report notes that gold prices increased by over one percent after Powell's speech at the Jackson Hole Forum, where he emphasized the need for monetary policy adjustments to address labor market weaknesses and slowing inflation.

On the local front, the report highlights that the price of 24-karat gold has reached 24,730 dinars per gram (approximately \$81), while 22-karat gold is priced at around 22.7 dinars per gram (about \$74). Silver prices remain stable at 334 dinars per kilogram (approximately \$1,090).

The markets are anticipating a 50 basis point cut in interest rates at the Federal Reserve's next meeting in September.

## Kuwait sees KD 198 mln drop in cash circulation

The amount of cash in circulation outside banks in Kuwait has decreased by approximately 198 million dinars at a time when the banking sources attribute this decline to a significant rise in the use of credit cards, which saw substantial growth during the second quarter of this year, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The total value of transactions made with credit cards reached about 12.10 billion dinars, with

11.40 billion dinars (94.21 percent) spent within Kuwait and only 70 million dinars spent abroad.

Websites have played a major role in this shift, contributing to a reduction in cash circulation outside Kuwait. The value of transactions on websites amounted to 4.86 billion dinars by the end of the second quarter, marking a 9.7 percent increase and an additional 430 million dinars compared to the same period last year while the

value of automated withdrawals dropped by 7.5 percent, totaling approximately 2.53 billion dinars.

In a related development, demand deposits fell from 9.707 billion dinars to 8.932 billion dinars in the second quarter.

Sources indicate that this decrease is largely due to the funds being redirected towards various investment opportunities, including the financial market and the real estate sector.

## Market Movements

26-08-2024

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
DUBAI	- DFMGI	+32.08	4,324.75	SAUDI	- TASI	-1.46	12,261.18
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+59.86	30,133.81	JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	-254.05	38,110.22
				PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	-221.99	78,592.75

# Business

## Boursa Kuwait dips in initial trading session

GMI drops to 7,135.31 points

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: In the initial trading session of the week, the Boursa Kuwait experienced a notable decline. The General Market Index fell by 0.40 percent, or 28.85 points, ending at 7,135.31 points, reports Al-Jarida daily.**

Trading activity saw a liquidity of 52.3 million dinars, with 279.4 million shares changing hands through 15,986 transactions. Of the 134 shares traded, 51 saw gains, 58 experienced losses, and 25 remained unchanged.

The Premier Market Index declined by 0.48 percent, or 37.81 points, to close at 7,763.54 points. This segment had a liquidity of 36.3 million dinars, with 115.4 million shares traded across 7,320 transactions.

Out of the 34 shares traded, only 8 gained, 20 lost, and 6 stayed unchanged.

The Main Market Index also saw a slight drop of 0.01 percent, or 0.30 points, closing at 6,065.35 points, with liquidity amounting to 16 million dinars. This market saw 164 million shares traded through 8,666 transactions. Among the 100 shares traded, 43 gained, 38 lost, and 19 remained unchanged.

Initially, the market showed some promise, with liquidity surging due to substantial purchases of leading stocks. Key stocks such as KFPH rose above 720 fils, Al-Safat reached 109 fils, and Boubyan Petrochemicals saw a notable in-

crease. Other leading stocks, including Boubyan Bank, Unicap, Al-Bayt, and Equipment, also saw gains.

However, the market experienced turbulence due to news affecting Cables shares. Initial confusion about the implementation of a law led to a significant drop of about 13 percent in Cables shares, which later closed with an 11.5 percent loss after the company clarified it would file a grievance.

The negative news regarding Agility's stock, which fell by 2 percent due to its withdrawal from government land in Mina Abdullah, also impacted market sentiment.

Despite geopolitical tensions, such as missile launches from southern Lebanon into northern Israel, the market's response was primarily driven by internal factors, particularly the issues surrounding Cables shares.

Consequently, liquidity shifted downward during the last two and a half hours of trading, resulting in a significant loss by the end of the session.

This outcome was contrary to the expectations of a positive turn, which were bolstered by the growth of global market indices the previous Friday evening.

In the Gulf region, market indices showed mixed results. The Saudi and Omani market indices rose, while the Qatar and Bahrain indices experienced slight declines.

The Kuwaiti index fell by more than half a percentage point, as noted earlier. Oil prices had rebounded last Friday, gaining \$2 to reach \$79 per barrel of Brent crude.



ZEEKR and Al Babtain Group sign exclusive deal for electric vehicle distribution.



## New agreement to boost electric vehicle infrastructure and services

ZEEKR & Al Babtain Group join forces for sustainable transportation in Kuwait

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Al Babtain Group Holding, the leading company in the automotive sector in Kuwait, announced the signing of a cooperation and partnership agreement with ZEEKR Intelligent Technology Company, a subsidiary of Geely Holding Group, to become the exclusive agent for ZEEKR premium electric cars in Kuwait.**

This partnership reflects the shared commitment of both ZEEKR and Al Babtain Group to driving the future of sustainable transportation in Kuwait and beyond. By combining ZEEKR's cutting-edge electric vehicle technology with Al Babtain Group's extensive market expertise, the two companies are poised to meet the rapidly growing demand for innovative and eco-friendly mobility solutions. Together, they aim to offer customers in Kuwait and the Middle East a new era of automotive excellence, where modern design meets exceptional performance and customer satisfaction.

The aim of this new agreement with ZEEKR is to officially introduce ZEEKR electric cars in Kuwait, in line with Al Babtain Group's vision to offer innovative and new premium products, as well as high-quality services to the company's customers and electric car enthusiasts, which will become the most suitable and effective choice in terms of performance and environmental protection.

Regarding this new partnership, Mr. Saleh Al Babtain, CEO of Al Babtain Group, said: "Green transportation solutions are among our priorities in Al Babtain Holding Group's strategy, as they are part of our future vision to supply the local market with the latest technology applications and modern design in the automotive sector to affirm our leadership. We are proud to be chosen as the exclusive agent for ZEEKR electric vehicles in Kuwait, a brand known for its innovative and high-performance electric technology. This achievement reflects our successful track record and our commitment to providing exceptional service quality through our extensive infrastructure and specialized team. Our partnership with ZEEKR underscores our dedication to offering customers a superior experience with the latest advancements in

sustainable transportation."

Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Cannon Wang, Managing Director of ZEEKR in the MENA region, stated: "We are thrilled to join forces with Al Babtain Group, a respected leader in the Kuwaiti automotive market. This partnership represents a key milestone in our mission to bring ZEEKR's premium electric vehicles to discerning customers in the GCC. We are confident that our innovative, high-performance models will resonate with Kuwaiti customers who value sustainability without compromising on luxury and technology.

Mr. Ghazi Saleh Al-Babtain, Chief Development Officer at Al-Babtain Group, outlined the company's expansion vision through this partnership, stating: "Through this new collaboration with ZEEKR, Al-Babtain Group is making a significant leap forward in our business development. This partnership aligns with our unwavering commitment to delivering superior quality through strategic alliances that cater to the evolving needs of the local market and our customers in Kuwait. We chose ZEEKR because our goals are closely aligned – both companies are dedicated to advancing sustainable solutions in the automotive sector. With the growth of infrastructure, including electric charging stations across Kuwait, and the advanced support services we offer, ZEEKR's innovative smart technology complements our vision for a more sustainable and tech-driven future in the automotive industry."

ZEEKR has invested in the latest innovative future systems, especially the Compact Modular Architecture (CMA) system, which has been used in more than two million cars worldwide. It is worth mentioning that ZEEKR has been able to occupy a leading global position in a short time, raising the market value of this brand to \$13 billion by the end of 2023.

With the launch of ZEEKR cars under the umbrella of Geely Holding Group, the manufacturer of Volvo, Lotus, and others, ZEEKR a promising brand in the future of electric mobility is expected to be among the leading global brands with its rapid spread in various countries around the world.

On this occasion, Al Babtain Group is gearing up to launch its first two models of ZEEKR cars, the ZEEKR 001 premium shooting brake and the ZEEKR X luxury compact SUV.

### Vehicle Models

In Kuwait, motor enthusiasts will have access to two distinctive ZEEKR models:

■ **ZEEKR 001:** This premium shooting brake offers a driving range of up to 620 kilometers on a single charge, with the ability to charge from 10% to 80% in just 30 minutes using a 200kW DC charger. It features 544HP, all-wheel drive, and an acceleration from 0-100 km/h in 3.8 seconds. Measuring 4,955mm in length, 1,999mm in width, and 1,548mm in height, with a wheelbase of 2,999mm.

■ **ZEEKR X:** This compact SUV is tailored for modern living and exploration, delivering a driving range of up to 440 kilometers on a single charge with the ability to charge from 0% to 80% in just 28.8 minutes using a 150kW DC charger. With its dimensions at 4,432mm in length, 1,566mm in height, 1,836mm in width, and a 2,750mm wheelbase, it navigates city streets with finesse while commanding attention with its elegant design. It features a dual motor with 428HP all-wheel drive and 0-100 km/h in 3.8 seconds.

Both models are designed at ZEEKR's cutting-edge Global Design Center located in Gothenburg, Sweden, and led by Stefan Sielaff, Vice President of Global Design at Geely Auto Group. After undergoing over 60,000 km of heat testing in the GCC's deserts, these cars have been developed to specifically suit hot climates while maintaining the highest quality levels in air conditioning systems to fit the climate of Kuwait and the Gulf region.

Demonstrating ZEEKR's commitment to safety and sustainability, the all-electric ZEEKR 001 and ZEEKR X have both been awarded 5-star ratings from Euro NCAP, the highest possible outcome from one of the world's most respected consumer safety assessments. These results reflect the advanced safety features of ZEEKR vehicles and their contributions towards sustainable development.

## Crude oil prices dip below \$80 amid volatility

# Oil prices recover from eight month lows amid geopolitical tensions

By KAMCO Invest

Crude oil prices traded below the USD 80/b mark after seeing increasing volatility over the last few weeks led by several factors both on the demand and supply front. Increasing geopolitical risks related in the Middle East region as well as attack on crude oil shipment in the Red Sea provided support to oil prices. In addition, the escalation of war between Russia and Ukraine have also supported prices. On the other hand, increasing indications of an imminent rate cut by the US Fed next month added support to oil demand growth expectations that supported prices, whereas, concerns related to demand growth in China had an opposite effect on prices.

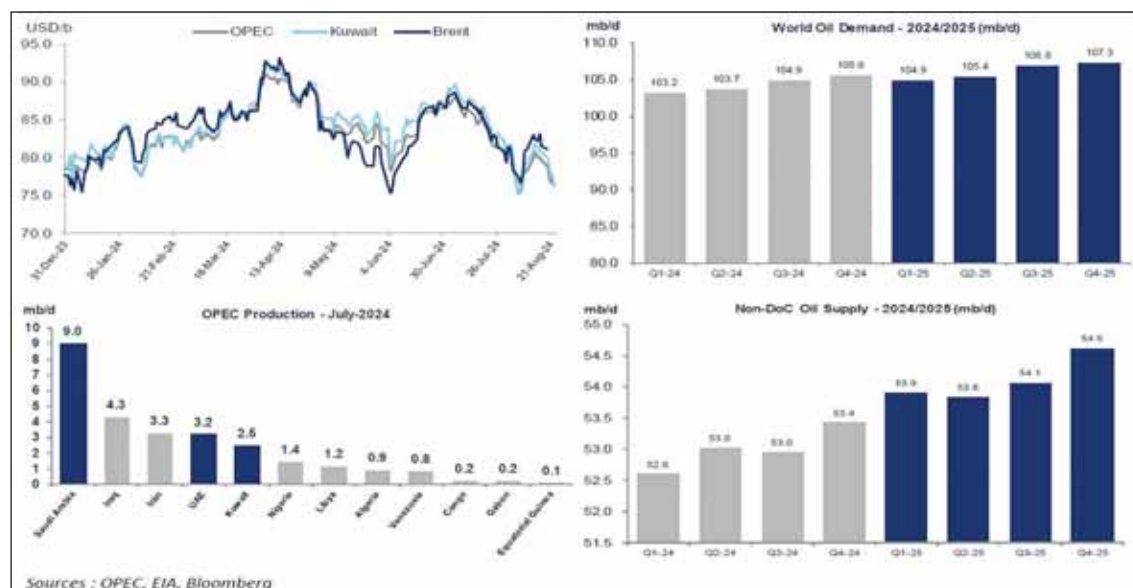
Tensions in the Middle East region once again escalated after another failed attempt at ceasefire in the previous week that had eased crude oil prices. With the recent attacks involving Lebanon, prices are expected to once again surge led to threat to supplies from the region as seen from the crude oil tanker attacks in the Red Sea. Meanwhile, a renewed aggression from Ukraine derailed a diplomatic ceasefire breakthrough with Russia. Ukraine's sudden ground attack into Russia's strategically important Kursk region and a fire at an oil depot after a drone attack has once again reignited the long standing war between the two countries. Crude oil supplies from Russia to Hungary and Slovakia were disrupted after sanctions were imposed on Russian oil company Lukoil that supplies crude via Ukraine.

On the demand side, worries persist at the global level as several economies are warning of an imminent slowdown, including in the US. The expected rate cuts are expected to alleviate some of these concerns and support crude oil demand, however, a slump in demand after the summer season in the US as well as warmer weather during the last quarter of the year could offset the bulk of the positive impact on oil prices. Moreover, China continues to face uncertain oil demand trend as refineries cut run rates citing poor demand. Recent data also supported this view with slowing industrial output, falling new home prices at the fastest pace in nine years as well as rising unemployment rates. Both OPEC and IEA lowered their oil demand forecasts for 2024 citing softening expectations for China.

On the supply side, oil production in the US reached a new record high of 13.4 mb/d during the week ended 16-August-2024 led by growth in both Alaska and lower 48 states regions. This comes despite relatively low oil rigs in the US, indicating improving well productivity as well as the fact that oil companies focus on boosting shareholder returns. Oil supplies from the OPEC showed an increase during July-2024, according to OPEC secondary sources, as most countries in the group raised output during the month. Production for the rest of the OPEC+ member countries declined mainly led by fall in production in Russia and Kazakhstan.

### Oil Prices

Crude oil traded witnessed a tight ceiling below the USD 80/b mark over the last few weeks amid a volatile trade. Brent crude oil futures witnessed healthy gains during the last two trading sessions last week but closed the week lower led by pressure on the demand front that overshadowed geopolitical fears with escalating tensions around key oil pro-



ducing regions. The recent gains came as a result of hopes of soft landing in the US economy after comments from the US Fed and economists indicated imminent rate cuts in the September-2024 meeting. Nevertheless, the market erased most gains since the start of the year as demand from China has failed to materialize and recent data releases point to continued pain in the economy. Meanwhile, the declining trend in crude oil inventories in the US provided intermittent support to prices. Total inventories in the US reached the lowest level in almost seven months at 426.0 million barrels after witnessing declines in seven out of the previous eight weeks. The declining inventories indicated higher refinery runs in order to cater to summer demand. Nevertheless, the planned refinery maintenance season exacerbated by depressing refining margins could result into additional inventories of crude oil in the coming months.

In terms of monthly price trend, prices of almost all crude grades reported marginal gains during July-2024. Average spot Brent crude oil price was up by 3.5% to reach USD 85.3/b during July-2024 as compared to an average of USD 82.4/b during June-2024. On the other hand, OPEC reference basket price was up 1.5% to reach USD 84.4/b while Kuwait export grade crude witnessed a smaller gain of 1.0% to average at USD 85.7/b during July-2024. Meanwhile, the consensus estimate for Brent crude showed downward revision for prices during Q4-2024 as compared to last month with an estimate of USD 83.25/b and remain at around the USD 80/b level till the end of next year. On the other hand, price forecasts from the US EIA was once again lowered in the latest report as compared to the forecast during the previous month. The agency expects Brent to reach USD 84.44/b in 2024 vs. USD 86.37/b in the previous forecast whereas next year price is expected to come in at USD 85.71/b as compared to the previous forecast of USD 88.38/b.

The OPEC also lowered world oil demand growth forecast for 2025 by 65 tb/d to 1.8 mb/d with average demand expected to reach 106.1 mb/d next year. The revisions once again reflected lower demand forecast for China coupled with a fall in demand in the Middle East region.

### World Oil Supply

World oil supply increased by 230 tb/d during July-2024 as compared to the June-2024 to reach 103.4 mb/d after increase in supply from OPEC+ member countries more than offset a fall in output for most other countries, according to the latest monthly report published by the IEA. The agency highlighted that the market is currently running a deficit due to the summer demand that has also caused a fall in global crude oil inventory levels. Preliminary data for July showed a similar trend seen in June wherein total stocks registered a decline during the month mainly led by a fall in crude oil inventories while oil products registered a gain.

Oil supply growth forecast for the non-DoC countries for this year were once again kept unchanged as compared to OPEC's last month's forecast. Supply from these countries is expected to grow by 1.23 m/d in 2024 to average at 53.0 mb/d during the year. The latest data from the US EIA showed nationwide crude and condensates production averaging at almost 13.4 mb/d during the week ended 16-August-2024. This was one of the highest production levels achieved in the US that came despite a steep and continued fall in oil rig count. The latest weekly oil rig count data from Baker Hughes showed oil rigs in the US remained subdued to reach 483 last week. According to the US EIA, oil production in the US is expected to reach 13.7 mb/d next year, a slight downgrade from the previous forecast of 13.8 mb/d next year. Production this year is expected to average at 13.2 mb/d, in line with the previous expectation. A report from Bloomberg showed a number of listed shale producers in the US are planning to ramp up output this year as a result of elevated prices. This includes companies like EOG Resources, Coterra Energy, Exxon Mobil and Chevron Corp.

The forecast for 2025 was also kept unchanged at last month's level. OPEC has forecasted oil supply from the non-DoC countries to grow by 1.1 m/d next year to average at 54.1 m/d during the year.

### OPEC Oil Production & Spare Capacity

OPEC crude oil production showed a decline during July-2024, according to data from Bloomberg, to reach an average of 26.99 mb/d during the month vs. 27.05 mb/d during the previous month. The decline, as per Bloomberg, mainly reflected a fall in production in Iran and Venezuela while most of the countries in the OPEC showed marginal change in output. On the other hand, data from OPEC secondary sources showed a healthy increase in production during the month. As per OPEC, most countries in the group showed higher production during the month, including Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran resulting in average production for the group reaching 26.7 mb/d during July-2024. However, this increase was offset by a decline in production in non-OPEC DoC countries, mainly in Russia and Kazakhstan, that resulted in an increase of 117 tb/d for the overall OPEC+ group during July-2024.





Zain, Zain Ventures, and Rasameel officials with ZGI alumni and entrepreneurs.

# ZGI opens up growth, investment 'opportunities' for entrepreneurs

Leading tech startup accelerator program returns in all-new edition

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26:** Zain has announced the launch of an all-new edition of its leading tech startup accelerator program, Zain Great Idea (ZGI). This year, the program is delivered in strategic partnership with Rasameel Investment Company, and continues its decade-long mission of opening doors to sustainable growth and investment opportunities for entrepreneurs and innovators in Kuwait.

The launch of this year's initiative was announced at Zain's headquarters in Shuwaikh, attended by Waleed Al-Khashti, Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer of Zain Kuwait; Dakhil Al-Dakhil, CEO of Rasameel Investment Company; and Haya Al-Mana, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Expert at Zain Kuwait, along with a number of entrepreneurs and representatives from the local entrepreneurship community.

Waleed Al-Khashti commented: "For more than 14 years, Zain Great Idea has been a unique success story, establishing itself as one of the most impactful business accelerators locally and regionally. It has provided numerous opportunities for hundreds of ambitious entrepreneurs and startups, connecting many with leading tech companies and organizations in places like Silicon Valley, to gain first-hand experience."

Al-Khashti added, "Through this program, we aim to empower Kuwait's tech startup ecosystem and foster an innovation-driven environment that creates tangible economic and social impact. This step also translates Zain's strategic plans as a business that seeks promising opportunities for diversification and sustainable growth in a highly competitive market. Additionally, Zain may acquire shares in the ZGI startups to boost their potential and commercialization drive."

Al-Khashti continued, "This year, Zain Ventures, the venture capital arm of Zain Group, will explore investing in the tech startups participating in ZGI, particularly those



Waleed Al-Khashti, Dakhil Al-Dakhil, and Haya Al-Mana at the press conference.

whose operations align with our strategic directions. These include fintech, digital innovations, and e-services."

He further stated, "Many of the startups that participated in previous editions of ZGI have successfully raised millions of dollars in investments, enabling them to enter the market and offer their services to a broad range of clients across various sectors. In addition, several have expanded to neighboring regional markets, achieving remarkable successes that we are proud of. Today, many of these ZGI alumni return as partners and consultants in the latest edition of the program to share the experiences they have gained in the business world with the newcomers."

Dakhil Al-Dakhil, CEO of Rasameel Investment Company, affirmed the company's interest in supporting startups in the Kuwaiti market and around the world to grow their operations and profitability, as well as in supporting entrepreneurs and helping them enhance their investments performance across levels. He added that this support reflects the significant importance of partnerships between companies across different sectors to achieve common goals.

He mentioned that Rasameel Investment Company is also working on implementing several digital initiatives, noting the launch of the myRasameel platform in a refined form that aligns with technological advancements. This aligns with the company's strategy to digitize its operations to achieve optimal opera-

tional performance in all the markets in which it operates.

He also pointed out that the company has recently worked on supporting several startups to share in their success and expand their services and markets, including BN-CHR+, Baims, and Mushtari, which are three companies that participated in previous cycles of the ZGI program and benefited from the program's acceleration process.

Al-Dakhil praised Zain's efforts in continuing the Zain Great Idea accelerator program, which helps young entrepreneurs and innovators to learn about the latest digital developments to utilize them in their startups.

**'Ecosystem Enabler of the Year' award**

Last year, ZGI was recognized with the E-Business Award as the 'Ecosystem Enabler of the Year' from the prestigious Entrepreneur Middle East magazine. The program was awarded during an awards ceremony in Dubai acknowledging the Zain's ever-growing endeavors in accelerating the regional tech startups ecosystem and empowering entrepreneurs in Kuwait and the region.

**Registration and Bootcamp**

Aspiring entrepreneurs can now register for ZGI 2024 at zaingreatidea.com. The program is open to anyone with an ambitious idea, project in its early stages, or startup operating in the market. Sectors of interest include fintech, e-commerce, AI, digital solutions, edtech, and more.

The deadline for applications is September 21.

After the registration period ends, participants who meet the criteria will be invited to a special orientation session to introduce them to the program's plan, objectives, and stages, as well as the schedule for workshops, mentoring sessions, and discussions during a bootcamp, which is one of the program's key stages.

The bootcamp is a significant phase of ZGI, lasting three weeks and providing participants with a wealth of information and essential skills for the success of any tech company. This is done through interactive workshops, training programs, one-on-one mentoring sessions, and discussions with founders and executives, all aimed at sharing experiences and helping participants find the best opportunities for growth.

The camp's content is delivered by a group of trainers, specialists, and experts from leading local, regional, and global academic institutions, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) from the U.S., IE Business School from Spain, Noor Coaching, and the Applied Innovation Institute, a non-profit thinktank from Silicon Valley focused on accelerating innovation and empowering entrepreneurs.

Architech Solutions, the Kuwait-based technology consultancy firm, is also joining ZGI as a partner this year, helping participating startups with various needs like technology



ZGI logo



Scan here to register in ZGI

consulting, online business strategy, product development, digital marketing, user experience consulting, and more throughout the program's phases. Architech Solutions' will help provide solutions for designing, developing, and delivering cutting-edge software and mobile applications.

**International Accelerator in Silicon Valley**

Following the bootcamp, participants will apply the knowledge and skills they have gained to finalize their projects and pitch to a judging panel at the Super Saturday event. The panel includes executives and experts from Rasameel Investment Company and other local investment funds.

The panel will evaluate participants' pitches, selecting finalists who will advance to the next stage – the international accelerator program in Palo Alto, California, specifically in Silicon Valley, the global center of innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship.

This stage in ZGI is offered in collaboration with Vibranium VC, a Silicon Valley-based venture capital firm specializing in startup investments, offers an invaluable opportunity for finalists to learn about business dynamics first-hand in the heart of Silicon Valley.

Participants will attend workshops, connect with startup founders, visit major accelerators and tech companies, pitch their ideas to investment funds, build relationships, and gain a deep understanding of the global entrepreneurship ecosystem.

The program will include field visits and insightful talks in collaboration with major tech companies and prestigious universities and accelerators in Silicon Valley, including Amazon, Nvidia, Stanford University, UC Berkeley, and 500 Startups, and more.

The international accelerator program covers key topics including understanding the Silicon Valley ecosystem, leveraging disruptive technologies like AI, marketing and sales strategies, financial planning, attracting investors, market expansion,

team building, human resources management, and how to pitch startups to investors for funding opportunities.

**Connecting with Investors**

After returning from Silicon Valley, Zain will organize the ZGI Demo Day, the final and most crucial stage of the program, where finalists will present their development and expansion plans and share their strategic visions for growth with a group of investment fund executives and potential business partners from local and regional companies that Zain will invite to connect with and learn about the startups.

During the event, Zain will provide each participant the opportunity to connect with representatives from investment funds and business partners, introducing them to the story of each startup, their regional expansion plans, strategic visions, and how each entrepreneur plans to make their company profitable and sustainable to meet the market's needs locally and regionally.

**Zain Ventures**

A key pillar of Zain Group's '4Sight' strategy, Zain Ventures was established to complement the existing investment portfolio of Zain Group and open the door to future investment opportunities in the venture capital, fintech and tech world, focusing on digital innovations in the fast-growing e-services and entrepreneurial startup ecosystem.

Investing in the world of venture capital provides Zain with a vast range of opportunities to diversify and expand its reach across the ecosystem. Over the years, Zain has expanded its relationship with regional and international venture capital funds supporting their portfolio companies whenever appropriate.

Zain has also continued its active engagement in direct strategic investments in a variety of promising startups from the region and further afield, offering them support on multiple fronts including a wide geographical reach and a progressive customer base for growth opportunities.



## Bank emphasizes sports and health as key CSR focus areas

## NBK supports Rafa Nadal Academy's youth summer camp in Toulouse

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: As part of its sponsorship agreement with Rafa Nadal Academy Kuwait (RNAK), National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) is keen to promote public health and the practice of sports activities. In this context, NBK supported Rafa Nadal Academy youth team summer camp in Toulouse.

This comes as part of the bank's firm commitment to performing its social responsibilities, and its relentless pursuit of sustainable development by encouraging members of society to do sports and adopt healthy lifestyles.



Al Sarraf

Ten players from the youth program at the academy participated in the three-week summer camp, which included tournaments and daily training sessions.

On this occasion, Mohammad Al Sarraf, Sports Team Manager and PR Officer at National Bank of Kuwait said: "Through its support for sports, including this camp, NBK aims to improve our community's wellbeing and lifestyle".

"At NBK, we believe in the transformative power of sports, especially for our youth. Partnering with the Rafa Nadal Tennis Academy in Kuwait is not just about tennis; it's about shaping character, fostering teamwork, and instilling lifelong values. Through this sponsorship, we aspire to build a legacy



Group photo from the summer camp.

of excellence, where the energy of our youth translates into a brighter, more vibrant future for Kuwait," he

added. "Sports and health represent completely a foundational priority

at NBK, and is one of our six main sustainability CSR focus areas," he explained.

Al Sarraf also highlighted the importance of sports in contributing effectively to the well-being

of our community. "By providing the opportunity for our community members to participate and excel in a team setting, this helps boost their morals, wellbeing and motivates them even higher."

"NBK seeks to establish partnerships with leading institutions in all fields, in a way that contributes to support its community needs and expectations. Our commitment to supporting youth reflects our dedication to empowering the next generation. By investing in sports and education, we aim to cultivate not just tennis skills but also resilience, discipline, and a healthier future for our youth" he pointed.

Al Sarraf emphasized that NBK encourages people to do sports and follow a healthy lifestyle in line with its leading strategy to achieve sustainability.

Members of the Rafa Nadal Academy have access to 15 tennis courts, including both outdoor and indoor courts equipped with the latest international technologies. Additionally, the academy hosts courts for paddle tennis and squash, along with an indoor swimming pool and separate fitness facilities for both women and men.

NBK is deeply committed to social responsibility, recognizing its role in creating a positive impact in society. Through its initiatives, NBK prioritizes youth development, education, health, women's empowerment, and environmental sustainability. NBK strives to be a catalyst for positive change, fostering a brighter future for generations to come.

## Al-Bekheet details draw conditions and chances

## Warba announces weekly Sunbula draw winners

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Warba Bank - the best bank in banking services for the corporate sector and banking services for the investment sector in Kuwait - announced the winners of the weekly Sunbula draw. Warba Bank will continue to make draws for 10 weekly winners for the Sunbula account in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees.

As for the lucky customers for the weekly Sunbula draw, 10 winners were chosen from Warba Bank's customers, each of whom received 1,000 Kuwaiti dinars. The Winners are Mrs. Kifah Mustafa Yahya, Mrs. Sarah Ghanem Ali Al-Mutairi, Mr. Fouad Yaqoub Yousef Reda, Sheikh Mubarak Jassim Mohammed Al-Sabah, Mr. Ali Khaled Ali Al-Ajmi, Mrs. Mariam Mohamed Salem Shatil, Mrs. Fatima Ayed Nasser Al-Ajmi, Mr. Soud Abdulaziz Buhaimeed, Mrs. Rabab Mahmoud Hussein Al-Ramzi, and Mr. Amer Farhan Mslam Al-Anzi.

The Sunbula account is the perfect choice for all those who wish to save money and achieve great financial returns on their balances at the same time; in addition to multiple opportunities to



Abdulaziz Al-Bekheet

win cash prizes throughout the year.

With regards to the conditions for winning the Sunbula, Mr. Abdulaziz Soud Al-Bekheet - Director Region Retail Banking Group states: "Only 100 KD is required to enter the weekly Sunbula draws and other major draws, whereby the customer still gets one chance per every 10 KD in the account, and the chances are calculated according to the lowest balance in the account during a month. Therefore, a full month must have passed in the account to qualify for the weekly draw, and two

full months for the major draws to calculate the opportunities. There are no restrictions or limits for withdrawal and deposit, the higher the deposited amount, the greater the customer's chances of winning".

Notably, in accordance with the terms of its ambitious five-year strategy, Warba Bank has launched its latest banking solutions service "Customer Onboarding". This will enable non-Warba Bank customers to apply for opening an account in an easy digital way through the bank's website without the need to visit any of the bank's branches, and within only five minutes - through the new and unique automated system used to enable this service - new customers will be able to complete the request to open an account at any time and any place.

It is worth mentioning that Warba Bank is one of the banks that achieved great successes in a short period of time, as it occupied a leading position in the field of digital Islamic banking services for individuals, and it is one of the most local banks in terms of the number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent elements that make the bank close to all members of society.

## Al-Shammari highlights long-term brand relationships

## KIB launches exclusive offer on new Honda models

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) has announced an exclusive financing offer on the latest Honda models. The offer includes profit-free Musawama financing with a five-year repayment period and a five-year or 150,000 km warranty, subject to the terms and conditions of the offer. This initiative reflects the Bank's commitment to meeting the needs and aspirations of its customers and complements KIB's efforts to provide top-level financing offers that ensure customer comfort and well-being. It also underscores KIB's continuous effort to enhance its partnership with the local Honda dealer, Alghanim Motors Company.

On the occasion of launching this special offer, Head of the Central Sales Unit - Retail at KIB, Abdulaziz Al-Shammari, said: "KIB continues to adopt a well-studied approach based on establishing long-term relationships with a diverse range of brands, particularly car dealerships. This enables us to offer the best offers that meet the needs of customers and non-customers who wish to acquire the latest car models, aligning with their modern lifestyles and allowing them to enjoy competitive prices without any down payments."

It is worth noting that KIB offers its customers a more efficient and flexible shopping experience by enabling them to request and track financing easily and comfortably. The Bank provides flexible financing ranging from KD 300 to KD 25,000, payable over three to 60 months, without the need for salary transfer. This makes KIB the ideal choice for a wide range of customers and non-customers, both citizens



KIB's Honda Financing Offer.

and residents alike.

Under its main slogan, "Bank for Life," KIB continues its diligent efforts to develop its diverse banking and financing services and products. These efforts ensure the availability of the best solutions, facilities, and offers that meet the various requirements and needs of its customers, especially when it comes to fulfilling their desire to acquire the latest car models, particularly Honda vehicles.

## Chairman acknowledges award for ethical business practices

## Malabar Gold &amp; Diamonds wins IGC Responsible Jewellery House Award 2023-24

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with over 355 showrooms across 13 countries, has been honored with the prestigious India Gold Conference (IGC) Responsible Jewellery House Award for 2023-24. This accolade, one of the most esteemed in the Indian jewellery sector, recognizes Malabar Gold & Diamonds for its unwavering commitment to ethical sourcing and sustainability.

The award acknowledges Malabar Gold & Diamonds' dedication to procuring responsibly mined gold and diamonds from legitimate sources, ensuring that every piece of jewellery is crafted with the highest standards of purity and integrity. Mr. O. Asher, Managing Director of India Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds received the award from Dr. Sundaravalli Narayanswamy, Chairperson of the India Gold Policy Centre, at a function held at Bangalore, India. Also in attendance were Mr. Sitaraman Varadarajan, Business Development Head at Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Mr. Dileep Narayanan, Bullion Head at Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Mr. Sunil Kashyap Director of Finmet PTE Ltd, Mr. Praveen Baijnath, CEO of Rand Refinery, and Mr. Filsor Babu, Karnataka Regional Head at Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

Speaking on the occasion, Malabar Group Chairman, M.P. Ahamed, expressed his gratitude and reaffirmed the company's commitment to ethical practices. "We are deeply honored to receive the Responsible Jewellery House Award from IGC. Gold and diamonds are treasured gifts, often exchanged during life's most joyful moments, such as weddings and birthdays. We are committed to ensuring that these precious materials are sourced ethically, from legitimate origins, free from exploitation. Only then can these gifts truly embody the sanctity, purity, and brilliance they symbolize. We uphold this commitment from the moment gold is mined to the final product reaching our customers."

"The tenets of ethical and responsible business practices are something



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we have strongly adhered to here at Malabar Gold & Diamonds since our inception. From using only the most sustainably sourced raw materials in our jewellery to incorporating numerous environment-friendly features across our showrooms and offices, we have strived to be a model organization that embodies the spirit of a responsible brand," commented Mr. Shamal Ahamed, Managing Director of International Operations at Malabar

Gold & Diamonds. Malabar Gold & Diamonds currently operates over 355 showrooms across 13 countries, employing around 21,000 people from 26 different nationalities. With more than 15 million satisfied customers from over 100 countries, the company offers world-class facilities in all its showrooms.

O. Asher, Managing Director of Malabar Gold & Diamonds India Operations, said, "We ensure that the gold

bars we buy and sell are responsible and fully legal. We use London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) quality certified London Good Delivery Bars (LGDB), Dubai Good Delivery Bars (DGDB) and HUID Hallmarked Indian Good Delivery Bars. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has already become a trusted jewellery brand in the world", O. Asher said.

"Throughout all of the 13 countries that Malabar Gold & Diamonds cur-

rently operates in, we have taken great care to ensure that the entirety of our operations is in strict compliance to the rule of land. The policies we have enacted in the avenues of Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) have enabled us to position ourselves as a brand that is an integral part of society. These policies are routinely strengthened to remain a socially conscious and responsible organization", com-

mented Mr. Abdul Salam K.P, Vice-Chairman of Malabar Group.

ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) initiative has been the primary commitment of Malabar Group since its inception in 1993, with 5% of net profits set aside towards such initiatives in each country of operations. The key focus is in the areas of Health, Hunger Free World, Housing, Education, Women Empowerment & Environment. The ESG goals of the organization are periodically strengthened to remain a socially conscious and responsible organization.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds was established in 1993 and is the flagship company of Malabar Group, a leading diversified Indian business conglomerate.

With an annual turnover of \$6.2 billion, the company currently ranks as the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally and today has a strong retail network of over 355 outlets spread across 13 countries in addition to multiple offices, design centres, wholesale units, and factories spread across India, Middle East, Far East, the USA, the UK, Canada & Australia. The group, owned by more than 4,000 shareholders, has more than 21,000 professionals from over 26 countries working towards its continued success.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds also features an online store www.malabargoldanddiamonds.com providing customers the opportunity to purchase their favorite jewellery at any time and on any day from the comfort of their homes.

ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) has been the primary commitment of the group since its inception. The key ESG focus areas of Malabar Group are Health, Housing, Hunger Free World, Education, Environment and Women empowerment. Integrating the principles of responsibility and sustainability into its core business, Malabar Group periodically strengthens its ESG goals to remain a socially conscious and responsible organization. The group contributes 5% of its profit to such initiatives in the same country of operation.



### Film

LOS ANGELES, Aug 26, (AP) — In a sleepy summer weekend at the box office, holdovers reigned supreme as newcomers landed without a splash.

“Deadpool & Wolverine” reclaimed first place at the North American box office in its fifth weekend with \$18.3 million. Its cumulative international earnings now sit at over \$1.2 billion.

The Walt Disney Co., which owns 20th Century Studios, claimed the top two spots on the charts for the second weekend in a row with “Alien: Romulus” following close behind the foul-mouthed superhero movie. The latest installment in the 45-year-old franchise brought in \$16.2 million in its second weekend after a promising opening. Disney’s “Inside Out 2” also remained on the charts, raking in \$2.1 million domestically in its 11th weekend. Its global earnings are now over \$1.6 billion.

“This is an incredible turnaround for Disney, who almost fell off the radar, shockingly enough, last year and over the course of the pandemic,” said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. “They got a couple of billion-dollar films out so far and ‘Moana 2’ is still up on the way. This is a huge comeback year for Disney — no question about it.”

Romantic drama “It Ends With Us,” another repeat chart-topper, landed in third place for the second consecutive weekend with \$11.9 million. The Sony movie starring Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni, who also directed, has made \$242.6 million to date globally. It cost only \$25 million to produce.

### ‘Blink Twice’ sees quiet opening

The new releases were victim to the crowded movie marketplace, resulting in what Dergarabedian called “box office déjà vu,” with the familiar films dominating and making it harder for the new releases to find their footing. Dergarabedian says the upcoming Labor Day holiday will likely benefit the newer titles as word-of-mouth spreads and more people head to theaters during the long weekend.

#### Thriller

“Blink Twice,” directed by Zoë Kravitz and starring her life partner Channing Tatum, saw a modest opening, taking in \$7.3 million and claiming fourth place on the charts. The Amazon MGM Studios psychological thriller follows Tatum as tech magnate Slater King, who whisks two women away to his private island. While it may seem like a picture-perfect vacation at first, much more sinister events unfold as the visitors learn the truth about the island and the billionaire. The film’s budget has been reported at \$20 million.

Reviews have been mixed, with audiences giving the film a B- CinemaScore, but the film has been deemed Certified Fresh on Rotten Tomatoes with a 79% score.

Rounding out the top five was “The Forge,” a faith-focused coming-of-age movie about a young man finding his way through Christianity. The film opened with \$6.6 million and received an A+ CinemaScore from audiences. It was released by Affirm Films, Sony’s faith-based banner.

Another new release, “The Crow,” was beat out by “Twisters” and “Coraline” in the rankings. “Twisters” entered its sixth week with \$6.2 million in domestic earnings and “Coraline,” which was re-released for its 15th anniversary last week, brought in an additional \$5.1 million in its second weekend.

Lionsgate’s “The Crow,” an R-rated adaptation of the acclaimed graphic novel and a remake of the 1994 film of the same name, opened with \$4.6 million. The studio also floundered in August with the release of “Borderlands,” an adaptation of the video game, which made \$15.2 million over three weekends compared to its reported \$120 million budget.

To complete the “tale of the holdovers,” as Dergarabedian put it, “Despicable Me 4” and “Inside Out 2” closed out the top 10 films of the weekend, bringing in \$4.4 million and \$2.1 million, respectively. “Inside Out 2” has been on the charts for 11 consecutive weekends and remains the No. 1 animated film of all time globally.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday: 1. “Deadpool & Wolverine,” \$18.3 million; 2. “Alien: Romulus,” \$16.2 million; 3. “It Ends With Us,” \$11.9 million; 4. “Blink Twice,” \$7.3 million; 5. “The Forge,” \$6.6 million; 6. “Twisters,” \$6.2 million; 7. “Coraline,” \$5.1 million; 8. “The Crow,” \$4.6 million; 9. “Despicable Me 4,” \$4.4 million and 10. “Inside Out 2,” \$2.1 million.

### Variety



This image released by Sony Pictures Classics shows Julianne Moore, (right), and Tilda Swinton in a scene from ‘The Room Next Door.’ (AP)

### Film

Top films to watch from Clooney to Almodóvar

## A-listers, fresh talent shine at Venice

VENICE, Italy, Aug 26, (AP) — Some of Hollywood’s biggest stars are getting ready to descend on the Venice Film Festival this week, from George Clooney and Angelina Jolie to Lady Gaga and Brad Pitt.

But while the allure of A-listers on those picturesque docks is a welcome return to form after last year’s lower-wattage edition amid the strikes, the spotlight that matters most will be on their films. Along with Cannes, Venice — which runs from Aug. 28 through Sept. 7 — is one of the most glamorous launching pads for awards season. The films that do well on the Lido will be dominating the conversation until the Oscars in March.

In this year’s lineup, there’s both big Hollywood fare (“Beetlejuice Beetlejuice” and “Horizon: An American Saga-Chapter 2”) to “Wolfs”) and a vast array of intriguing films from auteurs around the world. At festivals, the best thing is to keep an open mind and see as much as possible — you never know what might hit. In the meantime, though, here are 10 films to get excited about at Venice.

No matter which side of the “Joker” discourse you were on five years ago, the fact that all involved would bring the sequel back to Venice to play in competition is promising. “Joker: Folie à Deux” doesn’t need the festival buzz, after all. The first film made over \$1 billion and was nominated for 11 Oscars. Venice chief Alberto Barbera told Deadline that it’s completely different from the first, a dystopian musical that is “one of the most daring, brave and creative films in recent American cinema” and “confirms Todd Phillips as one of the most creative directors working at the moment.” It’ll be in theaters Oct. 4.

Chilean filmmaker Pablo Larraín is not to be ignored when he makes a film about a famous woman with a tragic narrative (see: “Spencer,” “Jackie”). This time he’s teamed with screenwriter Steven Knight (“Peaky Blinders”) and Jolie to bring opera singer Maria Callas back to life in “Maria.” The soprano was a tabloid fixture, perhaps most famous for her affair with Aristotle Onassis, who would end up leaving her for another of Larraín’s tragic women: Jacqueline Kennedy. Callas died in 1977, at age 53, but remains one of classical music’s bestselling artists. “Maria” is playing in competition and seeking distribution.

Luca Guadagnino returns to Venice with “Queer,” an adaptation of the William S. Burroughs novel, starring Daniel Craig in a performance that Barbera has called “career defining.” It follows an American expat to Mexico City on a quest for a drug. There, he encounters all sorts of characters and develops an obsession with a young man. The novel was written in the early 1950s, a sort of companion piece to “Junkie,” but not published until 1985. Others have attempted to adapt it before, including Steve Buscemi and Oren Moverman.

Pedro Almodóvar’s English-language debut, with Julianne Moore and Tilda Swinton starring? We barely even need a description to get excited about that, which is probably good because details are vague. He’s said that it’s about an imperfect mother and a resentful daughter who are estranged because of a “profound misunderstanding.”

#### Subjects

In addition to tackling subjects like war, death and friendship Almodóvar said, “it also talks about the pleasure of waking up to birds bringing a new day at a house built on a natural reserve in New England.” It’ll also make a stop at the New York Film Festival before a December release.

Dutch filmmaker Halina Reijn made the wildly fun “Bodies Bodies Bodies,” so we’re especially curious what “Babygirl” holds. The thriller stars Nicole Kidman (who 25 years ago came to Venice with “Eyes Wide Shut”) as a powerful CEO who begins an affair with a younger intern played by Harris Dickinson (“Triangle of Sadness,” “The Iron Claw”). Antonio Banderas also co-stars. A24 plans a December theatrical release.

This 3 1/2-hour drama from filmmaker Brady Corbet follows architect László Toth (Adrien Brody) and his wife Erzsébet (Felicity Jones) on a decadeslong journey as they flee Europe following World War II and attempt to set up a life in America. There, Toth meets industrialist Harrison Lee Van Buren (Guy Pearce), who commissions him to design a modernist monument, changing their lives for better and worse. Corbet (“Vox Lux”) is not always going to be a filmmaker for everyone, but he’s never not interesting. Focus Features and Universal are distributing, but the movie does not yet have a release date.

There are quite a few innovative offerings in the non-fiction space: Errol Morris’ “Separated,” about the Trump administration’s border policy; Asif Kapadia’s future-looking “2073”; “Pavements,” Alex Ross Perry’s hybrid doc about the Stephen Malkmus band; and Andres Veiel’s “Riefens-tahl.” But only one made it to the main competition: Wang Bing’s “Youth (Homecoming),” the conclusion to his vérité documentary trilogy in which he followed migrant workers in Zhili, China’s textile factories across five years. It’s seeking distribution.

Georgian filmmaker Dea Kulumbegashvili’s sophomore film is about Nina, an OB-GYN working in rural Georgia who also performs abortions, despite the laws of the country. When a newborn dies in her care, an investigation fuels rumors about her morality and professionalism. Three years after the abortion drama “Happening” snagged the top prize at Venice, the buzz is that this will be one of the breakouts. Kulumbegashvili’s debut, “Beginning,” about the bombing of a Jehovah’s Witnesses church, made waves on the festival circuit in 2020. “April,” which is seeking a US distributor, is also set to play at TIFF and the New York Film Festival.

Jude Law produced and stars in this 1980s-set crime thriller about a white supremacist group who his FBI agent character suspects is tied to a series of crimes in the Pacific Northwest. Nicholas Hoult plays the group’s charismatic leader in the Justin Kurzel-directed film, to be released in theaters in December.

“Attenberg” and “Chevalier” filmmaker Athina Rachel Tsigari returns to the main competition with “Harvest,” an adaptation of the Jim Crace novel set in a medieval English village where the locals use three newcomers as scapegoats for economic turmoil. It’s apparently the reason star Caleb Landry Jones did his “Dogman” press with a Scottish accent last year. Mubi has distribution rights in several European territories, but no dates or US plans have been announced.

This is not a film, but this series coming to AppleTV+ on Oct. 11 is from Alfonso Cuarón, who wrote and directed the seven-episode psychological thriller starring Cate Blanchett and Kevin Kline. Blanchett plays a journalist who discovers she’s a character in a novel that reveals her dark secret.

**PAESTUM, Italy.** Inspired by Marco Polo, who traveled to China along the ancient Silk Road more than 700 years ago, Italian traveler **Vienna Cammarota** set off from the legendary explorer’s hometown **Venice** on April 26, 2022, to retrace the route on foot.

With a simple backpack and two trekking poles, 74-year-old Cammarota has covered over 20,000 km and passed through dozens of countries. Before enter-

ing China, the last stop of her journey to the East, she returned to her southern Italian hometown of **Paestum** in August for a short break.

The journey is more than just a personal challenge, Cammarota told Xinhua in a recent interview. It is a mission to witness firsthand the impact of China’s Belt and Road



Macklemore



Cammarota

Initiative (BRI) and to share the experiences with the world, she added. Cammarota’s fascination with China began over two decades ago when a Chinese student stayed in her home, igniting her interest in the country’s rich cultural heritage.

Throughout her trip, Cammarota said she witnessed the transformation of the ancient trade route into

a corridor of economic and cultural exchange. “I have seen the bridges, highways, and railways built under the BRI, which connect countries in a way that echoes the Silk Road’s historic role in facilitating trade and cultural exchange.”

Marvelled at the Peljesac Bridge in **Croatia**, a project built by a Chinese consortium, led by the

China Road and Bridge Corporation, Cammarota said the bridge not only connected the country’s southern and northern regions but also shortened the distance between the island of **Korcula**, where Marco Polo once lived, to the land. “What an amazing work,” Cammarota posted on Facebook. (Xinhua)



## People &amp; Places

## Books

## 'Kent State' chilling

## Elizondo's 'Imminent' exposes UFO secrets

NEW YORK, Aug. 26, (AP) — A procession of books in recent years have explored the UFO phenomenon but few perhaps with the authority Luis Elizondo brings as a Defense Department insider, laboring for decades to learn who the visitors are, where they are from and what they want.

In the 275 pages of "Imminent: Inside the Pentagon's Hunt for UFOs," Elizondo provides evidence of what the US Department of Defense knows with this somewhat surprising conclusion — Defense Department higher-ups often thwart Elizondo and his team's efforts.

Why? Elizondo writes that the defense establishment doesn't want to present a problem it neither can explain nor offer a solution. But are these visitors a threat? Elizondo concludes that the visitors' capabilities make them a "very serious national security issue."

Earliest documented UFO sightings go back to before World War II and since then, many UFOs have violated sensitive military airspace but no one appears to have been deliberately hurt by a UFO in the United States. However, perhaps given his combat experiences and long association

with Defense Department work, Elizondo worries about another 9-11-type attack, a threat we should have anticipated but did not.

Elizondo deploys way too many government acronyms — consider AAWSAAP/AATIP, for example — but he's undeniably thorough in presenting what he has worked on and learned over two decades. Pages of diagrams and explanations suggest how UFOs might propel themselves.

Elizondo became so alarmed at what he was learning about UFOs that the Defense Department refused to disclose to the public that he ultimately resigned his job with the Defense Department so he could go public with much of what he knows about the presence of visitors whose vehicles are far more advanced than what we earthlings have built. Several passages in the book are redacted and Elizondo writes multiple times that he cannot say more about certain subjects.

Perhaps more alarmingly, as he points out, the Defense Department and other government entities at every level tend to regard our elected representatives as "temporary hires" who need to be managed and fed information as the departments see fit. The Defense bureaucracy, for example, didn't trust President Nixon, so it didn't tell him much about UFOs.

The Defense Department recently has released more information on UFOs, thanks largely to Elizondo and his colleagues, but given the reluctant government pace, the bureaucracy doesn't appear to judge UFOs as an "imminent" threat.

Meantime, the American people — make that the world — seem to regard the proven-beyond-reasonable-doubt arrival of visitors from far away as news eliciting little more than a shrug.

A Defense Department briefing detailing much more of what it knows might change that. A good starting point might be what happened to the remains of non-human bodies that have been recovered from crash sites.

Elizondo fears the Defense Department never will disclose what it knows about that.

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More than a half century has passed since Ohio National Guard members opened fire on college students during a war protest at Kent State University, killing four students and injuring nine others.

The description of the nation, then split over the Vietnam War, leading up to the 1970 tragedy echo today's politics and divisions in many ways. In "Kent State: An American Tragedy," historian Brian VanDeMark recounts a country that had split into two warring camps that would not and could not understand each other.

"It was a tense, suspicious, and combustible atmosphere that required only a spark to ignite a tragedy," VanDeMark writes.

VanDeMark succeeds at helping readers understand that atmosphere, creating a chilling narrative of the spark and ensuing tragedy at Kent State. Within less than 13 seconds, 30 guardsmen fired 67 shots at protesters in an event where "the Vietnam War came home and the Sixties came to an end," he writes.

With a straightforward writing style, VanDeMark provides both a micro and macro look at the events leading up to the massacre — examining the growing dissent against the U.S. involvement in Vietnam and how it rippled across Kent State's campus.

VanDeMark relies on a host of new material, including interviews with some of the guardsmen, to reconstruct the protests on campus and the shooting. He also recounts the investigations and legal fights that ensued following the shooting.

"Kent State" portrays a campus that grappled for years with its legacy, with no official memorial to the slain students erected on campus until two decades later, in 1990.

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Marlowe Meadows has great grades and a loving family, two best friends who understand her and all her autistic quirks, and a picture-perfect, blue-eyed, football-playing, romantic boyfriend, Josh. At least, until he breaks up with her unceremoniously at the end of junior year, sending her perfectly categorized world into a tailspin.

Serena Kaylor's second novel, "The Calculation of You and Me," is a phenomenal teen romance that celebrates romance itself — the concept and the genre — as Marlowe discovers what makes a healthy, happy relationship through her journey to try and win back Josh.

Realizing she's failed to adequately show her love and appreciation for Josh — and the normalcy and popularity that dating him brought to her life — Marlowe decides to prove just how romantic she can be. And when her English teacher pairs her with a quiet, moody goth boy, Marlowe sees an opportunity.

"Calculation" is everything you expect from the bubblegum cover and more; alongside the unsurprising romance arc, Kaylor's characters have to learn to navigate everything from bullying to societal expectations to effective communication and relationship-building.

The novel has the sap and safe predictability of a Hallmark movie, but with the bonus ability to make you laugh out loud and cry real tears and become way more invested in the characters than any silly romance ought to make you do.



Taylor Swift performs at Wembley Stadium as part of her Eras Tour June 21, 2024 in London. (AP)

## Philanthropy

## Singer offers lifeline for food banks amid crisis

## Swift ushers in new era of giving

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 26, (AP) — Ahead of Taylor Swift's July 14, 2023, concert in Denver, Aditi Desai, chief marketing officer at the Food Bank of the Rockies, got an unusual call. The billionaire pop star wanted to donate tens of thousands of meals to the nonprofit — a philanthropic effort she had repeated, much like her favorite songs, as she traverses the country on her 52-city Eras Tour.

"I was shocked and then thrilled by the news," Desai said. "When (Swift's representatives) shared the news, they were so kind, letting us know that Taylor wanted to express her gratitude for the work we do in our community every day."

Since last March, Swift has donated the equivalent of hundreds of thousands of meals to help feed the growing number of Americans grappling with rising food and housing costs. She chooses to give without celebrity fanfare, and the gifts have been welcomed. But food bank operators say they have provided only temporary relief, as food insecurity has been spiking and federal government COVID-19 aid has ended.

"We got so much support during COVID," said Jessica Sund, director of development and communications at Channel One Regional Food Bank of Minnesota, which received funding from Swift. "That really helped us not have a horrible situation. But the numbers we're seeing are so much higher now because of inflation and cost of living, and all of that support is gone."

Swift's support has been meaningful, food bank operators say, especially in drawing attention to their crucial service for low- and mid-income people. But food banks, collectively, require billions of dollars in funding per year, said Kyle Waide, CEO of Atlanta Community Food Bank, who is chair of the National Council for Feeding America and whose Georgia food bank is a Swift grantee.

The annual funding shortfall between what is needed in food assistance and what is provided by the federal government is roughly \$33 billion, according to Feeding America, a network of food banks, pantries, and local meal programs.

"At a macro level, food banks are

certainly facing lots of pressure right now, mainly because of just the extraordinary level of demand that's out in the community," Waide said.

Typically, according to Feeding America, food banks rely on individual and corporate donations, contributions from local farmers and retailers, and federal aid programs to sustain operations.

The self-described "tortured poet," who has an estimated net worth of more than \$1 billion, has a history of supporting emergency relief causes. Swift's charitable fund at the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee was set up to respond to flooding that struck the region in 2010. She gave \$1 million to the community foundation's Tennessee Emergency Response Fund last year.

Food banks fortunate enough to receive a slice of her wealth have praised the pop star for highlighting their efforts to reduce hunger amid inflation, rising food and energy costs, and increased demand for their services. At least 49 million Americans rely on food from food banks and other charities. Young people, who make up a large portion of Swift's audience, are increasingly affected by food insecurity. More than half of those ages 18 to 34 said rising food costs were chief among their biggest financial worries.

Swift's public relations team declined to comment about her food bank donations.

## Donation

Grantees said they were asked not to disclose the amount of the gifts. However, Desai said the contribution allowed the food bank to purchase enough food for 75,000 meals. Typically, the food bank can provide about three meals for every \$1 donated, she said.

Channel One Regional Food Bank of Minnesota was able to purchase 30,000 meals with its donation, according to Jessica Sund, the organization's director of development and communications. Food banks can purchase anywhere from two to 10 meals per dollar donated, she said.

"It really does range dramatically from food bank to food bank," Sund said.

At Channel One, it usually costs

about \$8 million a year to keep shelves stocked with enough food to support roughly 300,000 visits from people in 14 counties.

Swift's gifts seem to amount to a tiny percentage of the revenue earned from the tour and her personal wealth. Nevertheless, many of her food bank grantees consider the exposure that she gives them priceless.

Her donation provided the kind of media attention that Food Bank of the Rockies could never afford, Desai said. "We saw rapid increases in 'likes' and 'comments' on the social media post announcing the gift, with exponentially more engagement than we typically receive," Desai said.

Some food banks said they saw a bump in small donations in response to the press coverage. It was short-lived, and most continue to be challenged by high demand for their services as more Americans struggle to make ends meet.

Channel One is seeing an increase in individuals and families reaching out for the first time as they realize they can no longer afford to buy food on their own, Sund said. Currently, the organization receives 10,000 visits to its on-site food shelf in Rochester, Minnesota, which is roughly a 50 percent increase from last year, she said.

Sund and other food bank leaders point to inflation and the lack of affordable housing as contributing to increased demand. The end of government pandemic relief funding has exacerbated these issues, they said. In 2020, at the height of the pandemic, the federal government expanded the Child Tax Credit program for low-income families. Lawmakers allowed the policy to expire at the end of 2021. Similarly, temporary benefit increases for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program expired in March 2023.

Second Harvest of Silicon Valley also received a gift from Swift during the U.S. leg of her tour. The organization had heard that Swift was donating to food banks and reached out to her press team about a month ahead of her performances in Santa Clara last July, said Shobana Gubbi, chief philanthropy officer at Second Harvest of Silicon Valley.

on screen.

Nearly 70 percent of respondents find travel inspiration through social media, whether from the travel experiences shared by friends and family or by gathering ideas from various platforms. (Xinhua)

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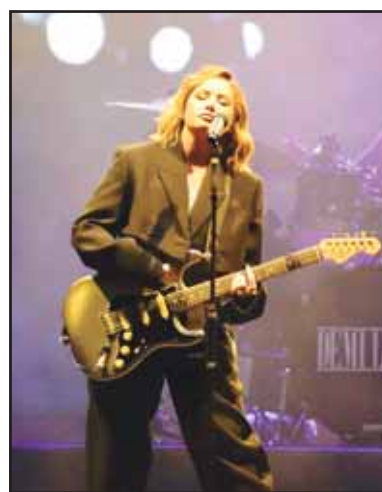
**ONTARIO, Calif.:** Fire has destroyed the wooden grandstands at a historic Southern California baseball field that appeared in "A League of Their Own" and other movies.

Firefighters responded at 11:25 p.m. Thursday to a report of a fire at Jay Littleton Ball Park in the city of Ontario, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) east of Los Angeles.

"By the time they got here, which was pretty quickly, the structure was already fully engulfed," said Dan Bell, the city communications director.

The cause of the fire was under investigation, he said. No injuries were reported. The "traditional, old-school grandstands" dated to 1937, Bell said. The structure stood behind home plate and extended out along the first- and third-base lines.

The 1992 film "A League of Their Own," starring Tom Hanks, Geena Davis and Lori Petty, among others, told the story of a women's professional baseball team in the 1940s. (AP)



Demi Lovato performs during the HERA HSBC music festival in Mexico City, Saturday, Aug. 24. (AP)



Cabello



Wang

## Variety

**MEXICO CITY:** Mexico City's Hera HSBC music festival Saturday brought together an all-female lineup of both Latin and international talent, including Keshia, Demi Lovato and Camila Cabello. Named after the Greek goddess of women, family and the sky and stars, the festival came at a historic moment in the country, as Mexico prepares to inaugurate its first female president, Claudia Sheinbaum.

Fronted and organized by women, the festival drew more than 48,000 people to the capital's race track, home to other music festivals like Corona Capital and EDC Mexico.

At Hera, women were not only performing on stage but working behind the scenes as producers, engineers and more. It's something Itzel González, festival promoter, and Ximena Sariñana, Mexican singer-songwriter, co-creator and director of the Hera committee wanted to highlight with the event.

"Thank you truly to all of you for coming and being part of this unique and historic moment here in Mexico City," Sariñana told an audience during her performance.

"For me, it's amazing that there is a festival for them and for everyone," he added. (AP)

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**TAIPEI, Taiwan:** Taiwan has cancelled a planned Taipei concert by a Chinese rapper after he used the insulting term "Taipei, China" in promotional materials. Wang Yitai's scheduled Sept. 14 concert has been scrapped and the performer from the southwestern city of Chengdu banned from the island, the Taiwanese government's Mainland Affairs Council announced late Sunday.

The term is insulting because it describes Taipei, the island's capital, as a Chinese city under Beijing's rule, echoing the government's position on eventually annexing Taiwan by force if necessary and denigrating the island's lively democracy.

Not widely known outside China, Wang is signed to a rap label in Chengdu, a city with a lively arts scene that has become famous for eclectic performers and venues. Its also home to the rap group CD Rev, which won international notoriety for hard-line nationalist tracks including ones that compare Taiwan to the semi-autonomous Chinese city Hong Kong and made obscene and misogynist references to former President Tsai Ing-wen. (AP)

□ □ □

**TAIPEI:** A survey by travel platform Booking.com reveals that Taiwan's

Generation-Z travelers, born between 1997 and 2012, favor solo trips and are significantly influenced by movies, TV shows and social media when choosing their travel destinations.

According to the survey published on

Sunday, 71 percent of young respondents in Taiwan choose travel destinations based on locations featured in their favorite films and TV shows, eager to "check in" at these iconic spots and experience the same restaurants or hotels seen



Amy Lee, lead singer of American rock band Evanescence, performs during the HERA HSBC music festival in Mexico City, Saturday, Aug. 24. (AP)



## Polio vaccination drive targets over 1 million amid unrest

# Polio vaccines arrive in Gaza as aid groups seek ceasefire

GAZA, Aug 26, (AP) — Polio vaccines for more than 1 million people have been delivered to Gaza, Israel's military said Sunday, after the first confirmed case of the disease in the territory in a quarter-century.

It was not immediately clear how, or how quickly, the more than 25,000 vials of vaccine would be distributed in Gaza, where ongoing fighting and unrest have challenged humanitarian efforts during more than 10 months of war.

Other polio cases are suspected across the largely devastated territory after the virus was detected in wastewater in six different locations in July.

Aid groups plan to vaccinate more than 600,000 children under age 10 and have called for an urgent pause in the war to increase vaccinations. The World Health Organization and the United Nations children's agency have said that, at a minimum, a seven-day

pause is needed.

The U.N. has aimed to bring 1.6 million doses of polio vaccine into Gaza, where hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians are crowded into tent camps lacking clean water or proper disposal of sewage and garbage. Families sometimes use wastewater to drink or clean dishes.

Polio is highly contagious and transmits mainly through contact with contaminated feces, water or food. It can cause difficulty breathing and irreversible paralysis, usually in the legs. It strikes young children in particular and is sometimes fatal.

The new statement by the Israeli military body responsible for Palestinian civilian affairs said five trucks with special refrigeration equipment for vaccine storage were brought into Gaza on Friday in coordination with the U.N. The vaccines arrived Sunday.

The statement said vaccinations

will be conducted by international and local medical teams at "various locations" in Gaza, in coordination with Israel's military as part of "routine humanitarian pauses" to allow people to reach health centers.

The statement said more than 282,000 vials of the polio vaccine have been brought into Gaza since the war began in early October.

The territory's health care system has been devastated, and workers are overwhelmed. Only about a third of Gaza's 36 hospitals and 40% of its primary health care facilities are functioning, according to the U.N. But the WHO and UNICEF say their vaccination campaign will be carried out in every municipality in Gaza, with help from 2,700 workers.

Before the war, 99% of Gaza's population was vaccinated against polio. That figure is now 86%, according to the WHO.

Indonesia records 88 mpox cases

## Philippines detects 2 more monkeypox cases

MANILA, Aug 26, (Xinhua) — The Philippines has detected two additional new cases of monkeypox (mpox), bringing the number of active mpox cases in the country to three, the Department of Health (DOH) said on Monday.

DOH spokesperson Assistant Secretary Albert Domingo said the new cases include a 37-year-old male and a 32-year-old male from Metro Manila. The 37-year-old is currently confined at a hospital, while the 32-year-old is staying at home waiting for a confirmatory test result of a skin sample.

"Both have MPXV Clade II, which

is the milder form of the mpox virus," Domingo said.

Domingo said the DOH cannot yet determine any epidemiologic linkages of the two new cases to the first active case of 2024, a 33-year-old male detected on Monday last week.

With the detection of new mpox cases, the Philippines has now tallied 12 cases since July 2022.

"Nine cases have long recovered since 2023. Three are active cases waiting for symptoms to resolve," Domingo said.

Meanwhile, Indonesia has recorded 88 cases of monkeypox (mpox) since

it was first detected in August 2022, according to Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin on Monday.

In 2024 alone, the number of mpox cases has reached 14.

"The cases in Indonesia are still under control, with a higher prevalence of the Clade IIB variant, which is recoverable and has a low fatality rate. All those who were sick have recovered," Sadikin told reporters in Jakarta.

Jakarta has reported the highest number of mpox cases at 59, followed by West Java with 13, Banten with nine, East Java and Yogyakarta each with three cases, and Riau with one case.

Unlock creativity with power naps

## Feeling groggy in the afternoon? Here's how to nap the right way

NEW YORK, Aug 26, (AP) — Now that she's working from home, Kendra King takes an early afternoon nap on most days, typically for about 20 to 30 minutes.

"A lot of times, I don't go in with the intention of taking a nap, but instead to lay down and rest," said King, a writer in Philadelphia. "Then I end up drifting off and wake up feeling energized and fresh to continue on my day."

King didn't realize she had settled naturally into the napping routine that sleep experts recommend. Or that researchers say short naps improve motor skills, enhance memory and boost creativity, even though she has felt it.

"I'm definitely more creative after napping," she said.

That's because so-called power naps lasting less than 30 minutes allow the brain to rest in a way that makes you more alert, experts say. The naps are not so long that you slip into deeper sleep that would leave you groggy after waking up.

"We know it's an easy, helpful way to quickly boost your alertness, your concentration, your productivity, your creativity and your mood. It's a royal flush," said James Maas, who spent 48 years studying sleep as a Cornell University professor.

Maas, author of "Sleep for Success! Everything You Must Know About Sleep But are Too Tired to Ask," said nearly everyone experiences an afternoon lull in their energy. It comes

down to the body's circadian rhythm, which includes two periods of drowsiness every 24 hours, once at night and again between about 2 and 4 p.m.

In a typical night, people go through several 90-minute sleep cycles spread over five stages, from light to deep sleep, with the deepest falling toward the middle. Daytime sleep follows the same cycle, which is why Maas doesn't recommend hourlong naps. Waking up from such deep sleep can take up to an hour to return to normal, thanks to what's called sleep inertia.

Shorter naps only include stage-two sleep, which is particularly helpful for alertness and memory, said Sara Mednick, a sleep researcher at University of California-Irvine.

### Cognitive

"It's like putting yourself into low-power mode just for a little bit and letting your body recuperate," said Mednick, author of "Take a Nap! Change Your Life."

Her research has found that naps work better than caffeine and a placebo to improve cognitive functioning. In fact, that afternoon cup of coffee is the least effective of all three.

"We showed better effects with the placebo on performance than with the caffeine," she said. "So if you think you're getting caffeine, you're going to perform better than if you actually get caffeine."

Find a quiet, dark and cool space

and set a timer for 15 or 20 minutes, which is a good starting point until you see how your body adjusts.

Even if you feel like you haven't slept, you still get benefits, Mednick said. People don't feel like they are asleep until they have reached deeper, slow-wave sleep in stage three.

"Your brain is still alerting you to the world around you when you're in stage-two sleep," she said. "But that doesn't necessarily mean that you're not getting the benefits of sleep."

Experts say short naps don't interfere with nighttime sleep, as long as they're not too late in the day. Aim for taking a nap around 6 or 7 hours after waking up, and try to nap at the same time every day.

Mednick recommended saving longer naps for the weekends, or when you have time to sleep a full 90 minutes. After about half an hour, you enter slow-wave sleep, which helps the body repair muscle tissue. REM, or rapid-eye movement, sleep comes at the end of the cycle; it's associated with fanciful dreams and helps process emotions.

The only people who should avoid napping are those who have trouble sleeping at night, Maas said. Senior citizens in particular should be vigilant because they tend to nap for too long during the day.

Mednick's research also has shown that napping is not for everyone. About half the people she has tested didn't get anything out of it.

What you eat matters for mental health

## Blood sugar levels can be fuel for anxiety, depression: study

By Mary Scourboutakos

Eastern Virginia Medical School

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

The proverbial "sugar high" that follows the ingestion of a sweet treat is a familiar example of the potentially positive effects of food on mood.

On the flip side, feeling "hangry" — the phenomenon where hunger manifests in the form of anger or irritability — illustrates how what we eat, or don't eat, can also provoke negative emotions.

The latest research suggests that blood sugar fluctuations are partly responsible for the connection between what we eat and how we feel. Through its effects on our hormones and our nervous system, blood sugar levels can be fuel for anxiety and depression.

Mental health is complex. There are countless social, psychological and biological factors that ultimately determine any one person's experience. However, numerous randomized controlled trials have demonstrated that diet is one biological factor that can significantly influence risk for symptoms of depression and anxiety, especially in women.

As a family medicine resident with a Ph.D. in nutrition, I have witnessed the fact that antidepressant medications work for some patients but not others. Thus, in my view, mental health treatment strategies should target every risk factor, including nutrition.

### Modified

Many of the randomized controlled trials that have proven the link between diet and mental health have tested the Mediterranean diet or a slightly modified version of it. The Mediterranean diet is typically characterized by lots of vegetables — especially dark green, leafy vegetables — fruit, olive oil, whole grains, legumes and nuts, with small amounts of fish, meat and dairy products. One of the many attributes of the Mediterranean diet that may be responsible for its effect on mood is its low glycemic index.

The glycemic index is a system that ranks foods and diets according to their potential to raise blood sugar. Thus, in keeping with the observation that blood sugar fluctuations affect mood, high glycemic index diets that produce drastic spikes in blood sugar have been associated with increased risk for depression and to some extent anxiety.

High glycemic index carbohydrates in-

clude white rice, white bread, crackers and baked goods. Therefore, diets high in these foods may increase risk for depression and anxiety. Meanwhile, low glycemic index carbs, such as parboiled rice and al dente pasta, that are more slowly absorbed and produce a smaller blood sugar spike are associated with decreased risk.

Many scientific mechanisms have been proposed to explain the connection between diet and mental health. One plausible explanation that links blood sugar fluctuations with mood is its effect on our hormones.

Every time we eat sugar or carbohydrates such as bread, rice, pasta, potatoes and crackers, the resulting rise in blood sugar triggers a cascade of hormones and signaling molecules. One example, dopamine — our brain's pleasure signal — is the reason we can experience a "sugar high" following the consumption of dessert or baked goods. Dopamine is the body's way of rewarding us for procuring the calories, or energy, that are necessary for survival.

### Insulin

Insulin is another hormone triggered by carbohydrates and sugar. Insulin's job is to lower blood sugar levels by escorting the ingested sugar into our cells and tissues so that it can be used for energy. However, when we eat too much sugar, too many carbs, or high glycemic index carbs, the rapid increase in blood sugar prompts a drastic rise in insulin. This can result in blood sugar levels that dip below where they started.

This dip in blood sugar sparks the release of adrenaline and its cousin noradrenaline. Both of these hormones appropriately send glucose into the bloodstream to restore blood sugar to the appropriate level.

However, adrenaline influences more than just blood sugar levels. It also affects how we feel, and its release can manifest as anxiety, fear or aggression. Hence, diet affects mood through its effect on blood sugar levels, which trigger the hormones that dictate how we feel.

Interestingly, the rise in adrenaline that follows sugar and carbohydrate consumption doesn't happen until four to five hours after eating. Thus, when eating sugar and carbs, dopamine makes us feel good in the short term; but in the long term, adrenaline can make us feel bad.

However, not everyone is equally affected. Identical meals can produce widely varying blood sugar responses in different people, depending on one's sex, as well as genetics, sedentariness and the gut microbiome.

And it's important to keep in mind

that, as previously mentioned, mental health is complicated. So in certain circumstances, no amount of dietary optimization will overcome the social and psychological factors that may underpin one's experience.

Nevertheless, a poor diet could certainly make a person's experience worse and is thus relevant for anyone, especially women, hoping to optimize mental health. Research has shown that women, in particular, are more sensitive to the effects of the glycemic index and diet overall.

Unfortunately, simple solutions, such as swapping sugar for artificial sweeteners, are not an option. Research has shown that among all processed foods, artificial sweeteners and artificially sweetened beverages are most strongly associated with depression.

The most obvious way to stabilize blood sugar levels is to decrease sugar and carbohydrate intake. However, this is not the only way. Research has proven that simple changes can drastically mitigate volatile blood sugar fluctuations. Some strategies to stabilize blood sugar and optimize mood include:

■ Make low glycemic index carbohydrates such as parboiled rice, whole grain bread and al dente pasta dietary staples and be mindful of how many high glycemic index carbohydrates you consume. I give my patients this guide to increase their awareness of the glycemic index of various carbohydrates.

■ Eat carbohydrates earlier in the day such as breakfast or lunchtime, as opposed to later in the day, like dinner or, worse yet, as a nighttime snack. Our hormones follow a circadian rhythm, and carbs eaten earlier in the day produce a smaller blood sugar spike compared with carbs eaten later in the day.

■ Avoid eating carbohydrates on their own, such as snacking on a box of crackers or downing a bowl of rice. Always strive to combine carbohydrates with proteins such as beans, nuts, meat and fish, or with healthy fats such as olive oil and avocado. The combination of nutrients slows down the digestion of carbohydrates and thereby produces a smaller blood sugar spike.

■ Eat carbohydrates at the end of the meal, after eating vegetables and protein first. Just changing the order in which foods are eaten can drastically lower the blood sugar spike that comes after.

■ Eat a salad dressed with olive oil and vinegar prior to eating carbohydrates. The combination of vegetables, acid from the vinegar and fat from the olive oil, all work together to slow carbohydrate absorption and minimize the resultant blood sugar spike. (AP)

## First human EEE case since 2020

# Rare but deadly mosquito virus hits US

NEW YORK, Aug 26, (AP) — A rare but deadly disease spread by mosquitoes has one town in Massachusetts closing its parks and fields each evening. Four other towns are urging people to avoid going outdoors at night.

They're concerned about eastern equine encephalitis (EEE). State health officials announced last week a man in his 80s had caught the disease, the first human case found in Massachusetts since 2020.

The town of Plymouth, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) southeast of Boston, announced Friday that it's closing public outdoor recreation facilities from dusk until dawn each day after a horse in the town was infected with the disease.

Meanwhile, state health officials warned that a cluster of four towns south of Worcester — Douglas, Oxford, Sutton and Webster — are at "critical risk" after a man from Oxford caught the virus.

State and local health officials urged people in those towns to avoid the peak mosquito biting times by finishing outdoor activities by 6 p.m. until Sept. 30 and then by 5 p.m. after that, until the first hard frost.

They also recommend that people across Massachusetts use mosquito repellents when outdoors and drain any standing water around their homes.

Jennifer Callahan, Oxford's town manager, wrote in a memo that the family of the man who caught the vi-

rus in mid August had reached out to her office.

"They want people to be aware this is an extremely serious disease with terrible physical and emotional consequences, regardless if the person manages to live," Callahan wrote.

She said the infected person had often recounted to his family how he never got bitten by mosquitoes. But just before he became symptomatic, he told them he had been bitten. She said the man remains hospitalized and is "courageously battling" the virus.

Callahan said the family is urging people to take the public health advice seriously and to do their utmost to protect themselves.

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## Wilson scores at buzzer, Aces beat Sky

## Ogunbowale, Howard rally Dallas from 19 down to victory over Sparks

## Ko takes Women's British Open



Lydia Ko of New Zealand, poses for the media with the trophy for winning the Women's British Open golf championship, and becoming Champion golfer, in St. Andrews, Scotland. (AP)

## Bradley wins BMW as last man in

CASTLE ROCK, Colo., Aug 26, (AP): Keegan Bradley went from the last man in the BMW Championship to a winner Sunday, closing with an even-par 72 for a one-shot victory that opened up all sorts of possibilities he never imagined possible a week ago.

Bradley pulled away from mistake-prone Adam Scott early on the back nine and delivered a clutch shot into the par-5 17th that all but sealed the seventh victory of his PGA Tour career, and the most unlikely.

He was biting his nails a week ago, needing help just to finish at No. 50 in the FedEx Cup and qualify for the second post-season event. And then he managed the mile-high air, the wind and the Sunday pressure to win at Castle Pines.

The victory moved the 38-year-old Bradley from No. 50 to No. 4 in the FedEx Cup, sending him to the Tour Championship where he will start four shots behind Scottie Scheffler in a 72-hole chase for the \$25 million prize.

## GOLF

There's also another cup in play. Bradley, the first Ryder Cup captain to win a PGA Tour event since Davis Love III nine years ago, moved to No. 10 in the Presidents Cup standings. The top six after the BMW Championship automatically qualified, and Jim Furyk gets six captain's picks. Bradley will surely be in the conversation after winning for the third straight year.

Scott, a runner-up at the Scottish Open last month, was tied for the lead until starting the back nine with three soft bogeys, two of them with a wedge in his hand from the fairway. He birdied the closing par 5s, but lost a big chance when he overshot the 15th green from 101 yards.

He closed with a 72, though it also moved him into the top 30 who qualifying for East Lake.

Sam Burns finished with a Sunday-best 65, including a bogey on the par-5 14th, and shared second place with Scott and Ludvig Aberg of Sweden. Aberg closed with a 71.

Bradley finished at 12-under 276. He earned \$4 million for his second title in the BMW Championship, also winning at Aronimink in 2018.

Lydia Ko won her third major championship by breaking free from a logjam of world-class talent to win the Women's British Open by two strokes at St. Andrews, capping a summer that included her Olympic gold medal in Paris.

Ko rolled in a 4-foot birdie putt at the storied 18th hole on the Old Course for a 3-under 69, and then had to wait to see if Nelly Korda,

## Duplantis &amp; Ingebrigtsen set new world records in Silesia

WARSAW, Aug 26, (Xinhua): Olympic champion Armand Duplantis set a new world record in the men's pole vault at the Silesia Diamond League Kamila Skolimowska Memorial, clearing 6.26 meters on his second attempt.

The 24-year-old Swede had already demonstrated his exceptional talent at the Olympic Games in Paris, where he broke the world record with a jump of 6.25 meters and successfully defended his Olympic title. However, that record lasted only 20 days.

On Sunday, Duplantis thrilled fans once again at the Kamila Skolimowska Memorial, held at the Silesian Stadium in Chorzow, Poland.

The pole vault competition was intense, with Sam Kendricks and Emmanouil Karalis both clearing 6.00 meters. When the bar was raised to 6.08 meters, Kendricks failed three times, and Karalis opted out of the challenge.

With victory already assured, Duplantis attempted to set a new world record at 6.26 meters. His first attempt was far from perfect, but he succeeded on his second try, marking the 10th world record of his career.

"I knew I felt really good. The weather was absolutely perfect for jumping high. There was no wind at all, warm, and a great course, so everything depended on me," Duplantis told the media after the competition.

Duplantis wasn't the only athlete to set a new world record on Sunday. Jakob Ingebrigtsen, the 5,000-meter gold medalist at the Paris 2024 Olympics, won the men's 3,000-meter race with a time of 7:17.55, breaking the previous world mark of 7:20.67 set by Kenya's Daniel Komen in 1996 by over three seconds.

Ethiopia's Berihu Aregawi took silver with a time of 7:21.28, while his compatriot Yomif Kejelcha claimed bronze with a time of 7:28.44.

defending champion Lilia Vu and two-time champion Jiyai Shin could catch her.

All four players -- former world No. 1s -- shared the lead at some point down the stretch.

Korda had the lead until a double bogey on the par-5 14th, and she took bogey from the Road Hole bunker at the 17th to lose her bid. Shin also made bogey on the 17th. Vu had a 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th to force a playoff. She came up short, and then missed a short par putt to tie for second.

Ko finished at 7-under 281. It was her first major in eight years.

Frederic LaCroix of France played bogey-free for a 6-under 65 that allowed him to track down the mistake-prone leaders and win the Danish



Keegan Bradley hits the rough on the seventh hole during the final round of the BMW Championship golf event at Castle Pines Golf Club in Castle Rock, Colo. (AP)

Golf Championship for his first European tour title.

LaCroix started the final round four shots behind Lucas Bjerregaard of Denmark and closed the gap quick as the Dane took three bogeys and a double bogey on the front nine and never caught up. He closed with a 73.

Romain Langasque could only manage a 71 with two birdies and two bogeys and tied for second with Bjerregaard, four shots behind.

Lacroix finished at 14-under 270.

British Amateur champion Jacob Skov Olesen of Denmark closed with a 72 and tied for fifth.

Stewart Cink won The Ally Challenge for his first PGA Tour Championships title, closing with a 6-under 66 for a four-stroke victory.

The 51-year-old Cink, the 2009

"It was an incredible feeling. Of course, I wanted to attack the record, but based on training, I couldn't predict the exact time. I never imagined running 7:17.55," Ingebrigtsen told Xinhua.

In other events, Botswana's Letsile Tebogo won gold in the men's 200 meters with a time of 19.83 seconds, while Marco Arop of Canada emerged victorious in the 800 meters, clocking 1:41.86. Italy's Gianmarco Tamperi topped the podium in the men's high jump with a leap of 2.31 meters.

In the women's events, Tia Clayton of Jamaica won the 100 meters in 10.83 seconds, ahead of Marie Josee Ta Lou and Tamara Davis. The Dominican Republic's Marileidy Paulino claimed gold in the women's 400 meters with a time of 48.66 seconds, followed by Bahrain's Salwa Eid Naser (49.23) and Poland's Natalia Kaczmarek (49.95).

British Open champion, won in his 10th career start on the 50-and-over tour. He became the 22nd player to win on each of the PGA Tour's three tours -- the PGA Tour, PGA Tour Champions and Korn Ferry Tour.

Cink finished at 17-under 199 at Warwick Hills to match the tournament record set by Joe Durant in 2021. The eight-time PGA Tour winner has made 14 starts this season, the best a tie for 24th in the Sony Open in Hawaii.

K.J. Choi was second after a 67. Mike Weir (64) was another stroke back.

Junichiro Kozuma, who plays for LIV Golf, closed with a 7-under 65 and won on the second playoff hole with a par to beat Yuwa Kosaihi and win the Sansan KBC Augusta on the Japan Golf Tour.

John Keefe won the CentrePort Canada Rail Park Manitoba Open for his first PGA Tour Americas title. He shot 63-61-71-67 to finish at 26 under, a stroke ahead of Joey Savoie (64) and Neal Shipley (67).

Joakim Lagergren rallied from four shots behind with a 4-under 68 to win the Indoor Golf Group Challenge in Sweden, his second victory this season on the Challenge Tour.

Thriston Lawrence, who challenged at the British Open at Royal Troon, closed with a 5-under 67 for a five-shot victory in the SunBet Challenge Times Square Casino on the Sunshine Tour.

Shiho Kuwaki closed with a 2-under 70 for a one-shot victory in the Nitori Ladies on the Japan LPGA.

Ji Young Park won the Hanwha Classic on the Korea LPGA by closing with a 4-under 68.

ARLINGTON, Texas, Aug 26, (AP): Arike Ogunbowale had 33 points, Natasha Howard scored 30 and the Dallas Wings stormed back from a 19-point fourth-quarter deficit to stun the Los Angeles Sparks 113-110 on Sunday.

Odyssey Sims had 24 points through the first three quarters to help Los Angeles (6-24) build a 92-73 lead.

Howard made a layup for Dallas (7-22) and Ogunbowale followed with two free throws to get the Wings within single digits at 105-96 with 3:22 left to play. Ogunbowale followed a layup with a 3-pointer and Howard's three-point play made it a one-possession game at 109-107 with 64 seconds remaining.

Teaira McCowan knotted the score with a layup and gave Dallas the lead with a rebound basket with :07 to go. Stephanie Talbot made just 1 of 2 free throws for the Sparks, while Howard sank a pair for a three-point lead. Dear-



Minnesota Lynx forward Napheesa Collier (24) shoots the ball in the first half of a WNBA basketball game against the Indiana Fever at Target Center in Minneapolis. (AP)

## BASKETBALL

ica Hamby missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer for LA, which has lost seven in a row and nine of 10.

Ogunbowale hit 10 of 21 shots from the floor with four 3-pointers and all nine of her foul shots, while adding seven assists. Howard knocked down 11 of 15 shots and grabbed seven rebounds. Satou Sabally scored 19 and McCowan finished with 17 points and 11 rebounds for her ninth double-double.

Sims led the way for the Sparks with 26 points and 10 assists off the bench. Rookie Rickea Jackson, the fourth overall pick in this year's draft, hit six 3-pointers and scored 25. Hamby had 21 points and five assists, while Azurá Stevens scored 15.

Dallas kicked off a five-game home-stand with its second victory in the last eight outings.

The two teams split four games this season. LA has not won since beating Dallas on July 13.

A'ja Wilson scored as time expired to save Las Vegas from blowing a 13-point fourth-quarter lead over Chicago, as the Aces won 77-75 despite another 20-rebound game from Angel Reese.

Wilson's winning layup for Las Vegas (18-11) came after Lindsay Allen hit a 3-pointer and Chennedy Carter followed with two more to pull Chicago even with a second remaining.

Wilson, a two-time MVP for the two-time defending champions, finished with 20 points and 18 rebounds for her 21st double-double this season. Kelsey Plum scored 18 but made just 1 of 7 from beyond the arc, adding five assists. Megan Gustafson sank three 3-pointers and scored 13. Chelsea Gray pitched in with 11 points, eight rebounds and seven assists with her

## Swimmer makes Paralympics one year after losing lower leg

PARIS, Aug 26, (AP): The first step for swimmer Ali Truweit was overcoming her newfound fear of the one place she had always felt safe - the water.

Because the sound of water, any sound involving water, instantly triggered flashbacks to the day she swam for her life after being bitten by a shark.

She and a friend were snorkeling in the ocean off Turks and Caicos on May 24, 2023, when a shark charged and bit Truweit's lower left leg. Bleeding and with the shark circling, Truweit went into competitive swim mode and raced 75 yards toward the safety of the boat.

Truweit was rushed to the hospital and airlifted to the United States, where she had three surgeries, including one to amputate her leg below the knee.

To reclaim her love of the water, she went to the family's backyard pool. She waded up to her waist, fought off fear and took back control. The plunge not only started her path toward healing but to Paris for the Paralympics.

"I love comeback stories," said the 24-year-old from Darien, Connecticut, who qualified for Paris in the 100 free, 400 free and the 100 back. "I've definitely relied on other people's comeback stories to help me hold on to what feels like a bold and unrealistic hope - of fighting off a shark and surviving and losing a limb and making the Paralympics all in a year."

Her itinerary for that summer involved fun and adventure before starting work at a consulting firm.

Truweit had just graduated from Yale after a career in the pool in which she was a four-year letter winner. She kicked things off by running a marathon with her mom on Mother's Day.

Next on the list: joining friends for some sun on the beaches in Turks and Caicos. She went snorkeling with Yale teammate and good friend Sophie Pilkinton in an area not known for sharks.

On their way back to the boat, a shark aggressively approached and began bumping them.

"What I tried to fight back," Truweit said. "What was believed to be a bull shark

bit her on the foot and lower leg.

"My immediate thought was, 'Am I crazy or do I not have a foot right now?'" Truweit said. "It was a really hard image for me. But you move immediately into action."

Stay calm. Remain conscious. Just get to the boat. That's all she focused on as she and Pilkinton sprinted through the water, intensely aware the shark was still there.

Once on the boat, Pilkinton applied a tourniquet to slow the bleeding.

Truweit was later airlifted to a trauma hospital in Miami for two surgeries to fight infections. She was transported to a hospital in New York, where on her 23rd birthday, she underwent a transtibial - below-the-knee - amputation.

"A lot of dark days," she said. "But I'm alive and I almost wasn't."

## SWIMMING

The Truweit family has a mantra - "Work works." That's why Truweit went to rehab even on days when she didn't feel good or was sad.

"Just put in the work," she said.

First, though, she needed to alter her "Why?"

Instead of, "Why did this happen to me?" she centered on, "Why not throw everything into something?"

More specifically, why not the Paralympics? After all, she had plenty of time to get ready for the 2028 Summer Paralympics in Los Angeles.

"But I'm not someone who waits," she said.

So Paris in 2024 it was, even if the time frame was incredibly tight.

She went through prosthetic training and strength exercises. She also worked with trauma therapists, which led to narrative therapy to re-author her life and combat her nightmares.

"So that I don't let fear rule my life," Truweit explained. "I had lost enough and anything that was on the table for me to regain, I was going to fight to regain it. 'I didn't want to lose a limb and my love of the water, too.'"

## Change Name

I, HAKIMUDDIN CHHAKIWALA (current name in passport no X8050160) having permanent address (202, SECTOR-D, HASANJI NAGAR, RAU, INDORE MADHYA PRADESH 453331) Residing Kuwait declare that henceforth my name will be read as under given name HAKIMUDDIN PANDHANA WALA S/O SHABBIR HUSAIN

## Paralympics fervor pervades Paris ahead of 17th edition

PARIS, Aug 26, (KUNA): Excitement is building in Paris as the city gears up for the 17th edition of the Paralympic Games, set to begin on Wednesday. Preparations are in full swing throughout the French capital, which will be hosting the event for the first time in history. Around 4,400 Paralympic athletes will compete in 22 different sports, with organizers finalizing an opening ceremony at the iconic Place de la Concorde. The ceremony is anticipated to be as captivating as the Olympic Games, featuring prominent

politicians, famous athletes, and an audience of 65,000, all gathered to inspire the athletes before the competition.

The Paralympic Games not only provide athletes with a platform to showcase their abilities but also promote greater understanding of disability inclusion, adding a humanitarian and social dimension to the event.

Following the successful Paris Olympics, the Paralympic Games are receiving unprecedented global attention. Organizers

are ensuring that venues across the city are ready to deliver an exceptional experience for the athletes.

In the lead-up to the Games, organizers have introduced the special mascot, "Paralympic Phryge," whose mission is to encourage people to incorporate sport into their daily lives, highlighting its transformative impact on health, relationships, and society. The medals for this year's Games, uniquely designed by the renowned French jeweler Chaumet, include original iron

from the Eiffel Tower, giving recipients a memorable keepsake. The Paralympic Village, designed to accommodate the athletes, features spacious and "step-free" facilities, ensuring easy mobility for all participants. Since the first Paralympic Games in Rome in 1960, the event has evolved into the world's second-largest sporting gathering after the Olympics, far surpassing its origins as a modest initiative for British World War II veterans.

## Change Name

I, NARLA HARI NATH Holder of Indian Passport No. M8390651 having permanent address 2/37-A, Ramasamudram V&P, Pullampet (M), Annamayya Dist, Andhra Pradesh residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under: Given name HARI NATH Surname : SALVA



### Teammate Newgarden finishes third

## Power leads wire-to-wire at Portland to remain in championship fight

PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 26, (AP) — Will Power remained in the IndyCar championship hunt with a dominating victory Sunday at Portland International Raceway.

Power started second alongside polesitter Santino Ferrucci — the first A.J. Foyt Racing driver to lead the field to green in a decade — but an alliance between Team Penske and the Foyt organization allowed Power and Ferrucci to make a plan for the start.

Sixty-six points behind championship leader Alex Palou at the start of the race, Power vowed to be aggressive at the start and drive like three-time Formula 1 champion Max Verstappen. The 43-year-old Australian was serious about it, too, as he slid ahead of Ferrucci entering the first turn.

"Santino and I talked about the start, he was a very good teammate," Power said.

Palou, who started third, finished just under 10 seconds back in second as Power led 101 of the 110 laps to win for the third time this season. Palou wondered if his Chip Ganassi Racing team was too conservative with its strategy.

"It was tough work there trying to catch Will," Palou said. "I'm not uncomfortable. I think we've got a lot of work to do, but I love adversity and the opportunity we have in front of us."

Power now trails Palou, who was the defending Portland winner and is seeking a third championship in four seasons, by 54 points with three races remaining.

#### CAR RACING

"If he had finished ahead of us, it would be over. This just kept it alive," Power later added of the importance of the victory. "It's going to be the same for the rest of the year. You've got no choice but to be ahead of him."

Power teammate Josef Newgarden finished third and was followed by Colton Herta of Andretti Global, Marcus Armstrong of Chip Ganassi Racing and Marcus Ericsson of Andretti. Scott McLaughlin of Penske was seventh and Ferrucci, seeking his first career victory, faded to eighth.

"It's unfortunate, but man, I had



Will Power drives during an IndyCar auto race at World Wide Technology Raceway in Madison, Ill. (AP)

fun," Ferrucci said. "To get the pole for us was a huge deal. It's huge to qualify on pole, we've just been so consistent."

Ferrucci has eight top-10 finishes this season and, ranked a career-high 10th in the standings, is on track for a breakthrough season in a contract

year with Foyt.

Power won in a Chevrolet but the three Penske drivers and Ferrucci were outnumbered in the final standings by six Hondas in the top 10.

Power has raced Nashville Superspeedway, site of the season finale, once before and has one victory in

six previous starts at the Milwaukee Mile. He'll seek to chip into Palou's lead even more in IndyCar's return to the Wisconsin State Fair Park for next weekend's doubleheader.

Unlike Palou, who has never won on an oval or even raced at the two remaining venues on the schedule, Power has 10 career victories on ovals.

"I really, really love this series, feel lucky to be part of it and see if we can get a championship," Power said. "We've been very, very good on ovals. Very solid. Obviously, it is two ovals we haven't raced for a long time, so it's anyone's game. We'll do our best and take the fight to Alex."

Power has 44 career victories, fourth in IndyCar history, and Sunday's win likely cut the championship race down to two drivers. Herta and McLaughlin remain mathematically eligible, but Power is probably Palou's only true challenger.

Scott Dixon's outside chance for an IndyCar record-tying seventh championship likely ended when he was knocked out of the race on the first lap. Pietro Fittipaldi was squeezed to the curb and bounced

back onto the racing line to hit Dixon hard, sending Dixon off course and into the barrier.

It ended his race — and title chances — on the first lap. It's only the second time in 399 races Dixon crashed out on the first lap — a streak dating back to a 2005 race in Japan.

Although Fittipaldi was given an avoidable contact penalty, Dixon felt that Kyle Kirkwood was the perpetrator and Fittipaldi in a helpless position. "(Kirkwood), I think, caused all that, to be honest," Dixon said. "Just did a lunge and gave me zero room, shoved me off, and then you're trying to recover. Fittipaldi getting a penalty there? No fault on him. Penalty should have been on (Kirkwood)."

Dixon finished last and remained winless in eight career starts at Portland. He fell to fifth in the standings and trails teammate Palou by 101 points.

IndyCar returns to the Milwaukee Mile next weekend for a doubleheader following an eight-year hiatus from the Wisconsin oval. IndyCar raced at Milwaukee from 2004 to 2009, then again from 2011 to 2015.

## Kvaratskhelia inspires Napoli to 1st victory of the Conte era



Roma's Gianluca and Mancini Empoli's Lorenzo Colombo go for the ball during the Italian Serie A soccer match between AS Roma and Empoli FC at the Olympic stadium, in Rome. (AP)

### Atalanta and Roma fall to shock defeats

MILAN, Aug. 26, (AP) — Antonio Conte has Khvicha Kvaratskhelia back to his brilliant best and Napoli back to winning ways.

Kvaratskhelia set up one goal and scored the second as Napoli beat Bologna 3-0 for the first Serie A win of the Conte era — and the team's first league victory since April 7.

Conte became Napoli's fifth coach in little more than a year when he was hired in June but his new team crumbled 3-0 at Hellas Verona in his first match back in Serie A.

"The punch in the face we got in Verona made us immediately understand that if we want to forget the past we have to stay in the center of the ring, you give punches and you get them, but you have to keep standing," Conte said.

#### SOCCER

"I have a lot of faith in this group ... it was a tough week but we united even more, you won't get anywhere individually. These are my first three points with Napoli and I have great emotion. It is these feelings that push you to go further."

Napoli also lost Kvaratskhelia to a minor head injury in Verona but the Georgia winger was back on Sunday — despite also having recently returned from his home country after his wife gave birth to their first child this week.

It was a different team right from the start in Naples and Giacomo Raspadori almost scored in the opening minute.

Kvaratskhelia hit the crossbar shortly before halftime with a looping header from the tightest of angles but Napoli didn't have to wait much longer for the first goal under Conte.

Giovanni Di Lorenzo started the move in first-half stoppages, cutting inside from the right before passing to Kvaratskhelia, who played him a superb ball back, dinking it over the Bologna defense for Di Lorenzo to sweep into the far side of the net.

### Fortaleza beat Corinthians to go top of Brazil's Serie A

## San Lorenzo wins as River, Racing stumble

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 26, (Xinhua) — Alexis Cuello and Elian Irala scored either side of halftime as San Lorenzo secured a 2-0 home win over Talleres Cordoba in Argentina's Primera Division on Sunday.

Cuello put his side ahead just after the half-hour at El Nuevo Gasometro with a cool finish following Nicolas Tripichio's pass on the counterattack.

Irala doubled the advantage 13 minutes from time when he thumped home a low drive from outside the 18-yard box.

The result left Talleres seventh in Argentina's 28-team standings with 20 points from 12 matches, four points behind leaders Huracan. It was just the second win of the season for San Lorenzo, who rose to 24th.

Meanwhile, River Plate was held to a goalless home draw by Newell's Old Boys in a turgid affair at Estadio Monumental in Buenos Aires.

River is now 10th with only four wins so far this campaign while Newell's is 23rd with 12 points from as many outings.

#### SOCCER

In other Primera Division matches on Sunday, Lanus was held to a 1-1 home draw by Godoy Cruz and title challenger Racing Club drew 0-0 at home to Independiente.

Yago Pikachu scored a late winner as Fortaleza climbed to the top of Brazil's Serie A standings on Sunday with

a 1-0 home victory over Corinthians.

Pikachu broke the deadlock in the 77th minute when he smashed home a first-time effort from the edge of the six-yard box after Juan Lucero's cross.

The result at Castelao stadium leaves Fortaleza with 48 points, a point ahead of second-placed Botafogo with a game in hand.

Traditional powerhouse Corinthians remain entrenched in the relegation zone with just four wins from 24 games.

In other Brazilian Serie A fixtures on Sunday, Flamengo won 2-1 at home to Bragantino, Internacional edged to a 1-0 home win over Cruzeiro, Sao Paulo prevailed 1-0 at home to Vitoria, Gremio won 1-0 at Criciuma and Botafogo drew 0-0 at Bahia.

And Kvaratskhelia got on the scoresheet himself in the 75th, racing downfield from just inside the Bologna half and firing into the bottom left corner from the edge of the area, with the help of a slight deflection.

Kvaratskhelia celebrated by sucking his thumb in an apparent dedication to his newborn son.

Kvaratskhelia also had a hand in the third, in stoppage time, as he threaded the ball through to new



Napoli's Giovanni Di Lorenzo scores a goal during the Serie A soccer match between Napoli and Bologna at the Diego Armando Maradona Stadium in Naples, Italy. (AP)

## WI secures series victory after SAfrica stumbles in run chase

TAROUBA, Trinidad, Aug. 26, (AP) — West Indies smashed 13 sixes in its innings to beat South Africa by 30 runs on Sunday and secure the Twenty20 international series with a game to spare.

West Indies scored 179-6 after being asked to bat first in the second T20, accelerating from 111-4 after 14 overs. Shai Hope hit a 22-ball 41 with two fours and four sixes. Captain Rovman Powell contributed 35 runs, also in 22 balls, with three sixes.

South Africa was all out for 149 with two balls remaining despite a strong start of 57-0 after just four overs. But the chase faltered and, at 138-6, South Africa needed 42 runs

off the last four overs. Opener Reeza Hendricks top-scored with an 18-ball 44 which included two of his team's six sixes before he was bowled by Romario Shepherd, who took 3-15 in four overs. Shamar Joseph returned 3-31.

West Indies was unchanged from the team that also hit 13 sixes to win the opening T20 by seven wickets at the same ground last Friday. South

#### CRICKET

Africa replaced fast medium left-armer Nandre Burger with Lizaad Williams, who took 3-36.

The series-concluding T20 is on Tuesday, also at Tarouba.

South Africa prevailed in the preceding two-match test series against West Indies, winning the second test at Providence, Guyana, after a rain-hit drawn opener at Port of Spain, Trinidad.

### Al-Qadisiya considers changes

## Gibbola on Al-Arabi's radar

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug. 26: Al-Qadisiya's Nigerian player, Daniel Gibbola, is now a target for Al-Arabi Club, which is keen on acquiring his services before the summer transfer window closes on September 20. This interest comes amid reports that Al-Qadisiya is considering parting ways with Gibbola, as well as Brazilian defender Igor Rossi, following a series of disappointing results and underwhelming performances from both players in the Premier League's first three rounds.

Al-Qadisiya's recent defeat to Al-Arabi has left it trailing 6 points behind the league leaders Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi and 3 points behind Al-Fahaheel and Al-Salmiya.

#### SOCCER

Al-Arabi, despite securing three victories in its opening games, has seen lackluster performances from its new signings, Algerian Ahmed Khaldi and Brazilian Carlos Alberto "Jaco." Jaco, in particular, faces a strong possibility of being released, given the availability of several local attacking options.

Al-Arabi is in search of a reliable midfielder, a role that Gibbola could fulfill. The club is familiar with Gibbola's abilities, making him a strong candidate for the "Green" team. It prefers not to scout for a new professional due to the risk of underperformance, similar to its experience with Egyptian Abdel-Rahman Khaled "Jebna" and Jaco. With the transfer window closing soon, Al-Arabi aims

### Colombia's James signs for Vallecana

MADRID, Aug. 26, (Xinhua) — Spanish La Liga outfit Rayo Vallecano have pulled off a summer transfer coup by signing Colombian international James Rodriguez.

The 33-year-old former Real Madrid, Bayern Munich and Porto midfielder, who has played 106 times for his country, has reportedly rejected offers to play in the United States and Saudi Arabia to return to Spain with the club from the south of Madrid.

He joins Rayo after rescinding his contract with Brazilian outfit Sao Paulo to join Rayo on a one-year deal, with the option to extend his stay for a second season.

James returns to the Spanish capital after a career which has seen him win 19 titles, with his various clubs including two Spanish La Liga titles and two Champions Leagues with Real Madrid, two Bundesliga titles with Bayern and three Portuguese leagues titles with Porto.

James could now be in line to make his debut for Rayo when they entertain FC Barcelona in their Vallecas Stadium on Tuesday night.

to secure Gibbola to avoid further complications.

In other news, Al-Arabi resumed training under coach Nasser Al-Shatti and will play its first friendly match of the international break against Yarmouk on Thursday.



A file photo of Daniel Gibbola challenging for the ball.





Liverpool's Diogo Jota, centre, in action during the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Brentford at Anfield Stadium, Liverpool, England. Liverpool won 2-0. (AP)

# Sports

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Tickets go on sale for the Blues-Jordan match

## High optimism as Kuwait gears up for World Cup qualifiers

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DUBAI, Aug 26: Jamal Al-Otaibi, a member of the Football Association Board of Directors and head of the national team delegation in the UAE camp, expressed optimism about the camp's benefits ahead of the upcoming qualifiers.

Kuwait is currently training in two sessions daily: a morning session in its hotel gym and an evening session at the Police Officers Club stadium in Dubai. The camp will continue until September 2, when the team will depart for Amman to prepare

for its match against Jordan on September 5. This match marks the beginning of their campaign in the decisive round of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers.

Al-Otaibi noted that the Blues are undergoing their preparatory training under the guidance of new head coach Juan Pizzi and his assistant staff. He expressed hope that Pizzi will successfully fulfill his role and lead the team to achieve its best results.

Kuwait is in Group B, alongside South Korea, Iraq, Palestine, and Oman.

Al-Otaibi emphasized that the

camp's goals include implementing strategic plans, enhancing player cohesion, and ensuring optimal preparation for the qualifiers. He

### SOCCER

expressed hope that the team's program will proceed as planned to achieve their objectives.

In addition to its training, Kuwait will play a friendly match against the Bahrain on Wednesday in the UAE.

Meanwhile, the Jordan to face North Korea in a friendly at Petra Stadium tonight at 7:00 PM, with

a return match scheduled for next Thursday at Amman International Stadium. Both matches will be played behind closed doors as decided by the teams' technical staff, meaning they will not be broadcast on television or open to the public.

Jordanian professionals Rizq Bani Hani, Nour Al-Rawabdeh, Ali Alwan, and Yazan Al-Naimat have joined the national team's training sessions.

Ticket sales for the Jordan vs. Kuwait match began. Ticket prices are set at 20 dinars for the special class, 6 dinars for the second class, and 4 dinars for the third class.



Pizzi led the first training session with Kuwait.

## Quiet home 'debut' for Mbappe as Real Madrid drubs Valladolid

Atletico impresses in La Liga

MADRID, Aug 26, (Xinhua): Real Madrid beat Valladolid 3-0 in the Santiago Bernabeu on Kylian Mbappe's home debut for the club, although the French striker didn't have a good afternoon in a game where late goals put a sheen on Real Madrid's display.

Newly promoted Valladolid kept Madrid at bay in the first

### SOCCER

half where Mbappe had their only chance on goal, but a deflected shot from Fede Valverde put Madrid ahead early in the second half.

Mbappe missed two golden chances to double their lead when clean through on goal but saw one saved by impressive Valladolid goalkeeper Karl Hein and sliced the other wide.

The fans in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium were getting nervous and



Real Madrid's Endrick celebrates after scoring his side's third goal during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Valladolid at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

there were some whistles from the stands, before Brahim Diaz scored Madrid's second in the 88th minute with a smart lob and Endrick added a third in

the sixth minute of injury time.

Conor Gallagher made his debut for Atletico Madrid as they won 3-0 at home to Girona.

The England international came on as a second-half substitute with his side already leading thanks to Antoine Griezmann's first-half free kick and a powerful shot from Marcos Llorente.

Koke added a third in injury time to confirm a convincing win for Atletico.

Alaves and Betis drew 0-0 in a game where the visitors had the best chances, but were unable to convert, although Alaves ended with 10 men after Aleksander Sedlar was sent off for a direct red card with five minutes left to play.

Leganes claimed its first win of the campaign as it defeated Las Palmas 2-1, despite Las Palmas goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen saving a penalty from Dani Raba.

Juan Cruz and Enric Franquesa scored after 70 and 85 minutes before Sandro Ramirez scored a consolation for the visitors deep into injury time.

Robert Lewandowski and Lamine Yamal gave FC Barcelona a 2-1 win at home to Athletic Club Bilbao.

Yamal curled home through a

crowded penalty area from outside of the box, with the ball taking a deflection on its way to the goal, while Lewandowski, who had previously been denied by the woodwork and Athletic goalkeeper Alex Padilla, won the game 16 minutes from time when he latched onto a loose ball in the Athletic penalty area.

Oihan Sancet had made it 1-1 from the penalty area, while Barca was again unable to include new signing Dani Olmo in its squad due to Financial Fair Play reasons.

Mallorca boss Jagoba Arrasata had a disappointing return to Pamplona, where he coached Osasuna for six years, as Ruben Garcia's 55th-minute goal gave Osasuna all three points.

Take Kubo's 80th-minute goal decided a close match between Espanyol and Real Sociedad in the visitors' favor, while Getafe and Rayo Vallecano drew 0-0 in a game in which neither team managed a shot on target.

Villarreal won 2-1 away at Sevilla, with Ayoze Perez scoring a 95th-minute winner and Celta Vigo came back from conceding to Diego Lopez with goals from Oscar Mingueza, Iago Aspas and Fran Beltran.

## Saudi Falcons win Esports WC



Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Prince Mohammed bin Salman awards Esports World Cup to the Falcons.

RIYADH, Aug 26: Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, awarded the World Cup of Electronic Sports to the Saudi Falcons team at the closing ceremony of the tournament's inaugural edition. The event took place in Riyadh, with nearly 500 teams and 1,500 professional players from around the globe competing over eight weeks for the largest prize pool in the history of electronic sports, totaling \$7 million from an

overall purse of more than \$60 million.

The Falcons team emerged as the top performer, securing 5,665 points through their participation in 12 tournaments, where they claimed first place in both the "Call of Duty: Warzone" and "Free Fire" competitions.

The tournament set new records for attendance, contributing to a 29 percent increase in visitors to Riyadh compared to the previous year.

### New coach is expected in coming days

## Kazma 'appoints' Al-Mulla as new soccer department head

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Kazma's board of directors has appointed Omar Al-Mulla, the club's treasurer, to lead the soccer department through the remainder of the season. The announcement of the new team's coach is expected in the coming days.

In a recent meeting, Kazma's management also accepted the resignation of the first football team's technical and administrative staff. Following the team's defeat to Al-

### SOCCER

Nasr (0-1) in the third round of the Zain Premier League, the coach Mohammed Dahilis, his assistant coaches, Dr. Fayed Al-Nassar, head of the football department, and the administrative staff all resigned.

Kazma's struggles have been ongoing since last season. The team began with Brazilian coach Sergio Farias, who was replaced by Portuguese Francisco Chalo in September 2023. Chalo also failed to meet the board's expectations, leading to his dismissal and Dahilis taking over in December under a contract set to end this season.

Kazma has continued to face challenges this season, collecting only three points from nine possible in the



Kazma new soccer department head Omar Al-Mulla.

first three rounds of the league. They lost to Al-Arabi and Al-Nasr with scores of 0-2 and 0-0 respectively, and secured a single win against Al-Salmiya (4-3).

The Board of Directors expressed their sincere gratitude to Captain Mohammed Dahilis for his dedication during his tenure and wished him the best in his future endeavors. They also acknowledged and thanked Dr. Fayed Al-Nassar and the administrative staff for their contributions, extending their best wishes for success in the future.



Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe, right, and Valladolid's Amath Ndiaye challenge for the ball during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Valladolid at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

## Eriksson, first foreigner to lead England team dies

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Aug 26, (AP): Sven-Goran Eriksson, the Swedish soccer manager who spent five years as England's first ever foreign-born coach after making his name winning trophies at club level in Italy, Portugal and Sweden, died Monday. He was 76.

Eriksson died at home surrounded by his family, his agent Bo Gustavsson told The Associated Press.

His death followed eight months after he revealed he had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and had at most one year to live.

That news led to Eriksson receiving a surge of affection and tributes from his former players and clubs, a biographical documentary being made, and a visit to his favorite club Liver-



In this file photo, former England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson looks around before the start of an exhibition soccer match between Liverpool Legends and Ajax Legends at Anfield Stadium, Liverpool, England. (AP)

pool which invited him to be manager for the day at a charity game.

Fondly known as "Svennis" in his native Sweden, Eriksson had a modest, nine-year playing career before retiring at the age of 27 and embarking on what proved to be a nomadic coaching career that reached its peak when he was hired by England in 2001.

Within months, he led an under-achieving team to a stunning signature win - 5-1 against Germany in Munich in a World Cup qualifying game.

Eriksson led what was regarded as a "golden generation" of players, including David Beckham, Steven Gerrard and Wayne Rooney, at the World Cups in 2002 and 2006 and got the team to the quarterfinals at both tournaments

before elimination by Brazil and Portugal, respectively.

In the only other major tournament under Eriksson - the European Championship in 2004 - England was also ousted at the quarterfinal stage, by Portugal and via a penalty shootout like at the World Cup in 2006.

His time with England coincided with the emergence of a WAG (wives and girlfriends) culture, with the high-profile partners of the players - like Victoria Beckham - making headlines after Eriksson allowed them to come to the World Cup in Germany.

Eriksson later had brief spells in charge of the Mexico, Ivory Coast and Philippines national teams but the only silverware he earned came in the club game.