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Opinion

Our Amir ... citizens' aspirations are your aspirations

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

WITH the appointment of the new Cabinet members, we feel the country's affairs are now in the hands of experts.

A look at the CVs of the new ministers instills confidence that the Council of Ministers has started moving in the right direction. It can continue in the same direction if specialists are chosen in executive leadership positions.



Al-Jarallah

Four of the new ministers have established careers, and their backgrounds reflect the wisdom in their selection. This may lead to a shift away from the bitter reality that Kuwait has been facing due to tribal, sectarian, and family quotas, and the game of vested interests.

In the past, ministers often relied on personal relationships, or recommendations from parliamentary blocs, or familial connections, such as having a grandfather who fought in the Battle of Jahra, or being associated with charitable organizations.

This selection method often resulted in the appointment of unprofessional ministers who committed a series of mistakes and hasty decisions that negatively affected both the people and the country. Some ministers adopted a closed-door policy, leaving important matters in the hands of their aides, which resulted in chaos and inefficiency.

Such practices left Kuwait directionless, as the appointed officials lacked the expertise and qualifications required for their ministerial roles.

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KUNA photo

Kuwait Chief of General Staff of the Army, Lieutenant General Pilot Bandar Al-Muzain (left) meets Commander of the Unified Military Command of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Lieutenant General Eid Al-Shalawi.

Commanders focus on Gulf military cohesion

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Army Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Bandar Al-Muzain received, Tuesday, Commander of the Unified Military Command of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Lieutenant General Dr. Eid Al-Shalawi and discussed issues of common interest.

In a statement, the Chief of General Staff said the meeting also tackled most important topics that contribute to supporting joint Gulf military action and enhancing integration in various sectors between GCC armed forces. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Army Major General Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and a number of senior officers of both sides.

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Kuwait continues to face imbalance in population

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: A government report has revealed that the percentage of Kuwaiti nationals working in the public sector has risen from 74 percent to 80 percent between 2010 and 2024.

Meanwhile, the share of expatriate workers in the same sector dropped from 26 percent to 20 percent.

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Day by Day

THE ministerial portfolio in our country was often seen as 'temporary' or rather unstable because of the frequent resignations of governments following conflicts with the parliamentarians.

The country needs to amend several laws and revoke decisions, many of which were previously enacted at the request of Members of Parliament and blocs in the National Assembly. These decisions largely stem from parliamentary, social, or financial interests, or reflect the influence of popular groups with specific agendas.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Kuwait slams Israeli call for synagogue at Aqsa Mosque

'Move to drag region into religious war'

Sept 15 public holiday on Prophet's birthday: Cabinet

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27, (KUNA): The Cabinet, in its weekly meeting on Tuesday, declared Sunday, September 15th a public holiday on the occasion of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) birthday. The Cabinet noted that all government offices and institutions would suspend work on this day.

Institutions with work of special nature will decide their own holiday accordingly, taking public interest into account. Work will resume on Monday, September 16.



PM Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet meeting.

Brokers union pledges all-out cooperation

Hopes set on new minister to tackle real estate files

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Chairperson of Kuwaiti Real Estate Brokers Association Imad Haidar and Consumer Protection Association Chairperson Mishaal Al-Manea congratulated newly appointed Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel for obtaining the trust of the wise political leadership and his assumption of the ministerial duties.

They also presented a number of proposals and solutions to pending projects, and ways to advance the commercial sector and move the economic wheel in various fields.

Haidar confirmed his full readiness to provide support, assistance, proposals, studies and expertise in the field of real estate to the minister.

He revealed that Al-Ajeel held many positions in the Capital Markets Authority and managed several companies. The minister is close to the private sector, so it is easy for him to study real estate files and make appropriate decisions regarding the pending issues, he added.

He touched on many of the real estate files, most notably the digital transformation file; while stressing the need to convert paper contracts to electronic, regulate the real estate advertising market to reduce real estate fraud cases,

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Minister vows multi-pronged reforms

'Economy, food, business, top priorities'

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel has underscored his commitment to improving Kuwait's national economy, ensuring food security, and improving the business environment as his top priorities.

Following his swearing-in, Al-Ajeel emphasized that his focus will be on driving sustainable development through strategic enhancements in several key areas.

In a recent press statement, Al-Ajeel highlighted his intent to overhaul the business environment by streamlining procedures, bolstering support for both local and foreign investments, simplifying the process of establishing companies, and modernizing commercial legislation. He believes these steps are essential

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Khalifa Al-Ajeel

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27, (KUNA): Kuwait Tuesday voiced its condemnation and denunciation of recent remarks by an Israeli occupation minister calling for establishing a synagogue at Al-Aqsa Mosque in a bid to wipe out the religious identity and legal status of the holy site.

In a press statement, the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry termed this aggressive behavior as provoking sentiments of all Muslims, while calling on the international community to take up its responsibility to put an end to the Israeli occupation's obvious violations and breaches of international law, and to safeguard the religious and historical identity of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Also, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) strongly condemned on Tuesday, a statement by an extremist minister in the Israeli occupation government who called for establishing a synagogue at the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

In a statement by the OIC, affirmed that the city of Jerusalem is an integral part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 and the capital of the State of Palestine.

The statement continued that all the decisions taken by the Israeli occupation to Judaize the occupied Jerusalem have no legal effect and are considered null and void under the international law and international legitimacy resolution.

The Palestinian Authority spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh stated on Monday, that the calls by Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir to establish a synagogue inside Al-Aqsa mosque are an attempt to drag the region into a religious war that will burn everyone, emphasizing that such calls are rejected and extremely dangerous.

The organization also condemned the ongoing incursion and violations of Al-Aqsa Mosque yards by extremist settlers groups and ministers in the Israeli occupation government, under the protection of the occupation troops.

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NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdullah Al-Yahya held on Monday a phone call with the Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, where Al-Yahya expressed sincere congratulations on Araghchi assuming office.

During the phone call, Al-Yahya expressed his aspiration to work together towards strengthening bilateral relations in various fields. (KUNA)

RAMALLAH: Palestinian officials say Israeli airstrikes across the Gaza Strip have killed at least 18 people, including eight children.

The Civil Defense, first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government, said that three children and their mother were killed in an airstrike late Monday in the Tufah neighborhood of Gaza City. It said that three other people were missing after the strike. (KUNA)

ADEN: Britain's Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) on Monday reported an "incident" approximately 61 nautical miles southeast of Mokha, western Yemen.

The nature and specifics of the incident remain unclear. (Xinhua)

Energy use sets new record high Tuesday

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: The power consumption index reached a new record high of 17,640 megawatts at 2:00 pm on Tuesday.

Sources revealed that Tuesday's consumption is 280 megawatts higher than the previous record of 17,360 megawatts on July 13; indicating the temperature soared to 50 degrees Celsius, which led to an increase in consumption during peak hours.

Sources stressed the need to continue following the rationalization mechanisms announced by the ministry from time to time through its website; the most important of which is operating air conditioners at a temperature of 23 instead of 18, since the latter increases the load and consumption bill of customers — whether individuals or institutions.

Sources added that air conditioners alone consume 70 percent of the total electricity production in the country.

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New fee to hire domestic workers leaves less profit margin: KUDLO

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Kuwait Union of Domestic Labor Offices (KUDLO) Chairman Khaled Al-Dakhnan said the KD750 fee for recruiting domestic workers from the Republic of the Philippines — including the ticket — does not match the cost price in the source country.

In a statement to the newspaper, Al-Dakhnan pointed out that increasing the fee for recruiting domestic workers from the Philippines to KD850 — excluding the ticket — will enable the recruitment offices to provide domestic workers with the lowest profit margin and at a reasonable price.



Al-Dakhnan

He stressed that the current decision regarding the recruitment fee does not meet the requirements of recruitment offices.

In a related development, newly appointed Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Abdullah Dhahi Ajeel Al-Askar called for intervention to amend the decision.

He said the actual cost, including the ticket, ranges from \$2,400 to \$2,500 — equivalent to about KD733 to KD764; in addition to the embassy fee estimated at KD3,250, airport fee of KD5 and handling fee of KD10.

He added the total recruitment cost ranges from KD751 to KD782; hence, the recruitment offices will not be able to hire workers if the current decision remains in effect, especially in light of the increase in operational costs for the offices, and the expected losses in the event the worker is returned during the probationary period, when a return ticket is booked and the full amount is refunded to the client.



## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 04:00 Asr ..... 15:24  
 Sunrise .. 05:22 Maghrib .. 18:16  
 Zohr ..... 11:50 Isha ..... 19:36

# Local

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

## Weather

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

**By Day:** Very hot with moderate to fresh northwesterly wind, with speeds of 20-55 km/h causing rising dust.

**By Night:** Hot to rather hot with light to moderate freshening

at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-40 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	48	37
Kuwait Airport	49	37
Abdaly	49	33

Bubyan	45	30
Jahra	49	36
Faiilaka Island	46	30
Salimiyah	45	36
Ahmadi	48	32
Jal Aliyah	49	30
Nuwaisib	48	31

## HH Crown Prince and Prime Minister send greetings

### HH the Amir congratulates president of Moldova on her country's National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President of Moldova Maia Sandu on her country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished Sandu good health and further development and prosperity for Moldova and its people.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince

Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Maia Sandu, on the occasion of her country's National Day, wishing her good health and prosperity.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President Maia Sandu, on the occasion of her country's National Day.

## HH Amir sends condolences to King of Thailand over victims of flash floods

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of condolences to the King of Thailand, Maha Vajiralongkor, expressing sympathy and condolences to the families of victims of flash floods caused by heavy monsoon rains in Phuket, south of Thailand.

In cable, His Highness the Amir expressed swift recovery to the injured and for the country official

to overcome the tragedy.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to King Vajiralongkor on families' victims of flash floods caused by heavy monsoon rains and fast recovery for the injured.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of condolences to King Vajiralongkor on victims of the heavy monsoon rains.

## Over 91,000 families await homes

### Experts highlight key challenges for minister in tackling housing issues

By Mohammed Al-Musleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: According to experts from the housing sector, the Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdulatif Al-Mishari is faced with major challenges in addressing housing issues. These challenges include the annual accumulation of housing requests, rising costs for establishing new residential areas, dealing with the population growth, and developing the infrastructure to meet societal needs.

They indicated that addressing these challenges requires innovative solutions and effective housing policies to ensure that everyone has access to decent housing, while also maintaining the sustainability of cities and meeting their energy, water, and logistical needs.

They explained that the housing issue, which is a top priority for citizens, poses a considerable challenge for the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) due to the annual accumulation of housing requests. Currently, over 91,000 families are waiting for their "dream home," with waiting periods for housing alternatives extending over many years.

One of the most prominent challenges is the high cost of establishing and operating residential cities, and financing citizens' plots.

The total estimated costs to support the development of these residential areas have been rising.

The financial burden of operating these cities, particularly for energy and water, presents a major challenge. This includes delivering essential services

to the newly-established residential areas and keeping up with the growing demand for energy and water due to urban expansion. The challenge is compounded by repeated power outages during the current summer season, and the residents' demands for reliable energy supply after their residential plots are built.

The increase in expenses and the insufficiency of self-generated revenues represent additional challenges for the Public Authority for Housing Welfare. These issues are exacerbated by the inflated rent allowance budget, which has not been matched by the completion of residential cities, and this threatens the stability of Kuwaiti families.

Following a temporary suspension of paper distribution for the South Saad Al-Abdullah project, which lasted over a month and a half, the residential sector remains at an impasse in terms of the provision of alternatives for those waiting for housing.

Experts suggest that the new minister should develop a comprehensive action plan outlining the procedures and timelines for the actual delivery of residential plots, according to a clear schedule for public opinion.

An important file is the weak communication with newspapers, media outlets, and social media platforms regarding the housing issue. This lack of effective communication reflects a clear deficiency in transparency and accountability towards citizens.

The absence of clear explanations, justifications, and ongoing updates about these challenges not only represents a failure in conveying information but also amounts to negligence that exacerbates the crisis and erodes public trust in the concerned authorities.

Moreover, this silence or blackout on certain housing procedures deepens the gap between the reality faced by citizens and the solutions and clear answers that the state should provide.



Al-Mishari

## Ambassador praises Kuwait-Britain relations & leadership cooperation

Royal and ruling families enjoy very close personal friendship: Lewis



One of the mobile fuel stations.

Al-Qabas photo

### KNPC and Al-Rakeb Oil sign deal

## 6 mobile fuel stations to be distributed in areas needing diverse infrastructure

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) and Al-Rakeb Oil, Electricity and Construction Services Company recently signed a contract for the local production of six mobile fuel stations that will be distributed to different areas in the country; especially the new areas requiring diverse infrastructure and services to meet the needs of residents, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al-Rakeb Oil, Electricity and Construction Services Company Saad Al-Qattan revealed that the company owns the first Kuwaiti mobile fuel station factory in the Middle East, affirming that such stations are produced by 100 percent Kuwaiti engineers.

He affirmed the company enjoys a

distinguished position, owing to its qualification by the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) and KNPC, in addition to obtaining the UL 142 certificate for industrial quality and safety from the United States of America.

He also disclosed that the company, in coordination with KNPC, launched an initiative to train 12 Kuwaiti engineers employed at Al-Rakeb. He said the mobile fuel station factory of the company will organize the training program.

He added: "This step is part of the strategic approach followed by Al-Rakeb in all of its contracts with the government sector to better serve community. It is an important factor in supporting sustainable development and improving the technical skills of Kuwaiti professionals."

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: British Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis has confirmed the deep-rooted relations between her country and Kuwait; highlighting the vital role and contribution of the political leadership in strengthening the mechanisms of joint work between the two countries, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a statement to Al-Akhbar Channel, Lewis stressed that "the role played by the Kuwaiti leadership is indeed essential in the bilateral relationship and the strong ties we enjoy today. The royal and ruling families enjoy a very close personal friendship."

She also touched on the mutual visits, stating "we have witnessed eight visits made by King Charles to Kuwait and we hope to see more in the future. His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visited us four times during the past two years. His Highness met with King Charles on three of those occasions, then His Highness made another visit that focused on investment and trade. He met with our prime minister at the time."

She added "these relations are very strong. We have very good working relations with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs and many other ministries. British ministers talk to their Kuwaiti counterparts all the time. These ties are very useful and very strong."

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti-British relations researcher Issa Dashti emphasized the historical importance of Sheikh Mubarak Kiosk, which is considered one of the vital historical stations on the path of relations between the two countries.

Dashti pointed out in a statement to Al-Akhbar Channel that the kiosk carries historical stories, as it went through many stages and uses. "It was the headquarters of the British mail for 10 years," he revealed.

Talking about the history of mail in Kuwait and its postal cooperation with Britain; Dashti stated that "the post office in Kuwait was officially opened on Jan 21, 1915. It was located in the British residential headquarters, which is currently the Dickson House Cultural Center."



Lewis

## No financial risk or op burden on gov't

### Finnish co submits proposal to build power generation station in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: In a move that could significantly alleviate Kuwait's ongoing power crisis, a global investor from Finland has submitted a groundbreaking proposal under the Independent Power Provider (IPP) system, highlighting a transformative solution for Kuwait's energy sector, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Sources informed the daily that the Finnish company that has submitted the proposal is Wärtsilä, a renowned developer specializing in energy and renewable technologies with an offer to build a power generation station with 1,500 megawatts capacity, to be completed within 18 months to address the recurring power outages plaguing the country, all at no cost to the government.

The company has already presented a comprehensive study on how Kuwait's electrical system could benefit from its advanced technologies.

The company's systems are designed to reduce fuel consumption, cut carbon emissions, and produce electricity at a fraction of the cost currently incurred by the state.

#### Cost

The estimated cost of building the station, approximately 425 million dinars, would be fully financed by the Finnish investor.

Moreover, the proposed cost for generating electricity — around 11 fils per kilowatt — would offer a competitive rate, depending on factors such as location and the scope of additional work like extending electrical and fuel networks.

Key advantages of the Finnish offer include complete financing, implementation, operation, management, and maintenance at the developer's expense, with no cost to the state.

This is in addition to long-term financial stability, with the developer committing to a 25-year contract (or longer) for selling electricity to the government.

There is also no financial risk or operational burden on the government and

includes a competitive tariff due to the low overall project costs.

The expertise from the developer with extensive experience in modern energy and renewable technology and use of diverse fuel options, including green hydrogen, enhancing operational flexibility and reducing costs with a flexible operating system that stabilizes the electrical grid and other advantages.

#### Minimal

The project promises minimal maintenance downtimes, with the station's modular design ensuring continuous production; the ability to meet rising electricity demands without resorting to programmed power cuts or sudden outages; compatibility with solar energy integration; no need for water cooling and allowing for flexible site selection.

The project has a potential future use of green hydrogen as fuel amid continuous energy supply at a 98% rate over 25 years, supporting the electrical system's overall capacity.

Despite the obvious benefits, sources noted that no decision has yet been made regarding the Finnish proposal.

With several power generation projects delayed and others not yet tendered, the need for swift action is critical to avoid future disruptions in electricity and water supply.

The sources further emphasized that many international developers have presented exceptional proposals to address Kuwait's energy challenges, all at no cost to the state.

These offers represent a significant opportunity for the government to save substantial amounts from its budget while benefiting from advanced technologies.

Wärtsilä founded in 1834, employs over 20,000 people across 80 countries and has played a leading role in energy technology development.

Their advanced generating units can operate on all types of fuel, including green hydrogen in the future, while offering flexible and smart energy solutions.

## News in Brief

**76 warnings issued:** The Kuwait Municipality's Public Relations Department reported significant findings from its recent field inspection, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The fifth field campaign by the Safety Department of the Hawalli Governorate Municipality branch resulted in 76 warnings issued to properties that failed to meet safety standards and requirements.

Additionally, 22 guarantees were released for private and investment housing within the Hawalli Governorate.

The municipality has urged property owners to enhance safety and security measures by complying with municipal regulations.

This includes ensuring the provision of containers for solid construction waste and the regular removal of construction debris by both the contractor and property owner to prevent any legal infractions.

**'Employee Record':** The Civil Service Commission (CSC) is preparing to launch a pilot project titled "Employee Record" in five government agencies. The project implementation will continue for six months after its start date is announced,

reports Al-Rai daily.

The project involves the creation of an electronic file for each employee to document all tasks and work activities carried out by the employee, including transactions, correspondence, meetings, and other duties. This will ensure that the employees' efforts are preserved throughout their career. Data will be securely stored in a personal electronic file, and employees will be responsible for recording their own work through a new internal system.

One of the main benefits of this project is that employees will be able to document their own achievements. This not only highlights their contributions but also makes them eligible for financial rewards, training opportunities, and potential supervisory roles.

**Nursing staff fingerprint:** In response to the ongoing debate regarding the mandatory fingerprint for medical and paramedical staff, particularly during surgical operations, Dr. Nayef Al-Harbi, Director of Al-Razi Hospital, has issued an internal memo specifically addressing the nursing staff in the operations department, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

## Gov't tightens control, implements new financial planning strategies

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: As part of the government's plan to rationalize public expenditures; measures have been taken to tighten control over government agencies, intensify efforts to support financial planning, and prepare the general budget of the State by following certain procedures and recommendations, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources.

Sources disclosed that some entities have presented diverse regulatory recommendations, affirming these entities are heavily relied on to guarantee financial discipline and raise the efficiency of public finance management.

Sources enumerated the recommendations as follows:

1. The Civil Service Commission (CSC) must adhere to the budget rules, especially not allowing the disbursement of funds on behalf of other government agencies, unless payments are collected from these agencies to be recorded as current liabilities -- amounts under settlement. This is in ad-

dition to the immediate collection of debts, along with strict follow-up and adherence to financial rules. These recommendations are part of ongoing efforts to follow up the collection of debts owed to the government, especially the debts that have accumulated for years. Sources affirmed the supervisory recommendation in this regard is consistent with the general objective of the government to collect all debts and take action regarding arrears, in a move aimed at improving financial performance and ensuring financial discipline.

2. The concerned authorities must push for the collection of taxes and to establish clear procedures to follow up their collection on a regular basis.

3. Instruct government agencies to complete projects included in the development plan and the approved budget for each entity in order to achieve the objectives of the State's development plan. They should not use the budget allocated for this purpose for other expenses. This is in line

with the plan to control public expenditures that includes directing spending to the path specified in the budget.

4. The Ministry of Finance must apply the rules and executive directives regarding the collection and payment of labor subsidy taxes and zakat in compliance with Law No. 19/2000 on supporting national labor and encouraging nationals to work in non-governmental entities, as well as Law No. 46/2006 on zakat and the contributions of public and closed joint stock companies.

5. Within the axis of strengthening the public income system, the Ministry of Finance must fully abide by the Income Tax Decree and its amendments. It should collect all due taxes, taking into account that from an accounting perspective, uncollected taxes are considered overdue debts to the government, which requires action to accelerate the procedures for paying them to the general budget and to take the necessary legal measures to collect them.



## 'Diversification can secure national revenue amid oil market fluctuations'

"THE recent fluctuations in oil markets compel us to seriously consider diversifying Kuwait's sources of income. Many countries have already embraced global strategies to sustain national revenue, stabilize currency rates, and counter rapid changes in global currency baskets," columnist **Dr. Ghadir Mohammed Asiri**, wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"These approaches involve real planning to prepare society for building Kuwait's future developmental stage, ensuring the sustainability and stability of income sources.

"Kuwait's heavy reliance on oil, whose prices are vulnerable to global events, wars, and disasters, highlights the urgent need for diversification.

"One key step in this direction is investing in manufacturing industries. Such initiatives can significantly boost the economy, create jobs for national workers, reduce dependency on imported goods derived from petroleum, and establish a substantial additional revenue stream for the country.

"Instead of merely selling crude oil, Kuwait could profit from the sale of value-added products. Furthermore, Kuwait's strategic geographical location offers opportunities to leverage the transportation sector by serving as a trade corridor between countries.

"This could involve imposing taxes on ships, developing international commercial airport hubs, and enhancing the role of local islands as prime commercial points for Kuwaiti investments, thereby diversifying income sources.

"Investing in domestic tourism and prioritizing local projects will also diversify revenue streams and encourage competition and collaboration with neighboring countries.

"Increased local spending by Kuwaitis and expatriates, alongside attracting Gulf tourists, could become strong revenue sources, especially considering Kuwaitis' high tourism engagement and their established interest in travel.

"Such initiatives would drive the growth of small and large businesses, provide employment for national workers, reduce unemployment, and ease the pressure on the government sector.

"By focusing on the entertainment and tourism industries, the state could redirect the spending of residents and tourists within Kuwait.

"Also embarking on modern, competitive hotel projects would enhance Kuwait's cultural development, while operating shopping centers, restaurants, and artistic tourism activities would invigorate the economy.

"This would not only support Kuwait's economy but also reduce the government's burden of providing permanent income. A strong partnership between the private and public sectors could become a key solution for achieving sustainable economic development in Kuwait."

### Also:

"It is essential to have laws that regulate human interactions in daily life, safeguarding both individual rights and public interests. However, the challenge arises when the necessity of enforcing the law becomes entangled with intimidation tactics," columnist **Suad Fahd Al-Moajel** wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"For example, regulating employee attendance in government departments is a cultural issue that has deteriorated over the past decades due to administrative errors and widespread corruption in many state institutions.

"This decline in job commitment culture led to the current situation, which necessitated the implementation of fingerprint attendance systems, despite repeated warnings about the potential consequences and future risks of such measures.

"Even educational institutions such as the Kuwait University have not been immune to this laxity in job commitment, where some professors have shortened lecture durations, especially during the summer semester. Despite numerous discussions and written concerns, no one has seriously investigated or addressed these issues at their root.

"Today, the government is making efforts to reinforce job commitment through fingerprint systems and other measures, but it faces obstacles from all directions — obstacles that the government itself is responsible for creating.

"The government is largely to blame for the rise in disguised unemployment in state institutions, where employees now struggle to meet attendance requirements after long periods of habitual absenteeism. Many employees don't even have designated offices due to their frequent absences, yet they continue to receive full salaries.

"The same issues apply to traffic laws, where daily broadcasts on Kuwait's state television warn citizens of the dangers of violations in a tone more akin to threats than education. Similar challenges exist with environmental conservation, building regulations, and even professional ethics.

"Laws that rely on fear and intimidation are short-lived and ineffective. Genuine respect for the law develops over time as part of a culture that prioritizes the public good, benefiting ev-

eryone.

"While it is easy to find ways to evade mandatory laws, a deep cultural respect for the law is cultivated through habits of discipline and adherence to its principles. This respect makes breaking the law an abnormal and socially unacceptable act.

"A prime example of this is how, as Arabs, we tend to strictly follow laws when traveling abroad to countries where law is embedded in the culture. We follow traffic rules, queue orderly, respect appointments, and maintain cleanliness — not because of threats, but because we find ourselves in environments with deeply rooted cultures that discourage any deviation from their established norms.

"Unfortunately, in the Arab world, the law is often seen as a tool for punishment, authority, and intimidation rather than as a mechanism for sustainable organization that commands universal respect, regardless of status or position. As a result, many citizens seek ways to defy, circumvent, or manipulate the law.

"With proper practice and time, regulatory laws in various fields should evolve into internal controls that guide behavior even in the absence of external enforcement. When the law is respected out of habit and a sense of social responsibility, penalties become less about threats and more about correcting behavior.

"The authority of the law is not truly established through fear of punishment, no matter how severe. Instead, it becomes ingrained through habit and the individual's awareness of how following the law benefits their daily life. This is precisely what our Arab culture largely lacks to this day."

□ □ □

"It is highly stupid of an expatriate to assume that the government, with all its resources and mechanisms, is stupid or that he can guess how it operates based on the same guessing game from his home country. This was evident in the case of the person who was meant to help the poor but ended up embroiled in a scandal of endless complications," columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"The investigation into this matter is ongoing. The issue of soft occupation persists, even affecting important infrastructure like electricity transformers.

"Do not be surprised if it is discovered that someone in a position to protect a state transformer is instead using it as a private residence, and renting it out to people of his own nationality.

"Another expatriate took over an abandoned government school and converted it into a private residence for himself, under the mistaken belief that the country is in chaos.

"As for school guards, public park guards, and similar roles, there is no harm in discussing them. They have effectively taken ownership of these government facilities. Similarly, some imams of mosques, who were provided with houses by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, have begun renting them out by the bed rather than by the room. Even the former headquarters of the Zakat Committee in Kaifan was repurposed into a residence after the committee moved out, and allocated to a member instead of being demolished.

"Mosques - the houses of God - have not been spared either. Some attached rooms in these mosques are being misused, and no one knows what is happening there. Recently, one of the thousands of violators was found living and sleeping in a mosque. There are likely many more such cases.

"Perhaps the silence of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs regarding these clear violations stems from the soft occupation of mosques under the guise of religion. This includes placing dining tables along the edges of the mosque as if they were meeting tables, and setting up offices and seating areas within the mosque itself. These practices are all considered as violations, but they are ignored because they serve the interests of the party that controls the hijacked ministry.

"How long will this miserable situation continue? How long will we remain silent about this community that has "plucked out our eyelashes," and other groups causing havoc in the country? Their actions are often dismissed as negligence, but their crimes include manufacturing local liquor, and cultivating and distributing drugs, as recent seizures have proven.

"The situation has been further worsened by the arrival of some Africans who have been implicated in illegal activities such as theft, counterfeiting currency, and smuggling of housemaids. Unfortunately, no cases have been filed against many of these individuals.

"We urge the relevant authorities to take appropriate action against these individuals with urgency. Do not be swayed by pity or mercy for those who showed none towards us or our country. They have been committing countless crimes that continue to emerge daily and leave us in despair.

"The biggest tragedy is that our weak media has failed to highlight these problems. They have imposed their culture on us, until we found ourselves following their lead, believing their lies and sympathizing with them.

"We deeply regret how things have reached this extent, and we hope for a quick resolution to these issues. Take action against them, starting with the mosques."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes and Mahmoud Ateyieh



Above: some of the officers being honored.

Mol photos

### Military Ammunition Manufacturing Directorate honors 113 officers

The Military Ammunition Manufacturing Directorate (MAMD) celebrated the achievements of 113 officers, non-commissioned officers, individuals, and technical staff who

completed the inaugural session of the Sports Ammunition Factory's production lines, reports Al-Seyassah daily. The ceremony, held under the patronage and

presence of Major General Salah Nasser, Assistant Chief of Staff for the Supply and Logistics Authority, recognized their contributions and commitment to the factory's operations.

## Minor gets 1-year term in social care home for sexually molesting nephew

Court quashes 15-year jail term against accused in drugs case

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: The Juvenile Court sentenced a minor to a one-year term in a social welfare institution after he was convicted of sexually molesting his nephew. The civil court awarded a compensation of KD 10,000 to the victim, reports Al-Seyassah daily.**

The Public Prosecution had charged the minor with sexually abusing his nephew, who was unable to resist due to his young age. The suspect had lured the victim into a room inside his house and committed the crime.

Lawyer Youssef Hussein, who represented the victim and his family at the court, sought compensation, because the crime had caused immense trauma in the young victim, which not only impacted his emotional well-being but also harmed his dignity and standing within his family and community.

The court acknowledged the profound emotional pain experienced by the victim and awarded compensation worth KD 10,000 as symbolic relief. The court also ordered that the compensation be paid by the guardian of the convicted minor.

□ □ □

**15-year jail sentence overturned:** In a landmark decision, the Court of Cassation overturned a verdict issued by a lower court, which sentenced a Kuwaiti citizen to 15-year imprisonment for drug trafficking. The court instead acquitted him on the grounds that the presumption of innocence is fundamental to the judicial system.

The court's ruling was greatly influenced by the defense presented by Lawyer Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan. The ruling highlighted the absence of concrete evidence linking the defendant to the crime. The case mainly depended on statements from an officer who in turn had cited information from an undisclosed source. The court deemed these statements unreliable, stressing that the officer's account, which was based solely on the information he received from his secret source, could not be verified as accurate or false.

The court also highlighted the lack of solid evidence to refute the defendant's claim of having no connection to the hashish found with the secret source, or to prove that he sold it.

The ruling reinforced the principle that the presumption of innocence is a cornerstone of the accusatory system, which is essential for protecting individual rights against abuse of power, bias, and baseless accusations.

The court concluded that a crime cannot be considered as proven without substantial, conclusive evidence that leaves no room for doubt.

□ □ □

**Teacher accused of prostitution not released:** The Criminal Court has rejected the request for the release of a Kuwaiti teacher who is currently detained in Central Prison on charges of inciting a student to engage in prostitution and debauchery, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Public Prosecution had charged the teacher with encouraging the student to commit these acts by sending indecent messages, images, and video recordings via the Internet. It has been noted that the teacher has a history of similar offenses, which he has not denied. The teacher remains in pretrial detention while the investigation continues.

□ □ □

**Delivery man robbed at knife point:** An unidentified expatriate who works as a delivery person for one of the well-known restaurants has filed a complaint with the Taima police station, accusing an unknown person of threatening to kill him, reports Al-Anba daily. He added, the man forced him to stop and stole from him 16 dinars.

The complainant, born in 1994, said the incident happened when he was on his way to deliver an order and the suspect intercepted him and put a knife to his neck, and ordered him to hand over everything he had in his wallet.

□ □ □

**45 violators of laws arrested:** A security campaign organized by the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Security Directorate resulted in the arrest of 45 expatriates of various nationalities for violating residence and labor laws.

The campaign was organized under the supervision of the Assistant Undersecretary for security affairs at the Ministry of Interior Major General Hamad Al-Munaifi.

According to a security source, the district of Sabah Al-Salem was the main focus of the campaign where the security forces erected checkpoints at all the entrances and exits.

□ □ □

**Misdemeanor case filed:** Security personnel from the Ports Protection Department apprehended a Kuwaiti citizen and transferred him to Al-Qashaniya Police Station for allegedly insulting a public employee while on duty, reports Al-Anba daily.

The incident occurred at Abdali port, where the complainant, a corporal, stated that the citizen became agitated without provocation during his entry into Kuwait from an undisclosed location. The citizen reportedly demanded that the corporal expedite his transaction, which led to a confrontation and subsequent verbal insult directed at the employee. The case has been classified as a misdemeanor.

### Customs seizes 20 kg narcotic Lyrica powder

PAFN shuts 9 outlets for selling expired food

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi, Munif Nayer

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27:** Inspection teams from the Capital branch of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) have closed nine food establishments in the Capital Governorate for selling food items deemed unfit for human consumption.

In a press statement, Director of PAFN's Capital Inspection Department Ali Hashem Al-Kandari said the inspection teams took the decision to close these nine establishments after discovering several violations, including the sale of food items that had expired and had deteriorated in color, shape, and smell. They had also discovered the circulation of adulterated food and observed a lack of compliance with hygiene standards, which was evident from the infestation of insects in the preparation areas.

Al-Kandari warned against any attempts to compromise public health, stressing that all violators and those who fail to adhere to regulations and laws in force in the country will be held accountable.

He affirmed that inspection tours will continue across various areas of the Capital Governorate to ensure food safety.

□ □ □

**20 kg 'Lyrica' powder seized:** Kuwait's Air Customs Department seized a shipment containing around 20 kilograms of the narcotic 'Lyrica' powder concealed in a parcel from an Asian country, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Personnel from the inspection and warehouses department detected the suspicious package during a routine check. Upon further inspection, the parcel was found to contain a white powder.

The bill of lading labeled the substance as protein, but it was later confirmed to be the narcotic 'Lyrica'. Authorities have completed all necessary legal and customs pro-



Packets of Lyrica powder.

Mol photo

cedures. The General Administration of Customs issued a stern warning to those attempting to smuggle illegal substances and prohibited goods into the country.

□ □ □

**Fraud case filed against worker:** A Kuwaiti citizen has filed a fraud case against an unknown Arab expatriate, who disappeared after taking KD 300 from him in exchange for doing some construction work in his house in Mutlaa.

According to a security source, the citizen told the police that he had reached an agreement with the Arab laborer for carrying out some construction work in his house in Mutlaa, but the latter disappeared after receiving the deposit amount of KD 300.

A fraud case has been filed and referred to the investigations department for further action.

□ □ □

**Shades not allowed on cars:** Colonel Othman Al-Gharib from the Ministry of Interior's Public Relations and Security Media Department says the traffic law bans the installation of shades on the windows of vehicles, stressing that this constitutes a traffic violation.

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# Crucial tasks await new municipal minister

Key dev't projects in focus

**By Inaas Awadh**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27:** Several important tasks await the new Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Eng. Abdullatif Hamed Hamad Al-Mishari for advancing municipal operations and promoting sustainable urban development in the country.



Al-Mishari

Among the key files that Minister Al-Mishari will focus on are those requiring close oversight to ensure the completion of ongoing municipal projects. These include the Shuwaikh Beach Development Project, which is slated for completion in March 2025, and the Mubarakiya Markets Development Project, which is expected to be finished in 13 months. He will also oversee the completion of the solid waste recycling system project, which aims to con-

vert waste into dry fuel for use in cement factories.

The projects that the minister must implement after completing the engineering consulting studies include the Abdullah Al-Ahmad Mall project. This project promises a qualitative shift in Kuwait's entertainment sector with its educational, recreational, and cultural features, and the Mubarakiya Markets Development Project.

Minister Al-Mishari must also take urgent decisions regarding the new draft municipal law, which was submitted to the former minister Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan about a week ago for review and presentation to the Council of Ministers.

Another priority is the development of the municipality's organizational structure. This includes clarifying competencies within its departments, merging some departments, and creating new ones to align with the municipality's responsibilities and tasks.

Other major development projects under the municipality's supervision that require Minister Al-Mishari's intervention for completion and approval by the relevant authorities are the Jahra Corniche project, the Sulaibikhat Bay development project, and the Desert Adventures project.

## PAI inks deal with private firm

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27:** Upon directives of the Minister of Commerce and Industry Omar Al-Omar, Shamlan Al-Jahidli, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Industry, has signed a contract with the Contractor General Trading and Contracting Company, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The contract, signed at the Authority's main headquarters, involves the

construction, completion, operation, and maintenance of infrastructure for a portion of Plot 4 in the Sabhan Industrial Zone.

Al-Jahidli noted that the project spans 235,253 square meters and will provide 69 industrial plots dedicated to food industries, aiming to bolster food security. This initiative is a key component of the government's development program.

Kuwait achieves self-sufficiency in over 20 crops

## Chinese agricultural technology plays vital role in developing plant resources: Al-Azmi

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27:** Jaber Marzouq Al-Azmi, President of the Kuwaiti Farmers' Union, has praised the role of Chinese technology in advancing the agricultural sector in Kuwait.

He emphasized that alongside the expertise of Kuwaiti farmers, increased local consumer awareness, and government support, this technology has contributed to achieving self-sufficiency in more than 20 crops.

In an exclusive interview with Xinhua News Agency, Al-Azmi highlighted, "Chinese agricultural technology, along with the materials and supplies we import in large quantities from China, has played a crucial role in developing and enhancing plant resources in Kuwait."

He noted that the majority of modern agricultural equipment and supplies used in Kuwaiti farms are of Chinese origin, ranging from heavy and light machinery to electronic cooling panels, ventilation fans in greenhouses, pesticides, fertilizers, drip irrigation systems, and protective covering materials.

Al-Azmi pointed out that agricultural trade with China has been steadily increasing over the past 20 years, expressing hope for further cooperation with Chinese agricultural companies to achieve Kuwait's desired food security.

He affirmed that Kuwait's agricultural sector is witnessing significant development, with self-sufficiency achieved in over 20 crops, thanks to the expertise of Kuwaiti farmers, increased local consumer awareness, government support, and the contribution of Chinese agricultural mechanization.

Al-Azmi explained that various agricultural sectors in Kuwait, including crop production, livestock, and aquaculture, are achieving remarkable milestones.

He added that there are around 7,500 productive farms in Kuwait, mainly in the Al-Wafra and Al-Abdali regions, producing a wide variety of crops.

He further noted that many Kuwaiti farmers, who were once enthusiasts or hobbyists, have now become professionals in agriculture. These farmers have adapted to the high summer temperatures using modern agricultural equipment, cooled greenhouses, and heat-resistant seeds.

Al-Azmi emphasized, "Kuwaiti farmers now have substantial experience in cultivation, protection, production, and even in successful agricultural marketing."



Jaber Marzouq Al-Azmi, President of the Kuwaiti Farmers' Union, stands proudly on a farm in Kuwait, alongside farmers showcasing their dedication to local agriculture.

He also highlighted that many professional or full-time farmers are young Kuwaitis who prefer the demanding work of agriculture over the comfort of government office jobs.

According to Al-Azmi, local produce is gaining increasing popularity due to heightened consumer awareness. Consumers have become more aware of the value of fresh, locally produced goods that reach the market on the same day, unlike imported products that take longer to arrive.

Additionally, the quality of local agricultural products is exceptional. Al-Azmi explained, "We irrigate our crops with safe water and use organic fertilizers and short-residual pesticides, despite their high cost, making our produce safe and healthy."

Al-Azmi also credited government support, which has been vital since the agricultural development began in Al-Abdali and Al-Wafra six decades ago, for enabling Kuwaiti farmers to achieve agricultural success.

He mentioned that the government has provided essential infrastructure, extensive agricultural plots, water supplies-- the backbone of agriculture -- and

electricity.

Al-Azmi also noted that entities concerned with agriculture and production are working to enhance plant and agricultural resources through an agricultural financing portfolio managed by the Kuwait Industrial Bank on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, with a capital of 100 million dinars.

Thanks to this support, "We have been able to establish around 50,000 modern, protected, and well-cooled greenhouses."

Al-Azmi questioned, "Who would have believed that a desert country like Kuwait could produce strawberries in commercial quantities and successfully grow potatoes twice a year, yielding up to 20 tons?"

He concluded by stating that "Kuwaiti farms now produce more than 20 types of crops in which we have achieved self-sufficiency for most months of the year, including tomatoes, potatoes, onions, both hot and sweet peppers, eggplant, zucchini, beans, corn, and cucumbers -- produced daily in commercial quantities -- along with various leafy greens such as parsley, arugula, lettuce, coriander, onions, mint, spinach, basil, and other crops."

Cleaner, more efficient solution

## Proposal for mobile smart toilets seeks to enhance public facilities

**By Inaas Awadh**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27:** Municipal Council member Fahad Al-Abduljader on Monday submitted a proposal to license mobile smart toilets for a nominal fee.

He also recommended the provision of general cleanliness services for these toilets, establish a mechanism to facilitate the entry of people with special needs to the toilets, provide a system that facilitates the payment process for users of smart toilets and allow the use of multiple payment methods, and establishment of controls and an integrated mechanism so the toilets are not utilized in an uncivilized manner.

In the introduction to his proposal, he explained most civilized countries have mobile smart toilets used in different facilities and locations such as schools,

sports clubs, field hospitals, tourist villages, beaches, parks and recreational areas.

He affirmed this is a wonderful idea that is in line with the New Kuwait vision, pointing out that such toilets have civilized appearance and the best alternative to fixed public toilets.

He cited several other advantages like saving water and energy, as well as maintaining a high level of cleanliness and personal health.

In general, the use of smart toilets contributes to protecting the environment and preserving natural resources, he concluded.



Al-Abduljader

Latest relief includes two ambulances

## KRCS sends 7th aid plane to Sudan

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27, (KUNA):** Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced on Tuesday the departure of the seventh aid-relief plane from Abdullah Mubarak Airbase, carrying two ambulances onboard to Port Sudan International Airport. KRCS's Director of Disaster Management and Emergency, Yousef Al-Miraj, told KUNA that this contribution is an extension of KRCS's humanitarian role, given the current situation in Sudan, which is facing humanitarian conditions that require support at all levels.

This support aims to enhance the emergency and ambulance capabilities in Sudan, ensuring they remain able to provide emergency services to the Sudanese people, he added.

Al-Miraj said that the donation would help save many lives and cover some of the hospitals' needs for ambulances, expressing hope that the ambulances would provide immediate support to improve health conditions for the Sudanese people.

He noted that KRCS provided various aid, including medicines, food assistance, relief supplies, tents, and ambulances, reaffirming that Kuwait always stands by Sudan. He expressed his deep gratitude to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, and Kuwait Air Forces, commending their role in aiding and rescuing those affected worldwide, guided by the leadership of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Kuwait landed its sixth aircraft on Monday in Port Sudan as part of the Kuwaiti airbridge, carrying 10 tons of humanitarian aid to relieve the affected Sudanese people.

Dr. Fahad Al-Dhafaeri, Kuwait's ambassador to Sudan, explained to KUNA that with the help of the Kuwait Relief Society, this batch included hundreds of tents and necessary equipment to aid the thousands of people displaced by the widespread flooding.



The seventh plane takes off from the air bridge to aid our brothers in Sudan.



Seventh aid-relief plane carrying two ambulances onboard.

## 2,000 students benefit from Salwa Zakat's 'Ehsas Project'

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27:** Chairman of Salwa Zakat Committee at the Programs and Projects Sector in Al-Najat Charitable Society Badr Al-Aqeel announced that 2,000 students in the country have benefited from 'Ehsas' Project, which has been sponsoring students since its establishment in 2014, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Aqeel revealed "the project provides educational support to the needy groups. We are keen to overcome the difficulties that distinguished students are facing and to help them complete their studies."

He explained the committee evaluates the documents of the students to verify their eligibility for assistance, then the committee provides them with financial support in the form of a check delivered to the administration of the school. The financial assistance is documented and the necessary reports are sent to the donors, including the students' grades in the first semester and the end of the academic year. A total of 257 students benefited from the project in the 2023/2024 academic year, he added.

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## Agreement underscores Kuwait's continued dedication to global relief efforts

# Tanmia Charity, UNHCR sign \$180K aid deal for Rohingya refugees



Dr. Swaika with Ahmad Governor.

## India's Ambassador meets with new Ahmadi Governor

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Dr. Adarsh Swaika called on H.E. Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the new Governor of Ahmadi.

The Indian envoy congratulated the Governor on his appointment and apprised him of the contributions of the large Indian community in his Governorate.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Charitable Development Society (Tanmia Charity) announced on Monday the signing of its fourth cooperation agreement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide support and assistance to Rohingya Muslim refugees, worth USD 180,000.

Chairman of the Society's Board of Directors, Dr. Nasser Al-Ajmi, affirmed to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the Society is committed to this humanitarian cause in cooperation and strategic partnership with the UNHCR, which oversees 37 out of 44 refugee camps.

Dr. Al-Ajmi noted that for the fourth consecutive year, the Society has aimed to contribute to meeting the basic needs of refugees, including health care, shelter, drinking water, and sewage facilities, especially given the spread of epidemics and diseases. He explained that the proceeds from previous and current agreements have helped meet the needs of 450,000 refugees out of 950,000, with a total amount estimated at USD 1.1 million.

He added that Rohingya refugees face not only displacement issues but also severe living hardships. He praised the Kuwaiti authorities for facilitating humanitarian missions to provide relief to those affected by crises and wars, as well as the cooperation of Kuwaiti charitable societies and organizations in delivering aid to those in need.

For her part, UNHCR Representative to the State of Kuwait, Nisreen Rabiaan, told KUNA that this fourth agreement will address the needs of about 60,000 Rohingya Muslim refugee families. She added that various forms of aid for basic needs have been provided to 41 percent of the refugees in previous years.

Rabiaan highlighted Kuwait's pioneering role in providing relief to those in need worldwide, including support for the Gaza Strip and Sudan, and its commitment to those affected by the Rohingya crisis and other humanitarian emergencies. She expressed the Commission's commitment to strengthening its relationship with the charitable sector in Kuwait, including organizations like Tanmia Charity, which is a major donor through its office in Cox's Bazar, Bangla-



Tanmia Charity and UNHCR representative during the signing of the agreement.

KUNA photo

desh. The "Kuwait by Your Side" campaign, which includes various Kuwaiti associations and organizations such as the Charitable Organization, Kuwait Zakat House, Al-Rahma International, Namaa Charity, and other Kuwaiti charitable entities, also plays a crucial role.

In turn, Salma Al-Mutairi, representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs in the Charitable Societies Department, confirmed to KUNA the ministry's dedication to supporting and overcoming obstacles faced by Kuwaiti charitable societies and organizations. She noted the ministry's efforts to enhance Kuwait's pioneering role in humanitarian affairs,

especially in cooperation with international bodies to advance charitable work in the country.

Al-Mutairi also mentioned that the ministry continues to facilitate Kuwaiti charitable activities in collaboration with various official bodies and recently issued licenses for two Kuwaiti charitable societies and one foundation to continue their charitable work. The agreement signing event was attended by representatives from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Ministry of Social Affairs, several Kuwaiti charitable societies and organizations, and individuals interested in humanitarian affairs.

## Our Amir ...

Continued from Page 1

Observations were made regarding some ministers who were replaced in the recent reshuffle, as they did not keep up with the pace set by their counterparts. This led to a noticeable stagnation throughout the past four months, making the reshuffle necessary to ensure that all officials are adequately prepared for their responsibilities.

For the first time, there is a sense that technocrats are now part of the government, given that the most pressing issue now is the economy, with financial management being its core.

The appointment of Noura Al-Fasam to this position confirms that a positive change will extend beyond the previous limits.

Similarly, the appointment of Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel is crucial. He will need to work on many files and correct the defects in them, especially the recent backward decisions that made the Kuwaiti economy appear as though it is managed with the mentality of a grocery store rather than a state.

In the field of education, considering it is one of the most difficult fields, the selection of Dr. Nader Al-Jalal as the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and as the acting Minister of Education, was a commendable choice. As a career educationist, Dr. Al-Jalal brings extensive knowledge and experience necessary for effective educational and scientific reform.

We must all acknowledge the fact that reforming education is synonymous with reforming the state as a whole. The impact of hasty decisions on our education system is quite evident, as it increasingly produces individuals who are either illiterate or only semi-educated.

This is the reason for the deterioration of all institutions, which has contributed to the proliferation of fake certificates. The core of the problem lies in a system that prioritized personal connections (wasta) for securing financial privileges and positions, rather than focusing on fulfilling a national mission.

In addition, one of the pressing issues in the country is housing. This file is now in the hands of an expert like Abdullatif Al-Mishari, who has extensive experience in developing the five islands, working on major projects' master plans, and serving on the Housing Projects Coordination Committee at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare. His background suggests that he has many practical and innovative ideas to drive much-needed development in this sector, moving away from outdated approaches.

We can today see the positive impact of His Highness the Amir's efforts to restore Kuwait to its status as the "Pearl of the Gulf." His wisdom has been guiding the ministers, who must be diligent and committed to fulfilling His Highness's vision, which is focused on meeting citizens' aspirations, which align closely with His Highness's own aspirations.

## Kuwait continues

Continued from Page 1

The report, seen by Al-Seyassah, attributes this decline to the government's ongoing Kuwaitization plan -- to replace expatriate workers with citizens -- a process that began in 2018 since the Civil Service Commission has been tasked to achieve full Kuwaitization in government jobs.

However, the report also highlights a decline in productivity levels, indicating a weakness in the economic performance of workers.

Regarding demographics, the report notes that Kuwait continues to face an imbalance, with citizens making up only 30 percent of the total population, while expatriates account for 70 percent.

Despite significant reform efforts by the government -- including the introduction of the "Smart Worker ID," the launch of the biometric fingerprint system, and various new strict measures to eliminate fake companies and ac-

celerate Kuwaitization -- the structural issues in the labor market persist.

The report also points to ongoing efforts to expand recruitment from new countries that supply skilled labor.

## Commanders focus

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, Al-Shalawi and his accompanying delegation, visited Mubarak Al-Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College, where he was briefed with the mechanism of the educational process and the curricula, lectures and exercises provided by the college to students from brotherly and friendly countries.

## 'Economy,

Continued from Page 1

for fostering a more dynamic and supportive economic climate.

Al-Ajeel also stressed the importance of achieving complete food security. This involves diversifying import sources, increasing local food production, and expanding storage capacities. He called for greater collaboration between government bodies and specialized private sector companies to meet these goals effectively.

"The political leadership's confidence in us and its commitment to developing the economic system require us to intensify our efforts," Al-Ajeel remarked.

He expressed his determination to push forward Kuwait's service and commercial sectors in ways that are tangible and beneficial to its citizens.

In addition to these priorities, Al-Ajeel outlined several strategic files that will be central to his agenda. These include promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, and enhancing the role of the private sector through diverse programs.

He also emphasized the need to improve the industrial sector by developing supportive policies for Kuwaiti industries, expanding export opportunities, and opening new markets for Kuwaiti products.

Another critical focus will be on quality control, ensuring product safety, regulating prices in the local market, and protecting consumer interests. Al-Ajeel stressed that these areas are crucial for maintaining trust and delivering value to the people of Kuwait.

## Energy use

Continued from Page 1

In a related context, the ministry said it might be forced to cut off electricity in certain parts of some residential areas due to the high power consumption and the emergency repair of some power generation units.

Moreover, two 11 kV sub-feeders went out of service in the main Jabriya power transmission station; leading to power outage in some parts of Block Eight in Jabriya. Emergency service workers were dispatched to the location to take the necessary measures and restore electricity as soon as possible.

## Hopes set

Continued from Page 1

prevent intruders from harming the real estate market by amending Ministerial Resolution No. 164/2020 on the real estate brokerage profession, and impose harsher penalties to eliminate chaos in the real estate market.

He urged the minister to intensify oversight of the real estate market to maintain the credibility of those working in this field, especially since it is one of the largest markets in circulation.

He also emphasized the need for the presence of a representative of the union in all real estate committees in the ministry, review the decision on home licenses (of a special nature) for real estate brokerage work, speed up the completion of transactions, and reduce the documentary cycle for issuing and

# Co-ops urged to strengthen role in safeguarding shareholders' funds

Al-Huwailah advocates Kuwaiti women's economic empowerment



Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, during the opening of the Productive Families Exhibition.



Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, during the Productive Families Exhibition.

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah stressed the need to enhance the role of cooperative societies in protecting the shareholders' funds, improving integrity and transparency, and providing the best services.**

Al-Huwailah made the statement in her recent inspection tour of Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City Cooperative Society. She looked into the progress of work at the cooperative, quality of products and compliance with the standards; in addition to evaluating the shareholders' satisfaction with the services provided to them to ensure their expectations are met and the highest level of satisfaction is achieved.

She affirmed the ministry closely monitors cooperative societies to make sure that they provide services

in accordance with the aspirations of shareholders and strengthen their development role in society.

Moreover, Al-Huwailah visited the Productive Families Exhibition organized by the Family Care Department in the Social Development Sector -- Boutique 33 in Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City recently. Many Kuwaiti families and people with special needs participated in the exhibition.

In her statement at the event, Al-Huwailah asserted that "the ministry spares no effort in following up and adopting projects that serve categories dear to our hearts."

She added the ministry fully supports projects aimed at empowering Kuwaiti women economically; in addition to helping families, small business owners and entrepreneurs in marketing their products and providing all the necessary support and care.

The exhibition featured a diverse range of products; including embroidery, knitting, interior design, perfume making, drawing, accessories and other distinctive handicrafts.

At the end of her tour of the exhibition, Al-Huwailah honored the participants and organizers.

renewing licenses.

Al-Manea said he submitted 18 proposals to the minister to improve the services provided in the field of consumer protection; including developing and updating laws, reviewing and updating the Consumer Protection Law in line with international standards and best practices, setting laws to regulate e-commerce to ensure the protection of consumers in online purchases, establishing a unified electronic platform for consumers to submit complaints and follow them up in a smooth and transparent manner, and linking this platform to the concerned authorities in order to resolve disputes quickly and effectively.

He emphasized the importance of launching a comprehensive awareness campaign to educate consumers about their rights and duties, cooperating with local and electronic media to disseminate information and advice on how to make informed purchasing decisions, tightening control over markets through intensified inspection tours in markets and shops to ensure strict compliance with standards and specifications, activating price control mechanisms, monitoring monopoly, ensuring the provision of good quality products at reasonable prices, enhancing transparency and accountability through the mandatory display of prices and specifications on products, and guaranteeing the availability of reliable information about products like their components, source and health impact.

He called for encouraging fair competition by developing a competitive environment between companies to improve the quality of products and services and reduce prices, as well as combat unfair commercial practices like monopoly and price manipulation. He also underscored the need to cooperate with educational institutions to include consumer protection topics in the curricula to raise awareness on consumer rights among the young generation, and organize workshops and training courses for students to be fully aware of consumer rights and how to protect themselves from commercial fraud.

He highlighted the significance of strengthening international cooperation by building partnerships with global consumer protection organi-

zations to exchange experience and knowledge, and sign international agreements to protect consumers in cross-border commercial transactions.

He suggested granting incentives by launching annual awards for companies that adhere to the best practices of consumer protection and provide distinguished services, as well as highlighting these companies in the media to encourage others to follow the same approach.

He stressed the importance of providing a database for consumers that consists of information about companies and suppliers, including their history in resolving disputes and providing high-quality services; and making this information available to consumers to make informed decisions when purchasing.

He called for implementing a product and service evaluation system and developing an electronic platform that allows consumers to evaluate the products and services they have purchased and publish these evaluations to enable consumers to make informed purchasing decisions.

He pointed out the importance of developing programs to combat counterfeiting and commercial fraud by cooperating with the concerned authorities to develop systems for early detection of counterfeit and fake products, organizing surprise and continuous inspection campaigns in markets to prevent the spread of counterfeit products, strengthening cooperation with civil society, and involving non-governmental organizations and civil society institutions in consumer protection efforts to increase the effectiveness of programs and campaigns.

He said there should be a mechanism to fully support initiatives aimed at enhancing consumer rights; in addition to organizing workshops and training programs for sellers and shop owners to be familiar with professional ethics and consumer rights, encouraging sellers to adhere to high ethical and commercial standards, establishing a research and studies center for consumer protection, and encouraging innovation in consumer protection services.

He stated it is important to support the development of innovative technological applications that help consumers verify the quality and prices of

## KOC expands Jurassic project with new gas processing units

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: MEED Magazine revealed that Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) has added more gas processing units to its Jurassic project -- installation of depletion compression systems and sulphur recovery units, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The magazine affirmed the wide-range integration of Jurassic facilities with the additional low-pressure compression, fuel gas processing and polishing units; hence, the remarkable increase in the overall scope of the tender.

products, cooperate with international standards and specifications organizations, draft strict laws and policies to combat misleading advertisements that deceive consumers, and impose financial and legal penalties on companies that use unfair advertising methods.

## Kuwait slams

Continued from Page 1

These repeated violations, the organization stated, to the holy sites and freedom of worship is a blatant breach of the Geneva Convention and International Law.

The organization held the Israeli occupation government responsible for the consequences of these ongoing violations, which fueled religious conflicts, extremism and instability in the region.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation reiterated its call for the International Community to take responsibility and intervene to put an end to these serious continuous violations made by the Israeli occupation, and to maintain the historical and legal status of holy sites in the occupied Jerusalem.

Qatar also strongly condemned remarks made by Israeli occupation National Security Minister that called for building a synagogue inside Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

A statement by the Qatari ministry of foreign affairs said that such calls

MEED reported that KOC believes these additions will lead to more operational flexibility in terms of Jurassic gas production, as well as preparing the existing Jurassic facilities to adapt to the changing field conditions.

Earlier this month, MEED stated that the estimated budget for the project has increased from about \$380 million to \$460 million; indicating that KOC believes the budget increase will be worthwhile due to the overall benefit from the long-term Jurassic production plans.

represents an extension of attempts to change the historical and legal status of Al-Aqsa Mosque and a provocation to Muslims around the world.

The Ministry warned of the impact of these provocative statements on the ongoing efforts to reach a ceasefire agreement in Gaza Strip, and stressed the need for the international community to take urgent action to deter the occupation and assume its moral and legal responsibilities towards Jerusalem and its holy sites.

The Ministry reiterated the State of Qatar's firm position on the justice of the Palestinian cause and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

"The Palestinian people will not accept any harm to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which is a red line that cannot be crossed under any circumstances," Palestinian Authority spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh said in a statement carried by the official news agency (WAFA).

Abu Rudeineh urged the international community, especially the US, to immediately intervene "to restrain the Israeli extreme right-wing government and compel it to adhere to the prevailing legal and historical status of the holy site."

He added that the US political, military and financial support encouraged them to continue their aggression against the Palestinian people.

Ben-Gvir claimed Monday that Jews have the right to pray at Al-Aqsa Mosque, saying that he would build a synagogue at the flashpoint site.



## World News Roundup

## Europe

## 'Endorse peace plan'

## Parliament polls in Oct – Bulgaria prez

SOFIA, Bulgaria, Aug 27, (AP): Bulgaria's president on Tuesday called early parliamentary elections for October, in another effort to overcome the political impasse and economic woes plaguing the European Union and NATO member.

President **Rumen Radev** called the snap balloting for Oct 27 - Bulgaria's seventh election in three years. He also reappointed Dimitar Glavchev to lead the interim government until the vote. The interim Cabinet, largely the same as the incumbent one, took the oath in Parliament.

"The political crisis is not over," Radev said ahead of the swearing-in ceremony, adding that there will be a solution only when there is a sustainable majority in Parliament that elects an effective government.

Bulgaria, a country of 6.7 million, has been gripped by political instability since 2020, when mass protests erupted against corrupt politicians that had allowed oligarchs to take control of state institutions.

But out of six past snap elections, only two produced an elected government. Both times, however, the government collapsed after reform-oriented politicians attempted to take on graft and cut off the country's energy and security reliance on Russia.

The last election, in June, failed to produce a clear winner. Instead, a fragmented legislature of seven parties were unable to cobble together a viable coalition. The center-right GERB party of three-times Prime Minister Boyko Borissov won 68 seats, the most of any party but well short of a majority in the 240-seat Parliament and could not find coalition partners.

The crisis is expected to slow down Bulgaria's plans to swiftly join the euro zone and spur reforms necessary to unlock EU funds for recovery.

The flurry of snap elections has also dampened interest in politics, resulting in growing voter apathy and a declining turnout, exacerbated by a campaign filled with propaganda and personal attacks.

Voters are clearly tired - turnout went from 50% in the April 2021 vote to 33% in June, the lowest since the end of communist rule in 1989.

**UK PM contrasts leadership with past:** UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer sought Tuesday to draw a contrast between his new government and the past, saying the solution to the country's problems is in working together and not in continuing to stoke tensions in society.

Starmer said the riots that convulsed the nation earlier this summer betrayed "the cracks in our society" after 14 years of Conservative-led government. But the prime minister, who took office in July after a landslide election victory, also found hope in the way many people united to oppose the violence.

"The riots didn't just betray the sickness, they also revealed the cure, found not in the cynical conflict of populism but in the coming together of a country," Starmer said. "The people who got together the morning after all around the country - with their brooms, their shovels, their trowels - and cleared up their community. They reminded us who we really are."

Starmer spoke in the rose garden of his official Downing Street residence in an effort to underscore the differences between his administration and those of his Conservative predecessors.

The garden was the scene of two events that angered voters during the COVID-19 pandemic. First, a senior adviser to former Prime Minister Boris Johnson held a news conference in the garden as he tried to justify a lockdown-breaking trip to the country.

**'Endorse peace plan for Ukraine':** China called on Tuesday for more countries to endorse its peace plan for Ukraine, after a round of diplomacy with Indonesia, Brazil and South Africa to support its plan.

Envoy Li Hui called the three countries representative of the Global South and "important forces in promoting world peace" who share similar positions with China. "They have maintained communication with both Russia and Ukraine and stay committed to a political settlement to the crisis through dialogue and negotiation," said Li, China's special envoy for Eurasian affairs.

China and Brazil issued a joint peace plan earlier this year that calls for a peace conference with both Ukraine and Russia and no expansion of the battlefield. China and Russia were absent from a peace summit hosted in Switzerland in June. Russia was not invited while China chose not to attend.

Initially, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said China had pressured other countries to not attend the peace summit. But since then, Ukraine has recognized China's role in a peace process, given its close relationship with Russia, with the Ukrainian foreign minister paying a visit to the country in July, the first since the war began.

While a diplomatic dialogue between Russia and Ukraine so far appears out of reach, the war has shifted. In August Ukraine opened a new front in the war by attacking the Russian oblast of Kursk, in a surprise move that made clear Russia was also vulnerable. Zelenskyy has said the aim was to create a buffer zone to protect Ukraine from attacks.

**Russia missile attacks kill 5 in Ukraine:** Night-time Russian drone and missile attacks struck across Ukraine, killing at least five people, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday, a day after a heavy barrage pounded energy facilities throughout the country.

Zelenskyy said the attacks included 81 drones, as well as cruise and ballistic missiles and that 16 people were injured. He did not say where the four deaths occurred, but two people died in a strike on a residential building in the industrial city of Kryvyi Rih, according to Oleksandr Vilkul, head of the city's military administration.

"We will undoubtedly respond to Russia for this and all other attacks. Crimes against humanity cannot go unpunished," Zelenskyy wrote on X.

In the Kyiv region, which had struggled with blackouts after Monday's onslaught, five air alerts were called during the night. The regional administration said air defenses destroyed all the drones and missiles but that falling debris set off forest fires.

After the Monday barrage across Ukraine of more than 100 missiles and a similar number of drones, Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said "the energy infrastructure has once again become the target of Russian terrorists" and urged Ukraine's allies to provide it with long-range weapons and permission to use them on targets inside Russia.



US Republican presidential nominee former president Donald Trump speaks at the National Guard Association of the United States' 146th General Conference on Aug 26, in Detroit. (AP)

## Politics

## Trump criticizes US president and VP

## Gabbard endorses Trump against Harris

WASHINGTON, Aug 27, (AP): Former Democratic Rep. Tulsi Gabbard has endorsed Donald Trump's presidential bid, furthering her shift away from the party she sought to represent four years ago and linking herself to the GOP nominee's critiques of Vice President Kamala Harris and the chaotic Afghanistan War withdrawal.

Appearing Monday with Trump in Detroit, Gabbard, a National Guard veteran who served two tours of duty in the Middle East before representing Hawaii in the US House, said the GOP nominee "understands the grave responsibility that a president and commander in chief bears for every single one of our lives."

The pair appeared at the National Guard Association of the United States on the third anniversary of the Aug 26, 2021, suicide bombing at Hamid Karzai International Airport, which killed 13 US service members and more than 100 Afghans. Gabbard accompanied Trump earlier Monday to Arlington National Cemetery, where the former president laid wreaths in honor of three of the slain service members - Sgt Nicole Gee, Staff Sgt Darin Hoover and Staff Sgt Ryan Knauss.

## Peace

On Monday, Gabbard praised Trump for "having the courage to meet with adversaries, dictators, allies and partners alike in the pursuit of peace, seeing war as a last resort." She condemned the Democratic White House for the US now "facing multiple wars on multiple fronts in regions around the world and closer to the brink of nuclear war than we ever have been before."

The former president's team announced later Monday that Gabbard would moderate a town hall with Trump that the campaign was planning for Thursday in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Gabbard has long signaled some level of support for Trump, even while she sat in the US House as a Democrat. In 2019, she was the only lawmaker to vote "present" when the House of Representatives impeached Trump for his dealings with Ukraine.

Gabbard was known during her four House terms for taking positions at odds with her own party's establish-

## Biden speaks with Modi about premier recent visit to Ukraine

WASHINGTON, Aug 27, (AP): US President Joe Biden spoke with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, days after the most prominent leader from a nation that maintains a neutral position on Russia's invasion of Ukraine visited Kyiv.

Modi said in a posting on X that he spoke to Biden about "India's full support for early return of peace and stability" in Ukraine. He said the leaders also discussed India's concern about the safety of Hindus and other religious minorities in neighboring Bangladesh after this month's ouster of the country's long-serving prime minister.

The White House said Biden commended Modi's engagement with Ukraine as well as his visit last week to Poland, one of Ukraine's closest Eastern European allies.

"We welcome any other country that wants to help President (Volodymyr) Zelenskyy work towards this just peace, and any country that's willing

to come at that discussion by starting with President Zelenskyy's perspective, by hearing him out," White House national security spokesman John Kirby told reporters.

Zelenskyy and Modi during their meeting last week discussed at length Ukraine's peace formula, which prioritizes territorial integrity and the withdrawal of Russian troops, according to the Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"We say it very loudly and clearly that we support the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity," Modi said during the meeting. "It's our highest priority."

The Kyiv visit came after Modi last month met with Putin in Moscow. Zelenskyy had criticized Modi for the visit with Putin, which came on the same day Russian missiles struck across Ukraine, killing scores of people. During the visit, Modi was photographed giving Putin a warm embrace.

anniversary of the suicide bombing.

"Caused by Kamala Harris, Joe Biden, the humiliation in Afghanistan set off the collapse of American credibility and respect all around the world," Trump told an audience of about 4,000, including National Guard members and their families in Detroit.

Biden's administration was following a withdrawal commitment and timeline that the Trump administration had negotiated with the Taliban in 2020. A 2022 review by a government-appointed special investigator concluded decisions made by both Trump and Biden were the key factors leading to the rapid collapse of Afghanistan's military and the Taliban takeover.

In his speech to the National Guard in Detroit, Trump said that leaving Afghanistan was the right thing to do but that the execution was poor. "We were going to do it with dignity and strength," he said. He called the attack "the most embarrassing day in the history of our country."

was struck on the head repeatedly. Connolly, a Democrat who represents parts of northern Virginia, has said Pham came there intending to kill him. (AP)

**Colorado GOP chair ousted:** Colorado GOP Chairman **Dave Williams**, who has tried to push the state party to extremes, was ousted over the weekend in a vote that he called illegitimate, precipitating a leadership standoff as the November election looms.

Williams' tenure as chair led to party infighting as he leaned into public attacks against fellow Republicans who didn't fit his idea of ultraconservative or endorse his extreme tactics echoing those of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. The fight mirrors a national split in the GOP between more traditional Republicans and a more combative flank comprising politicians such as Republican Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida.

It also shows the challenges that such extreme politics face in Colorado. Opposition to Williams' methods grew as the party under his leadership endorsed certain Republican primary candidates over others, a move that state parties tend to avoid, at least publicly. Williams is also accused of using state party resources to benefit his own failed congressional primary election bid, and was criticized for refusing to step down as party chair after joining the race. (AP)



People walk in front of their damaged houses after Russian rocket attack in Usatove village near Odesa, Ukraine on Aug 26. Nighttime Russian drone and missile attacks struck across Ukraine, killing at least five people, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Aug 27, a day after a heavy barrage pounded energy facilities throughout the country. (AP)



Williams



Giuliani

## America

**'Giuliani did nothing illegal':** A lawyer for **Rudy Giuliani** said Monday that the charges against his client in Arizona's fake elector case should be thrown out because Giuliani did nothing criminal in contesting Joe Biden's narrow 2020 victory in the state over Donald Trump.

An indictment said Giuliani spread false claims of election fraud in Arizona after the 2020 election and presided over a downtown Phoenix gathering where he claimed officials made no effort to determine the accuracy of presidential election results.

Attorney Mark Williams said Giuliani was exercising his rights to free speech and petition the government. "How is Mr. Giuliani to know that, oh my gosh, he presided over a meeting in downtown Phoenix," Williams asked sarcastically. "How is he to know that that's a crime?"

Cohen hasn't yet issued decisions on the dismissal requests. Arguments over whether to throw out the case will continue Tuesday. (AP)

**Dems sue to block Ga rules:** The state and national Democratic parties sued Monday to block two recent rules adopted by Georgia's State Election Board that could be used by county officials who want to refuse to certify an election, potentially causing delays in finalizing the state's results.

The lawsuit, filed before a state judge in Atlanta, argues the rules violate a state law that makes certification a mandatory duty. The suit asks the judge to find the rules are invalid because the State Election Board, now dominated by allies of former President Donald Trump, is exceeding its legal authority.

The actions of the board alarm Democrats and voting rights activists, playing out against Georgia's background of partisan struggle over voting procedures that predates even the 2020 presidential election. It's a battle in yet another state over what had long been an administrative afterthought, state and local boards certifying results. (AP)

**Judge accepts insanity plea:** A northern Virginia man who attacked staffers in the district office of U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly with a baseball bat was found not guilty by reason of insanity Monday.

A Fairfax County judge accepted the insanity plea from Xuan-Kha Tran Pham,

50, of Fairfax on charges that included malicious wounding and assault.

Pham was arrested and charged in May 2023 after the attack. Two staffers were injured, including an intern who was working her first day. The intern was struck in the ribs, and the other staffer



People shelter under umbrellas in London, Britain on Aug 24. The Met Office, Britain's national meteorological service, issued a yellow alert for heavy rain across much of southeast England, as a storm hit some parts of the country Saturday. (Xinhua)



## Lat/Am

## 'Historic truth' revealed

## 'Lack of veracity in Maduro re-election'

MIAMI, Aug 27, (Agencies): A Venezuelan electoral official has denounced what he calls a "grave lack of transparency and veracity" in last month's election results, rebuking authorities who declared President Nicolás Maduro the winner despite strong evidence to the contrary presented by his opponents and doubts from several foreign governments.

Juan Carlos Delpino is one of five members of the National Electoral Council, or CNE in Spanish, and the only one who prior to the vote had shown a willingness to go against the wishes of Maduro's government.

On Monday, he published a letter on social media detailing several alleged irregularities before and on the day of the July 28 election. He said polling centers were slow to report results



Maduro

from automated voting machines while several opposition volunteers were banished, in violation of electoral rules guaranteeing the transparent transmission of tallies to CNE headquarters.

Delpino said he was informed that the hours-long delay was caused by a supposed hacking of the CNE platform and that only 58% of results had been collected. He said

he decided in protest not to join his fellow rectors in monitoring the vote-counting from the CNE data hub or attending the midnight press conference when CNE President Elvís Amoroso, a ruling party loyalist, declared Maduro the winner.

"I deeply regret that the results don't serve the Venezuelan people, that they don't help resolve our differences or promote national unity but instead fuel doubts in the majority of Venezuelans and the international community," Delpino wrote.

## Close

Delpino, an electoral expert close to one of Venezuela's traditional opposition parties, was named to the CNE by the National Assembly controlled by Maduro's allies last year after several predecessors were removed.

His letter comes as Maduro doubles down on assertions he won reelection by more than 1 million votes. His government has defied calls from the U.S., European Union and even leftist allies from Brazil, Colombia and Mexico to release voting records that would back such claims.

Meanwhile, the opposition has published online what appear to be authentic tallies from 80% of polling machines showing that its candidate, Edmundo González, won by a more than 2-to-1 margin.

Last week, the Venezuelan Supreme Court certified the results and said voting tallies published online by the opposition were forged. Attorney General Tarek William Saab ordered González to testify this week in a criminal investigation over alleged attempts to spread panic in the South American nation by contesting the results.

González on Sunday indicated he had no intention of complying with the order, saying his due process rights and Venezuela's constitution were being trampled and the only authority he is accountable to are voters. He repeated calls for Maduro to release the voting records from about 30,000 machines nationwide so the results can be independently verified by international experts.

## Also:

**MEXICO CITY:** A former head of investigations for Mexico's Attorney General's Office told officials investigating the 2014 disappearance of 43 students that the so-called "historic truth" presented to the public weeks later was cooked up by the highest ranking authorities in the government during meetings presided over by then-President Enrique Peña Nieto, a Mexican news outlet reported Monday.

**Tomás Zerón**, a fugitive now in Israel beyond the reach of Mexican law enforcement, told investigators that the president and members of his security Cabinet were present, the independent journalism collective Fabrica de Periodismo reported.

It quoted from Zerón's answers to a lengthy questionnaire sent to him in 2022 by Mexico's top human rights official at the time, **Alejandro Encinas**, which was released under a freedom of information request.

The "historic truth" version contended the students were turned over by local police to a drug gang in the city of **Iguala**. The gang reportedly killed the students, incinerated their bodies at a dump in nearby **Cocula** and tossed the remains into a river.

Subsequent investigations by independent experts and the Attorney General's Office, and corroborated by the Truth Commission established for the case, have since dismissed the idea the bodies were burned at the dump.

A local drug gang was indeed involved, they determined, but the Truth Commission also believes corrupt members of Mexico's military as well as police at all levels were, too.

Encinas, the human rights official, previously referred to high-level meetings of officials to discuss the "historic truth" version, but without identifying all of those present.

According to Zerón, the meetings were attended by the president as well as his security Cabinet and then-Attorney General **Jesús Murillo Karam**. Murillo Karam has been credited with calling the explanation of the students' disappearance the "historic truth" and has been under house arrest awaiting trial. Peña Nieto now lives in Spain.

**BRASILIA:** Brasilia's environment institute, which monitors air quality in the Brazilian capital, issued an alert on Monday, warning of a "delicate situation."

For the second day in a row, Brasilia was affected by heavy smoke from wildfires in the states of Sao Paulo and Goias, as it grapples with seasonal drought in the central-west Cerrado region.

Data collected on Sunday indicated a "poor" air quality index for particulate matter, including dust, smoke and soot. Overnight, the index worsened to "very bad" and continued until 3:00 a.m. local time (0000 GMT) on Monday, the agency said in a press release.

Residents in the capital may experience symptoms such as dry cough, fatigue, burning eyes, nose and throat, and difficulty breathing, according to the agency.

A record number of wildfires have broken out in Brazil this year in regions such as the Amazon, the Pantanal and the southeastern part of the country.

Meanwhile, the economic loss caused by the wildfires in Brazil's southeastern Sao Paulo state reached up to 1 billion reais (182 million U.S. dollars) within just three days, regional governor **Tarciso de Freitas** said on Monday.



Waves hit a coastal area in Miyazaki, western Japan on Aug 27 as a typhoon is approaching. (AP)

## Shanshan threatens heavy rain, traffic disruption in southwestern Japan

A powerful typhoon was approaching Japan's southwestern islands Tuesday, with weather officials cautioning residents about heavy rain and violent winds expected in the region over the coming days.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said Typhoon Shanshan was about 130 kilometers (80 miles) east of the southern island of Amami on Tuesday morning as it slowly headed north toward Kyushu while

packing winds of up to 162 kilometers (100 miles) per hour.

So far, no damage has been reported from the typhoon, but people prepared for the downpour and high winds it was forecast to bring.

Japan Railway companies that operate Shinkansen super-express trains said services may be suspended in Kyushu, Japan's main southern island,

as well as large parts of the main island of Honshu between Wednesday and Sunday.

The JMA said up to 400 millimeters (15.7 inches) of rainfall on the Amami island over the next 24 hours, and up to 500 millimeters (19.7 inches) in the Kyushu region from Wednesday to Thursday.

Fishers in the Kyushu region tied their boats to the port facilities Monday to prepare for the typhoon. (AP)

## Asia

## 'Washington, Beijing working to avoid conflict'

## US open to escorting Philippine ships in sea

MANILA, Philippines, Aug 27, (AP):

The US military is open to consultations about escorting Philippine ships in the disputed South China Sea, the head of US Indo-Pacific Command said Tuesday amid a spike in hostilities between Beijing and Manila in the disputed waters.

Adm. Samuel Paparo's remarks, which he made in response to a question during a news conference in Manila with Philippine Armed Forces chief Gen Romeo Brawner Jr, provided a glimpse of the mindset of one of the highest American military commanders outside the US mainland on a prospective operation that would risk putting US Navy ships in direct collisions with those of China.

Chinese coast guard, navy and suspected militia ships regularly clash with Philippine vessels during attempts to resupply Filipino sailors stationed in parts of the South China Sea claimed by both countries. As these clashes grow increasingly hostile, resulting in injuries to Filipino sailors and damage to their ships, the Philippine government has faced questions about invoking a treaty alliance with Washington.

Paparo and Brawner spoke to reporters after an international military conference in Manila organized by the US Indo-Pacific Command, at which China's increasingly assertive actions in the South China Sea were spotlighted. Military and defense officials and diplomats from the US and allied countries attended but there were no Chinese representatives.

Asked if the US military would consider escorting Philippine ships delivering food and other supplies to Filipino forces in the South China Sea, Paparo replied, "Certainly, within the context of consultations."

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has said there has been no situation so far that would warrant activating the treaty, which requires the allies to come to each other's aid if they come under external attack.

Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr said at the conference that China is "the biggest disruptor"

## Former Malaysian prime minister Muhyiddin charged with sedition

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Aug 27, (AP):

Former Malaysian prime minister Muhyiddin Yassin was charged Tuesday with sedition over a speech he made that allegedly questioned the integrity of the country's previous king.

Muhyiddin, who led Malaysia from March 2020 until August 2021, pleaded not guilty in a court in northeast Kelantan state. According to the charge sheet, Muhyiddin made the seditious remarks last month during a by-election campaign in Kelantan.

Nine ethnic Malay state rulers take turns as Malaysia's king for five-year terms under the country's rotating monarchy, which began when Malaysia gained independence from Britain in 1957. The

monarchy plays a largely ceremonial role, but are revered by the nation's majority Muslims.

In his speech on Aug 14, Muhyiddin had questioned why then-King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah didn't invite him to be prime minister following a hung Parliament in November 2022. Muhyiddin had claimed he had the backing of majority lawmakers.

Muhyiddin's Islamic nationalist bloc received stronger-than-expected support from Malays, who account for two-thirds of Malaysia's 34 million people. Sultan Abdullah appointed then-opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim as prime minister after Anwar cobbled up support from rival parties to form a unity government.

of peace in Southeast Asia and called for stronger international censure over its aggression in the South China Sea, a day after China blocked Philippine vessels from delivering food to a coast guard ship at the disputed Sabina Shoal in the contested waters.

## Also:

**BEIJING:** The United States and China are working to ensure the competition between them does not veer into conflict, a top White House official said Tuesday as the two sides started talks on a relationship that has been severely tested during President Joe Biden's term in office.

**Jake Sullivan**, the US national security adviser, is meeting over two days with **Wang Yi**, a senior foreign policy official for Chinese leader **Xi Jinping**, in a scenic lake area on the northern outskirts of Beijing.

"President Biden has been very clear in his conversations with President Xi

that he is committed to managing this important relationship responsibly," Sullivan said in brief remarks to media before the talks began.

The goal of his visit, which lasts through Thursday, is limited - to try to maintain communication in a relationship that broke down for the better part of a year in 2022-23 and was only nursed back over several months.

No major announcements are expected, though Sullivan's meetings could lay the groundwork for a possible final summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping before Biden steps down in January.

Wang, the director of the Communist Party's Central Foreign Affairs Commission Office, noted that the China-US relationship has gone through twists and turns in past few years.

"The key," he said, "is to keep to the overall direction of mutual respect, peaceful co-existence, and win-win cooperation."



Relatives of the 43 Ayotzinapa students who went missing almost 10 years ago march to demand justice for their loved ones in Mexico City on Aug 26. A former head of investigations for Mexico's Attorney General's Office told officials investigating the 2014 disappearance of 43 students that the so-called "historic truth" presented to the public weeks later was cooked up by the highest ranking authorities in the government during meetings presided over by then-President Enrique Peña Nieto, a Mexican news outlet reported Monday. (AP)



Sánchez



Tinubu

## Africa

**Sudan dam collapse kills 30:** The collapse of the Arbaat Dam in Sudan's eastern Red Sea state over the weekend flooded nearby homes and killed at least 30 people following heavy rains, a U.N. agency said.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said late Monday, citing local officials, that the actual number of fatalities from the collapse on Sunday might be higher. Additionally, about 70 villages around the dam were affected by the flash flooding, including 20 villages that have been destroyed.

The Arbaat Dam, which is about 38 kilometers (nearly 25 miles) northwest of Port Sudan, was massively damaged because of heavy rains. In areas west of the dam, the flooding either destroyed or damaged the homes of 50,000 people - 77% of the total population living there. Those affected urgently need food, water and shelter, OCHA warned, adding that damage in eastern parts of the dam is still being assessed.

More than 80 boreholes collapsed because of the flooding, OCHA said citing officials, while 10,000 heads of livestock are missing, and 70 schools have been either damaged or destroyed. (AP)

## Spain PM begins W.Africa tour:

Spain's prime minister embarked on a three-day tour of West Africa on Tuesday as the European nation struggled to contain the number of people making the dangerous Atlantic voyage by boat to the Canary Islands.

The Spanish archipelago - located close to the African coast and used as a stepping stone for migrants and refugees trying to reach continental Europe - has seen more than 22,000 people disembark on its shores since January, according to Spain's Interior Ministry, more than double the number of irregular arrivals for the same period last year.

Spanish Prime Minister **Pedro Sánchez** begins his visit in Mauritania before continuing south to Gambia and Senegal. The three coastal nations have become the

main departure points used by smugglers to launch overcrowded boats. Thousands of Malian refugees fleeing violence and instability are among those embarking on

the perilous Atlantic route to the Canaries, as well as unemployed youth from Senegal, Mauritania and other West African nations who seek better job opportunities abroad.

There are also increasingly more teenagers and children traveling alone to the Canary Islands, which has overwhelmed the local government responsible for their care. (AP)

**Tinubu appoints new leaders:** Nigerian President **Bola Tinubu** on Monday appointed new leaders for two of the country's most critical security agencies, the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the Department of State Services (DSS), as part of efforts to address the nation's security challenges.

In a statement, Ajuri Ngelale, the president's spokesperson, said this followed the recent resignations of the former chiefs of the NIA and the DSS.

Mohammed Mohammed, a seasoned diplomat who has served with distinction in the foreign service since joining the NIA in 1995, has been appointed as the new director-general of the intelligence agency. His extensive experience is expected to bring a fresh perspective to the agency's operations, the statement said.

Meanwhile, Adeola Ajayi, a long-serving officer who has steadily risen through the ranks within the DSS, has been named as the new director-general of the secret police. (Xinhua)



Wang Yi, (right), the director of the Communist Party's Central Foreign Affairs Commission Office shakes hands with White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan, left, at Yanqi lake in Beijing on Aug. 27. Sullivan arrived in China on Tuesday for talks on a relationship that has been severely tested during US President Joe Biden's term in office. (AP)



## Bursa Kuwait indices recover

The Bursa Kuwait indices made a notable recovery from previous losses. The General Market Index increased by 0.37 percent, or 26.59 points, to close at 7,161.90 points. Liquidity rose to 57.2 million dinars, with 233.8 million shares traded across 17,458 transactions, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Among the traded shares, 67 gained, 45 lost, and 19 remained unchanged.

According to the market performance highlights, the Premier Market Index was up by 0.45 percent, or 34.57 points, closing at 7,798.11 points. The liquidity for this index was 40.8 million dinars, with 110 million shares traded through 10,294 transactions. Of the 34 shares traded, 21 gained, 5 lost, and 8 remained unchanged.

The Main Market Index rose by 0.02 percent, or 1.35 points,

closing at 6,066.70 points. The liquidity was 16.4 million dinars, with 123.7 million shares traded through 7,164 transactions. Among the 97 traded shares, 46 gained, 40 lost, and 11 remained unchanged.

Notable movements included among Kuwait Finance House (KFH) where the stock rose to 720 fils, with significant transactions totaling 7.8 million dinars.

## CMA approves key amendments to KCC rules

The Board of Commissioners of the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) has approved significant amendments to the rules of the Kuwait Clearing Company (KCC). These changes are designed to regulate consensual lending and borrowing of securities, introducing a new investment tool to the market, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This update marks a departure from the existing central lending and borrowing services provided

through mechanisms such as the Lending Pool and market makers' services.

The new consensual lending and borrowing framework responds to investor demands and aligns with requirements from various local and international stakeholders.

It reflects the CMA's ongoing commitment to enhancing the financial markets and expanding investment tools in line with

global best practices.

The new rules aim to boost market efficiency and operations. For instance, they facilitate short selling operations, which are governed by Chapter Nine of the Stock Exchange Rules.

Moreover, the tool will support risk management by addressing issues related to securities failures and pave the way for the introduction of other financial products like derivatives and hedge funds.

## Market Movements 27-08-2024

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
DUBAI	- DFMGI	+18.47	4,343.22	SAUDI	- TASI	-78.98	12,182.20
JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	+178.40	38,288.62	PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	-471.57	78,121.19
PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	+11.45	6,973.41				
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+229.34	30,363.15				

# Business

## Event for C-level executives focused on finance, investment strategies, and collaborative learning

## Bursa Kuwait and Playbook host event to empower women in finance

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Bursa Kuwait is planning to sponsor and host "Women & Prosperity", an exclusive event that aims to empower women and strengthen their presence in finance and investment, on Tuesday, Sept 17, 2024, at its premises. The event, which is done in collaboration with Playbook, the leading edutech platform for women in leadership positions, is designed to equip female leaders with advanced investment strategies, financial acumen, and mindfulness principles as well as providing a platform for women to navigate complex financial landscapes, learn from industry experts, and engage in meaningful discussions.

"Women & Prosperity" adopts a comprehensive 'learn-do-collaborate' approach, fostering an environment where female leaders can gain actionable insights, engage in hands-on activities, and collaborate on initiatives that drive impactful change. The initiative includes workshops, keynote sessions, and interactive panels led by renowned experts in finance and investment.

In 2023, Bursa Kuwait was recognized for its exceptional contribution to female empowerment, reflecting its commitment to gender diversity and inclusion within capital markets. Over the past few years, the company has implemented various initiatives aimed at supporting and promoting the role of women in the financial sector, including targeted training programs, mentorship opportunities, and policies that encourage female participation at all levels of the organization.

Its efforts are part of a broader strategy to foster a more inclusive workplace and empower women to take on leadership roles, advocating for gender equality, providing platforms for women to excel and contributing to the socio-economic development of the region.

Bursa Kuwait Board member Mrs. Dalal Jafaar Behbehani expressed her enthusiasm for this initiative, saying, "Bursa Kuwait is proud to partner with Playbook, sponsoring and hosting the 'Women & Prosperity' initiative and reinforcing our commitment to gender diversity and inclusion in capital markets



Dalal Behbehani

sectors to adapt to the increase of opportunities for women, allowing them to reverse-engineer their playbook to success and share valuable takeaways with members that are actionable in their own personal and professional lives.

Founder and CEO of Playbook Wafa AIObaidat highlighted the event's significance, saying: "Playbook's partnership with Bursa Kuwait aligns perfectly with its mission to accelerate women's leadership and financial inclusion. The Kuwaiti exchange is a role model for women's empowerment, as it

and the private sector. The bourse seeks to contribute to socio-economic development by promoting the vital role of women in finance. In recent years, we have organized numerous programs and events to empower women financially and support their advancement in capital markets and the broader financial sector, aligning with our Corporate Sustainability strategy and Bursa Kuwait's mission and vision."

Playbook is an edutainment platform with a mission to bridge the global gender gap and get more women into leadership roles through access to a diverse digital academy of masterclasses led by game-changing women leaders with future AI Technology integration and an engaged professional learning community. The platform offers solutions for both the public and private

was the first exchange in the GCC to ring the bell for this noble cause and one of the standout companies in the financial services sector in terms of initiatives in that regard."

She added, "Bursa Kuwait's sponsorship of 'Women & Prosperity', an initiative aimed at mastering strategic investments and equipping female executives with the tools for future growth, is an indication of the company's commitment to gender equality and its belief that investing in women's professional development is of paramount importance. I would like to thank the Kuwaiti stock exchange for their support and sponsorship of our initiative."

Bursa Kuwait's sponsorship of this initiative is aligned with the company's Corporate Sustainability strategy, which stipulates ensuring initiatives apply and fall in line with the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR), industry best practice standards and investor expectations, creating strong and sustainable partnerships that ultimately achieve success and allow Bursa Kuwait to leverage the capabilities and strengths of other companies or organizations that have experience in different fields, and integrating sustainability efforts with the company culture, in order to achieve longevity and an ongoing impact that is carried on and instilled in the day-to-day operations of the stock exchange.

As part of the strategy, Bursa Kuwait has launched many initiatives in partnership with local and international organizations, focusing on support for nongovernmental organizations and charity programs, financial literacy and capital market awareness, the empowerment of women, as well as environmental protection.

Bursa Kuwait continues to pave the way for sustainable growth and exemplify the power of responsible business practices as a trusted and respected entity within the global financial community. Through its unwavering dedication, Bursa Kuwait plays a crucial role in shaping a brighter and more sustainable future for Kuwait and beyond.

## Kuwait's wholesale price index increases 2.1% YoY in June '24

Imported goods lead with 2.3% surge, local goods up 1.6%

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Kuwait's general wholesale price index experienced a 2.1 percent rise year-on-year by the end of June 2024, reaching 149.2 points. This is up from 146.2 points recorded in the same period of 2023, according to the Central Administration of Statistics, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The increase in the wholesale price index reflects several key trends:

Imported Goods -- The index for

imported goods rose by 2.3 percent. Local Goods -- Local goods saw a smaller increase of 1.6 percent.

Agriculture and Fishing -- The index for materials in this group increased by 4.4 percent, driven by a 4.5 percent rise in crop cultivation and animal production activities, a 2.8 percent rise in imported goods, and an 8.1 percent increase in local goods.

Conversely, the index for mines and quarries fell by 1 percent. This decrease was attributed to a 0.8 percent drop in the prices of sand and crushed concrete and a 3.3 percent decline in local goods, although imported goods in this category increased by 0.7 percent.

In the manufacturing sector, the

index rose by 2 percent, influenced by price increases in various categories -- food products: up by 1.8 percent; textiles: up by 8 percent; chemical materials and products: up by 2.1 percent; computers, electronic, and optical products: up by 5.3 percent; motor vehicles and others: up by 3.5 percent.

By production stage, prices increased as follows -- raw materials: up by 5.5 percent; intermediate materials: up by 0.6 percent and final materials: up by 2.4 percent.

This data highlights ongoing inflationary pressures in various sectors, reflecting both local and international economic influences on Kuwait's wholesale prices.

## Regulations enhance market efficiency & flexibility

## KMA approves new securities lending regulations

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: In a recent move to boost the efficiency of Kuwait's financial markets, the Kuwait Markets Authority has approved new regulations concerning the lending and borrowing of securities, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This decision, made at the Board of Commissioners' meeting on the 21st of this month, introduces amendments to the rules governing the Kuwait Clearing Company, aimed at expanding investment tools and aligning with international best practices.

The new regulations mark the debut of consensual lending and borrowing services, supplementing the existing central lending and borrowing service and the market maker's lending and borrowing service.

This development responds to the needs of investors and aligns with both local and international expectations.

The lending and borrowing tool is designed to improve market operations, such as facilitating short selling and managing securities-related risks. It also paves the way for future investment products like derivatives and hedge funds.

The consensual lending and borrowing service will enable direct agreements between parties, coordinated with the Kuwait Clearing Company. This provides greater flexibility for financing shares based on mutual agreements between lenders and borrowers.

The Authority emphasizes the high risks associated with short selling and urges investors to carefully assess these risks before engaging in such activities. The new system will support market makers and financial institutions in enhancing market liquidity and effectiveness.

While initially available to market makers and institutions with stock balances, the lending and borrowing services will eventually be extended to individual investors

and traders. This expansion is expected to enhance the effectiveness of market makers and attract both local and foreign capital.

The new system allows for temporary loans of securities with specific terms, enabling the return of shares within the normal market settlement cycle. Borrowers will gain rights such as the ability to sell or re-lend the shares, while also being required to provide a cash guarantee.

By implementing these amendments, the Kuwait Markets Authority aims to refine the financial market's infrastructure, support diverse investment opportunities, and ensure robust market operations in line with global standards.

The recent fluctuations in oil markets compel us to seriously consider diversifying Kuwait's sources of income. Many countries have already embraced global strategies to sustain national revenue, stabilize currency rates, and counter rapid changes in global currency baskets.

## Conversion enhances KFH's Global Islamic Banking presence

## KFH announces conversion of AUB – UK to an Islamic Bank

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced the completion of converting Ahli United Bank – UK conventional banking services to be compliant with Shariah principles last Thursday, 25 August, 2024.

KFH Group Chairman, Hamad Abdulmoheisen Al Marzouq said that the successful completion of converting Ahli United Bank - UK from conventional to Islamic banking is a significant milestone in KFH's leading journey. This achievement builds on the earlier success of converting Ahli United Bank – Bahrain from conventional to Islamic banking in record time with exceptional efficiency.

Al Marzouq pointed out that this conversion follows the KFH's acquisition of Ahli United Group in October 2022, as part of the KFH's strategic plan to strengthen its Islamic banking capabilities and broaden its global presence.

Headed that converting Ahli United Bank - UK to Islamic banking supports the KFH's efforts to diversify its services, particularly those catering to high-net-worth individuals and their specific financial and banking needs, while also fostering wealth growth and meeting their aspirations through integration across the Group's units.

He also noted that this step adds significant value to the Islamic banking industry in Europe and the world, particularly since the UK market



KFH Chairman Hamad Al Marzouq

Al Marzouq: This step adds significant value to the Islamic banking industry in Europe and the world

offers various promising opportunities and demonstrates increasing interest in Sharia-compliant services and solutions.



KFH Headquarters

H1-2024 profits reach KD 3.26 mln

## JTC declares deletion of Iraqi subsidiary after 'liquidation'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Jassim Transport & Stevedoring Company (JTC) has recently announced that the Ministry of Commerce of the Republic of Iraq has officially deleted its subsidiary, Al-Mutairi for Public Transport, Equipment Rental, Marine Services, and Warehousing Limited Liability Company, from its records, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This decision follows the completion of all necessary liquidation procedures. JTC has stated that this development will not have any financial impact on the company.

In addition to this update the JTC has reported a positive financial

performance for the second quarter of 2024.

The company achieved a 6.8% increase in profits year-on-year, with earnings reaching KWD 1.43 million for the three months ending June 30, compared to KWD 1.34 million in the same period of 2023.

For the first half of the year, JTC reported a profit of KWD 3.26 million, marking a 12.6% increase from KWD 2.89 million during the same period last year. This strong performance highlights the company's ongoing growth and financial stability despite recent operational changes.

## Libya suspends oil production & exports

## Kuwait oil up to \$79.88 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil went up USD 1.97 to reach USD 79.88 per barrel on Monday, compared to USD 77.91 pb on Friday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday.

On a global scale, the Brent crude futures went up USD 2.41 to reach USD 81.43 pb, while the West Texas Intermediate went up USD 2.59 to USD 77.42 pb.

The Libyan authorities announced on Monday the suspension of oil production and export until further notice in protest against the Tripoli authorities tak-

ing control of the headquarters of the Central Bank of Libya and the dismissal of its governor.

The Libyan government issued a statement declaring a state of "force majeure" on all oil fields, ports, suspending oil production, and export until further notice.

San Francisco Federal Reserve President, Mary Daly said on Monday that she believed it was appropriate for the US central bank to start cutting interest rates in September, ruling out any disruption to the rate cut from the current range of 5.25 to 5.50 percent.

## Extended loan agreement with IMF to support Egypt until 2026

## IMF approves \$820 mln disbursement to Egypt

CAIRO, Aug 27, (Xinhua): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday approved a disbursement of 820 million U.S. dollars to Egypt as part of an 8 billion-dollar loan program.

The IMF said macroeconomic conditions in Egypt have improved since the program's first and second reviews in March, noting that inflationary pressures are gradually abating, foreign exchange shortages have

been eliminated, and fiscal targets have been met.

However, the IMF warned that the regional environment remains difficult and that domestic policy challenges require decisive action.

The challenging regional environment, including "the conflict in Gaza and Israel and tensions in the Red Sea, as well as domestic policy and structural challenges," necessitate continued implementation of pro-

gram commitments, the IMF said in a report.

It recommended continued fiscal consolidation, enhanced revenue mobilization, and accelerated structural reforms to boost private sector growth.

This tranche is part of an extended 8 billion U.S. dollar loan agreement finalized between Egypt and the IMF in March to help the country address the mounting impact of regional ten-

sions on its macroeconomy.

The loan arrangement, which began in December 2022, is scheduled to conclude in September 2026, according to Egypt's Ministry of Finance.

Over the past two years, the U.S. dollar shortage in Egypt has led to the devaluation of the local currency and the emergence of a parallel currency exchange market, plunging Egypt into one of its worst economic crises.



**Aussies to be 'compensated' for canceled, delayed flights**

Australians will be entitled to cash refunds for canceled or unreasonably delayed flights under a landmark government crackdown on the aviation industry. Minister for Transport Catherine King on Monday handed down the government's anticipated Aviation White Paper, setting out a new Charter of Customer Rights that establishes a regime for the fair and appropriate treatment of customers. A new aviation industry ombudsman will be established to enforce the charter, entitling airline customers to refunds for flights that are disrupted, canceled or unreasonably delayed. "Too many Australians have been left out to dry

when flights are canceled or disrupted, and it's impossibly complex to get a refund or even contact a company representative," King said. "Customers deserve their money back if they are owed it." The White Paper includes 56 policies setting the direction for the aviation industry, including new minimum standards for airlines to make their services more accessible to people with a disability. Industry competition will also be increased with reforms to make it easier for new airlines to obtain slots at Australian airports and a modernized compliance regime with penalties for anti-competitive behaviors. (Xinhua)

**Dutch watchdog fines Uber \$324m**

The Dutch data protection watchdog slapped a 290 million euro (\$324 million) fine Monday on ride-hailing service Uber for allegedly transferring personal details of European drivers to the United States without adequate protection. Uber called the decision flawed and unjustified and said it would appeal. The Dutch Data Protection Authority said the data transfers spanning more than two years amounted to a serious breach of the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation, which requires technical and organizational measures aimed at protecting user data.

"In Europe, the GDPR protects the fundamental rights of people, by requiring businesses and governments to handle personal data with due care," Dutch DPA chairman Aleid Wolfsen said in a statement. "But sadly, this is not self-evident outside Europe. Think of governments that can tap data on a large scale. That is why businesses are usually obliged to take additional measures if they store personal data of Europeans outside the European Union. Uber did not meet the requirements of the GDPR to ensure the level of protection to the data with regard to transfers to the U.S. That is very serious." (AP)

**Bank focusing its efforts on recruiting and training national talents: AlOmar**

**PAM praises KFH's leadership and experience in training**

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) recently completed the internship program with the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM). The program is part of KFH's ongoing commitment to supporting initiatives that promote the development of national talent and enhance the capabilities of Kuwaiti youth. It also highlights the continued collaboration between KFH and the Public Authority for Manpower. Acting Deputy Director General for National Employment Development at the Public Authority for Manpower, Najat Al-Yousef, commended KFH's expertise and leadership in training the national manpower, highlighting the positive impact it has on preparing trainees for the private sector job market. Al-Yousef also expressed gratitude for KFH's ongoing support for these programs. She emphasized that the trainees gained significant benefits from this one-of-a-kind experience at the world leading Is-

lamic financial institution. During the closing honoring ceremony at KFH Auto, which was attended by KFH Group Chief Human Resources and Transformation Officer, Zeyad Abdullah AlOmar, Al-Yousef stated that the PAM works closely with KFH to utilize their resources in supporting students and youth, encouraging them to serve the community and contribute to its development. KFH Group Chief Human Resources and Transformation Officer, Zeyad Abdullah AlOmar, confirmed KFH's dedication to developing and training students and youth through various programs. He added that providing intensive training to a group of students is part of KFH's national and societal responsibilities and demonstrates its ongoing collaboration with PAM in empowering individuals to be well-rounded workforce. Speaking about the internship program, AlOmar explained that the trainees were assigned to various departments within KFH,



Zeyad Abdullah AlOmar, Najat Al-Yousef and Abdullah Al-Khamis with the trainees.

including banking branches, Information Technology, and procurement. He commended their

dedication, teamwork, and enthusiasm exhibited throughout the program.

He added that the trainees acquired valuable skills and experience through the rigorous

training program, aiding in the development of their professional and practical abilities and giving them the confidence to pursue opportunities in the private sector or start their own businesses. AlOmar stated that KFH is highly sought after by graduates and job seekers, who eagerly anticipate the opportunity to work there and contribute to its achievements. He emphasized that the training of youth and students is just as important to KFH's management as the recruitment process, highlighting the organization's belief that the key to success for any institution lies in its human resources. He mentioned that KFH's dedication to recruiting and training locally sourced manpower is a vital and strategic contribution to the private sector's support of the state's development project, which focuses on providing opportunities for young individuals to enhance their skills and knowledge through a modern training and development program.

**New pension scheme OK'd**

**India's 'forex' reserves rise to \$674.664 billion**

NEW DELHI, Aug 27, (Xinhua): India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves increased by 4.546 billion U.S. dollars to 674.664 billion dollars during the week ended Aug. 16, the country's central bank the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revealed in its weekly supplement. Forex's major component, the foreign currency assets (FCAs) rose by 3.609 billion dollars to 591.569 billion dollars. Gold reserves increased by 865 million dollars to 60.104 billion dollars during the cited week, the RBI said. Similarly, the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by 60 million dollars to 18.341 billion dollars. In the previous week (i.e. ending Aug. 9), the forex kitty had dropped by 4.8 billion dollars to 670.119 billion dollars. On Aug. 2, the overall reserves hit an all-time high of 674.919 billion dollars. In other news, the Indian government on Saturday approved the Unified Pension Scheme for federal gov-

ernment employees. Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw said that employees could opt between the plan and the National Pension Scheme, which is already in force. A statement issued by the federal government on Saturday said that an assured pension of 50 percent of the average basic pay drawn by an employee over the last 12 months before his/her superannuation for a minimum qualifying service of 25 years, would be given to him/her for life post-retirement. "This pay is to be proportionate for lesser service period up to a minimum of 10 years of service," the statement said, adding that an assured minimum pension at the rate of 10,000 Indian Rupees per month would be given on superannuation after a minimum of 10 years of service. Besides, an assured family pension at the rate of 60 percent of pension of the employee would be given immediately at the time of his/her demise.

**Canada imposes 100% tariff on imports of 'Chinese-made' EVs**

**Neighbor mimicks US**

TORONTO, Aug 27, (AP): Canada's government on Monday announced it is imposing a 100% tariff on imports of Chinese-made electric vehicles that matches U.S. tariffs and follows similar plans announced by the European Commission.

The announcement came after encouragement by U.S. national security advisor Jake Sullivan during a meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and cabinet ministers on Sunday. Sullivan is making his first visit to Beijing on Tuesday. Trudeau said Canada also will impose a 25% tariff on Chinese steel and aluminum. "Actors like China have chosen to give themselves an unfair advantage in the global marketplace," he said. There was no immediate response from China. Chinese officials are likely to raise concerns about American tariffs with Sullivan as Beijing continues to repair its economy after the COVID-19 pandemic. U.S. President Joe Biden in May slapped major new tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles, advanced batteries, solar cells, steel, aluminum and medical equipment. "The U.S. does believe that a united front, a coordinated approach on these issues benefits all of us," Sullivan told reporters on Sunday. Biden has said Chinese government subsidies for EVs and other consumer goods ensure that Chinese companies don't have to turn a profit, giving them

**Decline tied to arrest of Telegram founder**

**Ton Coin drops more than 20%**

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Ton Coin (TON), the cryptocurrency associated with the messaging app Telegram, dropped more than 20 percent during yesterday's trading session, reports Al-Jarida daily. This decline followed the French authorities' announcement of the arrest of Telegram's founder, Pavel Durov, casting uncertainty over the cryptocurrency's future. According to CoinMarketCap, TON's value fell from \$6.80 to approximately \$5.35, a decrease of about 20.49 percent in the past 24 hours. This sharp drop underscores

the close ties between the cryptocurrency and the Telegram app. Originally developed by Telegram in 2018 to offer fast transactions and scalability for decentralized applications, the TON project faced regulatory hurdles, leading Telegram to distance itself from the cryptocurrency in 2020. However, the recent volatility in Ton Coin's price, triggered by Durov's arrest, highlights that investors still view the app's future and its founder's involvement as crucial to the cryptocurrency's prospects. Durov, 39, was detained at the

Paris Le Bourget Airport while disembarking from a private plane. The French authorities have yet to disclose the charges against him. The arrest has drawn criticism from digital currency market participants, who view it as a potential blow to the decentralization principles fundamental to cryptocurrency projects. The lack of details about Durov's arrest is also fueling speculation about potential regulatory challenges for Telegram, its cryptocurrency initiatives, and growing concerns about freedom of expression on social media platforms.



A sign stands outside the Federal Trade Commission building, Jan 28, 2015, in Washington. (AP)

**FTC help sought**

**Fake reviews pose threat to small businesses in US**

NEW YORK, Aug 27, (AP): Online reviews and testimonials are a key way that small businesses can attract new customers and boost sales of products. But fake reviews and testimonials have been a persistent problem for small businesses, many of whom rely on recommendations for business. Fake reviews can make it harder for people to trust what they read online and ultimately hurt businesses. In addition, small businesses can find themselves targeted by bad actors who leave negative reviews. Avi Israeli, a dentist and owner of Sage Dental in Wall, N.J., with 15 staffers, said his business has been targeted by fake and erroneous reviews by people with no connection to his office. In addition, people from other states have confused his practice with a chain with a similar name, and post inaccurate reviews that are hard to get removed. "They have significantly tarnished our reputation, and are unfortunately very difficult, and costly, to get removed," he said. In an effort to combat the problem, the Federal Trade Commission is

cracking down on those who perpetuate fake reviews online. It issued a final rule that bans their sale or purchase and allows the agency to seek civil penalties against knowing violators. The rule becomes effective Oct. 21, 60 days after it was published in the Federal Register. "Fake reviews not only waste people's time and money, but also pollute the marketplace and divert business away from honest competitors," said FTC Chair Lina M. Khan. She added that the rule will "protect Americans from getting cheated, put businesses that unlawfully game the system on notice, and promote markets that are fair, honest, and competitive." Specifically, the rule bans reviews and testimonials attributed to people who don't exist or are AI-generated, people who don't have experience with the business or product/services, or misrepresent their experience. It also bans businesses from creating or selling reviews or testimonials. Businesses who knowingly buy fake reviews, procure them from company insiders or disseminate fake reviews will be penalized.

an unfair advantage in global trade. Chinese firms can sell EVs for as little as \$12,000. China's solar cell plants and steel and aluminum mills have enough capacity to meet much of the world's demand. Chinese officials argue their production keeps prices low and would aid a transition to the green economy. "We're doing it in alignment, in parallel, with other economies around the world that recognize that this is a challenge that we are all facing," Trudeau said of the new tariffs. "Unless we all want to get to a race to the bottom, we have to stand up." Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia

Freeland said Canada also will launch a 30-day consultation about possible tariffs on Chinese batteries, battery parts, semiconductors, critical minerals, metals and solar panels. "China has an intentional state-directed policy of overcapacity and oversupply designed to cripple our own industry," Freeland said. "We simply will not allow that to happen to our EV sector, which has shown such promise." The only Chinese-made EVs currently imported into Canada are from Tesla, made at the company's Shanghai factory. Canada "had to go with the U.S. position, when you think about the

economic integration that we have with the U.S. More than 75% of our exports go to the U.S.," said a former Canadian ambassador to China, Guy Saint-Jacques. "This reflects the fear that the next president of the United States might be Donald Trump, and so they know we have to be pretty much aligned in all of this." Saint-Jacques said Canada can expect retaliation from China in other industries, adding that barley and pork are candidates because the Chinese can get it from other countries. "China will want to send a message," he said.

**German firms ramp up investment, not to miss out on China's growth opportunities**

BERLIN, Aug 27, (Xinhua): German businesses are growing increasingly optimistic about China's innovative vitality and open market benefits, leading to a surge in their investments in the Chinese market. German investments in China have shattered records, reaching an unprecedented 7.3 billion euros (8.2 billion U.S. dollars) in the first half of 2024, according to the latest data from the Central Bank of Germany. This momentum continues unabated, highlighting the deepening economic ties between the two countries as they mark the 10th anniversary of the China-Germany comprehensive strategic partnership. Several prominent German companies have demonstrated their long-term commitment to China through significant increases in investments. Volkswagen is investing 2.5 billion euros (2.8 billion dollars) in the Chinese city of Hefei to establish its largest R&D center outside Germany. BMW is boosting its investment in its Shenyang plant in northeast China by 20 billion yuan (2.8 billion U.S. dollars) to upgrade production capacity and boost innovation. Bayer revealed a 600-million-yuan (84.2-million-dol-

lar) investment for a new supply center in Qidong in coastal Jiangsu Province. This consistent increase in investment not only acknowledges China's vast market potential but also reflects confidence in its infrastructure, comprehensive industrial chain and business environment. During the 7th China International Import Expo Germany Roadshow in June, Wu Zhengping, deputy director general of the China International Import Expo Bureau, emphasized the strong participation of German companies in the expo, noting the number of exhibitors and the space they occupied were the highest among European nations. This robust involvement signals the high level of confidence that German businesses have in China's economic prospects. "Over 90 percent of German leading global companies have partnerships with China. Any company aspiring to lead in the global market must collaborate with China," said Walter Doring, chairman of the Academy of German Hidden Champions, adding that German firms embedded in the Chinese market face bright prospects and continued growth opportunities that will enhance competitiveness worldwide.

Zhai Qian, minister of economic and commercial affairs at the Chinese Embassy in Germany, noted that Germany's strengths in traditional sectors like machinery, automotive and pharmaceuticals complement China's advances in green development and the digital economy. This synergy injects new dynamism into bilateral economic ties and pushes cooperation to new heights. Behind the sustained increase in German investment in China lies confidence in the country's long-term economic prospects, positive signals emanating from China's high-level opening-up and a continually improving business environment. Tobias Wahl, board chairman of the Hawk brand at Karcher Group, highlighted how his company successfully introduced deep-cleaning concepts to the Chinese market, yielding impressive results. This success further strengthened Karcher's commitment to the Chinese market, with the company now investing 2 billion yuan (280.7 million dollars) to advance its localization strategy. "German companies approach investment decisions with a strong focus on market potential and profitability, carefully analyzing global markets to iden-

tify regions with the highest opportunities and growth potential," said Zheng Chunrong, director of the German Studies Center at Tongji University. The sustained growth of German investment in China highlights the market's significant scale and promising prospects. For many German companies, China remains a preferred hub for global supply chain layouts. Michael Schumann, chairman of the Board of the German Federal Association for Economic Development and Foreign Trade, emphasized that what previously had to be imported from Germany or other parts of Europe is now sourced from China. This shift has led to the creation of production models such as "In China, For China" and "In China, For the World." China's growing innovation leadership is fostering greater synergy between China and Germany. "China's significance surpasses mere consumption; it has become a hub of innovation, leading the transformation across various sectors such as electrification, smart mobility, artificial intelligence, digitalization, and energy efficiency," said Stefan Hartung, chairman of the board of management of Robert Bosch GmbH.



## Monthly draws include Apple Vision Pro, gaming laptops, and more

# Warba Bank launches e-sports campaign for GAME EDITION prepaid card holders

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Warba Bank announced the launch of its special campaign for holders of the GAME EDITION prepaid card for e-sports enthusiasts, which was launched earlier this year in cooperation with Visa.

On this occasion, Director Product Development and Customer Segments Department, Muhannad Borhama said that this campaign includes 5 draws every month on the latest e-sports devices from August 11, 2024 until November 30, 2024, including all current Game Edition prepaid card holders or those who issued and activated it in the same month in which the draw will take place.

The first winner will receive an Apple Vision Pro device, the virtual reality headset from Apple, which combines augmented reality and virtual reality experiences, while the second winner will receive a Gaming Laptop with high components and specifications equipped for professional e-sports players. Third winner will receive a Samsung Odyssey OLED G9 Neo curved screen, which

is almost complete to ensure an excellent experience when practicing e-sports with a 9:32 aspect ratio. Fourth winner will receive a Meta Quest 3 mixed reality headset and the exceptional experience they provide where the real world meets virtual elements in an unprecedented way. Last winner will receive a SteelSeries Arctis Nova Pro Wireless headset, which is popular among gaming enthusiasts and e-sports professionals due to its low latency wireless transmission guarantee. The winners of the monthly draws will be announced through the Bank's social media channels.

Borhama pointed out that the Bank issued the Game Edition prepaid card to support the e-sports sector, which carries many exclusive advantages and discounts in line with the needs and requirements of this segment. Care was taken to ensure that the card system is supported by the 3D Secure feature to ensure the highest levels of security from fraud risks for online payment transactions, stressing that prepaid cards are the optimal and



Muhannad Borhama

safest solution for use online, as the amount to be paid is loaded in advance onto the card

### Borhama:

Warba Bank launches monthly draws with the latest electronic devices for holders of the GAME EDITION prepaid card

Developing these young talents to rise to higher levels and support the e-sports sector

through the Warba Bank application.

He explained that the new card is not only effective in terms of security and ease for the customer to conduct financial transactions in the world of e-sports, but it can also be used to make cross-border payment, making it more useful for travel and online shopping from global stores.

Borhama reviewed the most important and prominent features of the new card, saying that the card carries many offers and benefits, including discounts from telecommunica-

tions companies, offers from e-sports halls, and offers from online stores, in addition to priority in participating in e-sports tournaments and events.

He also reviewed the most prominent features of Warba Bank's electronic application for these cards, as the customer can easily top up the card balance with the possibility of performing the Restore Cash process for immediate transfer from the card balance to the withdrawal account, in addition to the ease of registering it with digital wallets such as Apple Pay, and the possibility of changing the card's PIN immediately and easily.

Warba Bank is one of the banks that has achieved great successes in a short period, as it occupied a leadership position in the field of Islamic digital banking services for individuals, and it is one of the largest local banks in the number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent components that make the Bank close to all members of society.

## Bank aligns with Kuwait Vision 2035 through social responsibility efforts

# Gulf Bank associates combine 'efforts' in successful blood donation campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: In its ongoing commitment to promoting sustainability, Gulf Bank, in partnership with Kuwait Blood Bank, organized a blood donation campaign for its employees. The campaign aimed to increase the blood donation pool and support humanitarian efforts to save lives in critical situations.

The initiative received a remarkable response from Gulf Bank employees, who eagerly answered the call of humanitarian duty. This strong participation highlighted the significant role of both the bank and its employees in supporting the community.

The Human Resources Department at Gulf Bank expressed gratitude to all the bank's employees who participated in the campaign, commending their dedication to the humanitarian cause and their efforts in saving lives.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large.

With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its



Gulf Bank hosts successful blood donation campaign with Kuwait Blood Bank.

customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining robust developments in sustainability at environmental, social and governance levels through diverse sustainability initiatives, strategically selected to benefit the Bank both internally and externally. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with various parties to achieve it.

customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

## KD 1,000 & KD 500 prizes awarded

# KIB announces winners of Al Dirwaza account's draw

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the winners of the weekly draw held under the Al Dirwaza account's 2024 campaign, which is distinguished by the highest number of winners throughout the year. The fourth weekly draw, based on customers' July deposits, recently took place in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from the Bank. The KD 1,000 prize was awarded to Hussam Khorshid Najati, Ali Hossein Mohammad Rafei, Abrar Naser Abdullah Alsuraiie, Abeer Esaam Afyooni, and Aljazi Mubarak Abdulhadi Alajmi, whilst the KD 500 prize was awarded to Dala Hamad Saleh Almudhayan, Ayyad Mohammed Ebrahim Alkandari, Osama Jawad Mubarak Dashti, Jawad Ibrahim Ahmad Halaseh, Salman Fhaid Motlaq Alkafef, Meshal Ayed Flaiteh Alshammari, and Belal Ahmad Aldarawshah.

It serves to note that AlDirwaza account is a savings account for individual customers, based on the Wakala investment principle, launched by KIB as one of its banking products for individuals. The account is currently the best of its kind in the sector, with annual expected profits of up to 2% disbursed on a monthly basis, where the customer gets an expected profit of 2% for the first 3 months from the account opening date and up to 1%

expected rate onward. The expected profits are automatically deposited into the customer's account within the first day of the beginning of each month.

Al Dirwaza account holders are eligible to enter the weekly, monthly and annual draws on the condition of maintaining at least KD 100 in their account. For the weekly and monthly draws, each KD 1 that has completed a full month's cycle in the account will count for one chance, and chances are calculated based on the lowest monthly balance preceding the draw. As for the mega draw, chances are calculated for each KD 1 that completes a two-month cycle in the account – based on the lowest two monthly balances prior to the draw.

Al Dirwaza account is also in compliance with the provisions of Islamic Sharia and approved by the KIB's Sharia Supervisory Board. Furthermore, the account comes with a wide range of benefits, including the ease of opening the account, which does not require a salary transfer, and the customer's ability to open it remotely without visiting a branch through KIB Online on the Bank's website or KIB Mobile application on smartphones.

Additionally, Al Dirwaza account automatically grants customers instant issuance of an ATM card, with a KD 2,000 ATM daily withdrawal limit, as well as the ability to issue credit cards against the cash collateral in the account. To open the account and participate in its draws, a minimum of KD 100 is required and can only be withdrawn upon account closure.

### About KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: "Bank for Life".

Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait, KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and activities.

Today, KIB has taken concrete steps in implementing its new strategic objectives. The Bank has cemented its role as a key player in the local banking industry and has continued to maintain its strong financial performance; enabling it to be globally recognized for its strong credit rating and financial position.

## Effortless saving with monthly interest & no minimum balance

# Weyay Bank launches innovative 'Pro Pot' savings tool

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: In response to the demand for encouraging saving habits among the community, especially the youth, Weyay Bank, the first digital bank in Kuwait, announced the launch of the Pro Pot, an innovative savings tool that is designed to help customers boost their savings with a competitive annual percentage rate.

The new Pro Pot is now available to the Weyay app users. They can create up to 5 pots, mixed between regular and Pro, and access their customized pots effortlessly through a seamless in-app journey and start topping them up with the ease of a tap. The more money they keep in their Pro Pots, and the longer it stays there, the more interest they get over time.

The new tool allows customers to earn monthly interests on their savings while enjoying unparalleled flexibility and convenience, provided with a couple of key features:

■ **Competitive annual rate:** customers will receive their interest monthly, so they can maximize their savings; hence, their earnings.

■ **No minimum balance:** there's no minimum amount to start with, which makes this tool accessible for everyone.

■ **Flexible withdrawals:** customers can withdraw their balances at any



Amal Al-Duwaisan

time, ensuring full access to their funds. Their interest calculations will be adjusted accordingly.

■ **Repeat transfers:** customers will be able to set automatic weekly or monthly transfers from their Weyay account to their Pro Pots, ensuring consistent saving growth.

■ **Full transparency:** the upgraded tool ensures full transparency, providing the app users with a comprehensive visualization calculator to see how their savings grow over time and what accrued interest is being earned.

■ **Personal customization:** customers can customize their pots using their preferred name and image and set personalized saving targets to reach, which helps them stay motivated and track their progress.

"The Pro Pot, a tool that has been designed with our customers' needs in mind," mentioned Amal Al-Duwaisan, Head of Weyay Bank. "Our goal is to empower our customers to grow their savings effortlessly while maintaining complete flexibility and



Weyay's Pot Pro

control over their funds."

The new Pro Pot reflects the Weyay Bank's commitment to introduce innovative and customer-centric solutions. By offering an interest-bearing saving option that is both flexible and transparent, Weyay Bank continues to enhance the financial well-being of its customers.

For more information about the new Pro Pot, visit [www.weyaybank.com](http://www.weyaybank.com) or download the Weyay Bank mobile app.

## 'Massive savings on groceries, electronics, and more'

# LuLu Hypermarket launches 'Welcome Back' promotion

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: LuLu Hypermarket welcomed customers returning after the summer-break with the 'LuLu Welcome Back' promotion, launching on August 28 and will run till September 3, across all its outlets in Kuwait.

Shoppers were greeted with a wide range of discounts and offers on various product categories.

Customers enjoyed up to 50 percent off on essential items like groceries, fruits, vegetables, fish, meat, health and beauty products, and more.

The 'LuLu Digital crazy sale' promotion also featured incredible discounts on electronics, mobiles, home appliances, IT and accessories, linen



Lulu's 'Welcome Back' campaign flyer.

and home furnishing, household items, toys, stationeries, and luggage, among other categories.

Shoppers were being treated to amazing discounts that were simply too good to miss. The incredible deals were a highlight of the promotion, attracting customers eager to take advantage of the savings.

As the new school year approached, LuLu Hypermarket also introduced exclusive back-to-school offers, catering to the needs of parents and students.

LuLu Hypermarket's commitment to providing exceptional value and customer satisfaction was evident throughout the event.



KIB's Al Dirwaza account.



# Mariah Carey's mother, sister died on the same day

LOS ANGELES, Aug 27, (AP) — Mariah Carey's mother Patricia and sister Alison both died on the same day, the singer said Monday.

"My heart is broken that I've lost my mother this past weekend. Sadly, in a tragic turn of events, my sister lost her life on the same day," the Grammy-winning singer said in a statement.

"I feel blessed that I was able to spend the last week with my mom before she passed," the statement continued. "I appreciate everyone's love and support and respect for my privacy during this impossible time."

The Times Union reported Monday that Alison, who was largely estranged from Carey, died at 63 from complications with her organ function and that she had been in hospice care.

People Magazine first reported the news of their deaths and Carey's statement. Patricia was a Juilliard-trained opera singer who Carey credits as an inspiration to her from a young age.

"I would sing little tunes around the house, to my mother's delight. And she always encouraged me," she wrote in her 2020 memoir, "The Meaning of Mariah Carey."

Patricia was previously married to Alfred Roy Carey, the singer's father. The parents divorced when the "Vision of Love" singer was 3. Carey grew up in Suffolk County on Long Island and lived primarily with her mother after her parents' divorce. Her father died of cancer in 2002 at age 72.

Carey detailed her complicated relationship with her mother and her

sister in her memoir, in which she wrote that she and her mother often clashed, causing her to feel "so much pain and confusion," and accused her sister of putting her in unsafe situations as a child.

"Like many aspects of my life, my journey with my mother has been full of contradictions and competing realities. It's never been only black-and-white - it's been a whole rainbow of emotions," Carey wrote in the book. "Our relationship is a prickly rope of pride, pain, shame, gratitude, jealousy, admiration and disappointment. A complicated love tethers my heart to my mother's."

Carey maintained contact with her mother and even recorded a duet of "O Come All Ye Faithful/Hallelujah Chorus" for the singer's second Christmas album in 2010.

**Also:**

**MIAMI:** Rapper Sean Kingston and his mother pleaded not guilty Monday to charges of defrauding multiple businesses of more than \$1 million.

Kingston, whose real name is Kisean Anderson, and his mother, Janice Turner, entered the pleas during an arraignment hearing before Broward Circuit Judge Ernest Kollra, the Sun Sentinel reported. Bond had already been set at \$90,000 in a previous hearing, and Kollra did not make any changes, the newspaper said.

The performer and his mother pleaded not guilty to organized fraud

and grand theft charges.

Kingston was originally arrested in Fort Irwin, California, in May on a warrant issued by the Broward Sheriff's Office after a SWAT team raided his home in Southwest Ranches.

Kingston, 34, and Turner, 61, were accused of defrauding a jewelry business, a luxury bed company, a used luxury and exotic car dealership and a luxury microLED TV company since October 2023, arrest warrants said.

Kingston and his mother are expected back in court Oct. 11, the newspaper said. They are also facing related charges in federal court.



**LOS ANGELES:** RZA takes a sharp turn as a classical composer with the album "A Ballet Through Mud." The composition made its debut in the form of a ballet last year, performed by the Colorado Symphony Orchestra. Composed and scored by the Wu-Tang Clan star, the piece mirrors his journey from growing up in the projects in New York City to famous artist, "weaving in tales of love, loss, exploration, Buddhist monks, and a journey 'through mud.'" RZA says he began the project early in the pandemic after rediscovering notebooks full of lyrics he had written as a teenager. "The inspiration for 'A Ballet Through Mud' comes from my earliest creative output as a teenager, but its themes are universal - love, exploration, and adventure," he says.

**Variety**



Liam Gallagher performs at the Reading Music Festival, England on Aug. 29, 2021, (left), and Noel Gallagher performs at the Glastonbury Festival in Worthy Farm, Somerset, England, on June 25, 2022. (AP)

*Music*

Gallagher brothers end their 15-year hiatus

## Oasis reunites to hit the road again

LONDON, Aug 27, (AP) — Oasis, the Britpop band known for timeless hits like "Wonderwall" and "Don't Look Back in Anger," is reuniting for a tour of the British Isles next summer, ending a 15-year hiatus and, presumably, the long-held feud between brothers Liam and Noel Gallagher.

The guitar band will play 14 dates in Wales, England, Scotland and Ireland next July and August, Oasis said on Tuesday. Tickets go on sale at 9 a.m. Saturday.

"This is it. This is happening," the band said.

Oasis split in 2009 after many years of infighting, with Noel Gallagher officially leaving the band just before a performance at a festival near Paris. Even before the dissolution, the brothers had long had an antagonistic relationship and reportedly did not speak to each other for years after the breakup.

"People will write and say what they like, but I simply could not go on working with Liam a day longer," Noel Gallagher, the band's guitarist and songwriter, wrote in a statement at the time.

While the Gallagher brothers haven't performed together since, both regularly perform Oasis songs at their solo gigs. They've also each fired off criticisms of the other in the press.

Noel Gallagher accused his younger brother of having a hangover that forced them to cancel a 2009 concert. The frontman disputed the accusation and sued, later dropping the lawsuit.

But now the brothers are preparing to reunite, with the band saying fans would experience "the spark and intensity" that occurs only when they appear on stage together.

The tour will begin July 4 and 5 at Principality Stadium in Cardiff, Wales. Oasis will also perform at Heaton Park in Manchester, England, on July 11, 12, 19 and 20; Wembley Stadium in London on July 25 and 26 and Aug. 2 and 3; Scottish Gas Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh on Aug. 8 and 9; and Croke Park in Dublin on Aug. 16 and 17.

The band alluded to past tensions in the tour announcement.

"The guns have fallen silent," Oasis said. "The stars

have aligned. The great wait is over. Come see. It will not be televised."

In 2011, Noel Gallagher told The Associated Press in an interview that he left the band after an incident where Liam Gallagher started wielding a guitar "like an axe ... and he's swinging this guitar around and he kind of you know, he took my face off with it, you know?"

In 2019, Liam Gallagher told the AP he was ready to reconcile.

"The most important thing is about me and him being brothers," he said. "He thinks I'm desperate to get the band back together for money. But I didn't join the band to make money. I joined the band to have fun and to see the world."

"I don't know what his problem is," he continued. "I think he just wanted to go away and do his solo career, get all the coin and be surrounded by all the yes men you can fire and hire whenever he wants. You can't do that with me."

**Speculation**

With the announcement, the Britpop progenitors ended a few days of fan speculation. A short video on the band's social media accounts Sunday night had revealed the date "27.08.24," and time "8 a.m.," written in the same font as the well-known Oasis logo. The brothers shared the same to their individual accounts.

Of course, fans have long theorized a reunion might be on the horizon: In the wake of the 2017 bombing that killed 22 at an Ariana Grande concert in Oasis' hometown of Manchester, Liam Gallagher performed at a benefit concert that fueled speculation of a reunion. He criticized his brother's absence, but a spokesperson said Noel Gallagher couldn't attend because of a longstanding family trip. Benefit organizers said Noel Gallagher approved the use of Oasis' music and donated royalties from "Don't Look Back In Anger" to the British Red Cross' One Love Manchester fund.

Later that year, Liam Gallagher tweeted at his brother, leading some to believe they made up: "I wanna say Happy Xmas to team NG it's been a great year thanks for everything looking forward to seeing you tomorrow

As You Were LG x"

Prior to Tuesday's announcement, Oasis was already teed up to release a new collection, "Definitely Maybe - Deluxe 30th Anniversary Editions," celebrating the anniversary of their debut album.

Rumors of a potential reunion were amplified this past weekend when Liam Gallagher responded on social media to unconfirmed reports of the band playing London's Wembley Stadium and Manchester's Heaton Park. When one social media user criticized Heaton Park, the Manchester native wrote, "See you down the front," calling the user a vulgar. In another stand-alone post on X, he teased, "I never did like that word Former."

"You tell me man," Liam Gallagher replied. He also responded to several negative tweets about the potential reunion with "Your attitude sucks" and "Shutup." Noel Gallagher, on the other hand, remained silent other than posting the teasers.

Noel Gallagher, Oasis' songwriter and guitarist, is born in Manchester.

Younger brother Liam Gallagher, Oasis' frontman, is born in Manchester.

Bassist Paul McGuigan, guitarist Paul Arthurs and drummer Tony McCarrroll form the band Rain. Liam Gallagher is added as a singer and suggests a different water-based name: Oasis. With the addition of Liam Gallagher's eldest brother, the band has a new direction.

Oasis' debut album, "Definitely Maybe," is released and hits No. 1 on the UK Albums Chart. "Darlings of the English alternative scene, these four blokes from Manchester alternately are loved by British critics as rough-edged retro-poppers with a tinge of Beatles or hated as Fab Four pastiche," an Associated Press review says at the time.

Oasis' sophomore album, "(What's the Story) Morning Glory?" is a smash hit and becomes one of the UK's bestselling albums of all time.

McCarrroll, the original drummer, is fired. He's subsequently awarded 550,000 pounds after suing.

**Continued on Page 12**

# Features

**ARABIC TIMES**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2024

*Music*

**NEW YORK:** The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, known as "The Met," stands out as the most significant and largest cultural landmark in the US, and offers art enthusiasts and history lovers an immersive experience where they witness the convergence of different eras and civilizations in one place.

The Met -- the fourth largest museum in the world -- shines with its extraordinary collection of diverse artworks from all over the world, boasting over two million pieces, some dating back 5,000 years.

Founded in 1870, The Met has continued to inspire and attract millions of visitors annually through its timeless collections, events, and educational programs.

It also provides a comprehensive research library with over a million volumes and an extensive range of publications and catalogs. (KUNA)

**TALLINN, Estonia:** More than 70 European artists and film directors have signed an open letter urging Serbia not to extradite to Belarus a filmmaker and a prominent critic of the authoritarian government in Minsk, who is wanted in his home country for alleged tax evasion.

The letter, released on Monday, said that Andrei Hnriot could face "imprisonment, torture and even death penalty" in Belarus.

Among those who signed the letter are French actress and president of the European Film Academy Juliette Binoche, Belarusian Nobel laureate Svetlana Alexievich, Russian theater and film director Kirill Serebrennikov and Ukrainian director Oleh Sentsov, both previously prosecuted in Russia - Belarus' close ally - on charges widely seen as politically motivated.

Hnriot is a prominent Belarusian film director and an outspoken critic of the country's authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko. He filmed mass protests that erupted in 2020 against Lukashenko's disputed reelection, and covered the harsh crackdown on dissent the government unleashed in response, before fleeing the country to Serbia. Serbian authorities arrested

Hnriot last year on Oct. 30 at Belgrade airport, based on an Interpol warrant issued at the request of the Belarusian authorities for alleged tax evasion, and a court ruled to extradite the film director to Belarus. Hnriot unsuccessfully contested the Serbian court ruling, and his final appeal is scheduled to be



Hnriot



Binoche

heard on Tuesday, the letter in his support said.

The director and activist told one of the court hearings that Lukashenko's regime wanted to punish him for his activism. "We openly opposed the dictatorship, human rights violations, and electoral fraud in Belarus in 2020," he said. The letter in his support said that

requesting an Interpol warrant is "a tactic repeatedly used by the Lukashenko regime to track down pro-democracy activists around the world."

"It is illegal under international law to send someone to a country where they will most certainly face torture," said Volia Chajkouskaya, a co-founder of the Bela-

rusian Independent Film Academy (BIFA) and one of the organizers of a campaign in Hnriot's support.

"Now, it is a matter of life and death for this filmmaker. If extradited, Andrei faces torture, years in inhumane conditions or worse," prominent Polish film director Agnieszka Holland said in a statement. (AP)



## People &amp; Places

## Music

## The Britpop saga

## A look back at Oasis' tumultuous moments

Continued from Page 11

Oasis wins best group, best album and best video (for "Wonderwall") at the Brit Awards, saying backstage that the only award they valued was the last one, as it was fan-voted. "Anything that's voted for by corporate pigs means nothing," Noel says of the other, industry insider-decided trophies.

Oasis embarks on a US tour that neither begins nor ends well. Minutes before departing from London, Liam Gallagher refuses to board, forcing Noel Gallagher to fill in at the Chicago opening date. Liam rejoins the band a few days later, saying he needed to sort out a "personal matter" and denying that the band was about to break up.



Noel

Two-thirds of the way through the tour, the band returns home prematurely, blaming "internal differences." Oasis denies sibling rivalry or poor ticket sales caused the cancellation, and attributes the decision to Noel. The band says they will begin work on their third album as a result of coming home early.

Their third album, "Be Here Now," is released. Tapes of the early outtakes had been stolen during the hush-hush recording. Noel tells Entertainment Weekly that fans shouldn't expect to see Oasis play festivals, which he likens to "traveling circus-type things" - although some of the band's most tumultuous moments will happen at festivals over the next decade or so. He also has harsh words for Courtney Love and says he finds Alanis Morissette, Sinead O'Connor and Bjork "annoying."

The band's first Australian tour stars off inauspiciously in February, when a Cathay Pacific pilot threatens to throw their 30-member entourage off the plane for rowdy and offensive behavior on a flight from Hong Kong to Perth. Liam denies behaving offensively, blaming instead "rude" passengers and an uptight crew for the six official complaints lodged against the group. Noel says he was asleep and didn't know anything about a disturbance. Liam and other members of the entourage are banned by the airline.

## Management

Liam is charged with headbutting a 19-year-old British tourist who was taking photographs outside the band's hotel in Brisbane. The teen drops the criminal charge and says he will sue instead. Noel apologizes for the band bickering during a Brisbane show and refusing to do an encore.

Later that year, Liam is arrested in London after a photographer claims the singer punched him and smashed his equipment outside a pub but no charges are ultimately filed.

Two more founding members, McGuigan and Arthurs, quit the band within two weeks of each other. Arthurs says he quit to spend more time with his family and the Gallaghers suggest the same might be true of McGuigan. The brothers say they did not try to persuade them to stay.

Oasis' fourth album, "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants," is released. Noel suggests the band has come close to splitting before, but also says Oasis has outgrown its "hedonism" phase.

In May, the band's management says Noel won't play any further foreign dates and will be temporarily replaced as guitarist. The decision was prompted by friction within the group, but band spokespeople do not elaborate. Noel rejoins the band for its final dates in the UK.

Noel tells the BBC in June that he left because of Liam's behavior, calling his younger brother "monkey boy" and a "bit of an idiot." Noel takes credit for keeping the band together and says it's "just been made impossible for me to let alone be on the same stage but be in the same room as" Liam.

Within two weeks, Oasis cuts short sets at rock festivals in Switzerland and Portugal after being pelted with objects on stage, receiving criticism for their attitude from the organizers.

"Heathen Chemistry," their fifth album, is released. Oasis takes on the British army over its unauthorized use of two older songs in a recruitment video for Scotland's Highlanders regiment, leading to the recall of 300 copies.

In August, Noel and two other band members are hurt but not seriously injured in an Indianapolis car crash.

## Cancellations

A fight in December at a posh Munich hotel between patrons and Oasis' members and entourage leaves Liam with broken teeth. He's accused of kicking an officer outside the hotel nightclub and the remaining concerts in Germany are scuttled so Liam can get surgery. The band calls the fight an "unprovoked attack." Two years later, Munich prosecutors say they're unable to determine who started the brawl and drop the investigation after fining Liam 50,000 euros.

After drummer Alan White quits, Oasis taps Ringo Starr's son Zak Starkey to fill in during their headlining set at the Glastonbury Festival, intensifying comparisons between the band and the Beatles.

Their sixth album, "Don't Believe the Truth," is released.

Oasis' 1995 hit "Wonderwall" is voted the best British song of all time by Virgin Radio listeners, besting Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody," Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" and The Beatles' "Let It Be."

In September, Noel is attacked at the Virgin Festival in Toronto when a man rushes the headlining band from backstage and pushes him. Noel falls on his speakers and is taken to the hospital after the show for a suspected fractured rib and ligament damage.

Their last album before splitting, "Dig Out Your Soul," is released.

Oasis says China blocks the band's mainland debut over Noel's participation in a 1997 concert for an independent Tibet.

Noel quits Oasis just before a performance at a festival near Paris, this time seemingly for good as the band disbands. He cites "verbal and violent intimidation" without offering details.

Liam sues Noel for saying Liam's hangover caused the cancellation of a 2009 festival performance. He says in a statement that the lawsuit is not about money, but that he wants an apology and for Oasis fans "to know the truth" about what happened, and that laryngitis prevented him from performing the gig. The lawsuit is later dropped.

Liam performs "Wonderwall" without Noel at the London Olympics' closing ceremony.

Noel reportedly turns down an offer of 20 million pounds to reunite with Liam for an Oasis anniversary tour.



St. Vincent performs at the Austin City Limits Music Festival in Austin, Texas on Oct. 3, 2021. She recounts that surprise concert in May at the Paramount, an intimate, historic East Los Angeles venue, as a kind of 'exorcism' that allowed the singer, songwriter and guitar virtuoso to channel something she doesn't ordinarily have access to. (AP)

## Music

## 'Playing live kind of an exorcism for me'

## Clark embraces chaos in her music

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 27, (AP) - As sweaty fans pushed up against one another, clutching their drinks and swaying to the music, Annie Clark, known professionally as St. Vincent, was being transported.

She recounts that surprise concert in May at the Paramount, an intimate, historic East Los Angeles venue, as a kind of "exorcism" that allowed the singer, songwriter and guitar virtuoso to channel something she doesn't ordinarily have access to.

As the Grammy winner stood on stage and hypnotically manipulated her guitar, Clark spat on the crowd - a welcomed gesture - before leaping into it to be propelled around the dimly lit room, something artists with her caliber of fame rarely do. The show was a preview for what was to come during her All Born Screaming tour, which kicked off recently in Bend, Oregon.

Clark spoke with The Associated Press ahead of the tour about the catharsis she finds through performing, punk music's influence on her and how the idea of chaos informed her self-produced seventh album.

The interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: I saw your recent show at the Paramount and was struck by how much you lean into the theater of performing live music, like with the crowd surfing and the spitting. I'm curious when you start thinking about that aspect of a tour.

Clark: Well, it's interesting that you bring up the Paramount and theatrics because there were no theatrics.

Like that was just a full primal moment. The band had been rehearsing, but we hadn't had any like production rehearsals or anything like that. It was just like "Let's get up there and play music and just like melt the house." So, there was nothing consciously performed.

I kind of go into a little bit of a fugue state when I'm performing. Like something else takes over that I don't have access to in my normal day to day. And the spitting, for example, like sometimes singing is very, like, visceral. And sometimes you just need to spit in order to, like, I don't know, clear your mouth to keep singing. It's not like a bit or anything like that. There's just something so primal about playing in general that it's just like everything comes out.

AP: Does the size of the venue play into that? Are you able to channel that primal energy more when it's such an intimate space?

Clark: Oh yeah, you go more. In a 200-cap punk club, you're like, "The Germs played here," you know? I started off playing small clubs and would be lucky to like drive to Denver and be psyched to have like 200 people in a club. So you know it, in a certain way, really excites me and takes me back. You can see people's faces - you can see people's faces in other venues certainly - but you can see people's face, they're right there. There's no barricade, there's no nothing. I mean, listen, I love performing in any context except like karaoke or unsolicited at a party with an acoustic guitar. It's kind of an exorcism for me.

AP: It seems like you're really leaning into punk history. Can you talk about your relationship to punk music and what it's meant to you?

Clark: I'm a fan of music with a capital F. So I can be as moved by Fugazi and Big Black as I can by Duke Ellington. And it's all music to me. But I definitely remember seeing Lightning Bolt a lot of times. And obviously this ethos of just like it's not a stage and performer. We are all one. Also, you didn't really see the show if you didn't get like an injury of some kind. I am physical in that way. Just this idea of like a loud, visceral show where we are all in this together. This isn't about, you know, glitter and capitalism. This is about people having a place to freak the (expletive) out.

AP: You used vintage equipment for "Daddy's Home." And the analog synths were such a big part of "All Born Screaming." Is there an energy that you feel from that?

Clark: Everything about the making of this record needed to be tactile. It needed to start with moving electricity around through discrete circuitry. And not just to be like a nerd, but because it had to start with the idea of chaos and chance and "I don't know what's gonna happen." Because that's how life is. I don't know what's going to happen - chaos. But then somehow through a process of intuition and work and magic, you take chaos and you turn it into something and make some kind of sense. So that was the reason for starting with analog modular synths and stuff like that.



Mariah Carey appears with her mother Patricia and daughter Monroe during a ceremony honoring her with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles on Aug. 5, 2015. (AP)

— Details Page 11



Bronfman



Chan

## Variety

NEW YORK: The merger between entertainment giant Paramount and media company Skydance is set to go ahead after Edgar Bronfman Jr. withdrew a competing offer.

Bronfman, executive chairman of streaming service Fubo, told Paramount's special committee of directors Monday night that he would not proceed with his bid.

"While there may have been differences, we believe that everyone involved in the sale process is united in the belief that Paramount's best days are ahead," he said.

Bronfman, the former chairman and CEO of Warner Music, had initially offered \$4.3 billion for Shari Redstone's National Amusements, the controlling shareholder of Paramount, according to multiple media reports. He then upped that bid to \$6 billion.

Paramount agreed last month to a merger deal with Skydance that will inject desperately needed cash into a legacy studio that has struggled to adapt to a shifting entertainment landscape.

Since then, during what's known as a "go shop" period, a special committee of Paramount's board had reached out to more than 50 third parties to determine whether they were interested in making offers. The go shop period was extended for Bronfman, but has now closed.

Shari Redstone's National Amusements has owned more than three-quarters of Paramount's Class A voting shares through the estate of her late father, Sumner Redstone. She had battled to maintain control of the company that owns CBS, which is behind blockbuster films such as "Top Gun" and "The Godfather."

The deal signals the rise of a new power player, Skydance founder David Ellison, the son of billionaire Larry Ellison, who founded the software company Oracle. (AP)

PORTLAND, Maine: The official non-profit organization of the National Park Service is set to receive the largest grant in its history, a \$100 million gift the fundraising group described as transformative for the country's national parks.

The National Park Foundation, which Congress created in the 1960s to support national parks, will receive the donation from Indianapolis-based foundation Lilly Endowment Inc. The park foundation described the gift on Monday as the largest grant in history benefiting U.S. national parks.

The money will be used to address the needs of the country's more than 400 national park sites, said Will Shafroth, president and CEO of the National Park Foundation.

The foundation hopes to announce the first round of grants stemming from the donation later this year, Shafroth said.

Exactly how the money will be utilized remains to be seen, but one of the foundation's priorities is restoring coral reefs

at Biscayne National Park in Florida. Shafroth said, while another priority is the restoration of trout species in western national parks. Those are among the foundation's recent investments. (AP)

□ □ □

BEIJING: Light attack, heavy attack, dodge, immobilization, and transformation... as millions of "Black Myth: Wukong" players fight their foes with unrestricted combos of skills and abilities, many may wonder how these eye-dazzling moves were made possible.

Considered China's first homegrown high-cost, high-volume, high-quality stand-alone title, "Black Myth: Wukong" is deeply invested in the usage of cutting-edge motion capture technology to incorporate real-world martial arts into the game.



Jaason Simmons, (from left), Brandy Ledford, Alexandra Paul, Erika Eleniak, and Nancy Valen arrive at the premiere of 'After Baywatch: Moment in the Sun' at The Bungalow Santa Monica on Monday, Aug. 26, in Santa Monica, Calif. (AP)

Through the technology, the actions of professional stuntmen dressed in custom-tailored suits with reflective points are recorded from all angles, processed into virtual data and finally presented on in-game characters.

Yin Kai, hailing from Shandong Province, is among the game's motion capture crew. He undertook the majority of the action work for the game's protagonist, a monkey character based on the classic Chinese novel Journey to the West.

"Many people have a childhood dream to become the Monkey King. As I trained in the martial art that uses a monkey-style staff, I accepted the job offer right away," Yin was quoted as saying in a feature story released by China Media Group.

Inspired by TV stars such as Jackie Chan and Jet Li, the young Kong Fu enthusiast began practicing martial arts at the age of five and majored in martial arts performance at Shanghai University of Sport. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

KUALA LUMPUR: To mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Malaysia, the Chinese Islamic Culture Exhibition 2024 will be held in September in Malaysia, the organizers of the exhibition said on Sunday.

Themed "Mutual Learning between Civilizations for Joint Prosperity," the event will be held on Sept. 10-12.

The event will feature picture exhibition, photography exhibition, Chinese and Arabic calligraphy work exhibition, painting and paper-cut art exhibition, as well as artistic performance to share cultural experiences while building people-to-people ties.

The picture exhibition will reveal the past and present of Islam in China, as well as history of friendly exchanges between Muslims in China and Malaysia. Vice President of China Islamic Association Jin Rubin said. (Xinhua)



## 'Virus can be stopped'

## WHO launches global plan to contain mpox outbreaks

GENEVA, Aug 27, (Agencies): The UN health agency on Monday launched a six-month plan to help stanch outbreaks of mpox transmission, including ramping up staffing in affected countries and boosting surveillance, prevention and response strategies.

The World Health Organization said it expects the plan from September through February next year will require \$135 million in funding and aims to improve fair access to vaccines, notably in African countries hardest hit by the outbreak.

"The mpox outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighboring countries can be controlled, and can be stopped," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in a statement.

The agency is "significantly scaling up staff" in affected countries, it said. In mid-August, WHO classified the current mpox outbreak as a global health emergency.

Also Monday, German government spokesperson Steffen Hebestreit said Germany is donating 100,000 doses of mpox vaccine to affected countries from stocks held by its military, German news agency dpa reported.

Last Tuesday, Congo - the hardest-hit country - reported more than 1,000 new mpox cases over the previous week.

## From EEE to malaria: Understanding mosquito-borne diseases

NEW YORK, Aug 27, (AP): The world's deadliest animal can be squashed flat with a quick slap: It's the mosquito.

The buzzing insects are more than annoying - they spread disease. When they bite and drink blood from a person or animal they can pick up viruses or germs too. If they can go on to bite someone or something else, they deposit the germ right under the skin.

People in some areas of Massachusetts have been warned to stay indoors when mosquitoes are most active after a rare case of eastern equine encephalitis was discovered. And Dr. Anthony Fauci, the former top US infectious disease expert,

In its latest update on the outbreak, the African Centers for Disease Control reported that as of Thursday, more than 21,300 suspected or confirmed cases and 590 deaths have been reported this year in 12 African countries.

was recently hospitalized after he came down with West Nile virus.

Both are nasty diseases spread by mosquitoes - though thankfully they are relatively rare.

The best way to avoid getting sick is of course to avoid getting bitten, which means taking steps like using repellent, wearing clothing with long sleeves and long pants and staying indoors when the mosquitoes are out. Local health departments also work to reduce mosquito numbers, including spraying neighborhoods with insecticide. Authorities in Massachusetts are using trucks and planes this week to spray vulnerable areas.

Here's a look at some common

swamps in Massachusetts.

About 2 in 10 people infected with West Nile virus develop symptoms, which can include fever and swelling of the brain. About 1 in 10 people who develop severe symptoms die. There have been 216 West Nile cases so far this year. West Nile virus was first reported in the U.S. in 1999 in New York. It gradually spread across the country. In 2003, there were nearly 10,000 cases. Malaria infected nearly 250 million people globally in 2022 and killed more than 600,000, mostly children. It is caused by a parasite carried by mosquitoes and mainly infects people in tropical regions, especially Africa. A vaccination campaign has

been launched in recent months that health officials hope will help reduce cases and deaths.

Also known as "break-bone fever" because it can be so painful, dengue is becoming more common. The World Health Organization says that about half the world's population is at risk of getting the disease, and there are 100 million to 400 million infections every year. Not everyone gets symptoms, which can include fever, severe headaches and pain in the muscles and joints. Most US cases are in people who have traveled to other countries, though the CDC says there have been about 2,600 locally acquired cases so far this year.

with more serious cases can develop lesions on the face, hands, chest and genitals.

By coordinating global, regional, and national efforts, it aims to enhance surveillance and response strategies,

ensure equitable access to diagnostics and vaccines, reduce animal-to-human transmission, and empower communities in outbreak control.

The vaccination plan targets those most at risk, such as close contacts of

## Long COVID job losses

## 'US gov't pressured FB to censor COVID-19 content'

WASHINGTON, Aug 27, (AP): Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg says senior Biden administration officials pressured Facebook to "censor" some COVID-19 content during the pandemic and vowed that the social media giant would push back if it faced such demands again.

In a letter to Rep. Jim Jordan, the Republican chair of the House Judiciary Committee, Zuckerberg alleges that the officials, including those from the White House, "repeatedly pressured" Facebook for months to take down "certain COVID-19 content including humor and satire."

The officials "expressed a lot of frustration" when the company didn't agree, he said in the letter.

"I believe the government pressure was wrong and I regret that we were not more outspoken about it," Zuckerberg wrote in the letter dated Aug. 26 and posted on the committee's Facebook page and to its account on X.

The letter is the latest repudiation by Zuckerberg of efforts to target misinformation around the coronavirus pandemic during and after the 2020 presidential election, particularly as allegations have emerged that some posts were deleted or restricted wrongly.

"I also think we made some choices that, with the benefit of hindsight and new information, we wouldn't make today," he said, without elaborating. "We're ready to push back if something like this happens again."

In response, the White House said in a statement that, "When confronted with a deadly pandemic, this Administration encouraged responsible actions to protect public health and safety. Our position has been clear and consistent: we believe tech companies and other private actors should take into account the effects their actions have on the American people, while making inde-

pendent choices about the information they present."

Experts warn this year's US election could be swamped by misinformation on social media with the proliferation of artificial intelligence and other tools to produce false news stories and content that could mislead voters.

Facebook in early 2021 appended what Zuckerberg called labels with "credible information" to posts about COVID-19 vaccines. That's after it moved in April 2020 - just as the virus had led to global shutdowns and radical changes in everyday life - to warn users who shared misinformation about COVID-19.

Conservatives have long derided Facebook and other major tech companies as favoring liberal priorities and accused them of censorship.

Zuckerberg has tried to change the company's perception on the right, going on podcaster Joe Rogan's show in 2022 and complimenting Republican nominee Donald Trump's response to an assassination attempt as "badass." He sent Monday's letter to the House Judiciary Committee, whose chairman, Jordan, is a longtime Trump ally.

Zuckerberg also said he would no longer donate money to widen election access for voters through the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, the company that runs the philanthropy for him and his wife, Priscilla Chan.

## Also:

**NEW YORK:** Long COVID has pushed around one million Americans out of the labor force, The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) on Monday cited economists, noting that over 5 percent of adults in the United States have long COVID, which is most prevalent among Americans in their prime working years.

"Never before have so many Americans redrawn their relationships with work as a result of one public-health crisis," said the report. "More than four years after the pandemic began, some are still reckoning with how to balance their livelihoods and life with long COVID, the chronic condition doctors are still trying to understand."

Mpox belongs to the same family of viruses as smallpox but typically causes milder symptoms like fever, chills and body aches. It mostly spreads through close skin-to-skin contact, including sexual intercourse. People

## Call for urgent action to 'save our seas'

## Rising global seas pose dire threat to Pacific islands, Guterres warns

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga, Aug 27, (AP): Highlighting seas that are rising at an accelerating rate, especially in the far more vulnerable Pacific island nations, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issued yet another climate SOS to the world. This time he said those initials stand for "save our seas."

The United Nations and the World Meteorological Organization Monday issued reports on worsening sea level rise, turbocharged by a warming Earth and melting ice sheets and glaciers. They highlight how the Southwestern Pacific is not only hurt by the rising oceans, but by other climate change effects of ocean acidification and marine heat waves.

Guterres toured Samoa and Tonga and made his climate plea from Tonga's capital on Tuesday at a meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum, whose member countries are among those most imperiled by climate change. Next month the United Nations General Assembly holds a special session to discuss rising seas.

"This is a crazy situation," Guterres said. "Rising seas are a crisis entirely of humanity's making. A crisis that will soon swell to an almost unimaginable scale, with no lifeboat to take us back to safety."



A section of land between trees is washed away due to rising seas on Nov. 6, 2015, in Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands. (AP)

Catastrophe (cross head) "A worldwide catastrophe is putting this Pacific paradise in peril," he said. "The ocean is overflowing."

A report that Guterres' office commissioned found that sea level lapping against Tonga's capital Nuku'alofa had risen 21 centimeters (8.3 inches) between 1990 and 2020, twice the global average of 10 centimeters (3.9

inches). Apia, Samoa, has seen 31 centimeters (1 foot) of rising seas, while Suva-B, Fiji has had 29 centimeters (11.4 inches).

"This puts Pacific Island nations in grave danger," Guterres said. About 90% of the region's people live within 5 kilometers (3 miles) of the rising oceans, he said. Since 1980, coastal flooding in

Guam has jumped from twice a year to 22 times a year. It's gone from five times a year to 43 times a year in the Cook Islands. In Pago Pago, American Samoa, coastal flooding went from zero to 102 times a year, according to the WMO State of the Climate in the South-West Pacific 2023 report.

"Because of sea level rise, the ocean is transforming from being a lifelong friend into a growing threat," Celeste Saulo, secretary-general of the World Meteorological Organization, told reporters in Nuku'alofa on Tuesday.

While the western edges of the Pacific are seeing sea level rise about twice the global average, the central Pacific is closer to the global average, the WMO said.

Sea levels are rising faster in the western tropical Pacific because of where the melting ice from western Antarctica heads, warmer waters and ocean currents, UN officials said.

Guterres said he can see changes since the last time he was in the region in May 2019.

While he met in Nuku'alofa on Tuesday with Pacific nations on the environment at their leaders' annual summit, a hundred local high school students and activists from across the Pacific marched for climate justice a few blocks away.

## Scientists root for climate-resilient crop

## Ancient wheat varieties key to global food security

NAIROBI, Aug 27, (Xinhua): Tapping into ancient and wild wheat varieties that have demonstrated resilience to climatic shocks, pests, and diseases holds the key to food security in the Global South, where 1.5 billion people rely on the crop as a staple food, international scientists said Monday.

The scientists, who are affiliated with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and its

research partners, said in two published studies that leveraging the vast genetic pool of ancient wheat species grown over millennia will climate-proof the cereal, protect habitats, and boost the war on hunger.

There are nearly 800,000 wheat seed samples stored in 155 gene banks worldwide, including wild relatives and ancient and farmer-developed varieties that have withstood environmental stresses over

millennia, according to the scientists.

While only a fraction of this genetic diversity has been utilized in modern crop breeding, noted the scientists, it has delivered massive benefits including higher yields in the face of harsh weather conditions.

The cultivation of disease-resistant wheat varieties has already avoided the use of an estimated 1 billion liters of fungicide since 2000 while incorporat-

ing wild traits demonstrated 20 percent more growth under extreme heat and drought conditions compared to conventional varieties, said the scientists.

Susanne Dreisigacker, a molecular breeder at CIMMYT and co-author of the study, called for transferring disease-, pest- and drought-resistant genes from wild relatives to conventional wheat varieties to feed humanity without harming ecosystems.

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## The Paralympic Games are kicking off

## Here's what to expect as 4,400 athletes compete in Paris



In this file photo, Oksana Masters, of the United States, celebrates after winning at Women's H5 Road Race at the Fuji International Speedway at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. (AP)

PARIS, Aug 27, (AP): Let the games begin again.

The Paralympic Games are set to open Wednesday as some 4,400 athletes with disabilities, permanent injuries or impairments prepare to compete for 549 medals across 22 sports over 11 days in Paris.

The French capital, which just hosted the Olympics, again provides the backdrop for what promises to be another spectacle, with many of the same venues hosting Paralympic competitions.

Historic square Place de la Concorde, which hosted skateboarding, breaking and 3x3 basketball during the Olympics, will host the opening ceremony.

Equestrian returns to Chateau de Versailles, which will host para equestrian events. The Grand Palais transitions from fencing to wheelchair fencing. Archery venue Invalides will host para archery.

The venue beside the Eiffel Tower, which hosted beach volleyball during the Olympics, will host blind soccer, an adaptation of the game for visually impaired players in teams of five with a ball containing rattles.

"We've got some monstrous iconic sites, and we're going to get an eyeful," France's para triathlon champion, Alexis Hanquinquant, said. "Paris is the most beautiful city in the world. I think we're going to have some pretty exceptional Paralympic Games."

Of the 22 Paralympic sports, only two do not have an Olympic equivalent - goalball and boccia. In goalball, teams of visually impaired or blind players take turns rolling a ball containing bells toward the opposing goal while the defending team's players act as goalkeepers. In boccia, players throw or roll leather balls as close as they can to a small ball called a jack.

Compared to the previous edition of the Paralympics in Tokyo, 10 medal events have been added to give female athletes and those with high-support needs more opportunities.

The Paralympic flame was lit Saturday in Stoke Mandeville, a village northwest of London widely considered the birthplace of the Paralympic Games, and was to make its way via a torch relay under the English Channel to cities all over France before lighting the cauldron during the opening ceremony on Wednesday.

Anticipation has been building with Parisians returning from their summer vacations - the city almost felt empty at the beginning of the month with many away at the coast. For locals who missed the Olympic action, the Paralympics are a second chance to catch some of the excitement.

The athletes - Paralympians - will be the focus of attention starting Thursday in the first day of competition, when there will be medals to be won in para taekwondo, para table tennis, para swimming and para cycling on the track.

As was the case for the Olympics, there will medals up for grabs



British Paralympian Helene Raynsford holds the Paralympic Torch during the flame lighting ceremony in Stoke Mandeville, widely considered the birthplace of the Paralympic Games, England. (AP)

on each of the 11 days of competition.

Many of the competing athletes have titles to defend.

Para shooter Avani Lekhara, the first Indian woman to win a pair of medals at a single edition of the Paralympics, returns to defend her 10-meter air rifle gold in the SH1 category from Tokyo.

The SH1 category is for rifle shooters with lower limb impairments like amputations or paraplegia who can hold their gun without difficulty and shoot from a standing or sitting position.

American multi-sport specialist Oksana Masters won a handcycling road race and time trial at the Tokyo Paralympics, and she will be looking to add to her career total of seven gold and 17 medals overall in both summer and winter events.

Para powerlifter Sherif Osman of Egypt is going for his fourth gold medal, and Italian fencer Bebe Vio is vying for her third consecutive gold in wheelchair fencing. After contracting meningitis as a child, doctors amputated both her legs and her forearms to save her life.

Brazil is unbeaten in blind soccer going back to the first tournament in Athens in 2004, but France harbors hopes of an upset. The hosts kick off against China and Brazil plays Turkey on Sept. 1, a day before the teams meet for a potentially decisive match in Group A.

And there are other storylines. Visually impaired Italian sprinter Valentina Petrillo will be the first transgender woman to compete at the Paralympics when she races in the heats for her classification in the women's 400 meters on Sept. 2.

American swimmer Ali Truitt is competing a year after losing her lower leg in a shark attack while snorkeling.

Teenage swimmer David Kratochvil is carrying Czech hopes of a medal after losing his sight because of a serious illness about 10 years ago. The 16-year-old Kratochvil used to play ice hockey but switched to the pool, where he set world records in the 50 and 200 meter backstroke last year.

Many more wait to be told over the next two weeks.

## Mitchell has 29, Clark 19 as Fever disappoints record Dream crowd

Liberty pulls away for win over Mercury

ATLANTA, Aug 27, (AP): Kelsey Mitchell scored 29 points, including the clinching free throws with 5 seconds left, Caitlin Clark added 19 points and the Indiana Fever disappointed a record Atlanta crowd by holding off the Dream 84-79.

In the closing seconds, without a timeout, Atlanta missed two 3-pointers but grabbed two offensive rebounds before fumbling the ball away, which led to Mitchell's free throws.

## BASKETBALL

Atlanta (10-19), which started the day a half-game out of the final playoff spot, trailed by 18 early in the second half when Clark hit a 3-pointer before outscoring the Fever (14-16) 41-32. The Dream got within two before Indiana's five-point possession blunted the rally.

Aliyah Boston had 14 points and 11 rebounds for Indiana and Damiros Dantas scored 33 off the bench. Clark had four 3-pointers, tying the rookie record of 85 by Atlanta's Rhyn Howard in 2022.

Tina Charles scored 21 to lead Atlanta, which moved the game to the home of the Atlanta Hawks and set an attendance record of 17,608, surpassing the crowd that attended the last game against the Fever (17,575). Howard had 16 points, Allisha Gray 12 - none after receiving a flagrant foul from Boston midway through the third quarter - and Jordin Canada 10 for the Dream.

Howard's 3 pulled Atlanta to 76-74 with 4:13 to play but after an offensive rebound Clark found Lexie Hull for an and-1 layup a minute later. Hull rebounded her missed free throw and fed Mitchell for an and-1 layup she converted for an

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Aug 27, (AP): A lack of quality backup is eroding the strength of the national team, Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Mohsin Naqvi said in the wake of the embarrassing 10-wicket loss to Bangladesh in the first test.

"It was a very disappointing loss," Naqvi said Monday, a day after Bangladesh's historic maiden test win against Pakistan in 14 test matches at Rawalpindi.

"The problem is the selection committee has no pool to turn to" for high-quality replacement players, he said.

Pakistan has been searching for a test win at home since its last victory over South Africa at Rawalpindi in December 2021. The first-test loss was its fifth at home in that span, which also includes four draws.

Naqvi had spoken about conducting a big overhaul after Pakistan was eliminated from the Super Eight at the T20 World

81-74 lead.

Nia Coffey made a 3 for Atlanta with just under a minute to play to make it 82-79.

Mitchell had 15 points and Boston 12, on a combined 12-of-21 shooting as the Fever took a 52-38 lead.

At halftime the gold medal team from the 1996 Atlanta Olympics was honored.

Breanna Stewart scored 21 points, Courtney Vandersloot added 16 and the New York Liberty used a 10-0 run in the fourth quarter to pull away from the Phoenix Mercury 84-70.

Sabrina Ionescu scored five points as the Liberty, starting

Cup, losing to archrival India and the tournament co-host United States team.

"We want to fix our problems," Naqvi said, "but when we look at how to resolve them, we don't have any solid data or (elite) players pool which we can draw from."

## CRICKET

The Pakistan Cricket Board is planning to use AI to help harness a pool of backup players from the newly announced 50-over tournament - Champions Cup - scheduled to be held from Sept. 12-29.

Pakistan cricket stalwarts Waqar Younis, Saqlain Mushtaq, Misbah-ul-haq, Shoaib Malik and Sarfaraz Ahmed will work as mentors of the five teams in the Champions Cup.

"This Cup will make domestic cricket strong, we'll have a pool of 150 players, and then the surgery will be done by the selection

committee," Naqvi said, adding that critics have been urging for an immediate overhaul of the test team. "But you can't dump someone unless you have a better one to replace them."

Pakistan surprisingly went without a specialist spinner in the series-opener against Bangladesh but its ploy to go with four pace bowlers backfired. Bangladesh took a solid 117-run first-innings lead after it scored 565 in reply to Pakistan's 448-6 declared.

Pakistan crumbled for 146 in the second innings against Bangladesh spinners Shakib Al Hasan and Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who collected seven wickets in between them.

"Losing to Bangladesh is sad but the selection committee had given the team 17 players," Naqvi said. "If the coach or captain aren't playing some of them, that's their decision. The team management may have made a mistake, but that has nothing to do with the selection committee."

with Stewart's turnaround jumper from the foul line, turned a 64-57 lead into a 17-point advantage midway through the fourth quarter.

Leonie Fiebich contributed a 3-pointer, her only basket of the game.

Jonquel Jones scored 15 points for the Liberty (27-5), who hit 12 3-pointers and outscored Phoenix 14-3 at the foul line. Ionescu finished with 13 points.

Brittney Griner scored 22 to lead the Mercury (16-15), but had seven of their 20 turnovers. Natasha Cloud added 18 points, Kahleah Copper had 14 and Diana Taurasi 10. The turnovers cost Phoenix

28 points and the bench was outscored 15-4.

New York was 12 for 29 behind the arc to Phoenix's 5 for 22.

Taurasi hit a 3-pointer in the closing seconds to pull the Mercury into a tie at 38 at the break. The Liberty led by as many as nine but was outscored 20-12 inside and Phoenix had 15 fast-break points.

Griner reached 800 career blocks for the Mercury and Cloud reached 200 assists for the season, passing Taurasi for the single-season franchise record. Taurasi also moved past Lindsey Whalen (2,348) for fourth on the WBA career assists list.

## SOCCER

"We simulated that qualification should be possible with an average of 7.6 points, which means two victories and two draws," said UEFA's head of competitions strategy, Stéphane Anselmo.

Money, mostly, though that's not the only reason.

The Champions League in Europe has for the past 32 years showcased the highest quality play in world soccer. It let UEFA steer billions of euros (dollars) of prize money to clubs who pay the highest transfer fees and salaries.

## England replaces Wood with Stone for 2nd test vs S.Lanka

LONDON, Aug 27, (AP): England has replaced the injured Mark Wood with fellow fast bowler Olly Stone in its team for the second cricket test against Sri Lanka at Lord's starting Thursday.

It will be Stone's first test appearance since June 2021.

England named its team on Tuesday, with Stone the only change from the team that won the

first test by five wickets in Manchester last week.

## CRICKET

England: Ben Duckett, Dan Lawrence, Ollie Pope (captain), Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jamie Smith (wicketkeeper), Chris Woakes, Gus Atkinson, Matthew Potts, Olly Stone, Shoaib Bashir.

## CL format promises more of almost everything storied clubs wanted from UEFA

GENEVA, Aug 27, (AP): The new Champions League format this season will see more teams playing more games for more prize money.

On Thursday, UEFA makes the draw in Monaco for the match schedule of the new single-standings league phase that replaces the traditional group stage.

The first new Champions League format since 2003 promises more of almost everything that Europe's wealthiest and most influential clubs wanted from UEFA.

There are four more places in a 36-team lineup; at least eight games each instead of six; Champions League games scheduled in January for the first time; a prize money rise of at least 25% to a minimum 2.5 billion euros (\$2.8 billion).

There also was more evidence, at UEFA's European Championship this summer, that constant expansion of international competitions is leaving players tired and unable to perform at their best year-round.

The new league phase in European club soccer's marquee event will have 144 total games compared to 96 in the group stage last season.

The "key aims," UEFA said, is to "improve competitive balance and sporting in-

terest and in the process increase the number of meaningful matches - matches with something at stake for both sides - throughout the competition." In the eighth and final round, all 36 teams play on the same Jan. 29 evening to finalize the standings which will decide which eight teams advance directly to the round of 16 - and with what seedings in a tennis-like knockout bracket - as well as which 16 go into a new knockout playoff round in February, and which 12 are eliminated.

Still, influential officials at the European Club Association (ECA) got bored of the group stage, saying it was too repetitive and lacked drama. They wanted more games against stronger opponents that would be more valued by broadcasters, viewers and new fans worldwide. Their leverage over UEFA was potentially launching their own breakout competition.

The road to agreeing the format was rocky. A controversial first proposal in 2019, favoring storied clubs, was stopped by a backlash from mid-ranked clubs and domestic leagues.

There was intense turmoil sparked by the failed Super League launch in April 2021 by most of the same club officials who negotiated Champions League reform with UEFA.

Final format approval came in May 2022 - when Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus were exiled from the talks and still pursued UEFA in court - and it was broadly what the rebel Super League clubs had negotiated.

Out goes the group-stage format played for 21 seasons where 32 teams were put into eight groups of four teams from a seeded draw. The top two in each group advanced to the round of 16. Groups gave each team six games from September into December,

playing each rival once at home and once away.

In comes a single-standings league - 36 teams each playing eight games against eight different opponents through January.

The top eight in the standings go direct to the round of 16 in March. Teams ranked ninth to 24th go into the knockout playoffs in February. The bottom 12 teams are eliminated.

In the playoffs, teams ranked Nos. 9-16 are seeded in the draw to play second legs at home against unseeded teams Nos. 17-24.

Two for countries whose teams collectively had the best record in UEFA club competitions in the previous season. That was Italy and Germany so the fifth-placed teams in Serie A and the Bundesliga qualified: Bologna and Borussia Dortmund.

The fifth-ranked national league (based on five years of results in UEFA club competitions) gets a third direct entry. That is currently France and Brest was third in Ligue 1.

An extra place goes to the qualifying rounds path for national champions from lower-ranked countries. They now play for five total qualifying places instead of four last season.

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## SPORTS

## Kuwait faces South Korea in friendly

## Al-Qadisiya strengthens roster with Farouk for Arab Club Champ'ship

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Egyptian and Al-Ahly handball player Abdullah Farouk has officially signed a one-season renewable contract with Al-Qadisiya, completing the club's roster of foreign professionals. This follows the renewal of Montenegrin Vladan Lipovina's contract.

## HANDBALL

Farouk is a strong addition to Al-Qadisiya which is led by Croatian coach Slavko Klosa, who had a successful season with the team last year. Farouk recently transferred from Smouha Club to Al-Ahly about a month ago.

The team is scheduled to depart this

evening, pending final approval from the Sports Authority, for an external training camp in Bosnia. This camp is in preparation for its participation in the 39th Arab Club Handball Championship, hosted by Kuwait Club from September 15-25, where it competes alongside Al-Salmiya Club and Kuwait Club.

Al-Qadisiya has also made key additions to its coaching staff, hiring Macedonian assistant coach Ivan and Montenegrin goalkeeping coach Flanco. The club has also signed local talents Hamad Al-Saqr and goalkeeper Abdullah Al-Saffar and appointed Hadi Naseer as the game manager and Baqer Khuraibat as the first team manager.

In other news, Al-Sulaibikhat has signed goalkeeper Hassan Bou Abbas

and player Fawaz Al-Mulla for one season.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti junior handball team faces South Korea at the Federation Hall at the Martyr Fahad Al-Ahmad Center in Al-Daiya. This is the first friendly match between the two teams as they prepare for the 10th Asian Championship, which serves as a qualifier for the 2025 Junior World Cup. The championship will be hosted by Jordan from September 3-14.

The Blues have been preparing for the Asian Championship with an external training camp in Slovenia, where they played several friendly matches under the guidance of coach Marko Martinovic and his assistant Hussein Habib.

In parallel, handball referees have concluded the first part of their external training camp in Slovenia. This camp is part of the Federation's plan to prepare referees both physically and mentally and to review new regulations before the start of the new season on September 29, which will kick off with the Federation Cup Championship postponed from last season.

The referees will now travel to Croatia to continue their training according to the Kuwait Handball Association plan to enhance refereeing standards. The camp in Slovenia featured theoretical lectures by Macedonian referees Nikolov Slav and Nechevski Georgi, who officiated the final of the 2023 World Cup won by Denmark over France with a score of 34-29. The camp also included practical sessions through an international friendly tournament involving various national teams and multiple refereeing teams.



Al-Qadisiya player takes instructions from the coach during training session.

## Cristiano Ronaldo hints at ending career with Al-Nassr

RIYADH, Aug 27: Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo has hinted that his legendary career may conclude with Saudi Arabia's Al-Nassr, the team he joined at the start of 2023. While he hasn't set a definitive retirement date, the 39-year-old suggested that Al-Nassr could be his final club, though he remains uncertain about when he will hang up his boots.

In an interview with the Portuguese channel "Nao," Ronaldo stated, "I don't know if I'll end my career soon or in two or three years." He added, "But it's likely that this will happen with Al-Nassr, a team that makes me happy, where I am in a good place and have a good feeling, both in the country and the league."

## SOCCER

The former Manchester United, Real Madrid, and Juventus star continued, "For this reason, it's very likely that I will finish my career as a player with Al-Nassr. I am happy playing in Saudi Arabia, and I want to continue this journey."

Despite his age, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner has maintained his scoring prowess, netting 67 goals in 73 matches across all competitions for Al-Nassr. This includes the Arab Club Champions Cup, where he secured his first title with the club in the summer of 2023, scoring twice in a 2-1 extra-time victory over rivals Al-Hilal.

Ronaldo also reflected on his tenure with the Portuguese national team, saying, "When I decide to leave the national team, I won't announce it. It will be a spontaneous decision on my part." He added, "What I want now is to help the national team," which is preparing for the opening rounds of the European Nations League against Croatia and Scotland on September 5 and 8 in Group A of the top tier.



Cristiano Ronaldo juggles with the ball as his teammates look on during training.

## Estudiantes holds Boca Juniors

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 26, (Xinhua): Edwain Cetre scored late as Estudiantes earned a 1-1 home draw with Boca Juniors in Argentina's Primera Division.

Milton Gimenez gave Boca the lead by showing lightning reflexes to nod home from the edge of the six-yard box after a bungled clearance from goalkeeper Matias Mansilla.

Colombian winger Cetre headed in the equalizer 10 minutes from time after Boca's defense failed to

deal with Eric Meza's cross from the right wing.

The result leaves Boca eighth in the 28-team standings with 18 points from 12 games while Estudiantes is 14th, two points further back.

In other Argentine top-flight fixtures on Monday, Velez Sarsfield won 5-0 at Barracas Central, Banfield drew 0-0 at Central Cordoba, Gimnasia prevailed 1-0 at Belgrano and Rosario Central secured a 1-0 home victory over Atletico Tucuman.

This summer, Ronaldo participated in what may have been his last major tournament with Portugal at the European Championship, where the team, led by Spanish coach Roberto Martinez, was eliminated in the quarter-finals by France in a penalty shootout.

Ronaldo holds the record for the most appearances for Portugal, with 212 caps – an achievement unmatched by any international player in the world. He is also the all-time leading goal scorer for his country, with 130 goals, setting another global record.

## Djokovic begins bid for record 25th Grand Slam with straight-set victory



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, returns a shot to Radu Albot, of Moldova, during a first round match of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

## Gauff bounces back at US Open

NEW YORK, Aug 27, (AP): Novak Djokovic began his bid for a record 25th Grand Slam title and tied Roger Federer with his 89th match win at the U.S. Open by defeating qualifier Radu Albot of Moldova 6-2, 6-2, 6-4.

The second-seeded Djokovic, again wearing a gray sleeve over his surgically repaired right knee, was competing for the first time since claiming an Olympic gold medal three weeks ago at the Paris Games, the last significant achievement that was missing from his resume.

## TENNIS

Djokovic, a 37-year-old from Serbia, improved to 18-0 in first-round matches at Flushing Meadows and is now 89-13 overall at the hard-court tournament, which he's won four times, including a year ago. He's never lost earlier than the third round at the U.S. Open; Albot never has been past the third round in 30 appearances at majors.

Djokovic never has lost a Grand Slam match to someone ranked as low as No. 138 Albot. And Albot is now 0-12 against opponents ranked in the top 10.

Next up for Djokovic is a countryman, familiar opponent and friend, Laslo Djere, who advanced with a 6-7 (7), 6-1, 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-2 victory over Jan-Lennard Struff.

The chant rang out in cavernous Arthur Ashe Stadium on Monday at the U.S. Open before Coco Gauff's first service game of her first match of her

## Juventus earns second straight win

VERONA, Italy, Aug 27, (AP): Juventus became the only Serie A team to win both of its opening two matches of the season after Dušan Vlahovic scored twice in a 3-0 victory over Verona.

Right-back Nicolò Savona also scored on his full debut as Juventus earned a second straight 3-0 win.

Vlahovic put the visitors ahead after 28 minutes when he found space in the Verona backline and fought off the at-

tention of three defenders to steer the ball home from 12 yards.

Savona doubled the lead with a header 11 minutes later and Vlahovic rounded off the scoring from the penalty spot eight minutes into the second half.

Verona is ninth with three points.

Como earned its first Serie A point in more than two decades when Cesc Fabregas' team came back from a goal down to draw 1-1 at Cagliari.

week and is retiring after this season.

Seeded women's winners included No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, the two-time



Brandon Nakashima, of the United States, serves to Holger Rune, of Denmark, during a first round match of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

Australian Open champion who was the runner-up to Gauff a year ago in New York; No. 7 Zheng Qinwen, the women's gold medalist at the Paris Olympics earlier this month; No. 24 Donna Vekic, the silver medalist; No. 12 Daria Kasatkina; and No. 14 Madison Keys.

No. 9 Maria Sakkari stopped playing after one set because of an injured right shoulder. The highest-seeded man out of the bracket during the day session was No. 15 Holger Rune, who was eliminated by Brandon Nakashima of the U.S. 6-2, 6-1, 6-4.

Among the men's seeds advancing were No. 4 Alexander Zverev, the runner-up to Thiem four years ago; No. 6 Andrey Rublev; No. 8 Casper Ruud, the 2022 runner-up at Flushing Meadows; No. 9 Grigor Dimitrov; and No. 12 Taylor Fritz.

Zheng is enjoying a breakthrough season that began with a run to the final at the Australian Open in January and reached a peak when she claimed China's first Summer Games singles gold. Monday was difficult at the outset against 2019 French Open semifinalist Amanda Anisimova, but Zheng eventually came back to win 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

## Mbappé files complaint against PSG for 55m euros unpaid dues

MADRID, Aug 27: The judicial committee of the French Professional Football League will begin reviewing Kylian Mbappé's complaint against his former club, Paris Saint-Germain, this week. Mbappé accuses PSG of failing to pay him 55 million euros.

The committee will first examine the submitted documents. In the next phase, it will summon both parties to present their arguments and defend their positions, according to L'Equipe.

Mbappé, who left PSG as a free agent after his contract expired on June 30 to join Real Madrid, is

seeking 55 million euros from his former team. This amount covers unpaid salaries and bonuses accumulated over his six-season tenure with PSG.

Last week, French newspaper Le Monde reported that Mbappé had also lodged a complaint with the European Football Association (UEFA) over his unpaid dues. He is request-

## SOCCER

ing part of his annual loyalty bonus and three months' salary.

The legal committee is tasked with prohibiting a French club from signing new contracts if it is confirmed that the club has not met its financial obligations to a player.

On August 13, Mbappé formally notified the French Football Federation of his dispute and his appeal to UEFA for resolution.

## Al-Hilal seeks to extend winning streak

RIYADH, Aug 27: The second round of the Saudi Premier League continues with several exciting matches. Al-Hilal plays its first home game of the season in the capital, hosting Damak, who began its campaign with a home loss to Al-Khaleej.

Al-Hilal aims to build on their strong start to the season, having won the Saudi Super Cup and secured a 3-0 victory in its league opener at Al-Akhdoud

## SOCCER

Stadium. The match will take place at Prince Faisal bin Fahd Sports City Stadium in Riyadh.

Meanwhile, Al-Ettifaq welcomes Al-Akhdoud to its home ground. Al-Ettifaq is looking for back-to-back wins after its impressive opening victory against Al-Shabab, while Al-Akhdoud hopes to bounce back from a 3-0

defeat to Al-Hilal.

In Mecca, Al-Wehda hosts Al-Orobah, with both teams eager to secure their first win of the season. Al-Wehda played to a 3-3 draw with Riyadh in the opening round, while Al-Orobah fell 2-0 to Al-Ahli Jeddah.

The second round concludes on Thursday, with Al-Riyadh hosting Al-Khulud. Al-Riyadh eyes first victory after drawing with Al-Wehda in the previous round. Al-Khulud narrowly missed out on historic point in the Saudi League, losing to Al-Itihad in the dying moments.

Additionally, two matches will be played simultaneously. The first will feature Al-Itihad Jeddah against Al-Taawoun, with both teams looking to maintain their winning start to the season. The second match will see Al-Shabab visiting Al-Khaleej, as Al-Shabab searches for its first win after losing at home to Al-Ettifaq in the opening round.



Al Hilal players take part in training.

## Last-gasp Villarreal beats Celta

MADRID, Aug 27, (AP): Dani Parejo scored in the 10th minute of injury time to give Villarreal a 4-3 win over Celta Vigo in one of the most entertaining and eventful games of the Spanish league season so far.

Parejo saw his late penalty saved by Iván Villar but converted the rebound to secure the win in a game where the home side twice came from behind and then gave up the lead before snatching the victory at the very end.

Celta was one of only two teams to win its first two league games and went ahead after 11 minutes when Borja Iglesias took advantage of sloppy goalkeeping, but Sergi Cardona equalized 15 minutes later by slamming home a corner that was nodded across goal by Gerard Moreno.

Oscar Mingueza continued his recent fine form by putting Celta back ahead after half an hour with a low 30-yard free kick.

Then new signing Thierno Barry, who joined last week from FC Basel, headed home with his first touch of the ball only a minute after coming on as a substitute.

An own goal from Jailson gave Villarreal the lead until Carl Starfelt made it 3-3 with 10 minutes remaining.

Both sides pushed for a winner and Celta hit the post before the referee awarded a penalty to Villarreal for a foul on Barry.

"If you have to lose then that's the way," Iglesias said. "The fans must have enjoyed that game."





Captain of the team receives the inaugural Fatima Bint Mubarak GCC Basketball Cup from officials.

# Sports

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## Al-Qurain wins first Fatima Bint Mubarak GCC Cup

Sheikha Fatima bint Hazza celebrates success of inaugural tournament

ABU DHABI, Aug 27: Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Fatima bint Mubarak Ladies Sports Academy, as well as the Abu Dhabi Ladies Club and Al Ain Ladies Club, extended her heartfelt congratulations to all the teams that participated in the inaugural Fatima Bint Mubarak Academy GCC Basketball Cup for Ladies.

Hosted at the new headquarters of the Academy in Abu Dhabi, the event exemplified the leadership's commitment to supporting women and creating an ideal environment for sporting excellence.

### BASKETBALL

Her Highness expressed her deepest gratitude to Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, also known as the "Mother of the Nation," for her unwavering support across all fields to advance the role of women. The success of this tournament, held in the state-of-the-art sports hall at the new headquarters of the Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Sports Academy, stands as a testament to these efforts.

Commenting on the event, Her Highness said, "I am immensely proud and joyful over the success of the First Edition of the Fatima Bint Mubarak Academy GCC Basketball Cup for Ladies. This tournament has not only been a celebration of sportsmanship and excellence but has also showcased outstanding performances and fair competition at the highest level."

She added, "We were delighted to welcome our esteemed guests from the Gulf countries who participated in this prestigious tournament. Your participation embodies the spirit of cooperation and solidarity that binds our nations and strengthens our fraternal ties. Your presence was instrumental in the success of this event."

In her closing remarks, Her Highness expressed her admiration for Gulf women, particularly Emirati women, who continue to demonstrate exceptional talent and determination across various fields, including sports. She emphasized the importance of supporting women and their potential, as this is crucial for achieving further progress and accomplishments.

This message was delivered on the occasion of the Kuwaiti team Al-Qurain winning the title of the First Edition of the Fatima Bint Mubarak Academy GCC Basketball Cup for Ladies. Under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak and the directives of Sheikha Fatima bint Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Al-Qurain secured victory in the final against the Qatari team Al-Gharafa with a score of 71-55 at the Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Sports Academy in Abu Dhabi. In the third-place match, the Omani team Salalah defeated the Fatima Bint Mubarak Academy basketball team with a score of 52-39.

The awards ceremony was attended



Al-Qurain, winners of the 1st Fatima Bint Mubarak GCC Basketball Cup celebrate after the awarding ceremony.

by senior officials, including His Excellency Talal Al Hashimi, a member of the Board of Directors of the Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Sports Academy, alongside representatives from the participating delegations.

The organization of the Fatima Bint Mubarak Academy GCC Basketball Cup for Ladies is of great importance in promoting and developing women's sports. It provides a crucial platform for identifying and nurturing new talents, thus enhancing the technical and tactical performance of the teams. The tournament garnered unprecedented public and media attention, underscoring the community's interest in women's sports and encouraging the Academy to continue organizing future editions, contributing to the ongoing development of sports and support for female athletes.

In this context, His Excellency Talal Al Hashimi expressed his gratitude to all the entities that contributed to the success of the tournament's first edition. He commended the efforts of sports institutions in the UAE and all the sponsors, including the Abu Dhabi Police General Headquarters, Emirates Transport, Abu Dhabi Media Network,

Al Ain Water, and Burjeel Medical City. He emphasized that this success is not just a victory for the Academy but for women's sports in the UAE and the Gulf region as a whole. He also noted that the Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Sports Academy has become a national platform for nurturing talents and highlighted the leadership's support for the tournament and its outcomes.

Mr. Abdullah Mutawa, head of the Al-Qurain Kuwaiti Club delegation, expressed pride in his team's performance during the tournament, praising the players' impressive achievements. He noted that the fierce competition contributed to the development and excellence of the players as they prepare for the challenges of the upcoming season.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hamdan Al Zaabi, Board Member of the UAE Basketball Federation, praised the significant efforts put into organizing women's sports tournaments. He highlighted that this edition has produced a group of talented basketball players and emphasized that collective efforts in women's sports contribute to presenting inspiring role models, reflecting the notable success achieved by the tournament.

## Zubaid breaks record, Kuwait continues success at Arab Aquatics Championships

CAIRO, Aug 27, (KUNA): Kuwait's national swimming team delivered another impressive performance, the second day of the Arab Aquatics competition in Cairo. The team added six medals to their tally, bringing Kuwait's total to 14 medals.

### SWIMMING

Mohammad Zubaid continued his standout performance, securing his third gold medal of the tournament in the 50 meters freestyle for the 15-16 age groups. He set a new Arab record with a time of 26.60



KUNA photo: One of the winners poses with an official.

seconds, according to delegation Chief Faisal Abualhassan. Kuwait's Khaled Al-Otaibi, Saud Al-Enzi, and Abdullah Sul-

tan also contributed to the medal haul, each winning bronze medals in their respective events.

In the relay events, Kuwait excelled once again, clinching a silver medal in the 4x100 meter freestyle relay for the 13-14 age groups. The relay team, consisting of Hassan Zaid, Humoud Al-Humoud, Meshary Al-Haqan, and Abdullah Sultan, completed the race in 3:50.73 minutes.

The competition features separate categories for boys and girls across the 13-18 age group and includes athletes from 17 Arab countries. It is scheduled to continue until Wednesday.

Al-Sorour looking to build on his previous successes

## Kuwait gearing up for more Paralympics accomplishments

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27, (KUNA): Since its debut at the 1980 Paralympic Games, the Kuwait Disabled Sports Club has achieved remarkable success, accumulating a total of 52 medals across various competitions.

The club's journey began at the Arnhem 1980 Paralympics in the Netherlands, where it won two gold, two silver, and one bronze medal. Their success continued at the 1984 Paralympics in Stoke Mandeville, England, with a total of eight medals: one gold, three silver, and four bronze.

### PARALYMPICS

The 1988 Seoul Paralympics marked a high point with Kuwait winning 17 medals, including five gold, five silver, and seven bronze. At the 1992 Barcelona Paralympics, the team added one gold, three silver, and one bronze to its tally.

In the 1996 Atlanta Paralympics, Kuwait earned three medals and followed up with five medals in Sydney 2000 and six in Athens 2004. However, the team did not secure medals in Beijing 2008 and London 2012. Redemption came at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Paralympics with one gold medal, and in Tokyo 2020, it won one silver and one bronze. Overall, the club has won 12 gold, 18 silver, and 22



Athletics Paralympic champion Faisal Al-Sorour celebrates with the Kuwaiti flag.

bronze medals.

Looking ahead, the Kuwait Disabled Sports Club is preparing for the Paris 2024 Paralympics, scheduled from August 28 to September 8. The team will feature three athletes in track and field events, who have been training in camps in Turkey and the UAE.

Mansour Al-Sarhid, Chairman of the Paralympic Committee and Head of the Kuwait delegation, stated, "We aim to continue the journey for Kuwait's Paralympic champions through our administrative and technical efforts." He emphasized the team's strong potential, supported by local sports authorities like the Youth Public



Board chairman of the Paralympics committee and the head of the Kuwait delegation Mansour Al-Sarhid.

Authority and the Public Authority for Sport.

Faisal Al-Sorour expressed his determination to set a high record and build on his previous successes, including a bronze medal from Tokyo 2020. He is focused on achieving an advanced position and making his country proud.

Ahmad Al-Mutairi, another prominent athlete, praised the Kuwait Disabled Sports Club and its staff for their support, which has enabled him to secure two medals in wheelchair racing — one gold at Rio 2016 and one silver at Tokyo 2020. He also holds three global medals from events in Doha 2015, London 2017, and Dubai 2019, along with three world records in wheelchair racing.

Al-Mutairi commended Kuwaiti athletes and the official bodies for their support, which has helped them excel in international competitions. The Paralympic Games cater to athletes with various disabilities. In addition to the Paralympics, the Special Olympics Global Games provide opportunities for athletes with intellectual disabilities. The Special Olympics Kuwait team has also achieved success, winning 21 medals — seven gold, 10 silver, and four bronze — against a field of 7,000 athletes worldwide.

Kuwait friendly vs Bahrain canceled

By Khaled Al-Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DUBAI, Aug 27: The Kuwait's Argentine coach, Juan Pizzi is focused on elevating the team's preparation and intensifying training sessions, especially after the planned friendly match against Bahrain was canceled. This match was part of the national team's training camp as it gears up for a crucial World Cup qualifying match against Jordan on September 5.

The Bahraini national team had to withdraw from the scheduled friendly in Dubai due to its departure for Australia, where it will also play on September 5 in the qualifiers.

In response, Pizzi conducted multiple training sessions, dividing the players into groups to test various tactics. This approach was aimed at assessing the readiness of all players and ensuring they are well-prepared for the opening match.

### SOCCER

The team continues its training in two daily sessions: mornings in the hotel gym and evenings at the Police Officers Club stadium in Dubai, UAE. The training camp will run until September 2, after which the team will travel to the Jordanian capital.



Kuwait led by the head coach intensifies training in Dubai.