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FRIDAY-SATURDAY, AUGUST 30-31, 2024 / SAFAR 26-27, 1446 AH

emergency number 112

NO. 18684

16 PAGES

**150 FILS** 

The Chief of Staff conducts an inspection tour of the 15th Armored Brigade (Mubarak) and the 94th Mechanized Brigade (Saleh Mohammed).

'Army deterrent force

against all challenges'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29, (KUNA): The Chief of Staff of

the Kuwait Army Lieutenant General (Pilot) Bandar Al-

Muzain affirmed that the Kuwait Army serves as both a steadfast shield and a deterrent force against various inter-

In a statement issued on Thursday following an inspec-

tion tour of the 15th Armored Brigade (Mubarak) and the 94th Mechanized Brigade (Saleh Mohammed), Lieutenant

General Al-Muzain highlighted that maintaining the sta-

bility and security of the homeland is the foremost goal of

During his visit to the 15th Armored Brigade

(Mubarak), Lieutenant General Al-Muzain was received

by Brigade Commander Brigadier General Hamad Has-

san and several brigade officers. During his visit to the 94th Mechanized Brigade (Saleh Mohammed), he was

received by the Commander of the 106th Mechanized

Infantry Battalion, Brigadier General Saleh Saud, and

briefing on their operations, duties, and responsibilities.

to perform their various tasks and duties.

When visiting the two brigades, he received a detailed

Lieutenant General Al-Muzain praised the members of

He commended their dedication to continuous training and professional development, and wished them continued

Lieutenant General Al-Muzain encouraged them to con-

tinue their hard work and sacrifice to protect the homeland, honor their oath and allegiance to His Highness the Amir,

the Supreme Commander of the Kuwait Armed Forces,

both brigades for their efficiency, capability, and readiness

nal and external challenges.

the armed forces.

several brigade officers.

success and fulfillment.

### Dusty, hot weekend expected as winds intensify

**Summer travel declines 30 pct** 

amid regional crises, inflation

Airlines slash fares to revive slumping demand



Photo by Mahmoud Jadeed

Private fishing and leisure boats moored at the Sharq Fish Market. Temperature is predicted to remain hot, with rising dust over the weekend.

#### and His Highness the Crown Prince. **Continued on Page 5**

#### T2 to help accommodate rise in air traffic: minister

'Work in full swing'

#### **By Mohammad Ghanem** Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan reaffirmed her commitment to advancing the country's air transport infrastructure by implementing the highest international standards in civil aviation.

During a periodic meeting with representatives of the government agencies involved in the new airport terminal T2 project including the representative of the Government Performance Follow-up Agency and Acting Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Duaij Al-Otaibi, the minister revealed that they agreed on the need to ensure the project is completed promptly and within the established time schedule as specified in the

Dr. Al-Mashaan said, "The ministry is working diligently and collaboratively to ensure the completion of the new T2 passenger terminal, which will significantly enhance the passenger experience and expand our capacity to handle the anticipated increase in air traffic.

She stressed that the new airport project reflects the commitment to developing the civil aviation sector and its vital role in supporting the country's economic growth. After the meeting, Dr. Al-Mashaan emphasized the im-

portance of coordination to resolve outstanding issues and overcome obstacles to ensure the project's timely comple-

She explained that the meeting held discussions concerning DGCA's Letter No. 7/10261, and reviewed the latest developments regarding telecommunications companies and coordination efforts for phase 3. Discussions were also held concerning the roads leading to Kuwait International Airport, with the need to pay attention to address potential obstacles that passengers may face upon arriving at the airport.

The minister stated that the new passenger terminal project is a key part of the ambitious national projects to develop and modernize the country's infrastructure, in line with the New Kuwait 2035 vision, and to transform Kuwait into a regional and global financial and commercial

**Continued on Page 5** 

#### Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya extended his condolences on Thursday over the passing of former Lebanese Prime Minister and former Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) advisor, Dr. Salim Al-Hoss.

While signing the condolence book at the Lebanese Embassy in Kuwait, Al-Yahya expressed heartfelt sympathy to the Lebanese government and people during this time of loss. (KUNA)

RAMALLAH: On Thursday, Israeli aggression in the occupied Palestinian territories claimed the lives of three Palestinian youths and injured another in the **Nour Shams** camp, located in the West Bank city of Tulkarem. Meanwhile, 32 Palestinians were killed and dozens more were wounded in the **Gaza Strip**.

The Israeli military said it killed five more militants, in-

cluding a local commander, early Thursday in the West Bank as it pressed ahead with what appeared to be the deadliest military operation in the occupied territory since the start of the war in Gaza. (Agencies)

RIYADH: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud met with European Council President Charles Michel in Riyadh on Wednesday to discuss

They explored the opportunities to improve cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the European Union member countries, as well as regional and international issues of common concern, according to the Saudi Press Agency. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29, (KUNA): The Meteorological Department has forecasted hot to warm weather with potential dust over the weekend, influenced by the Indian seasonal low and the European high, resulting in active northwesterly winds, particularly in desert areas.

Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi, Director of the Department, informed KUNA that Thursday's weather will be very hot, with moderate to active northwesterly winds reaching speeds of 20 to 50 kilometers per hour, causing dust. The maximum temperature is expected to range between 44 and 47 degrees Celsius. The sea will sionally rising between 2 and 6 feet.

Thursday night will see hot to warm conditions with light to moderate northwesterly winds, occasionally becoming active at speeds between 12 and 42 kilometers per hour. The minimum temperature is expected to be between 32 and 34 degrees Celsius, and the sea conditions will remain light to moderate, with simi-

lar wave heights. For Friday, hot weather continues, with northwesterly winds maintaining speeds of 20 to 50 kilometers per hour, causing dust. The maximum temperature will hover between 45 and 47 degrees Celsius, and sea conditions will be similar, with waves rising occasionally between 2 and

Friday night will bring hot weather with northwesterly winds of light to moderate strength, sometimes active at speeds of 12 to 42 kilometers per hour, with temperatures dropping to 32 to 34 degrees Celsius. The sea will be light to moderate, with wave heights remaining consistent.

**Continued on Page 5** 

Kuwaiti citizen elected

energy center director

CAIRO, Egypt, Aug 29, (KUNA): The Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Effi-

ciency (RCREEE) elected on Wednesday Ahmad

Al-Dousari, director of renewable energy depart-

Al-Dousari

ment at Ministry of Elec-

tricity, Water and Renew-

able Energy.
Speaking to KUNA, Al-

Dousari said he was chosen

during the 22nd meeting of

the council held on August

the council coincides with

the country's plans towards

developing and diversify-

ing renewable energy sourc-

Kuwait's presidency of

25-26 in Cairo.

es, he said.

He added the country is seeking to complete

the Shagaya Renewable Energy Park, one of the

largest projects globally as its total output is 4500

He affirmed that the renewable energy and en-

ergy efficiency witnesses growing attention paid by Kuwait, mainly after the Kuwaiti government

**Continued on Page 5** 

### **Kuwait revokes citizenship of 78** more people of multiple origins

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29, (KUNA): During its meeting on Thursday, presided over by the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, the Supreme Committee for the Investigation of Kuwaiti Citizenship took the decision to withdraw Kuwaiti nationality of 78 individuals. The decision will be referred to the Council of Ministers for further consideration.

The Ministry of Interior issued a statement to announce this decision after the committee's meet-

The members of the committee include the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheridah Al-Muasharji, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers Saleh Al-Mulla, and Secretary of the Supreme Committee for the Investigation of Kuwaiti Citizenship Counselor Mubarak Bu

The statement outlined the committee's decision

- Loss of Kuwaiti nationality: 17 cases affected, based on Article 11 of Kuwaiti Nationality Law No. 15/1959 and its amendments.
- Withdrawal of Kuwaiti nationality certificates: 29 cases affected, in accordance with Article 21 bis (a) of Kuwaiti Nationality Law No. 15/1959 and its amendments ■ Withdrawal of Kuwaiti citizenship: 32 cases af-
- fected, in accordance with Article 13 of Kuwaiti Nationality Law No. 15/1959 and its amendments. The individuals affected by the decision are of a

big range of nationalities, including Saudi, Egyptian, Jordanian, Palestinian, Syrian, Iraqi, Lebanese, Somali, Iranian, American, and Bedoun.

In May, an Amiri decree was issued to form the Supreme Committee to Investigate Kuwaiti Citizenship, appointing First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister as the Com mittee's head, while the deputy prime minister and minister of state for cabinet affairs, the foreign minister and secretary general of the council of ministers are also members.

Earlier, Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, reaffirmed the ongoing efforts to enforce labor market regulations through inspections and visits to worker gathering sites across various governorates.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Interior reported that Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef chaired a meeting with the Public Authority for Manpower's board of directors.

The meeting, attended by Acting Director General Marzoug Al-Otaibi and other board members, was part of continuous efforts to enhance and develop policies that serve the country's various sectors.

The Minister commended the ongoing work by the Authority to improve labor market mechanisms and meet its needs, ensuring that the strategic goals of the state in human and economic development

Additionally, the Minister was briefed on security campaigns targeting residency law violators and means to address these issues.

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

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29:** There has been a noticeable decline in travel this summer season compared to last year. Experts attribute this to several factors that have directly impacted the behavior of travelers in travel and tourism sectors. These factors mainly include regional tensions, inflation, and economic factors.

According to experts from travel and tourism agencies, a 30 percent decrease in ticket reservations was witnessed this year compared to the previous year. This decline is influenced by multiple factors, including inflation in various countries, and political events, particularly the situation in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

Another factor is the implementation of fingerprint attendance systems for employees, who previously used to travel frequently on weekends from Thursday to Saturday but are now restricted to nearby destinations.

Many countries have experienced a noticeable rise in inflation rates, which has led to increased travel costs and reduced the purchasing power of travelers.

Meanwhile, sources revealed that some airlines have recently resorted to partnering with travel agencies to stimulate travel by offering good discounts ranging from 30 to 40 percent on ticket prices

They explained that these initiatives were implemented after airlines observed a decline in travel activity and a decrease in departing passengers. By promoting these reduced prices, the airlines aim to encourage travelers to take advantage of the offers, in an effort to boost demand for travel.

**Continued on Page 5** 

### **48,239 Kuwaitis** get UK 'e-visas'

By Fares Al-Abdan Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: British Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis has announced that 48,239 Kuwaitis obtained electronic travel authorization (ETA) since the service was launched in February until the end of June.

In a press statement, Lewis disclosed the statistics showed that Kuwaitis are the second among the citizens of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in obtaining ETA, after the citizens of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

She added "the United Kingdom's launching of ETA for Kuwaitis, other GCC nationals and Jordanians reflects our desire to continue strengthening ties that support our special relations with this region. People who obtained ETA now enjoy the flexibility to make multiple short-term visits to the United Kingdom for tourism, work, study or treatment within two years."

Science, tech fair ends

### **KOC** presents project at IMAGE 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29, (KUNA): Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) showcased its latest achievement and project at the annual International Meeting for Applied Geoscience & Energy (IMAGE 2024) held in Houston, Texas.

The four-day exhibition, which concluded on Thursday, to uncover the latest geoscience developments and technologies, KOC said in a state-

Deputy Chief Executive Officer West Kuwait, at KOC Fuad Al-Shaikh, said in a statement that many leading Geoscience companies and institutions participated in the expo, where the latest innovations and technical developments aimed at improving oil and gas production operation, extractions as well as reducing the environmental effect of those stages.

Al-Shaikh who also headed the delegation, said that participating in exhibitions as such boosts the company's developments in the energy sector, and achieves its strategic objectives in refining operation efficiency, as well as safeguarding the

He further added that the expo also, included

**Continued on Page 5** 



The KOC delegation participating in the exhibition in Houston.

### **Kuwait approves entry for 200 Iraqi fans ahead of qualifier**

By Khaled Al-Anzi Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: In response to what was published by Al-Seyassah in yesterday's issue the acting head of the Football Association, Haif Al-Mutairi, announced that Kuwaiti authorities have permitted 200 Iraqi fans to enter the country to attend the upcoming match between Kuwait and Iraq on September 10. This match is part of the second round of Group Two in the third round of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers for the United States, Canada,

It was said earlier that these decisions could potentially lead to tensions between the two nations, especially after the governor of Iraq's Basra city, Ahmed Al-Eidani, previously stated, "We will treat the fans in the same way."

**Continued on Page 5** 

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 15-45 km/h with a chance for rising dust and some scattered clouds

By Night: Hot to rather hot with

Weather

light to moderate freshening at times over coastal areas northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-

Station Max Exp **Kuwait City** Kuwait Airport

32 29 35 30 35 34 32 32 Abdalv Bubyan Jahra Failaka Island Salmiyah Ahmadi Jal Aliyah Nuwaisib

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

#### **Arab strategy proclaimed during inaugural session: Al-Sheikh**

### 'Kuwait's participation in youth forum stems from joint Arab action advocacy'

AMMAN, Aug 29, (KUNA): Kuwait's participation in the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security stems from its advocacy of joint Arab action and necessity of upgrading the youth potentials, an official of the Gulf state said.

The official, Nasser Al-Sheikh, the Acting Director General of the Public Youth Authority, was speaking to KUNA, on Thursday, after participating in the forum that kicked off in the Jordanian capital on Wednesday.

He affirmed that an Arab strategy was proclaimed during the inaugural session, calling for the youth active role in development, peace and security. It also aimed at bolstering the joint Arab action and empowering the juniors to partake in decision

Al-Sheikh underscored necessity of enhancing the youngsters' skills regarding the knowledge, creative and green economies, designed to improve the human race welfare and protect nations against environmental perils.

He indicated that a ministerial-level session had been held within the forum quarters, discussing ideas on how to make and diversify skills in tandem with the technological progress, where the youngsters would be able to compete in the labor market and help attain states' plans for economic diversification.

### MoE reaffirms commitment to integrating modern technology

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: The Ministry of Education reaffirmed its commitment to integrating modern technology in line with rapid digital advancements and investing in the future of education, opening new avenues for blended learning to enhance students' digital skills, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an announcement on its social media account 'X', the ministry revealed the introduction of 5,125 interactive screens across various educational stages.

This initiative aims to create a more engaging and interactive learning environment that fosters innovation and creativity among both teachers and students, as part of preparations for the upcoming 2024-2025 academic year.

The ministry highlighted the installation of 294 screens in computer labs at the elementary level, 472 in computer labs at the intermediate level, and 4,359 in computer labs and classrooms at the secondary level.

The introduction of interactive screens is intended to stimulate engagement and activity in the classroom, improve the clarity of educational materials, encourage teamwork and collaboration, provide diverse educational resources, enhance technological skills, and support the sharing of educational content and distance learning.





Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya offered on Thursday his condolences over the death of former Lebanese prime minister Dr. Salim Ál-Hoss.



Flyer of the festival

#### **Event to run from Nov 10 to 16**

### KIFF sets stage for cinematic event; gears up for next grand celebration

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: The Kuwait International Film Festival (KIFF) is setting the stage for a cinematic celebration as it gears up for its next grand event, running from November 10 to 16, 2024, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The festival, hosted by the American International University (AIU) in partnership with Cinescape, promises to be a significant highlight for filmmakers from around the

This year's festival will take place at the AIU, showcasing a diverse array of films across multiple categories.

These include Ārab and international short feature films, Arab and international short documentary films, as well as Arab feature films and documentaries.

Each category is designed to spotlight exceptional talent and provide filmmakers with a global platform to present their work. Filmmakers have the opportunity to gain exposure and connect with key figures in the industry, thanks to the festival's focus on celebrating a wide range of voices and perspectives. The KIFF offers a unique chance to network, share insights, and explore potential collaborations that could elevate their careers.

To participate, filmmakers can submit their entries via FilmFreeway, where they will find detailed submission guidelines and criteria. This festival not only recognizes excellence through various awards but also provides a space for meaningful interactions and growth within the cinematic community.

For more information and to submit your film, visit the KIFF submission page on FilmFreeway. The festival is poised to be an exciting event for both emerging and established filmmakers eager to showcase their work on an international stage.



Acting Director General of the Public Youth Authority Nasser Al-Sheikh in a group photo during the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security

### **New circular mandates 3rd fingerprint** attendance for medical support staff

MoH continues to improve health services and facilities: Al-Naham

#### By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and **Agencies** 

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29:** The Ministry of Health recently issued a circular to the directors of health districts, hospitals and health centers on the need to apply the third fingerprint attendance mechanism on the medical support staff, reports Al-Rai daily.

The circular states that the abovementioned staff must register their fingerprint attendance during official working hours -within 60 minutes two hours after the start of the official working hours with the commitment to register the fingerprint at the end of the working day.

Based on the directives of the health minister, as well as Articles 80 and 81 fessions Law No. 70/ 2020; Circular No. 89/2024 stipulates that the medical support staff are obligated to prove their presence at the workplace during official working hours by registering their fingerprint within 60 minutes two hours after the start of the working day. This is in accordance with Civil Service Commission Resolution No. 6/2024 on adding Article 10bis to CSC Resolution No. 41/2006, which stipulates the rules and regulations re-

garding official working hours. Meanwhile, Assistant Undersecretary for Engineering Affairs and Projects Ibrahim Al-Naham disclosed that the ministry's vision to provide the best health services includes the development of health facilities in order to ensure the comfort and safety of citizens, and to make the health system

Al-Nahham made the statement when he visited Abdulrahman and Walid Manahi Al-Asimi Cardiac Intensive Care Center near the Chest Diseases Hospital and Nasser Al-Saeed Pediatric Dental Center in Abdullah Al-Salem suburb. He was accompanied by the ministry's specialized engineering teams.

He affirmed that the ministry focuses on improving the quality of health services and to modernize its facilities to keep pace with the latest international healthcare standards.

He said these projects aim to improve the health services provided to citizens, stressing these facilities are considered an added value to the healthcare system in the country and significantly contribute to ongoing efforts to meet the citizens' health needs in certain fields like cardiology and pediatric dental treatment. He underscored the need to complete these projects within the specified period.

He also thanked the engineering teams and employees for their efforts, while expressing appreciation for the unwavering support of Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi and Undersecretary Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi who are closely monitoring the implementation of projects according to the highest standards to achieve the desired goals.

This is part of a series of inspection visits to look into the progress of construction projects supervised by the ministry and to ensure their completion as per the timetable.

During the visit, Al-Mutairi re viewed the completion rates of the two centers; whereas the challenges that the engineering teams are facing and ways to overcome them were discussed to guarantee the completion of the projects according to the approved engineering and health standards.



Hawally Governor Al-Asfar chairs the meeting.

Al-Seyassah photo

Hawalli Governorate Council reviews latest developments

During the fourth regular meeting, held at the governorate's general office and chaired by Hawalli Governor Ali Al-Asfar, the Hawalli Governorate Council reviewed the latest developments and challenges faced by the region and its residents, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The meeting featured a detailed visual presentation that highlighted the key problems affecting the areas within the governorate, clarifying issues and establishing priorities for resolution.

The discussions focused on identifying and implementing urgent measures to address these challenges, aiming to enhance the urban environment, promote sustainable development, and improve the quality of services provided to citizens.

The council emphasized the importance of close cooperation with relevant authorities and the monitoring of progress through periodic reports to the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousif.



New French Ambassador to Kuwait.



KUNA photos

Outgoing Argentine Ambassador

#### FM receives credentials of new French ambassador

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received on Thursday credentials of new ambassador of France to Kuwait Oliver Govin.

The minister wished the new ambassador success in his work and to the bilateral relations between the two countries progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Thursday Ambassador of Argentina Claudia Alejandra Zampieri on the occasion of the end of her term as ambassador of her country to Kuwait.

#### 10-point evaluation system to replace 360 method

New mechanism for unified promotion system to fill grades 17 and above positions in oil sector

#### By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ku-

wait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud Al-Sabah recently issued a circular to the CEOs of oil companies affiliated with the corporation and the managing directors of the corporation; outlining the new mechanism for the unified promotion system to fill grades 17 and above positions in the oil sector, along with the suspension of the evaluation of candidates using the 360 method.

The circular, which will be implemented in early September, stressed the need to evaluate candidates for any of the abovementioned positions using the 10-point system covering the responsibilities and tasks required for the position to be compared to the candidate's capabilities and qualifications.

#### **News in Brief**

**Query on telecom towers:** Municipal Council member Walid Al-Dagher on Tuesday

submitted questions to the Kuwait Municipality regarding the telecommunication towers, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In his letter to the Municipality, Al-Dagher asked about the legal basis for allowing telecommunication companies to install their towers on real estate and State properties.

He wanted to know the health impact of telecommunication towers on real estate properties or near residential areas. He inquired: What is the legal basis for licensing telecommunication companies to install their towers on real estate properties in private residential areas and the State properties? How many such licenses have been issued to telecommunication companies? How many violations were recorded against telecommunication companies for installing their towers on the aforementioned properties? What are the harmful effects of these towers to one's health and other damages? He concluded his letter by emphasizing the need for the Municipality to respond to the questions of council members within the specified period of two months.

# diwaniya وحيوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

### 'Is power outage crisis a result of mismanagement & neglect?'

#### 1,372 cases of cancer among children: CAN

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Cancer Awareness Campaign (CAN), recently reported on the prevalence of cancer among children in Kuwait, reports Al-Jarida

According to the Kuwait Cancer Control Center, there are currently 1.372 documented cases of childhood cancer, which translates to an average of 160 new cases annually.

This figure represents 5.2 percent of all cancer cases, with approximately 54.9 percent of those affected being male.

Dr. Al-Saleh noted that the average age at diagnosis is 9.1 years for Kuwaiti children and 7.9 years for non-Kuwaiti children.

Around 54.8 percent of these cases involve children under the age of 10, and 87.3 percent of the diagnosed children have their disease under control. Leukemia is the most prevalent type of cancer among children, accounting for 40 percent of cases, followed by brain

He emphasized the importance of early detection and urged parents to conduct periodic health examinations when symptoms arise.

Dr. Al-Saleh also highlighted the need for a healthy lifestyle to mitigate cancer risk factors and praised the ongoing support provided to cancer patients by service provid-



Jahra Governor Al-Habashi meeting with Public Security and Traffic Departments officials.

#### **Traffic issues discussed**

### Jahra governor says committed to developing roads and streets

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi emphasized the governorate's dedication to exploring solutions and developing effective mechanisms

to improve roads and streets, reports Al-Seyassah daily. He expressed gratitude to officials in the Public Security and Traffic Departments for their efforts in address-

ing the governoratte's needs. During a meeting with officials from these departments, Al-Habashi discussed traffic issues in Jahra and potential solutions involving key expressways and in-

The proposals included the construction of pedestrian bridges over the Fourth Ring Road between Amghara and Jaber Al-Ahmad City, Marzouq Al-Mutaib Road, and Daabal Al-Khuzai Street.

Moreover, a roundabout on Marzouq Al-Mutaib Road and a mesh barrier along the Sixth Ring Road were suggested to enhance traffic management and safety.

# Deportation of expatriate halted after alleged arson in prison cell

Expat's success drives Kuwaiti partners' greed; KD 270 stolen



Central Market Board of Directors meeting with Ministry of Interior employees.

#### **Board holds series of meetings**

### Central Market to offer better services for Mol employees

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: As part of ongoing efforts to enhance services for Ministry of Interior employees and citizens, the Board of Directors of the Central Market for Ministry of Interior employees held a series of meetings to discuss initiatives aimed at improving and developing the market, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The discussions focused on reorganizing internal departments and expanding the variety of products and goods available to better meet the needs of market-goers, including Ministry of Interior employees and citizens. Moreover, the importance of offering regular promotional deals and discounts

was emphasized, which would help support the purchasing power of those visiting the market.

These meetings are part of a broader effort to improve the quality of services offered at the market, ensuring that the needs of customers are met effectively and flexibly.

The goal is to provide a wide range of products at competitive prices while continually enhancing the services available.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General Eng. Tawhid Abdullah Al-Kandari, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Vice Chairman Major General Eng. Ayad Al-Haddad, and other board members.

Nazaha provides protection for 16 out of 56

#### **Cybercrime chief warns of rising online scams**

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: Acting head of the Support Services Unit at the Combating Cybercrime Department in the Interior Ministry Lieutenant Colonel Ammar Hamid Al-Sarraf has warned about the prevalence of scams in the country, urging parents to keep an eye on their children, and to closely monitor the games the children buy or download and their social media

contacts, reports Al-Qabas daily. Al-Sarraf recently revealed in 'Ishraqat Kuwaitiya' program on Al-Akhbar Channel that the mother of a female Kuwaiti student asked for help; because she could no longer control her daughter who spent more than KD20,000 on online games and to support TikTok contents.

He said the social media advertisements are the main source of scams in the country, stressing the need for everyone to know the Cybercrime Law in order to protect themselves and respect the rights of others.

He pointed out there is a 'scam season' in the country; citing as an example the time when Kuwaitis need to hire domestic workers from abroad, particularly the impersonation Al-Durra Company to carry out fraudulent recruitment operations.

He disclosed the swindlers usually obtain telephone numbers through the authentication service on fraudulent websites. He added these unscrupulous individuals purchase telephone lines using someone's data; stating they do not request for OTP, as they use the authentication service to steal.

Meanwhile, the annual report of Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) revealed that it approved 16 out of 56 protection requests it has received since inception until the end of March; clarifying the law on its establishment and the executive regulations are not applicable to the 40 rejected requests, reports Al-Rai daily.

The report -- covering the period from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 -- revealed that the approved protection requests include two requests for legal protection, as well as seven requests for administrative and job protection.

It added that nine of the rejected protection requests are due to the lack of connection between the justifications for providing protection and the role of whistle-blowers in combating corruption or their reports registered in Nazaha or other concerned

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: The deportation of a 1967-born expatriate has been postponed after he was accused of deliberately setting fire to his solitary confinement cell, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, the expatriate had caused several issues at the deportees' department in Sulaibiya, due to which he was placed in solitary confinement. W shile in isolation, he allegedly started a fire in his cell.

The deputy public prosecutor was notified and he instructed that a case, which has been classified as a felony, be filed.

Kuwaiti partners in 'greed': An expatriate has accused his two Kuwaiti partners of theft after the latter demanded an increase in their monthly payments from KD 2,000 to KD 4,000 each even though they contribute nothing but their names to the business, reports Al-Anba daily.

Forensic evidence technicians were called to the company in Al-Salhiya to collect evidence after the expatriate alleged that his Kuwaiti partners had broken into the company, damaged the main door, and stolen contracts. He also provided video footage which showed them breaking the door of the company.

According to the expatriate, his two Kuwaiti partners were aware of a new contract he had secured with a major national company worth KD 1.8 million. They then demanded an increase in their monthly payment from KD 2,000 to KD 4,000. He refused, explaining that he is an expatriate due to which he has to rely on their names for the company's legitimacy, and there is no other benefit. These two citizens then reportedly broke into the company at dawn and stole the contracts.

Necessary investigations are ongoing in this regard.

Expat assaulted, robbed of KD 270: An unknown individual assaulted a 40-year old expatriate and robbed him of KD 270 in Amghara, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the expatriate told the police that he was walking in Amghara at approximately 6:00 pm when he was approached by a man in a red 4WD vehicle. The man, whom the expatriate did not recognize, struck him in the face and forcibly took his wallet, which contained KD 270 and

Based on the instructions from the Attorney General's representative, the case has been classified as a felony involving theft by coercion. The expatriate included a medical report to the case, which stated, "an allegation of assault by others with no visible injuries.'

Cigarettes, K-Net device stolen: Criminal securitymen arrested a 38-year-old citizen for stealing cigarettes and a K-Net device from a grocery in Salmiya, reports Al-Anba daily. According to a security source, a citizen -- who owns the

grocery -- and his expatriate employee informed police that an unknown person asked the employee to give him a pack of cigarettes and the K-Net device to pay for the cigarettes; but he fled upon receiving the cigarettes and the device. The complainant provided police with a video clip of the

incident. The video clip showed images of the suspect and his vehicle. Upon identifying the suspect, the officers summoned him for questioning; during which he disclosed that he smoked the cigarettes and threw the K-Net device on the highway; indicating he does not remember the exact location where he tossed the device.

When the staff of the grocery was summoned to identify the suspect, he confirmed that the latter is the culprit.

Further investigations revealed that the accused has a criminal record - theft. The investigators discovered that he is a habitual thief and another theft case had earlier been filed against him under No. 2023/321 at the Farwaniya Misdemeanor Court.

Car rental office accused of theft: A 34-year-old citizen filed a complaint at a police station against a car rental office that allegedly stole KD100 from him, reports Al-Anba daily.

The complainant said he rented a vehicle and parked it in front of his house. However, the car rental office took the vehicle without informing him. He claimed the office put a tracking device in the vehicle; hence, they knew its location. He stated that he put KD100 in the vehicle, without clarifying whether he paid the car rental fee or not.

The owner of the car rental office will be summoned soon to verify the complaint.

"IF someone were to tell me one day that we would experience a programmed power outage in Kuwait, a small, rich oil country, I would have been certain that he was joking, but we witnessed it in bitter reality, not only because the power was cut off for hours in some areas, but because this programmed power outage indicated a great deal of negligence, mismanagement, and in Kuwaiti terms, 'laziness'," columnist **Asrar Johar** Hayat wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"The first question that comes to our minds is: 'Do we lack the budget, and that is why we have no electricity'? The answer is undoubtedly no, but for

years we have suffered from mismanagement, laxity in work, and other phenomena that cost us this year a few hours of power outage, and who knows what it



will cost us in the coming years, God

"First, as Al-Qabas revealed to us, there were global initiatives, from companies specializing in the field of electricity that were presented to Kuwait, but we neglected or ignored them, even though they produce energy for us at half the cost at which we currently produce energy.

"The paradox that is more disturbing than the power outage is that we have the money, and we can conclude agreements, and work on the sustainability of all services, not just energy, but we have lived through the experience of programmed power outages, which many countries less wealthy than us have overcome, decades ago!

"Our problem does not seem to have been born this year. Unfortunately, we have lived for many years in some areas without planning or sustainability in work. In colloquial language, 'we go one day at a time' without having strategic plans that measure the increase in population, and thus the increase in their needs.

"The absence of the concept of sustainability in our projects has today caused a planned power outage, and will cause more negative phenomena unless we pay attention immediately and reconsider our calculations, and work according to strategic plans and sustainable thinking, and plan at least for the next ten or fifteen years.

I cannot fail to mention here, in the context of pointing out the wasted initiatives that we have neglected, the smart meter tender, where I lived the experience up close.

"In 2010, I was managing a company, and I applied for the smart meter tender at the time. I even visited Abu Dhabi to learn about their experience in this regard.

"So who is responsible for all this delay? Losing opportunities due to negligence and mismanagement ... is corruption of another kind as well."

#### Also:

"During a Parliament session in 1985, I proposed a law to increase the children's allowance. Although the government initially rejected it, the

National Assembly approved it, and the increase was eventually implemented," columnist Ahmed Yaqoub Baqir wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"During the same session, I also proposed a law requiring the Min-istry of Health to regulate medicine prices to combat inflation.

"This proposal led to the issuance of Law No. 1985/8, which was enforced after liberation. In the 1992 Council, a decree on maternity leave was issued based on my proposal and with the cooperation of the Minister of Justice, Brother Mishari Al-

"On January 4, 1995, I introduced legislation allowing Kuwaitis working in the private sector to receive social and children's allowances. This law was later approved and issued under No. 2000/19.

"Additionally, on January 7, 1993, I proposed the establishment of an integrated university city with maximum capacity in one location, a plan that was approved along with other related laws proposed by several representatives in subsequent councils.

"On January 25, 1995, I proposed a law setting a maximum limit on fees, which was issued as Law No. 95/97. This law prohibits any increase in fees for citizens unless approved by the National Assembly.

"On November 24, 1996, I introduced the Health Insurance Law for Expatriates, which was issued as Law No. 1999/1 and has since provided millions in annual savings for the country

"In the 2006 Council, I proposed a law on zakat and companies' contributions to the state budget, which was issued under No. 2006/46 and has generated significant funds annually for the Zakat House to assist needy Kuwaitis and others. "In the same Parliament, I also

introduced a law prohibiting women from working in places designated for men, as it was deemed incompatible with their dignity and femininity. This law was issued under No.

2007/52.
"I highlight these achievements -- as they provide praise be to God -- as they provide direct benefits to citizens without exaggeration or neglect.

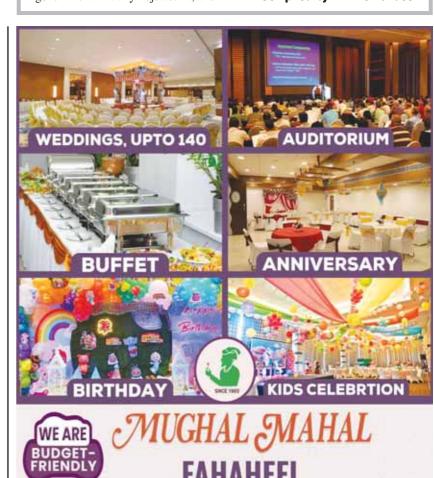
"Moreover, I have made significant contributions to combating corruption and recovering stolen funds. However, I have noticed that some individuals distort these efforts by selectively publishing excerpts from statements and interviews, particularly those of an artistic nature, and portraying them as being against the citizens.

"For example, in an interview where I discussed gasoline prices and state property, I also addressed the issue of retirees choosing between government-provided treatments or comprehensive, expanded health insurance.

"Under my proposal, citizens would choose, and the government would cover the costs in both cases, but without duplication, which would ultimately improve health services and allocate resources more

"I am grateful for the letters of thanks and support I have received from specialists and others who understand the issues surrounding duplication in healthcare."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes



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#### Digital records set to transform public sector efficiency

### Ministry of Oil to lead employee achievement pilot project

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: In a significant development for Kuwait's public sector, the Civil Service Commission has selected the Ministry of Oil to spearhead a pioneering pilot project called the 'Employee Achievement Record', reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Out of six competing government agencies, including the Ministry of Defense, the CSC itself, the Central Agency for Public Tenders, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Public Authority for Minors Affairs, the Ministry of Oil was chosen to lead this initiative.

This prestigious selection marks a major endorsement of the Ministry of Oil's ongoing commitment to digital transformation.

The project aims to create an electronic record for each employee, capturing their tasks and achievements on a regular basis.

The records will be linked to each employee's civil number, ensuring all transactions and correspondences are automatically documented.

The 'Employee Achievement Record' project will encompass a range of business activities, including such as attending meetings and field visits; documenting memos, transactions, and handling correspondence, client interactions and responding to inquiries; preparing reports, research and statistics in addition to managing documentation and forms

The Ministry of Oil's readiness to implement the project reflects its dedication to leveraging advanced technologies to enhance internal operations



Kuwait Petroleum Corporation - Ministry of Oil





KUNA photos

Left: The Kuwaiti volunteer team begins implementing its relief programs in Kenya. Right: Kuwaiti volunteer team of doctors and humanitarians.

The initiative promises to not only document employees' tasks but also provide a comprehensive model that tracks task completion times, repeti-

tion rates, and other pertinent details. One of the key benefits of the project is that it will ensure employees' tasks and achievements are formally

recognized. Outstanding performers will receive priority for financial rewards, training opportunities, and nominations for supervisory positions. Moreover, the project aims to integrate these achievement records with performance evaluations, thereby boosting productivity and recognizing high-performing employees.

This pilot project is a testament to the Ministry of Oil's leadership in digital innovation and its commitment to improving operational efficiency and transparency within Kuwait's public sector.

#### Charitable Kuwaiti hands continue humanitarian work in Kenya

Kuwaiti charitable volunteers continue to process the humanitarian works and extend aid and assistance to the world's needy, to help in overcoming major circumstances and challenges.

The Kuwaiti volunteering team started implementing a number of projects in the Republic of Kenya to help more than 300 families.

The projects included a medical camp to provide guidance and ways to prevent diseases, in addition to the distribution of food, and school sup-

plies.
It assisted in serving the labor market by opening stores and providing machines and tools to achieve self-sufficiency for families and other various charitable works.

The Kuwaiti team, including doctors, and medical and humanitarian staff, visited orphanages and elderly people centers within the visit program.

# Al-Mishari to revamp municipal workflows, cleanliness standard

New Minister directs detailed sector reports, implementation plans



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#### By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: During** his first meeting with Kuwait Municipality leaders on Wednesday, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari stressed the importance of taking necessary steps and decisions to improve work mechanisms, expedite procedures and execute development projects associated with the municipality in the upcoming period.

Al-Mishari affirmed the need to raise the cleanliness standards in the country

by establishing a suitable mechanism that aligns with urban development and expansion.

He called for increased coordination with relmunicipal evant sectors and state authorities, use of advanced technologies, and intensified efforts.

Al-Mishari

The minister also highlighted the need for cooperation between Municipality sectors and the Municipal Council to complete the executive regulations for canopies and

Al-Mishari expressed his keenness to implement the directives of the political leadership by developing the municipality's work, implementing the development projects, staying abreast of global trends, and addressing unresolved issues, which includes completing the fourth structural plan for the state and submitting it to the Council of Ministers for approval.

He said it is important to use all technological means, and activate electronic services and link them to Sahel applicaKuwait Airways 'appoints' new maintenance director

#### By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: In a strategic move to strengthen its operational management, Kuwait Airways has appointed Salem Al-Obaidli as the new Director of the Maintenance Department.

This decision was announced by the Board of Directors, led by Chairman Abdul Mohsen Al-Faqan. Sources close to the airline re-

vealed that Kuwait Airways plans to implement a series of new tasks and promotions within its middle management ranks. This restructuring is part of a broader initiative to rejuvenate the

efficiency.
The current board of directors, which took office in September 2023, is committed to showcasing substantial achievements over the next year.

The goal is to solidify Kuwait Airways' position as one of the leading airlines in the Middle East. The airline's vision for 2025 includes making significant strides in performance and service quality, supported by the government under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Al-Abdullah.

Looking ahead, the Kuwait Airways is preparing for the opening of a new airport, scheduled for 2026 and 2027.

The board's recent meeting with the Kuwait Airways Workers Union also addressed the termination of contracts for certain employees, highlighting ongoing efforts to align the workforce with the airline's evolving needs.

The airline's leadership is optimistic about future developments and aims to present impressive results and advancements as it continues its journey towards becoming one of the best international airlines.

tion, which is the unified government application for electronic services, to facili-

'Helping Hands Project' advances to finals

#### **KU** wins 1st place in Huawei competition

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: University Kuwait nounced that students from the Department of Computer Engineering at the College of Engineering and Petroleum secured first place in the Huawei competition held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The winning team, known as the Helping Hands project, comprised of Ahmed Al-Qattan, Taleb Al-Rifai, Mohammed Mahdi, Saad Al-Majidi, Ghanima Bou Ab-bas, and Maryam Al-Mutairi.

Competing against 26 teams from 14 countries, the team's victory qualifies them to represent the Middle East and Central Asia in the finals in China alongside other teams from around the world.

Huawei's 'Seeds for the Future' program, under which the competition was held, aims to equip talented students with the essential skills needed to excel in today's fast-paced technologi-



Hawalli Governor with Ethiopian envoy.

#### Hawalli Governor hosts Ethiopian Ambassador

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: Hawalli Governor, Ali Al-Asfar, welcomed the Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Kuwait, Sayed Jibril, during a recent meeting.

The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries and exploring ways to enhance cooperation across various sectors.

Both parties also exchanged views on issues of mutual interest, reinforcing the commitment to continued collabo-

# **UIC** hosts workshop on talent management

'HR investment essential for goals'

#### **Demand drives up prices**

#### Back-to-school 'shopping spree' revives store sales across Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: As the new school year is fast approaching, the commercial establishments in the country are now full of school supplies in various shapes and colors, reports Al-Rai daily

Shops, bookstores and stationery stores have turned the page over the recession during the summer months; as their sales started to increase with parents spending the largest part of their salaries to provide for their children's needs like school supplies and

Taking into consideration the difference in the prices and quality of school supplies, the amount needed for each student depends on the academic stage - around KD60 to KD80 for primary and kindergarten students and around KD120 to KD200 for middle and high school students. The exaggerated price hike is noticeable, especially the price of school bags; and there is a high demand for educational gadgets including the talking pen.

The school supplies needed vary based on the academic stage. Kindergartners usually need crayons, drawing materials, toys and pencils whose prices differ from one store to another; while the other academic stages need pens, calculators, engineering tools, exercise books, highlighters, dictionaries, talking translator and other educational gadgets.

#### **Exaggerated purchases**

Psychological consultant Dr. Khaled Al-Mohannadi told the daily that the back-to-school season - with all the burdens it brings to the family - is a problem for parents, especially those who have lived a life of deprivation, because they tend to be lavish when purchasing school supplies for their children in an attempt to compensate for what they missed in their childhood. He explained that buying is a process of moral and economic refinement and is considered a way of educating the children; that is, if the children use appropriate and simple items.

Al-Mohannadi cited the cases he dealt with in the clinic, indicating the parents of children from low-income families who study with their wealthy peers often face financial problems as they try to give the best to their children, so the latter do not feel deprived or inferior to their rich classmates.

#### Trade guideline

He urged the Ministry of Commerce to publish a comprehensive guideline regarding the letters, symbols and other designs printed on clothes, notebooks and some school bags. He said many letters and symbols on the aforementioned items contradict the country's customs and religion, urging the ministry to carry out an inspection campaign to prevent the spread of such designs.



Al-Rai photo

Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali during his visit at the Al-Sabah Hospital.

#### **Capital Governor tours Al-Sabah Hospital**

The Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali visited Al-Sabah Hospital recently, accompanied by several senior officials from the Ministry of Health and the hospital's medical and administrative staff, to assess the work progress there.

During the tour, he inspected various departments and health units within the hospital, which is recognized as one of the country's comprehensive medical centers that provide high-quality health ser-

The governor commended the great efforts exerted by the hospital's medical and administrative

to develop the health system in line with future visions and government objectives to enhance health services significantly.

Governor Sheikh Abdullah expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Health and all involved in this distinguished medical facility, and wished the patients a swift recovery. KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: The Union of Investment Companies (UIC), through its training arm, the Center for Investment Studies, held a significant workshop on talent management at its headquarters, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This event, attended by numerous representatives from investment companies, focused on enhancing and developing human resources, a crucial aspect for organizational success.

Fadwa Darwish, the Secretary-General of the Union, emphasized that this workshop aligns with the Federation's commitment to supporting investment companies by nurturing successful and effective human resources across various sectors.

She highlighted the critical role of developing and advancing human resources, noting that such investment is essential for achieving institutional goals efficiently.

The workshop provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of talent management and its vital role in the success of modern organizations.

Talent management strategies, which include identifying, attracting, managing, and developing talent, are integral to organizational growth and sustainability.

The session also addressed the concept of the "new normal" in global companies, known as the 'war for talent." This includes creating an appealing environment for exceptional individuals and supporting their development, which is crucial for the company's progress.

Participants learned how some companies excel due to effective talent management practices, including how to integrate human resource functions to ensure a smooth employee experience throughout their career journey.

The workshop also covered the latest accreditations in talent management, emphasizing their importance for motivating employees, recruitment methods, and adapting to changes in the nature of attracted talent and the future of work.

In closing, Darwish encouraged all professionals interested in enhancing their performance and acquiring new, exceptional skills to stay updated with future training programs and events organized by the UIC.

#### KFAED recognizes top engineers & architects

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: In a ceremony held at the Training Center Administration, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) honored the top achievers from the training and qualification program for newly graduated Kuwaiti engineers and architects from Batch No. 40, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The event was attended by Walid Shamlan Al-Bahar, the Acting Director General of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

Photo taken during the workshop.

Al-Jarida photo

#### CBK launches Kuwait Overnight Interest Average

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29, (KUNA): The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Thursday announced the launch of Kuwait Overnight Interest Average (KO-NIA) as of next Sunday as part of its efforts to consolidate financial stability.

The move is meant to introduce financial benchmarks for the local market seen as a reliable reference as per the best international standards, and to contribute to enhancing transparency and efficiency of financial transactions in Kuwait, it said in a press statement.

The (KONIA) Index is based on the volume-weighted average of actual interest rates used by local banks in their KWD interbank overnight transactions, and is considered as an effective tool for assessing financing costs and liquidity positions in the local banking sector, thus fairly expressing the supply and demand position for inter-financial institutions funds, it added.

The CBK underlined that it would launch (KONIA) Index on a daily basis starting September 01, 2024 on its official website, as well as on its pages on "Bloomberg" and "Refinitiv". In addition, data on KWD overnight interbank transactions will also be published, along with "Kuwait Interbank Offer Rate" (KIBOR).

It highlighted its keenness to continue its approach for constant development, taking all necessary measures to enhance transparency and efficiency of the financial transactions, and reinforce the financial and monetary stability in

### **KCC** floats consensual securities lending and borrowing service for Boursa traders

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: The Kuwait Clearing Company has announced the introduction of a new consensual securities lending and borrowing service for traders on the Boursa Kuwait, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This development marks a strategic enhancement aimed at providing innovative investment tools and boosting the efficiency of Kuwait's financial markets.

In a recent press statement, the Kuwait Clearing Company (KCC) highlighted that the new service follows a decision by the Board of Commissioners of the Capital Markets Authority, made on Aug 21, to amend the rules governing the KCC. This amendment regulates the consensual lending and borrowing of securities.

The company emphasized that this new service responds to investor demand for additional investment opportunities and is designed to facilitate short selling operations. It complements existing services such as central lending and borrowing and the securities lending and borrowing service available to market makers. The consensual securities lending and borrowing ser-

vice allows for the temporary transfer of securities ownership between two parties, based on mutually agreed terms including guarantees, duration, and decision-making

This service provides a new option for covering short selling positions, expanding the range of tools available

To utilize this service, traders must work through a stock exchange, adhering to the requirements outlined in the Kuwait Clearing Company's rules manual.

The KCC also cautioned traders about the inherent risks associated with short selling, noting that positions could face potentially unlimited losses if securities prices rise unexpectedly. The company stressed the importance of thorough risk assessment before engaging So far... safe for now

### 'No removal of diwaniyas built on State properties'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: The Kuwait Municipality confirmed there is neither intention nor directive on the removal of diwaniyas built on State properties in private and model housing areas at the moment, reports Al-Rai daily quoting a reliable source.

The source clarified to the daily that the removal of diwaniyas built on State properties is not among the priorities in the current plan of the Municipality, while affirming the Municipality deals with complaints upon receipt. The source said the Municipality works according to its strategy and it has priorities like improving the level of cleanliness, as well as expediting the completion of citizens' transactions by linking its services with the Sahel application.

Meanwhile, Public Relations Department Director and official spokesperson of the Municipality Mohammad Al-Sindan explained that the Municipality teams field work is mainly dealing with complaints and reports submitted to the concerned departments in the governorates. He said these teams carry out their tasks in accordance with the regulations and systems related to cleanliness, construction, shops and

He also stressed that claims about the teams' way of handing violations are exaggerated, indicating the violations are determined as per the regulations and the concerned departments follow certain procedures in the removal of violations.

He urged the citizens to ignore baseless rumors and exaggerated claims; especially with regard to the measures being taken by supervisory teams in various areas -- craft, commercial, industrial, residential, agricultural and chalet areas.

#### **Dusty**, hot

#### **Continued from Page 1**

Saturday's forecast predicts hot weather with light to moderate northwesterly winds, occasionally active between 15 and 45 kilometers per hour, causing dust. Temperatures will peak between 45 and 48 degrees Celsius, with the sea remaining light to moderate, with waves occasionally rising between 2 and 6 feet.

Saturday night will also be hot, with light to moderate northwesterly winds ranging between 15 and 35 kilometers per hour. The minimum temperature will range between 32 and 34 degrees Celsius, with the sea conditions similar, with waves between 2 and 5 feet.

Taps shut

The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy announced that there will be a shortage of fresh water in the areas of Dasma and Daiya starting at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday and lasting for 12 hours.

The ministry said on its official account on the (X) platform on Thursday that the temporary shortage in the two areas is due to some work being carried out on the water network on Cairo Street.

#### 'Army deterrent

#### **Continued from Page 1**

During his visit to the 15th Armored Brigade (Mubarak), Lieutenant General Al-Muzain was briefed on the brigade's training and exercises, future plans, and development and modernization programs that are aimed to enhance the efficiency of its members, including officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers. He also reviewed the brigade's weapons, equipment, and military vehicles, as well as the nature of their work and assigned

During his visit to the 94th Mechanized Brigade (Saleh Mohammed), Lieutenant General Al-Muzain inspected the latest tasks and duties being performed as part of the approved training and qualification programs for brigade members. He also examined the nature and extent of the existing and joint cooperation with other military sectors in the country. In addition, he was briefed on the weapons, equipment, and military vehicles in use as well as the roles and responsibilities of the

#### T2 to help

#### **Continued from Page 1**

Al-Mishaan affirmed the government's keenness to harness all available resources and facilities to complete the airport project on

Dr. Al-Mashaan said, "Kuwait deserves our collective effort and unity. We must cooperate with all parties and work as one team to advance projects and services that will enhance Kuwait's standing and prominence in various fields.

#### **KOC** presents

#### **Continued from Page 1**

panel discussions and workshops about various topics including modern technologies, energy sustainability in the industry, and the role of renewable energy, stressing the significance of cooperation and networking with international companies to adopt the latest technologies and innovative solutions.

#### **Kuwaiti citizen**

#### **Continued from Page 1**

signed some partnership and cooperation deals with some countries like China. The deals aim at sharing expertise and technology, and developing common projects, he elaborated.

The RCREEE is an intergovernmental organization with diplomatic status aiming to empower and increase the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency practices across pan-Arab countries.

It is an independent body dealing technically with the Arab League and the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity as well as others.

#### **Kuwait approves**

#### **Continued from Page 1**

The Governor of Basra Ahmad Al-Aidani stated yesterday, "We will treat the Kuwaitis in the same way. If they do not allow our fans to enter Kuwait for the World Cup qualifiers, we will not allow Kuwaiti fans to enter Iraq.'

During a press conference, Al-Aidani emphasized that Iraq had allowed Kuwaiti fans to attend and support their team during the "Gulf 25" tournament.

He noted that the Iraqi and Kuwaiti sides would discuss this issue in the coming month. He added, "There is no justification for preventing Iraqi fans from attending matches in Kuwait to support their team, just like the fans of other

"If they are banned, we will reciprocate with Kuwaiti fans.'

Al-Aidani clarified, "We have no issue with Kuwaiti citizens crossing into Iraq," reminding everyone of the Kuwaiti fans' entry during the "Gulf 25" tournament and other religious events.

Earlier, Haif Al-Mutairi, the acting Chairman of the Kuwait Football Association, met with Dr. Zaid Shanshul, an advisor at the Iraqi Embassy in Kuwait, at the Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium. The two sides discussed ways to enhance sports cooperation between the countries in the coming period.

Informed sources told Al-Seyassah daily that if a solution to this issue is not reached, there could be future consequences, including the possibility of Iraq withdrawing from the "Gulf 26" tournament, which Kuwait is set to host in De-

### DGCA asks CSC's approval for some airport employees to work in shifts

Operational efficiency at stake

**By Mohammad Al-Musleh** 

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked for the approval of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to assign certain employees at Kuwait International Airport to work under the shift system.

DGCA made the request after the CSC issued a decision earlier this month to stop such assignment, because some employees were found to be working overtime without justification.

The newspaper obtained a copy of DGCA's letter to the CSC, stating that it is committed to implementing the decision regarding overtime work and the shift system; as well as to abide by all the terms and conditions applicable to all employees covered by the decision without prejudice to the established regulations.

#### **Provisions**

It also confirmed compliance with the provisions related to the shift system, such that the work center operates round the clock. It added that the nature of work of those under the shift system is consistent with the directorate's competencies; affirming the secretaries, encoders and administrators will not work in shifts unless it is approved by the CSC. It attached the job data of the concerned employees, proving the need for them to be under the shift system due to the nature of their work.

#### Maritime & audit departments moving to new coast guard HQ

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: The General Administration of Coast Guard has announced that the Maritime Transport Department and the Audit and Quality Department will be relocating from their current headquarters within the Kuwait Ports Authority building in Shuwaikh to the new General Administration of Coast Guard building in Ardiya from Sunday, reports Al-Anba daily.

#### **Kuwait's Al-Dosari chairs Renewable Energy board**

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: During the 22nd meeting, the Board of Trustees of the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency nominated Kuwait, represented by the Director of the Renewable Energy Department at the Ministry of Electricity, Engineer Ahmed Al-Dosari, to chair the Board for its current session, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This nomination aligns with Kuwait's broader strategy to develop and diversify its renewable energy sources. The country is focused on completing and implementing the Shagaya Renewable Energy Project, one of the largest projects of its kind in the Arab region and the world.

#### **Summer travel**

#### **Continued from Page 1**

In this regard, Director of Al-Rafah Tourism and Travel Company Muhammad Al-Zalbani highlighted that there has been a significant 30 percent decline in travel and ticket bookings on reservation systems.

In a press statement, Al-Zalbani said he attributed this decline to various factors, including regional tensions in Lebanon and Gaza, concerns about potential airport closures, and a deteriorating economic situation,

all of which have negatively impacted tourism

He explained that travel recovery is closely tied to security conditions. Some airlines are offering discounts to boost purchasing power and increase seat occupancy, particularly for departing passengers.

Some destinations in Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, and Iran have been affected by the large number of flights to and from Kuwait. As a result, increased flight supply has resulted in decreased demand.

Al-Zalbani hinted that ticket prices for some destinations in Turkey

are expected to drop to around KD 100 in the coming days.

When asked about the impact of the fingerprint attendance system on travel, Al-Zalbani said, "It may have contributed to the decline, but to a limited extent. This is particularly relevant for employees who previously traveled from Thursday to Saturday to nearby destina-

He revealed that some Kuwaiti families have canceled their reservations due to family connections with Bedoun residents who have recently faced travel restrictions and are allowed only for specific cases.

### **World News Roundup**

#### **Europe**

#### **Macron visits Serbia**

### Germany, UK seek new bilateral treaty

BERLIN, Aug 29, (AP): The leaders of Germany and the United Kingdom announced plans on Wednesday to draw up a treaty meant to deepen the two nations trade, defense and other ties.

The move comes as new UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer moves ahead with plans for a "reset" of relations with the European Union.



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said that he welcomes fellow center-left leader Starmer's desire for a new beginning in relations with the EU, and 'we want to take this outstretched hand."

Starmer took office in early July after the previous Conservative government was trounced in an election. Four years after the UK left the EU, he says he wants to rebuild ties strained by years of ill-tem-

pered wrangling over Brexit terms. He said that he hopes to conclude the bilateral agreement with Germany, which has Europe's biggest economy, by the end of this year.

"That will be ambitious, it will be wide-ranging, covering trade, the economy, defense and many other issues," he told reporters. The two leaders are among Ukraine's biggest military backers and stressed their commitment to keeping up that support.

#### Plan

Starmer said that the two countries also plan to draw up a "joint action plan to tackle illegal migration." His government still faces pressure to stop migrants crossing the English Channel in small boats, though it scrapped the Conservatives' contentious plan to send them on a one-way trip to Rwanda.

Migration is also an issue on which Scholz's government has long been under heavy pressure, even more so since Friday's attack in Solingen in which a suspected extremist from Syria who had avoided being deported is accused of killing three people.

Germany far-right party aims for wins: The farright Alternative for Germany could become the strongest party for the first time in two state elections Sunday in eastern Germany, while a months-old party founded by a prominent leftist also hopes to shake up the picture as the national government has squabbled its way to deep unpopularity.

Germany's main opposition conservative party hopes to keep Alternative for Germany at bay in Saxony and Thuringia, home to around 4.1 million and 2.1 million people, respectively. But prospects look grim for the three parties in Chancellor Olaf Scholz's governing coalition, whose constant infighting has added to a flatlining economy and other problems to turn voters off.

Wins for Alternative for Germany, or AfD, would be a potent signal for the party just over a year before the next national election is due. But it would most likely need a coalition partner to govern, and it's highly unlikely anyone else will agree to put it

High ratings for AfD and the new Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance, both at their strongest in Germany's formerly communist east, have been fed in part by discontent with the national government. Scholz's alliance argued throughout the campaign for the European Parliament election in June and obtained dismal results. The internal hostilities have intensified over a summer plagued by disagreements about the 2025 budget.

Macron visits Serbia: French President Emmanuel Macron starts a two-day state visit to Serbia on Thursday with the focus on the possible sale of 12 Rafale multi-purpose fighter jets to the country, which has maintained close ties to Russia despite its invasion of

Macron is to meet populist President Aleksandar Vucic in Belgrade on Thursday evening, when the deal reportedly worth 3 billion euros (\$3.3 billion) is expected to be announced.

An official in Macron's office, who was not authorized to be identified according to French presidential policy, said the warplane talks are part of larger strategy of "bringing Serbia closer to the EU.

Serbia is formally seeking European Union membership, but under Vucic's increasingly autocratic rule it has made little progress in the fields of rule of law and democratic reforms, which are the main preconditions for membership in the 27-nation bloc.

In a letter to the Serbian public published in the local media on Thursday, Macron sought to encourage the Balkan nation to pursue its EU future but noted that "the perspective of joining the European Union does not seem to be as attractive as it should.'

'Permit strikes on targets inside Russia': The European Union's top diplomat on Thursday ramped up pressure on Ukraine's international backers to lift restrictions on the use of weapons they provide the conflict-ravaged country to allow its armed forces to strike targets inside Russia.

The US restricts the use of long-range ballistic missiles it provides to Ukraine and some EU members also limit the use of their weapons. Ukraine is desperate to target airfields and other military installations inside Russia that are used to stage attacks on its armed forces and civilians.

"We need to lift restrictions on the use of weaponry against Russian military targets, in accordance with international law," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said as the bloc's foreign ministers gathered in Brussels to discuss Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

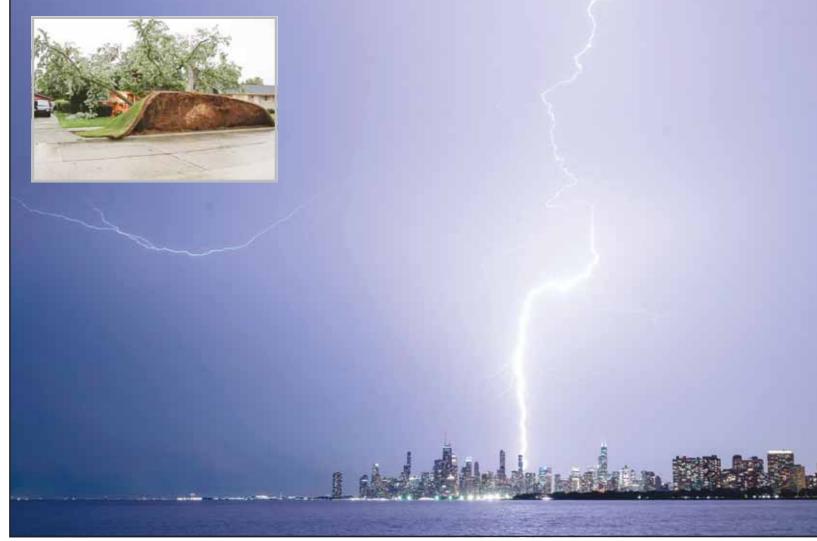
"The weaponry that we are providing to Ukraine has to have full use, and the restrictions have to be lifted in order for the Ukrainians to be able to target the places where Russia is bombing them.

Russia conducts aerial attack on Ukraine: Rus-

sia conducted a heavy aerial attack on Ukraine for the third time in four days Thursday, again launching missiles and scores of drones that mostly were intercepted, Ukraine's air force said.

Russian forces fired five missiles and 74 Shahed drones at Ukrainian targets, an air force statement said. Air defenses stopped two missiles and 60 drones, and 14 other drones presumably fell before reaching

their target, it said. Authorities in the capital, Kyiv, said debris of destroyed drones fell in three districts of the city, causing minor damage to civilian infrastructure but no injuries.



Lightning strikes after a severe storm passes through over Chicago on Aug. 27. Inset: A tree, uprooted by a storm, is seen in front of a house in Livonia, Michigan

#### Crews work to restore power to more than 300K Michigan homes after storms

Crews for two of Michigan's largest utilities were working to restore power Wednesday to more than 300,000 homes and businesses left in the dark amid hot, muggy conditions after severe storms toppled trees and snapped power poles.

More than 302,000 Michigan customers were without power around noon Wednesday, most in the central and southeastern parts of the state, according to PowerOutage.us. DTE Energy reported more than 192,000 outages and Consumers Energy more than 100,000.

DTE Energy said 350 schools in its Michigan service territory had no power Wednesday morning. Brian Kalka, the utility's vice president of distri-

bution operations, said DTE Energy hoped to have 90% of its outages repaired by Thursday. But he

said "we have devastation" from eastern Michigan's thumb region to almost the Ohio border, referring to

a distance of more than 150 miles (241 kilometers). Severe storms also toppled trees in the Chicago area, damaging homes and automobiles after two days of heat that set a record high of 99 degrees (37. 2 Celsius) Tuesday at O'Hare International Air-



Former US Marine Corps Cpl Kelsee Lainhart (left), and Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Solider in honor of the 13 service members killed at Abbey Gate, at Arlington National Cemetery on Aug 26 in Arlington, Va. (AP)





Carroll

#### **America**

**Utah Gov Cox faces scrutiny:** Utah's Republican Gov Spencer Cox came under criticism Wednesday for sending a campaign email that featured a photo of him and former president Donald Trump at Arlington National Cemetery during a wreath-laying ceremony.

Federal law prohibits campaign or election-related activities within Army National Military Cemeteries, and that rule was widely shared before the Monday ceremony, Arlington National Cemetery said Wednesday.

Cox's campaign apologized for using the photo and for politicizing the graveside ceremony, which honored Sgt Darin Taylor Hoover of Utah, one of 13 service members killed in an airport bombing during the Afghanistan War withdrawal three years ago. The email was soliciting donations for Cox's reelection bid. (AP)

Police kills man; child found dead:

A man being pursued in the killing of a woman in New Hampshire was fatally shot by police on a bridge that connects the state to Maine, authorities said Thursday. An 8-year-old child was found shot to death in the man's car.

The Piscataqua River Bridge along Interstate 95 has been closed since about 3 a.m. and traffic was backed up on both sides as drivers were diverted to two other bridges. The Piscatagua bridge connects Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to Kittery, Maine.

The man apparently killed a woman at a home overnight in Troy, New Hampshire, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) away in the western part of the state, and then drove to the bridge. Attorney General John Formella said in a news release.

#### **Politics**

### Harris, Walz reach out to voters in Ga bus tour

### Trump visits Michigan and Wisconsin

LANSING, Mich., Aug 29, (AP): Donald Trump was scheduled to campaign Thursday in Michigan and Wisconsin as the former president ramps up battleground state travel heading into the traditional Labor Day turn toward the fall election.

Trump's intense focus on recapturing states he won in 2016 but lost narrowly in 2020 continues with stops in the middle of Michigan and western Wisconsin.

Trump's day starts with an afternoon rally in Potterville, Michigan, near the state capital of Lansing. Trump won Eaton County, where part of Lansing is located, in both 2016 and 2020, but by a smaller margin the second time. It will be his third visit to the state in the past nine days and second this week after a speech to the National Guard Association in Detroit on Monday.

#### **Endorsed**

Later, he will visit La Crosse, Wisconsin, for a town hall moderated by former Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, who endorsed him in Detroit. It will be Trump's first visit to Wisconsin since the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, which ended three days before President Joe Biden dropped out of the race and made way for Vice President Kamala Harris.

Along with Pennsylvania, which Trump will visit on Friday, these three Midwestern states make up a northern industrial bloc Democrats carried for two decades before Trump won them in 2016. Biden recaptured them on his way to the White House in 2020.

Trump and his vice-presidential pick, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, have blitzed the battleground states in recent weeks, with Vance in both states this week as

The battleground offensive comes as a reinvigorated Democratic Party rallies around Harris and her new running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz.

Harris and Walz are aiming to leverage the surge in enthusiasm among the party's base since her campaign launch just over a month ago. They hope this excitement - which was on full display at last week's convention in Chicago will extend to more moderate areas as they embark on a two-day bus tour in Georgia, including events in the state's rural southern regions.

Trump's events in Michigan and Wisconsin are both in swing congressional districts.

#### **Strongholds**

Potterville is in Michigan's 7th District, which features a mix of Republican-dominated counties like Clinton and Shiawassee, and Democratic strongholds such as Ingham, home to the state Capitol and Michigan State University.

Meanwhile, Trump's campaign was warned about not taking photographs before an altercation at Arlington National Cemetery during a wreath-laying ceremony earlier this week to honor service members killed in the Afghanistan War withdrawal, a defense official told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive matter concerning Monday's events. It came a day after NPR reported, citing a source with knowledge of the incident, that two Trump campaign staff members "verbally abused and pushed" aside a cemetery official who tried to stop them from filming and photographing

in Section 60, the burial site for military personnel killed while fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq.

#### Also:

HINESVILLE, Ga.: US Vice President Kamala Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov Tim Walz, dropped in on a high school band practice Wednesday as part of a two-day bus tour through southeast Georgia, a critical battleground state that Democrats just narrowly won four years ago.

Harris and Walz paid a visit to Liberty County High School in Hinesville, listening to the marching band perform its school fight song and delivering brief remarks to students and faculty on the first day of their Georgia swing, which will culminate in a rally in Savannah on Thursday night.

"We're so proud of you and we're counting on you," Harris told the students, some shrieking with excitement at the sight of the vice president. "Your generation ... is what is going to propel our country into the next era of what we can do and what we can be.

Harris told the students that she, too, played in the band - an aide said the vice president had played the French horn, xylophone and kettle drums.

The visit is part of a two-pronged strategy by the Harris-Walz campaign to make inroads in GOP strongholds and to use smaller, more intimate settings to showcase a softer side of the ticket - which is still relatively unknown by the electorate. Campaign officials believe that in order to beat Republican **Donald Trump** in the state, they will need more than Atlanta and the suburbs that delivered for Joe Biden in 2020.

"Police on the bridge also found an 8-year-old child fatally shot" in the man's vehicle, the news release said. (AP)

Ex-politician convicted: A Democratic former politician was found guilty of murder on Wednesday by a Nevada jury that decided he'll serve 20 years to



Members of the Military Band of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) perform during the 'Spasskaya Tower' International Military Music Festival in Moscow, Russia on Aug 23. The Military Band of the Chinese PLA participated in the 16th 'Spasskaya Tower' International Military Music Festival at the invitation of the organizing committee of the festival. The military music festival opened on Friday on the Red Square in Moscow, and will run until Sept 1. (Xinhua)

life in prison for killing an investigative journalist who wrote articles critical of his conduct in office two years ago.

Robert Telles hung his head, shaking it slightly from side to side, as his verdict was read in Clark County District Court. Jurors deliberated for nearly 12 hours over three days before their unanimous vote that he ambushed and attacked Las Vegas Review-Journal reporter Jeff German in a side yard of German's home.

DC police officer dies: A Washington, DC, police officer died Wednesday after being shot when a gun he was trying to recover from a storm drain accidently fired, officials said.

The officer, Wayne David, was a member of the Metropolitan Police Department for more than 25 years, said Executive Assistant Chief Jeffery Carroll.

"Wayne is a true hero to the District of Columbia, and today he gave his life to serve the visitors and the residents here," Carroll said. "We will never forget that."

Carroll said earlier Wednesday that officers saw someone get out of suspicious vehicle in the Northeast part of the city, take off on foot and jump onto Interstate 295. Officers saw the person throw a gun in a storm drain before fleeing on the back of a motorcycle, he said. (AP)

#### Lat/Am

Mexico's Morena closer to majority in Congress: Following a pair of defections by opposition senators, Mexico's ruling party said Wednesday it is edging closer to a steamroller two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress.

The ruling Morena party of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said it had won over two senators from the now-defunct Democratic Revolution Party, or PRD. The PRD disappeared as a national party after failing to win a minimum of 3%

of the vote in the June 2 elections. After being awarded a two-thirds ma-



Obrador

jority in the lower house, the Morena party and its allies are now one vote away from a similar majority in the Senate. Those majorities would allow Morena to push through controversial changes to the Constitution.

Those changes include a proposal to force all judges to stand for election, a move that critics say would concentrate power further in the presidency, erase the independence of the judiciary and open it to influence by those who pro-

vide cash to fund those election campaigns. The U.S. ambassador to Mexico publicly voiced similar concerns last week.

After days of speculation, President-elect Claudia Sheinbaum - a member of López Obrador's party - said Wednes-day that two opposition senators had decided to join the ruling party block in the Senate.

The two senators, Araceli Saucedo and José Sabino, were immediately called traitors by their former allies and fellow party members in the opposition.

Social media users also pointedly posted campaign videos of the two in which they had promised not to switch parties prior to the June 2 election.

While some had hoped Sheinbaum might be more open to consensus and negotiation than her predecessor and political mentor, López Obrador - who leaves office Sept. 30 - there was more disappointing news. (AP)

Maduro opponents rally in Venezuela: Opponents of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro took to the streets Wednesday in an attempt to revive protests against him as he tightens his grip on power following last month's disputed election.

The demonstration in the capital, Caracas, comes exactly a month after the fraught July 28 vote in which Maduro was declared the winner despite strong evidence that opposition candidate Edmundo González won by a nearly 2-to-1 margin, which drew international condemnation that the vote lacked

In weeks of on-again, off-again demonstrations, the opposition's rallying cry has been constant but so far ineffective. Opponents have demanded that officials publish results from each polling station that they say would expose Maduro's attempts "Voting records kill sentence," is how the opposition billed

the latest protest, referring to the thousands of tally sheets it collected and posted online that contradict a recent sentence written by the loyalist Supreme Court certifying Maduro's purported victory.

Wednesday's protest was smaller than previous demonstrations. Tiny groups of Venezuelans also gathered in other Latin America capitals. (AP)

Honduras to end extradition treaty with US: Honduras said on Wednesday that the country will end its extradition treaty with the United States, accusing Washington of interfering in its internal affairs.

In a letter to the US embassy posted on social media plat-form X, Honduran Foreign Minister Enrique Reina announced "the decision of the Government of the Republic of Honduras to terminate the extradition treaty.'

Earlier on Wednesday, Honduran President Xiomara Castro asked Reina to denounce the extradition treaty with the United States, given US "interference and interventionism" in the country's internal affairs.

Under international law, a denunciation is a unilateral act by a party seeking to terminate its participation in a treaty.

The interference and interventionism of the United States, as well as its intention to direct the politics of Honduras through its embassy and other representatives, is intolerable,' Castro said in a post on X. (AP)

Trinidad and Tobago reckons with colonialism: In a small auditorium in the seaside capital of Trinidad and Tobago, Christopher Columbus and other colonial-era figures came under scrutiny late Wednesday in a lengthy debate punctuated

by snickers, applause and outbursts. The government had asked residents of the diverse, twinisland nation in the eastern Caribbean if they supported the removal of statues, signs and monuments with colonial ties and how those spaces should be used instead. One by one, people of African, European and Indigenous descent stepped up to the microphone and responded.

Some suggested a prominent Columbus statue be placed in

Trinidad and Tobago is the latest nation to embrace a global movement that began in recent years to abolish colonial-era symbols as it reckons with its past and questions if and how it should memorialize it as demands for slavery reparations grow across the Caribbean. (AP)

US Geological Survey

People in Brazil's Amazon choke on smoke: Smoke from wildfires in Brazil's Amazon rainforest Wednesday was causing people in the region to cough, burning their throats and reddening their eyes.

Large swaths of the country have been draped in smoke in recent days, resulting from fires raging across the Amazon, Cerrado savannah, Pantanal wetland and the state of Sao Paulo. Residents are feeling the sting, including Fátima Silva, a 60-year-old farmer in the Amazonian town of Labrea.

"I am not well. I am feeling short of breath, my throat hurts, my eyes need eye drops, I can't go out on the street, I can't go anywhere because everything is white with smoke," Silva told The Associated Press in a voice note, adding that her grandchildren are coughing so much they can hardly sleep. (AP)

**6.1 earthquake rattles El Salvador:** An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.1 rattled El Salvador on Wednesday afternoon with no initial damage reported, according to a report from the

The quake, which took place 37 miles (60 kilometers) off the coast of the western region of La Libertad, shook much of the Central American nation. The tremor was followed by two strong aftershocks, magnitude 4.1 and 4.5, Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele wrote on X.

It was also felt strongly in neighboring Guatemala. According to a report shared by Bukele, there was no risk of

tsunami following the earthquake. (AP) 

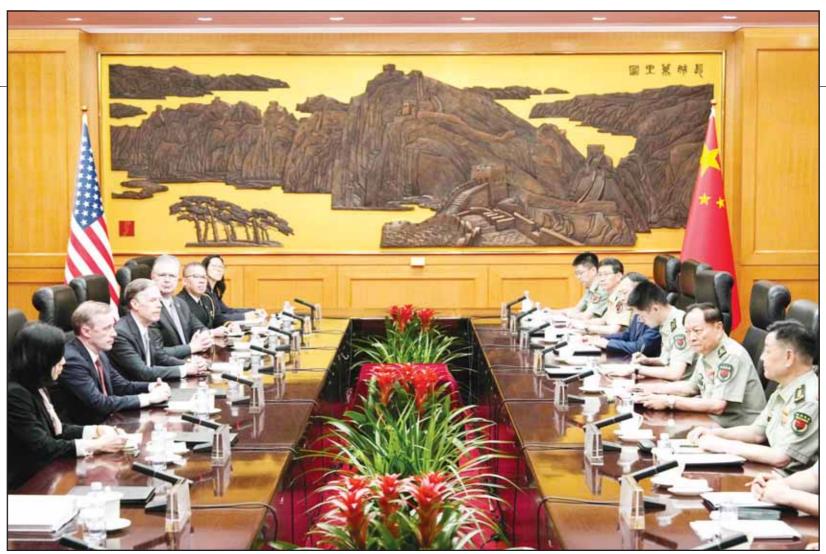
Shark killed teenager – Jamaica police: A shark attacked and killed a 16-year-old Jamaican high school student whose body was found in waters just north of the island, authorities said. Police identified the victim as Jahmari Reid from the north-

town of Montego Bay. The teen apparently went spearfishing alone early Monday, with fishermen finding his body the following day with injuries consistent with a shark attack, police said in a report late Tuesday.

ern parish of Trelawny, located just east of the popular tourist

Shark attacks are rare, with a total of 69 confirmed unprovoked attacks worldwide and 14 fatalities reported last year, according to the Florida-based International Shark Attack File.

Since 1749, only three unprovoked shark attacks have been reported in Jamaica, according to the file, which is administered by the Florida Museum of Natural History and the American Elasmobranch Society. (AP)



Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission, (second from right), holds a meeting with White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan, (second from left), during a meeting at the Bayi building in Beijing on Aug 29. (AP)



Roof tiles are seen scattered blown away by strong winds of a typhoon in Miyazaki, western Japan on Aug 29. (AP)



Sanchez

Barrow **Africa** 

Spain's PM visits Gambia: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez visited Gambia on Wednesday as part of a trip through three West African nations aimed at boosting cooperation in controlling irregular migration from the region to Spain's Canary Islands.

Sánchez met with Gambia's President Adama Barrow and said afterward that the two countries had agreed to work together on security, as well as on opportunities for legal, temporary migration, but he gave no details. "Spain, my country, wants to give a new impetus to our relationship with Africa," Sánchez said in the capital, Banjul. It was the first time a Spanish prime min-

ister has visited the small country of 2.7 million inhabitants. Sánchez began his tour Tuesday in Mauritania, where he said Spain would renew cooperation between the two nations' security forces to combat people smuggling. He planned to meet with leaders in Senegal on Thursday.

The three coastal African nations have

become the main departure points of migrants trying to reach the Canary Islands, a Spanish archipelago located close to the African coast and used as a stepping stone for migrants and refugees trying to reach

continental Europe.

More than 22,000 people have disembarked 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. Sánchez also met with a small number of Spanish law enforcement officers who are in Gambia to help the country deal with its border enforcement. Seven civil guard members and two police officers from Spain have been deployed to the country, the smallest by area on the African mainland.

Barrow thanked Spain for the officers' help in dealing with irregular migration, saying they have provided "fantastic" co-

Among migrants making it to the Canaries are thousands of Malian refugees fleeing violence and instability in the Sahelian nation as well as youth from Senegal, Mauritania and other West African countries who are seeking 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)

#### 'Swiss citizen held in Burkina Faso':

A Swiss citizen has been arrested in Burkina Faso, Swiss authorities said on Wednesday, as the West African nation governed by a military junta continues to sever its ties with the West. The citizen's identity was not immediately released.

The Swiss foreign ministry told The Associated Press it was aware of the arrest, adding that "for reasons of data and privacy protection, no further details can be provided.

The military government of Burkina Faso did not respond to a request for comment.

#### Asia

#### **HK court convicts 2 journos in sedition case**

### Xi meets with WH nat'l security adviser

BEIJING, Aug 29, (AP): Chinese President Xi Jinping met with U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan on Thursday in Beijing, on a visit with the stated aim of keeping communications open between the two powers, as the relationship between China and the United States has become increasingly tense in recent years.

Sullivan, on his first trip to China in his capacity as the main adviser to President Joe Biden on US national security issues, has met with senior Chinese officials including Foreign Minister Wang Yi and a senior general of the Central Military Commission.

China and the U.S. have become increasingly at odds over various issues, starting with a trade war dating back to 2018, and which now encompasses global security matters, such as China's claims over the South China Sea, and industrial policy on things like automobile and solar panel manufacturing. Sullivan's trip this week is meant to keep the tensions from grow-

"We believe that competition with China does not have to lead to conflict or confrontation. The key is responsible management through diplomacy,' he told reporters as he made ready to depart Beijing on Thursday evening.

Both sides said Thursday that they

remain committed to managing the relationship. Xi and Biden met in San Francisco last November in an effort to improve ties.

Although the situations of the two countries and China-US relations have changed greatly, China's goal of being committed to the stable, healthy and sustainable development of China-U.S. relations has not changed," Xi said.

#### **Ensure**

"President Biden is committed to responsibly managing this consequential relationship to ensure that competition does not veer into conflict or confrontation, and to work together where our interests align," Sullivan said.

Beijing and Washington will also

plan for a phone call in the coming weeks between Xi and Biden, the White House said Wednesday. The White House statement said that both sides would keep lines of communica-tion open. Xi said that he is willing to continue communications with Biden, according to CCTV.

Sullivan said the two leaders might meet in person before Biden leaves the Oval Office, possibly at the next Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting.

The landlocked nation of 20 million peo-

ple has been ravaged in the past eight years

by violence from extremist groups loosely

affiliated with al-Qaida and the Islamic

State organization, and from fighting be-

tween government forces and the militants.

Xi and Sullivan's meeting also touched on the issues of American citizens detained in China; Taiwan; and the clashes between the Chinese and Filipino coast guards in the South China Sea.

The two also discussed China's support for Russia, as a recent U.S. assessment found that the country was exporting technology that Russia uses to manufacture missiles, tanks and other weaponry. They also discussed efforts to end the Ukraine war, but Sullivan said they did not make any progress on

#### **Planned**

that issue.

Sullivan said that the two sides planned to hold a military theater commander phone call in the near future.

China has rapidly expanded its military, and there are concerns that Taiwan and the South China Sea are becoming flashpoints, underscoring the importance of military-to-military communications that were previously broken off, but were reinstated after the Xi-Biden summit last November.

A decades old-issue, Taiwan in recent years has re-emerged as a critical issue as the island's ties with China became increasingly strained over Chinese claims that Taiwan is part of

**US** ready with range of options:

American forces are ready with a "range of options" to deal with increasing acts of aggression in the disputed South China Sea if ordered to carry them out jointly and after consultations with treaty ally the Philippines, a USadmiral said Thursday.

US Indo-Pacific Command chief Adm Samuel Paparo, who heads the biggest number of combat forces outside the US mainland, refused to pro-

vide details of the contingency options. Paparo's comments came when asked at a news conference what the longtime treaty allies could do to deal with China's so-called gray-zone tactics in the disputed waters.

The "gray-zone tactics" refer to types of assault, like water cannon fire and the blocking and ramming of rival ships in the disputed waters, that are under the threshold of an actual armed attack and wouldn't allow the Philippines to invoke its 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty with the U.S. The treaty obligates either country to help the other in case of an armed external attack.

At least 100 villagers and soldiers were

killed in central Burkina Faso last weekend

during an attack by al-Oaida-linked iihadis

in what analysts described as one of the

The country went through two coups in

deadliest assaults this year.

Indonesia, Australia sign deal: Indonesia and Australia signed a defense agreement on Thursday that both sides described as a significant upgrade to their military relationship.

Indonesia's president-elect Prabowo Subianto, who also serves as defense minister, signed the Defense Cooperation Agreement with Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles at Indonesia's National Military Academy in Magelang, Central Java province.

Marles said the agreement, whose text has not been published, is "an important piece of international architecture, a treaty-level agreement" but not a military alliance. He added that the two countries plan to hold the largest joint military exercise in their history in November, which will be Australia's largest overseas exercise of

HK convicts 2 journos: A Hong Kong court convicted two former editors of a shuttered news outlet on Thursday, in a sedition case that is widely seen as a barometer for the once hailed as a bastion of free press

Stand News former editor-in-chief Chung Pui-kuen and former acting editor-in-chief Patrick Lam were arrested in December 2021. They pleaded not guilty to the charge of conspiracy to publish and reproduce seditious publications. Their sedition trial was Hong Kong's first involving media since the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

Stand News was one of the city's last media outlets that openly criticized the government amid a crackdown on dissent that followed massive pro-democracy protests in 2019.

It was shut down just months after the pro-democracy Apple Daily newspaper, whose jailed founder Jimmy Lai is fighting collusion charges under a sweeping national security law enacted in 2020. Chung and Lam were charged un-

der a colonial-era sedition law that has been used increasingly to crush dissidents. They face up to two years in prison and a fine of 5,000 Hong Kong dollars (about \$640) for a first offense.

Best Pencil (Hong Kong) Ltd., the outlet's holding company, was convicted on the same charge. It had no representatives during the trial, which began in October 2022.

10 months, the second last year, after which the military junta expelled French forces and turned to Russia for security support. However, the junta has struggled to contain

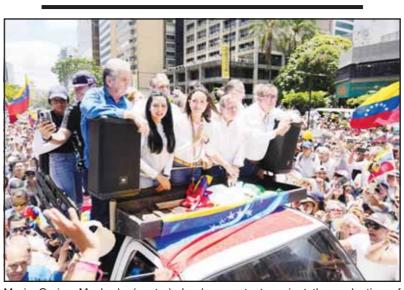
the security and humanitarian crisis. (AP) S.Africa probes corruption at firms:

South Africa has active investigations into alleged corruption totaling more than \$7 billion at some of its top state-owned companies, according to a report published Tuesday by the national anti-graft unit.

The investigations are not new, and some have been running since 2018, and all of them were cited by the Special Investigative Unit (SIU) in a report to a parliamentary committee to give an update on the status of the probes.

Those investigations involve six stateowned businesses: ports and rail company Transnet, arms company Denel, power utility Eskom, the National Lotteries Commission, national airline South African Airways and passenger rail company PRASA. Around 60 suspicious contracts and hundreds of cases of conflict of interest and other alleged corruption worth nearly \$4 billion of public money are under investigation at Transnet alone, according to the report.

Also, there are nearly 40 other ongoing investigations into alleged corruption involving different state-run businesses and national and provincial government departments worth billions more dollars. Even more investigations have been finalized by the SIU ahead of being made public. (AP)



Maria Corina Machado (center), leads a protest against the reelection of President Nicolás Maduro one month after the disputed presidential vote which she claims the opposition won by a landslide, in Caracas, Venezuela on Aug 28. (AP)

#### **Boursa Kuwait sees mixed performance in high-volume trading**

In yesterday's trading session on the Boursa Kuwait, the market indices exhibited mixed performance, reports Al-Jarida daily. The General Market Index showed a slight decline, dropping by 7.78 points. Despite this, trading activity surged to its highest level in three months, with liquidity surpassing 72 million dinars and a total of 290.4 million shares changing hands across 18,345 transactions. Out of the 129 stocks traded, 54 gained, 57 lost ground, and 18 remained unchanged.

The Premier Market Index experienced a decrease of 0.25 percent, or

19.84 points, closing at 7,819.60 points. This sector saw liquidity of 53.5 million dinars and 150.5 million shares traded through 10,844 transactions. Of the 34 stocks in this category, 12 advanced, 17 declined, and

5 held steady.

The Main Market Index improved by 0.60 percent, or 36.23 points,

ending the day at 6,077.18 points. This segment had a liquidity of 18.4 million dinars, with 139.8 million shares traded through 7,501 transactions. Among the 95 stocks in this category, 42 gained, 40 lost, and 13 remained unchanged.

The session began with positive momentum, with liquidity rising by over two million dinars in the first minute, thanks to initial buying activity focused on IFA shares and small stocks such as Al-Safat and GFH.

Notably, Warba stock performed well throughout the session, while KFH stock fluctuated. It briefly exceeded 730 fils before retreating due to profit-taking. NBK's stock also faced downward pressure, falling by about 1 percent amid profit-taking, despite recent gains.

Green banking sector stocks, including Gulf Bank, International Bank, and Warba Bank, showed positive performance, while Boubyan Petro-

chemicals stock saw a rise of 12 fils. Human Soft also experienced gains. The liquidity distribution among the top 20 stocks was varied, with 8 stocks rising, 8 falling, and 4 remaining unchanged. Agility stock was in decline, while Zain remained steady after significant gains earlier. Small and medium-sized stocks saw mixed outcomes, with Inovest

remaining stable, Safat declining slightly, and GFH falling after initial

positive trading.

The final half-hour of trading saw profit-taking as the market prepared for the upcoming session and the FTSE Russell review.

In broader Gulf market trends, indices across the GCC countries experienced declines, with Saudi Arabia, the UAE (both indices), Kuwait, and Qatar all falling. Only Bahrain and Oman saw index gains. Oil prices also faced a downturn, with Brent crude closing at \$78.50 per barrel.

**Market** Movements 29-08-2024

SAUDI DUBAI **EGYPT PAKISTAN** 

Change Closing pts +28.00 12,145.15 - DFMGI 4,334.26 +10.06 EGX 30 +64.60 30,774.19 KSE 100 +312.18 78,353.06

- Nikkei 225 PHILIPPINES - PSFi

Change Closing pts -9.23 38,362.53 -66.46 6.891.55

# Business

## Kuwait's oil and gas financing surges 17.6% in June, despite annual decline

Volatility in oil sector financing throughout 2023

#### By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: In June, local banks' financing for the oil and gas sector in Kuwait saw a substantial increase of 88.2 million dinars, or 17.6 percent, bringing the total to 88.7 million dinars.

This rise marked a significant improvement from the 500,000 dinars recorded in May. However, on an annual basis, financing for the sector decreased by 7.8 million dinars, or 8 percent, compared to June 2023, when it was 96.5 million dinars.

Over the first six months of 2024, total financing for the sector amounted to approximately 760.8 million dinars.

For both residents and non-residents, the total balance of local banks' financing for the oil and gas sector decreased by about 100 million dinars in June, reaching 2.334 billion dinars.

This was down from 2.434 billion dinars in June 2023. The annual decline was even more pronounced, with the balance falling by 292 million dinars from 2.626 billion dinars in June 2023.

Throughout 2023, oil and gas sector financing displayed considerable variability. It started at 78.8 million dinars in January, surged to 243.3 million dinars in February then dropped sharply to 61.2 million dinars before rising again to 159.2 million dinars in April.

The month of May saw a significant increase to 252.8 million dinars, followed by a decrease to 96.5 million dinars in June.

Subsequent months continued to show fluctuations -- July saw a rise to 80 million dinars, August peaked at 293 million dinars, September dropped to 6.2 million dinars, October climbed to 125.1 million dinars, November reached 269.7 million dinars, and December ended at 89.3 million dinars.

In the broader context of monthly credit facilities provided by banks across all sectors, there was a 3 percent increase in the first half of 2024, totaling 12.067 billion dinars, up from 11.708 billion dinars in the same period of 2023.

The credit facilities increased to 167.2 million dinars or 8.6 percent from May to June, reaching 2.099 billion dinars. However, this was an 11 percent decrease on an annual basis, down from 2.171 billion dinars in June 2023

Personal facilities experienced a notable increase of 22 percent over the first six months of 2024, rising from 1.789 billion dinars to 2.185 billion dinars. Nonetheless, there was a 20.8 percent monthly decline in June, with personal facilities dropping from 443.7 million dinars in May to 351.1 million dinars.

In recent developments, the balances of cash credit facilities (loans) with local banks increased by 4.2 percent from 53.557 billion dinars at the end of December to 55.8 billion dinars by the end

This rise also represents a monthly increase of 0.9 percent, amounting to about 510.7 million dinars from 55.297 billion dinars at the end of May. On an annual basis, this figure is up by 5.3 percent from 52.983 billion dinars recorded in June 2023.

Deposits in local banks also saw an increase during this period. They grew by 1.16 percent or 569.2 million dinars, rising from 48.727 billion dinars in December 2023 to 49.29 billion dinars in June. Annually, deposits increased by 3 percent, or 1.457 billion dinars, from 47.839 billion dinars in June 2023.

In the oil market, prices continued to climb due to concerns over potential disruptions in regional oil supplies amid escalating tensions in the Middle East. Additionally, expectations of US interest rate cuts have positively impacted global economic prospects and fuel demand.

Brent crude futures rose to \$80.02 per barrel, while US crude increased by \$1 to \$75.83 per barrel. Earlier in the day, Brent crude futures were up 37 cents, or 0.5 percent, reaching \$79.39 per barrel, and US crude futures rose 36 cents, or 0.5 percent, to \$75.19 per barrel.

Market analysts are anticipating further price increases. Tony Sycamore from IG noted that Israel's preemptive strike on Lebanon could lead to higher oil prices, with WTI potentially extending its recovery to \$77.50 per barrel.

#### Ajyal real estate sees highest growth

#### Kuwait real estate sector reports revenue growth of 3.4% in H1-24

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: In the first half of 2024, real estate companies listed on the Boursa Kuwait collectively reported operating revenues of 239 million dinars, marking a 3.4 percent increase from 231 million dinars in the same period of 2023, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This rise represents a gain of 79.1 million dinars compared to the pre-

The top performers include the Mabanee Company which led the sector with the highest operating revenues, reaching 66 million dinars, up from 61.8 million dinars.

The United Real Estate Company followed with revenues of 40.2 million dinars, a decrease from 43 million dinars and the Salhia Real Estate Company secured third place with revenues of 22.2 million dinars, an increase from 20 million

As for the Kuwait Real Estate Company, it earned 15.8 million dinars, up from 14.7 million dinars.

Al-Tijaria Real Estate Company saw revenues of 15.5 million dinars, compared to 15 million dinars.

The companies with the highest growth were the Ajyal Real Estate Entertainment Company, achieving the most significant growth of 44.4 percent, with revenues rising from 3.4 million dinars to 5 million dinars, followed by Dar Al Thuraya Real Estate Company with a 39.23 percent increase, reaching 401 thousand dinars, up from 288 thousand

The Real Estate Trade and Invest-

ment Company saw a 39.2 percent rise in revenues, growing from 2 million dinars to 2.8 million dinars, while the Injazat Real Estate Development Company experienced a 38.7 percent increase, with revenues reaching 3.8 million dinars compared to 2.7 million dinars.

The Al Argan International Real Estate Company grew by 34.8 percent, with revenues rising from 10 million dinars to 13.5 million di-

The following companies saw revenue declines - the National Real Estate Company reported the largest decline, down 60.6 percent to 2.6 million dinars from 6.6 million dinars; the Real Estate Trade Centers followed with a 47.6 percent decrease, with revenues dropping from 84 thousand dinars to 44 thousand dinars and Aayan Real Estate Company experienced a 17.6 percent drop, with revenues falling to 4.2 million dinars from 5.1 million dinars.

This is in addition to Al-Arabiya Real Estate Company which saw a decline of 16.8 percent, with revenues decreasing from 4.8 million dinars to 3.9 million dinars; Mazaya Holding Company recorded a 10.3 percent decrease, with revenues falling to 7 million dinars from 7.8 million dinars.

The real estate sector's overall positive performance highlights continued growth and resilience, despite some companies facing challenges.

#### Capital goods sector leads profit growth with 68.3% increase

### GCC companies' net profits rise 5.7% YoY in Q2 2024

#### **By KAMCO Invest**

A ggregate net profits reported companies listed on GCC exchanges witnessed a healthy yoy growth of 5.7% during Q2-2024 led by a broad-based growth across most markets in the region, barring Oman. The q-o-q growth came in at 8.1% with total net profits up for the second consecutive quarter to reach USD 60.7 Bn during Q2-2024 as compared to USD 56.2 Bn in Q1-2024 and USD 57.4 Bn in Q2-2023. At the regional level, Dubai reported the second-biggest y-o-y growth in profits (after Bahrain) at 30.9% reaching USD 6.7 Bn during Q2-2024 mainly related to accounting adjustments and restructuring implemented by DSI. Companies in Bahrain also reported doubledigit y-o-y growth in profits during the quarter followed by low to mid-single digit profit growth for the rest of the GCC countries.

The growth in profits also highlighted a broadbased double-digit increase in profits for most sectors in the GCC. Key sectors like Banks and Telecom posted profit growth of 10.8% and 15.8%, respectively, while Materials and Real Estate sectors showed even stronger growth of 45.6% and 23.9%, respectively. The 68.3% profit growth for the Capital Goods sector reflected the accounting adjustments related to DSI. On the other hand, profits for the Energy sector declined during the quarter by 0.9% mainly reflecting 2.5% decline in net profits for Aramco that more than offset higher profits for a majority of the companies in the sector. The F&B sector also registered a steep profit decline of 35.5% mainly led by a fall in profits

reported by IHC during Q2-2024.

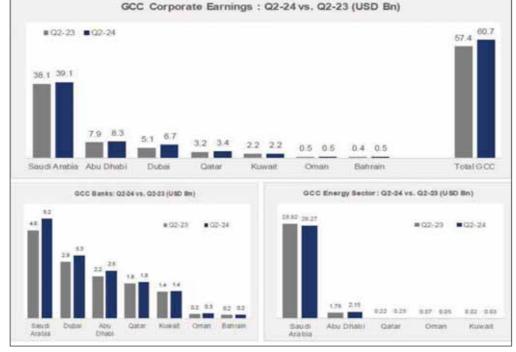
In terms of 1H-2024 performance, net profits for GCC listed corporates was almost flat with a marginal increase of 0.1% to reach USD 116.9 Bn as compared to USD 116.8 Bn during 1H-2023. The flattish growth reflected mixed trend at the country level with Saudi and Abu Dhabi

listed entities reporting a decline in net profits by 2.7% and 2.2%, respectively, which was completely offset by higher total profits for the rest of the country aggregates. The aggregate for Dubai once again showed the biggest y-o-y growth of 20.0% during

1H-2024. Profits reported by listed banks in the GCC reached a new record high during Q2-2024 after four out of the six country aggregates showed growth as compared to Q1-2024. Aggregate net profits reached USD 14.8 Bn during the quarter as compared to USD 14.3 Bn during the previous quarter, resulting in a qo-q growth of 3.6%. The yoy growth was also healthy at 10.8% when compared to Q2-2023. The biggest support to bottom-line performance for the sector came from a steep decline in quarterly impairments booked by banks in the region. Total loan loss provisions (impairments) reached the lowest level in at least 33 quarters at USD 1.9 Bn reflecting doubledigit q-o-q declines in most countries in the GCC. In addition, higher net interest income also supported profit growth that was partially offset by a slight decline in non-interest income during the quarter.

Despite a majority of the companies showing higher net profits, the aggregate profit for the GCC energy sector witnessed a marginal y-o-y decline of 0.9% during Q2-2024 to reach USD 30.7 Bn as compared to USD 31.0 Bn during Q2-2023. The decline was mainly led by fall in profits for Saudi Aramco and was further exacerbated by lower profits reported by OQ Gas Networks and Arabian Drilling. Net profits for Saudi Aramco declined by 3.4% y-o-y during the quarter mainly due to lower volumes of crude oil sold coupled with lower refining margins. The 38.7% y-oy decline in profits for OQ Gas Networks was due to one time valuation adjustments made during the corresponding quarter in 2023 while the more than 80% fall in profits for Arabian Drilling reflected higher

Net profits for the GCC Telecom sector witnessed a healthy y-o-y growth of 15.8% during Q2-2024 with



total profits reaching USD 2.8 Bn during the quarter as compared to USD 2.4 Bn in Q2-2024. The increase in profits reflected positive bottom-line performance for most companies in the sector. Net profits for Etisalat reached USD 861.7 Mn, up 25.4% y-o-y during Q2-2024 mainly led by higher revenues and increase in subscriber base. Net profits for Ooredoo and STC also surged by 9.8% and 14.9%, respectively, while that of Zain declined by 8.5% during Q2-2024.

#### Kuwait

Net profits reported by companies listed on Boursa Kuwait increased by 1.0% y-o-y during Q2-2024 to reach USD 2.20 Bn as compared to USD 2.18 Bn in Q2-2023. The biggest impact on aggregate earnings came from the Real Estate sector which showed a 104.4% jump in profits that reached USD 153.0 Mn in Q2-2024 from USD 74.8 Mn in Q2-2023. Banks, Consumer Services and Energy sectors also contributed to earnings growth during the quarter.

In terms of 1H-2024 earnings performance, net profits increased marginally by 0.3% to reach USD 4.6 Bn as compared to USD 4.5 Bn during 1H-2023. Earnings growth during the 1H-2024 was broadbased and was mainly driven by Banks, Real Estate, and Diversified Financials companies. It is noteworthy that out of the eighteen sectors on Boursa Kuwait, thirteen have witnessed a y-o-y increase in profits during 1H-2024 while the remaining five sectors witnessed declines. Among the decliners, 1H-2024 profits for the Telecom sector declined by 40.9%. In the Banking sector, Kuwaiti listed banks reported net profits of USD 2.8 Bn for 1H-2024, as compared to USD 2.6 Bn in 1H-2023, up by 4.1%

Quarterly net profits for listed banks in Kuwait increased by 1.8% y-o-y to reach USD 1.42 Bn as compared to USD 1.39 Bn in Q2-2023. NBK reported a net profit of USD 475.5 Mn, up by 3.5% vs. a profit of USD 459.3 Mn in Q2-2023 mainly led by higher net operating income which increased by 5.4% to USD 993.5 Mn. Lower impairment losses also supported profits that was partially offset by higher operating expenses as compared to Q2-2023. Net profits for KFH reached USD 581.4 Mn during Q2-2024, up by 4.3% compared to USD 557.4 Mn from Q2-2023 mainly due to the increase in the net financing income in addition to the increase in net fees and commission income. Meanwhile, net profits reported by CBK declined to reach USD 112.0 Mn in Q2-2024 from USD 143.5 Mn Q2-2023 on account of higher

loan loss recoveries occurred last year resulting from legal verdict. In addition, the bank reported higher operating expenses that was partially offset by higher net interest income and fees income.

Profits for the Real Estate sector reached USD 153.0 Mn in Q2-2024 compared to a net profit of USD 74.8 Mn in Q2-2023. The Commercial Real Estate Co. posted a net profit of USD 19.0 Mn for Q2-2024 against a profit of USD 12.4 Mn led by an increase in share of profits from investments in associates and net gain on investments. Kuwait Real Estate Co. also reported an increase in quarterly net profits that reached USD 16.0 Mn in Q2-2024 against a net profit of USD 9.6 Mn in Q2- 2023 mainly led by an increase in real estate rental income during the period in addition to the increase in the change in the fair value of investment properties. Arab Real Estate Co. also recorded higher net profits that reached USD 7.1 Mn in Q2-2024 compared to a net profit of USD 2.3 Mn in Q2-2023 led by the gain from extinguishment of loan. Meanwhile, Mazaya Holding Co. posted a net profit of USD 1.2 Mn during the quarter as

compared to losses during Q2-2023. Aggregate profits for the Telecom sector declined by 3.4% y-o-y in Q2-2024 to reach USD 239.9 Mn vs. USD 248.3 Mn in Q2-2023. A fall in net profits reported by Zain dragged down overall net profits for the sector. The telco reported a net profit of USD 170.2 Mn against a profit of USD 186.1 Mn in Q2-2023. The 8.5% y-o-y decline in profits for the telco during Q2-2024 was mainly due to gains related to Kuwait number range claim to the tune of USD 80.81 Mn during Q2-2023. Excluding the number range benefit in Q2-2023, the normalized net income growth for Q2-2024 was estimated to have reached 55%. The telco also reported a drop in profits during 1H-2024 mainly led by a one-time gain on sale and leaseback of tower assets in Saudi Arabia. Excluding the impact of the transaction and number range claim, the adjusted net income for 1H-2024 grew by 11%. Net profits for Ooredoo increased by 17.9% during Q2-2024 to reach USD 43.5 Mn vs USD 36.9 Mn in Q2-2023, mainly led by an increase in revenues. Similarly, STC Kuwait posted a net profit of USD 26.2 Mn for Q2-2024 against a profit of USD 25.4

Mn, also driven by the increase in the revenues.

#### Kuwaiti oil price drops to \$78.67 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil barrel went down by USD 1.79 to stand at USD 78.67 per barrel (pb) on Wednesday, compared with USD 80.46 Tuesday, said Kuwait Petro-

leum Corporation (KPC) on Thursday.

In international markets, Brent crude oil went down by 90 cents to reach USD 78.65, while West Texas crude declined by 1.01 to reach USD 74.52.

#### **OPEC basket crude prices rise 4.3% in Q2**

#### OAPEC Secretary-General advocates for increased fossil fuel investments

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29, (KUNA): OAPEC Secretary-General, Jamal Al-Loughani stressed that the benefits of fossil fuels will continue to greatly outweigh their potential side effects, calling for pumping new investments into fossil fuel projects, especially oil and natural gas, to ensure reliable and affordable energy

in the future. This came in a statement to KUNA Thursday on issuing the second quarterly report of the Organization's General Secretariat for the year 2024.

He stated that the oil and natural gas sector is expected to account for about 53.7 percent of the global energy mix by 2045, according to

OPEC estimates. Al-Loughani also noted that the past few years' events, especially the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, have proven that the trend toward energy transformation away from fossil fuels cannot continue steadily and on a large scale, even in advanced

economies. Carbon emissions from fossil fuels can be significantly reduced by enhancing and supporting investment, innovation and continuous development in clean technologies such as carbon capture and storage technology while focusing on increasing energy efficiency, he

The OAPEC chief hoped that this report would provide continued support to future energy policymakers in the Organization's member states, noting that the performance of the global economy witnessed stable growth during the second quarter of this year.

Al-Loughani noted that emerging Asian market economies continued to be the main driver of the global economy, proving their resilience despite global monetary tightening, expecting the global economy to grow by 3.3 percent next year, slightly higher than the prevailing rate in 2024 of 3.2 per-

He said continued strong demand from refiners in the Asia-Pacific region helped absorb available supplies in the Atlantic Basin amid refinery maintenance in Europe.

Oil prices fell during May and June, affected by the noticeable fluctuations in speculative activity in the futures market, which witnessed an increase in selling operations, changes in expectations regarding the market prospects in the near term, and a decrease in the variance in gasoline and diesel prices between major trading centers, he added.

Moreover, Al-Loughani said that the availability of crude oil supplies in northwest Europe, supplies from the US Gulf Coast, and the rise in US oil inventories contributed to the decline in prices during the first half

He pointed out that the average spot prices of the OPEC basket of crudes every quarter witnessed an increase of 4.3 percent compared to the previous quarter to reach USD 85.3 per barrel, while Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate futures recorded quarterly gains of 3.9 percent and 8.6 percent, respectively.

He stressed that global oil supplies of crude oil and natural gas liquids witnessed an increase of only 0.1 percent compared to the previous quarter to reach 102.2 million barrels per day.

The developments in the global oil market cast a shadow over the levels of economic performance in OAPEC member states during the second quarter of this year, as the growth witnessed in the levels of output in the oil sectors of those countries continued to slow down,

Al-Loughani expected the slowdown to continue in the short term, coinciding with the decision of OPEC Plus countries to extend voluntary production cuts, which may harm oil revenues in OPEC member countries, which are among the most important sources of national income and contribute to achieving sustainable develop-

#### bill makes undocumented immigrants eligible for home loans

Undocumented immigrants in California could be eligible for state assistance in buying a home under a bill the state Legislature sent to Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom Wednesday

The proposal, which prompted contentious debate in the Legislature, would specify that people who meet all other requirements for a loan under a state program offering assistance to first-time home buyers, should not be disqualified based on their immigration status. The Assembly gave it final approval in the Legislature in a

vote that fell along party lines.
Assembly member Joaquin Arambula, a Democrat representing Fresno who authored the bill, said it was not about immigration policies but about fairness and addressing the housing crisis.

"AB 1840 is about providing an opportunity to hard-working, responsible people who dream of owning a home and passing that legacy to their children - a dream that we all have for all our families in California." Arambula said in a statement. "And includes undocumented immigrants

who have lived here for decades and pay their taxes.

But Republican lawmakers say California should prioritize housing assistance for families who are in the country legally

"We have Californians who are not undocumented immigrants, who need these services," Republican state Sen. Brian Dahle said earlier this week. "We should take care of them first, before we expand

Newsom has until the end of September to sign or veto the bil. (AP)



Assembly member, Dr. Joaquin Arambula D-Fresno. left, is seen at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif. (AP)

#### **Sentiments remain cautious**

### Asian shares mostly slip as market focus turns from Nvidia to US economy

TOKYO, Aug 29, (AP): Asian shares mostly fell Thursday as market attention turned to upcoming data on the U.S. economy after Nvidia reported its financial results.

Nvidia, one of several companies that have ridden a wave of enthusiasm over artificial intelligence developments, reported earnings Wednesday.

The results showed a strong profit, but Nvidia stock fell 2.1%, though it is up 153% for the year. The company is one of the most influential stocks on

Wall Street, with a total market value topping \$3 trillion.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 slipped 0.1% in afternoon trading to 38,330.03. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 declined 0.3% to 8,045.10. South Korea's Kospi dipped 0.9% to 2,664.45. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 0.2% to

17,718.26, while the Shanghai Composite dropped 0.3% to 2,827.96. Sentiments remained cautious even after the White House said Beijing and Washington will plan for a phone call in the coming weeks between Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden.

The White House statement said both sides would keep lines of communication open. Worries are growing lately about tensions over Taiwan.

Investors are looking ahead to Friday, when the U.S. government releases its latest data on inflation with the PCE, or personal consumption and expenditures report, for July,

Economists expect the PCE, which is the Federal Reserve's preferred measure of inflation, to show that inflation edged up to 2.6% in July from 2.5% in June. It was as high as 7.1% in the middle of 2022. The rate of inflation has been easing steadily back toward the central bank's target of 2% since then, following the Fed's aggressive interest rate hikes.

Wall Street and the Fed are trying to gauge the resiliency of U.S. consumers amid the squeeze from inflation and high borrowing rates. The central bank is expected to begin trimming its benchmark interest rate back from a twodecade high at its next meeting in September.

### **Nvidia stock slips even after earnings top WS estimates**

LOS ANGELES, Aug 29, (AP): Nvidia may have exceeded Wall Street estimates as its profit jumped - buffeted by the chipmaking dominance that has cemented Nvidia's place as the poster child of the artificial intelligence

boom - but investors seemed less than impressed.

The company reported a net income of to \$16.6 billion. Adjusted for onetime items, net income was \$16.95 billion. Revenue rose to \$30 billion, up 122% from a year ago and 15% from the previous quarter.

By comparison, S&P 500 companies overall are expected to deliver just 5% growth in revenue for the quarter, according to FactSet. Still, Nvidia

shares slipped nearly 4% in after-hours trading. Ryan Detrick, chief market strategist at Carson Group, said that despite

growing revenue "it appears the bar was just set a tad too high this earnings season."
"Death, taxes, and NVDA beats on earnings are three things you can bank on," Detrick said. "Here's the issue. The size of the beat this time was much smaller than we've been seeing. Even future guidance was raised, but again not by the tune from previous quarters.

The company reported second-quarter adjusted earnings per share of 68 cents per share, up from 27 cents a year ago. Nvidia said it expects third quarter revenue to grow to \$32.5 billion, plus or minus 2%

Nvidia has led the artificial intelligence sector to become one of the stock market's biggest companies, as tech giants continue to spend heavily on the company's chips and data centers needed to train and operate their AI systems. "The people who are investing in Nvidia infrastructure are getting returns

on it right away," Jensen Huang, founder and CEO of Nvidia, said on a call with analysts. "It's the best ROI infrastructure, computing infrastructure investment you can make today.

Demand for generative AI products that can compose documents, make images and serve as personal assistants has fueled sales of Nvidia's specialized chips over the last year. In June, Nvidia briefly rose to become the most valuable company in the S&P 500. The company is now worth over \$3 trillion.

Nvidia CFO Colette Kress said during the analyst call that the company is planning to increase production of its Blackwell Al chips beginning in the fourth quarter and continuing through fiscal 2026.

Stocks on Wall Street closed lower, as a pullback in big technology companies outweighed gains elsewhere in the market. The S&P 500 fell 0.6%, eighed down by drops in Nvidia, Apple, Microsoft and Amazon.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which was coming off two consecutive all-time highs, fell 0.4%. The Nasdaq composite, which is heavily weighted with technology stocks, closed 1.1% lower.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 33.62 points to 5,592.18. The Dow fell 159.08

points to 41,091.42. The Nasdaq fell 198.79 points to 17,556.03.

Treasury yields were mixed in the bond market. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 3.84% from 3.83% on Tuesday.

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude rose 28 cents to \$74.80 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, gained 15 cents to \$78.80 a barrel.

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar rose to 144.54 Japanese yen from 144.44 yen. The euro cost \$1.1138, up from \$1.1122.

#### **Accounting report delayed**

### Super Micro Computer shares 'tumble' 25 pct

WASHINGTON, Aug 29, (AP): Super Micro Computer lost a quarter of its value in morning trading Wednesday after the server technology company said it was delaying the filing of its annual report.

The company said in a regulatory filing that "additional time is needed for management to complete its assessment of the design and operating effectiveness of its internal controls over financial reporting as of June 30, 2024," which was the end of the company's fiscal year.

Super Micro Computer's announcement comes one day after short-selling firm Hindenburg Research said a threemonth review turned up new evidence of accounting manipulation by the San Jose, California-based company. Hindenburg said it has taken a short position in the stock, meaning it's betting the price will drop.

The company's shares slid 25.2% in midday trading to \$409.48. They hit an all-time high of \$1,229 each on March 8 of this year.

Hindenburg accused Super Micro of rehiring top executives that were directly involved in an accounting scandal that resulted in the company being temporarily delisted by Nasdaq in 2018 for failing to file financial statements.

The Securities and Exchange Commission in 2020 charged Super Micro with improper accounting for "prematurely recognizing revenue and understating expenses" beginning at least as early as fiscal 2015 to 2017. The company paid a \$17.5 million civil penalty.

Super Micro has been among the technology companies recently riding a wave of enthusiasm over products and services related to artificial intel-

Super Micro's shares more than quadrupled in less than three months to start the year as it reported booming revenue. Earlier this month, Super Micro reported fourth-quarter revenue of \$5.3 billion, a more than 143% increase over the \$2.2 billion it reported in the same quarter of

Hindenburg said its investigation included interviews with former senior employees and industry experts and a review of records that "found glaring accounting red flags, evidence of undisclosed related party transactions, sanctions and export control failures, and customer issues.'

When asked for comment on the Hindenburg report, the company said in an email that it "does not comment on rumors and speculation.'

# New rules make it harder for criminals to launder money

Cash for homes in the US must be reported

#### **REHOBOTH** BEACH, Del., Aug 29, (AP): The Treasury Department has issued regulations aimed at making it harder for criminals to launder money by paying cash for residential real estate.

Under rules finalized Wednesday, investment advisers and real estate professionals will be required to report cash sales of residential real estate sold to legal entities, trusts and shell companies. The requirements won't apply to sales to individuals or purchases involving mortgages or other fi-

The new rules come as part of a Biden administration effort to combat money laundering and the movement of dirty money through the American financial system. All-cash purchases of residential real estate are considered a

high risk for money laundering.
The Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, also known as FinCEN, will administer the rules.

Money laundering in residential real estate can also drive up housing costs and rising home prices are one of the big economic issues in this year's presidential campaign. A 2019 study on the impact of money laundering on home values in Canada, conducted by a group of Canadian academics, found that money laundering investment in real estate pushed up housing prices in the range of 3.7% to 7.5%.

Under the new rules, the professionals involved in the sale will be required to report the names of the sellers and individuals benefitting from the transaction. They will also have to include details of the property being sold and payments involved, among other infor-

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in a news release that the new rules address some of the nation's biggest regulatory deficiencies

These steps will make it harder for criminals to exploit our strong residential real estate and investment adviser sectors," she said. Ian Gary, executive director of the

FACT Coalition, a nonprofit that pro-

### Edmunds: The five biggest mistakes people make when buying a new car

NEW YORK, Aug 29, (AP): Car buyers have more tools than ever to get the right vehicle at the right price. Still, mistakes can happen quite easily. Often, car buyers get blinded by emotion or rushed timing. Edmunds' experts reveal the five biggest mistakes car shoppers often make and offer tips to

Being upside down on a trade-in vehicle is occurring with increasing frequency. According to a recent Edmunds report, nearly one in four consumers who financed a new vehicle purchase with a trade-in during the second quarter of 2024 were underwa-

ter on their prior car loan.
"Upside down," "underwater" and
"negative equity" are interchangeable terms for a bad situation: All three mean that the car owner owes more on the loan than the vehicle is worth. Not only has the number of upside-down trade-ins grown since 2022, but so has the amount owed on those loans.

If, for example, you are \$5,000 upside down on your current vehicle and decide to trade in this car and buy a new one, you will have to pay the price of the new car plus the \$5,000 you owe on the current car. Your monthly payments will be much higher because you're rolling over what you owe on your old car to the loan on your new

The best financial solution is to keep your current car longer and continue paying off its loan. Waiting might be challenging - you want that new car, we get it - but if you can at least ensure your trade-in value equals your loan amount, you won't have to pay extra for the new vehicle purchase.

There can be legitimate reasons to expedite a vehicle purchase. Perhaps your vehicle was totaled in an accident, or maybe it broke down and it's not worth paying to fix. Either way, you'll need a new car right away. But many shoppers don't think about doing valuable research beforehand.

There will be new and unfamiliar automotive features and technologies worth knowing about, especially if it's been a while since you bought a new car. If you take your time, you'll also be able to get several quotes before you commit to a deal and have time for a vehicle inspection if it's a used car.

Even if you need to replace your car quickly, it's often better to find alternative transportation while you research a new vehicle purchase. Renting a car for a few days might cost a few hundred dollars, but that's better than picking the wrong vehicle or getting suckered into a bad deal.

This mistake is often made by shoppers rushing to find a new vehicle. Be sure you give yourself time to make wise choices when you need a car quickly. Most price research can be done online or on your phone without leaving home. Avoid walking into a dealership and making a purchase decision without looking elsewhere.

Tori Syrek, a spokesperson for the

Dealers are in the habit of competing with one another, so be sure they're doing so to your advantage. Be transparent about your shopping, and share quotes with dealers so they know

Some shoppers will be overwhelmed by a salesperson throwing around lots of numbers including the asking price, trade-in value for your car, cash down and monthly payment. Though there are fewer dealers practicing confusion tactics than there used to be, it's good to be prepared to combat them should

To start, do your research to determine the market value of the vehicle you want to buy before you begin to negotiate. This figure will serve as the backbone of your strategy and give you a reference point. From here, it's best to keep it simple and focus on two numbers: the out-the-door price of the car - that's the sales price plus fees like tax and license - and your trade-

Also watch out for potential addons that the dealership might use to boost its profit. These include antitheft devices, additional warranties, paint and fabric protection, floor mats, wheel locks and more. You can likely negotiate the price of the addons but it might distract you from your primary goal of getting the best deal on the vehicle itself. Purchasing a car without add-ons is the best way

to avoid the situation.

part of its overall agenda, including through creating a requirement that tens of millions of small businesses register with the government as part of an effort to prevent the criminal abuse

However, an Alabama federal district judge ruled in March that the Treasury Department cannot require small business owners to report details on their owners and others who benefit

### **Buffett's firm 'sells' another** \$1b of Bank of America stock

Co. still holds almost 12%

OMAHA, Neb., Aug 29, (AP): Investor Warren Buffett's company has unloaded more of its Bank of America stake, selling nearly 25 million shares worth almost \$1 billion over the past

Berkshire Hathaway has steadily sold off 116 million Bank of America shares since July. But it still controls nearly 12% of the stock in the bank based in Charlotte, North Carolina.

After the sale was disclosed, Berkshire's Class A stock - already the most expensive stock on Wall Street - gained \$7,184.62 Wednesday to sell for \$698,534.62.

That elevated the conglomerate based in Omaha, Nebraska, into the club of companies valued by the stock market at over \$1 trillion. But that's still well shy of market behemoths Nvidia and Microsoft, now valued at

The Bank of American stake remains one of Berkshire's biggest investments, behind only its large Apple stake and its longtime American Express investment. Buffett raised eyebrows earlier this

month when he revealed he had halved the Apple investment and in the process built up a record \$277 billion cash pile as of June 30. Berkshire's cash has only grown since then with the Bank of America stock sales and all the earnings from the assortment of dozens of companies it owns, including BNSF railroad, Geico insurance, a collection of utilities and a bunch of retail and manufacturing businesses.

Buffett watchers say Berkshire's recent stock sales are likely a sign that the revered investor thinks the stock market is overpriced and they suggest he may be trying to set himself up to take advantage of a downturn.

motes corporate transparency, called the rules "much-needed safeguards" in the fight against dirty money in the

"After years of advocacy by lawmakers, anti-money laundering experts and civil society, the era of unmitigated financial secrecy and impunity for financial criminals in the U.S. seems to finally be over," Gary said.

Some industry representatives wel-

National Association of Realtors, said FinCEN's final rule is a pragmatic approach to combating money laundering and other crimes. "Bad actors are exploiting the current vulnerabilities," Syrek said. "FinCEN's final rule is a pragmatic, risk-based approach to combating money laundering and these other crimes.

The Biden administration has made increasing corporate transparency of anonymous shell companies.

### California advances landmark legislation to regulate large AI models

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Aug 29, (AP): Efforts in California to establish first-in-the-nation safety measures for the largest artificial intelligence systems cleared an important vote Wednesday that could pave the way for U.S. regulations on the technology evolving at warp speed.

The proposal, aiming to reduce potential risks created by AI, would require companies to test their models and publicly disclose their safety protocols to prevent the models from being manipulated to, for example, wipe out the state's electric grid or help build chemical weapons - scenarios experts say could be possible in the future with such rapid advancements in

The bill is among hundreds lawmakers are voting on during its final week of session. Gov. Gavin Newsom then has until the end of September to decide whether to sign them into law, veto them or allow them to become law without his signature.

The measure squeaked by in the Assembly Wednesday and requires a final Senate vote before reaching the gover-

Supporters said it would set some of the first much-needed safety ground rules for large-scale AI models in the United States. The bill targets systems that require more than \$100 million in data to train. No current AI models have hit that threshold.

"It's time that Big Tech plays by

some kind of a rule, not a lot, but something," Republican Assemblymember Devon Mathis said in support of the bill Wednesday. "The last thing we need is for a power grid to go out, for water systems to go out.'

The proposal, authored by Democratic Sen. Scott Wiener, faced fierce opposition from venture capital firms and tech companies, including OpenAI, Google and Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram. They say safety regulations should be established by the federal government and that the California legislation takes aim at developers instead of targeting those who use and exploit the AI systems for harm.

A group of several California House

members also opposed the bill, with Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi calling it " well-intentioned but ill informed.'

Chamber of Progress, a left-leaning Silicon Valley-funded industry group, said the bill is "based on science fiction fantasies of what AI could look like."

"This bill has more in common with Blade Runner or The Terminator than the real world," Senior Tech Policy Director Todd O'Boyle said in a statement after the Wednesday vote. "We shouldn't hamstring California's leading economic sector over a theoretical

scenario.' The legislation is supported by Anthropic, an AI startup backed by Amazon and Google, after Wiener adjusted the bill earlier this month to include some of the company's suggestions. The current bill removed the penalty of perjury provision, limited the state attorney general's power to sue violators and narrowed the responsibilities of a new AI regulatory agency. Social media platform X owner Elon Musk also threw his support behind the proposal this week.

Anthropic said in a letter to Newsom that the bill is crucial to prevent catastrophic misuse of powerful AI systems and that "its benefits likely outweigh its costs.

Wiener said his legislation took a "light touch" approach.

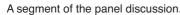
"Innovation and safety can go hand in hand-and California is leading the way," Weiner said in a statement after He also slammed critics earlier this

week for dismissing potential catastrophic risks from powerful AI models as unrealistic: "If they really think the risks are fake, then the bill should present no issue whatsoever.'

Wiener's proposal is among dozens of AI bills California lawmakers proposed this year to build public trust, fight algorithmic discrimination and outlaw deepfakes that involve elections or pornography. With AI increasingly affecting the daily lives of Americans, state legislators have tried to strike a balance of reigning in the technology and its potential risks without stifling the booming homegrown industry.

# What's On







Group photo with some of the participants.

#### Student workshop covers banking rights, loans, digital services

#### ABK organizes banking awareness panel discussion workshop for 'A+ Student' account holders

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently hosted a banking awareness panel discussion workshop as part of its summer internship program for its 'A+ Student' account holders. This initiative was designed to enhance financial and banking literacy and promote financial inclusion while introducing the Bank's various offerings. This affirms ABK's continued commitment to supporting the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Kuwait Banking Association's 'Let's Be Aware' Diraya campaign across all segments of society.

Students were introduced to their various rights and duties when dealing with banks, the types of accounts, conditions for obtaining different loans, digital services, ways to combat fraud, and other campaign topics. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation, who were keen to learn about the various benefits and offers provided throughout the year, tailored to

meet their evolving needs.

The event included presentations on various campaign-related topics, highlighting ABK's dedication to promoting the campaign's awareness efforts. The Bank continues to leverage its resources to disseminate information from this pioneering campaign – the largest of its kind in the GCC – through its website, social media platforms, and mobile application.

Furthermore, ABK actively organizes numerous competitions to engage participants with the campaign and expand its reach throughout Kuwait. Specifically, this panel discussion workshop initiative endeavours to safeguard customers at a young age and help raise the standards of the banking sector.

ABK plans on hosting additional seminars and workshops to ensure that the campaign effectively reaches all customer

segments throughout Kuwait. This falls under ABK's ongoing commitment to strengthening its market presence, keeping up with developments in the banking industry, and providing the best banking services, solutions, and products to all customers.

20 winners in Gulf Bank's first draw: KD 1,000 and KD 500 prizes

#### **Gulf Bank announces summer campaign winners**

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: As part of its continuous efforts to reward its customers, Gulf Bank has announced the winners of the first draw in its summer campaign for credit and prepaid cardholders. Out of the 20 winners, ten received prizes of KD 1,000 each, and another ten won KD 500 each, based on transactions made between July 14 and August 15, 2024.

Gulf Bank will announce 30 new winners on October 2, 2024, in the second draw of its summer campaign for all credit and prepaid cardholders. This draw will be based on transactions made between August 16 and September 19, 2024. The grand prize is KD 20,000, with 15 winners receiving KD 1,000 each and another 14 winners getting KD 500

On this occasion, Mr. Mohammed Taqi, Assistant General Manager of Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank, stated: "Alongside our continuous commitment to providing the best services and products, we aim to reward our customers with outstanding offers and prizes throughout the year. This is why we run our summer campaign annually, so Gulf Bank customers can benefit from it both within Kuwait and abroad."

He added, "Gulf Bank customers receive one entry into the draw for every KD 10 spent within Kuwait using their credit or prepaid cards. Spending outside Kuwait increases their entries to three. Additionally, customers double their chances of winning when using digital wallets such as Apple Pay, Samsung Pay, and Google Pay."

Taqi emphasized that Gulf Bank credit cards provide nu merous travel-related benefits for customers to enjoy during the summer season. These include travel insurance, discounts on hotel bookings, flights, and car rentals.

Moreover, Gulf Bank credit cardholders benefit from complimentary access to over 1,000airport lounges worldwide. Customers can also earn Gulf Points on all their expenses during the summer campaign, which can be redeemed for free flights, hotel bookings, or travel packages.



Mohammed Taqi

#### **Mohammed Tagi**

■ We run our summer campaign every year as part of our dedication to rewarding our customers.

Gulf Bank aims to be Kuwait's leading bank, fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace to deliver exceptional customer service while contributing sustainably to the community. Through its extensive branch network and innovative digital services, the bank empowers customers to conduct banking transactions conveniently and efficiently, ensuring

In alignment with Kuwait Vision 2035, "New Kuwait," and its commitment to fostering collaborative partnerships, Gulf Bank is dedicated to driving robust sustainability initiatives across environmental, social, and governance (ESG) dimensions. The bank is committed to implementing strategically selected and diverse sustainability programs both internally and externally.

#### 20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD1,500 each

KFH announces winners of AlRabeh draw

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the AlRabeh draw with 20 cus-

tomers winning cash prizes worth KD1,500 each for the 32nd and 33rd weeks of 2024.

The winners of KD1,500 are: Khaled Reyad, Mohammad Ibrahim, Modhi Al-Dhafeery, Rawan Al-Taher, Sohair Ali, Reem Al-Rasheed, Fatemah Erhama, Farah Al-Rashed, Mariam Al-Azmi, Esmaeel Al-Shareef, Ali Al-Khudhari, Shaha Al-Khaldi, Husam Hasan, Zaman Al-Qnaei, Hosham El-hifny, Om Hashem Hassan, Jassim Al-Azmi, Amal Al-Saeed, Mohammad Edrees, Adelina

The AlRabeh campaign provides prizes and draws that offer customers several chances of winning "weekly, monthly and quarterly". The campaign crowns 536 winners throughout the year.

The draw took place under the supervision of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The campaign is part of KFH's ongoing efforts to offer exceptional products and services that meet customers aspirations, enhance the Bank's leadership in the local and global markets, as well as reflect its excellence in offering innovative banking solutions as per the highest quality

The Al-Rabeh account is a salary account available to customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Customers can open Al-Rabeh account in any of KFH branches in Kuwait, or through the Bank's online channels. The account can be opened in the Kuwaiti Dinar and is targeted for customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Salary transfer is a prerequisite for customers to enter the draw provided that the transfer of salary to Al-Rabeh ac-

Regarding the terms and conditions of the prizes and draws, a customer is able to deposit 3 salaries during the 3 months prior to the draw, and the minimum balance of the

Students face uncertainty and delays due to FAFSA issues



The campaign visual

account should not be less than KD 50 at the end of each month during the 3 months prior to the draw. Ten draws take place on a weekly basis for amount of KD1,500 for 10 winners each, 1 KG of KFH gold will be drawn monthly for one winner and K.D25,000 for one winner every quarter, reaching a total number of 536 winners during the year.

KFH is keen to further meet customers' requirements and aspirations and their increasing needs as well as offer innovative and modern services, therefore achieving customer satisfaction, which is one of the fundamentals at KFH. The Bank has achieved a qualitative shift in the level of financial services by utilizing technology.

#### The Conversation

### Companies benefit from hiring disabled managers, study finds

**By Dustin Cole Auburn University** 

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

S ome large companies, such as Walgreens, Wells Fargo and Proctor & Gamble, are successfully integrating people with disabilities into their labor forces

But other employers are not doing as good a job. That means they're losing out on what the roughly 6.5% of the U.S. workforce with some form of disability might have to offer amid a tight labor market.

One potential solution is to employ more managers with disabilities.

I'm a supply chain scholar who joined forces with two colleagues, Sriram Narayanan and Shawnee Vickery, for a research project on this issue. We found that when teams include people with disabilities alongside co-workers without disabilities, productivity can be higher - particularly when their supervisors have a

Our research team reviewed daily production data from a manufacturingfocused nonprofit that employs people with and without disabilities both as workers and supervisors.

We found that when there is a substantial number of people with disabilities working together, their productivity was higher when supervisors had a disability compared with similar teams where the supervisor did not have a disability.

For example, if there were 10 workers with a disability, it would take roughly 3% less time to produce a garment when there was a leader with a disability present compared with when

We also interviewed workers and

supervisors with and without disabilities employed by that same nonprofit, employed at a similar organization and working at a for-profit distribution center to find out what might be behind this improvement. We found two common themes, regardless of what kind of disability the supervisor or their workers had.

As you might suspect, workers with disabilities had an easier time talking about their disability when their supervisors also had disabilities.

"We had a couple of managers who had a full leg replacement where, you know, the mobility issues are easier to talk about as a group and they do bubble to the surface a little bit faster," one worker said.

"They at least understand I'm struggling," said another worker with a disability. A supervisor with a disability can understand "that I'm not lazy; that I'm not just making things up to get out of work.'

We also found that supervisors with disabilities tended to keep workers performing a single task for longer periods of time, rather than moving them between different tasks.

That approach bucks conventional wisdom. Many operations management experts prefer to move workers from one task to another. Known as "cross-training," this approach can increase worker engagement and make it easier for employers to quickly adapt to changes.

We believe that employers should heed our findings for several reasons. A big one is that the number of people with a disability in the U.S. workforce is rising quickly. It grew by more than 40% in the decade before July 2024, to about 8 million Americans.

An aging population in the U.S. and around the world is partly behind this growth. And older people tend to have more disabilities than younger workers, such as arthritis and heart condi-

### **Botched college financial aid form snarls enrollment plans for students**

#### WASHINGTON, Aug 29, (AP): After a long summer of technical glitches, most of America's prospective

college students finally applied for federal financial aid - an annual process upended by a redesign-gone-

The number of high school seniors who have completed their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is down 9% compared with this time last year, according to the National College Attainment Network. That number was as high as 40% in the spring, when students usually must submit their forms to give schools enough time to assemble an aid package.

How much the FAFSA problems will impact the number of students attending college remains to be seen, counselors and advisers say. But the delays certainly have changed where students enrolled, with many students forced to pick a college with limited information about their financial picture.

As one of the few Black girls at her suburban Chicago high school, Adjovi Golo looked forward to college as a time when it would not be so hard to be seen and heard. She was hoping to attend Spelman College, a historically Black women's college in Atlanta.

The federal financial aid calculators told her she would likely be eligible for \$15,000 in loans, grants and work-study, but her FAFSA had not been processed before a May 1 deadline to commit to a college. She called the FAFSA hotline 11 times to resolve a glitch, getting a different suggestion each

DePaul University in Chicago, meantime, offered her the most in merit scholarships. Without a complete financial aid package from either school as her FAFSA remained in limbo, she chose to enroll at De-Paul, rather than risk taking on more debt.

In August, Golo moved into DePaul's dorms. She loves her roommate, the campus and her professors. But she wonders what might have been different.

"I felt like I was just backed into a corner," she said. "A part of me, like 75% of me, doesn't regret it. I love it here. But another part of me wishes I waited." The plunge in FAFSA completion rates was es-

pecially sharp for students who already face hurdles to enrolling in postsecondary education, including low-income students and students of color. Advocates worry the delays - on top of a Supreme Court ruling that struck down affirmative action in higher education - will affect where and whether many go

Theoretically, said Katharine Meyer, a fellow at the Brookings Institution think tank, "We're going to see a less racially diverse college enrollment cohort, a less socioeconomically diverse college enrollment



FAFSA website is seen on the laptop as Adjovi Golo holds a laptop at DePaul University in Chicago, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024. (AP)

Areas with a high percentage of people living in poverty and places with a larger share of Black and Latino residents saw a 20% larger decline in FAFSA completions compared with higher-income areas, according to the Century Foundation, a progressive think tank. Its analysis also found students in those areas were twice as likely to have submitted an incomplete FAFSA.

"It's too soon to know how bad college enrollment declines will be, but it's not too early to recognize the risks," said Peter Granville, a fellow at the Century Foundation.

For students who cannot pay for their entire tuition and fees out of pocket, nearly all forms of financial support - institutional, state and federal, including eligibility for federal loans - require completion of the FAFSA.

A 2020 law directed the Education Department to simplify the FAFSA form, which had been criticized for being tedious and difficult, especially for families without college experience. But the launch of the simplified form in 2023 ran into error upon error - it launched months overdue in December, and students encountered glitches and hours-long waits for helpline assistance.

Emmily Almaraz, a junior at Texas Christian Uni-

versity, said she breezed through the form in under 20 minutes this year. But the students she helped as an intern with a college access organization did not all have the same luck.

Despite spending hours on the phone, one student could not get past the verification process for parents who lack a Social Security number, which is the case for some immigrants. Ultimately, the student decided to delay enrolling until the spring, Almaraz said.

"It's just really discouraging for certain kids that end up finding out that just because they're missing one piece of information, it may delay them," Almaraz said. "It may cause them to pay for an education that they can't fully pay for.'

College housing became an additional hurdle for students whose families were unwilling to put down deposits without knowing more about financial aid. said Jesse Hendrix, executive director of College Possible Texas. Many were stuck with expensive,

off-campus options or could not secure housing at all. Some students admitted to four-year colleges are choosing more affordable two-year colleges closer to home, counselors say. Chandra Scott, executive director of the nonprofit Alabama Possible, said she reached out to the state's community colleges urging them to prepare for a last-minute influx of students.

### Swift concert attack plan was to kill 'tens of thousands': CIA

BERLIN, Aug 29, (AP): The suspects in the foiled plot to attack Taylor Swift concerts in Vienna earlier this month sought to kill "tens of thousands" of fans before the CIA discovered intelligence that disrupted the planning and led to arrests, the agency's deputy director said.

The CIA notified Austrian authorities of the scheme, which allegedly included links to the Islamic State group. The intelligence and subsequent arrests ultimately led to the cancellation of three sold-out Eras Tour shows, devastating fans who had traveled across the globe

CIA Deputy Director David Cohen addressed the failed plot during the annual Intelligence and National Security Summit, held this week in Maryland.

'They were plotting to kill a huge number - tens of thousands of people at this concert, including I am sure many Americans - and were quite advanced in this," Cohen said Wednesday. "The Austrians were able to make those arrests because the agency and our partners in the intelligence community provided them information about what this ISIS-connected group was planning to do.'

Austrian officials said the main suspect, a 19-year-old Austrian man, was inspired by the Islamic State group. He allegedly planned to attack outside the stadium, where upwards of 30,000 fans were expected to gather, with knives or homemade explosives. Another 65,000 fans were likely to be inside the venue. Investigators discovered chemical substances and technical devices during a raid of the suspect's home. Austria's interior minister, Gerhard Karner, previously said help from other intelligence agencies was needed because Austrian investigators, unlike some foreign services, can't legally monitor text messages.

The 19-year-old's lawyer has said the allegations were "overacting at its best," and contended Austrian authorities were "presenting this exaggeratedly" in order to get new surveillance powers.

Swift broke her silence about the cancellations last week after her London shows had concluded.

"Having our Vienna shows cancelled was devastating," she wrote in a statement posted to Instagram. "The reason for the cancellations filled me with a new sense of fear, and a tremendous amount of guilt because so many people had planned on coming to those shows.'

#### Thanked

She thanked authorities - "thanks to them, we were grieving concerts and not lives," she wrote - and said she waited to speak until the European leg of her Eras Tour concluded to prioritize safety.

"Let me be very clear: I am not going to speak about something publicly if I think doing so might provoke those who would want to harm the fans who come to my shows," she wrote.

Concert organizer Barracuda Music said it canceled the three-night Vienna run that would have begun Aug. 8 because the arrests made in connection to the conspiracy were too close to showtime.

The main suspect and a 17-year-old were taken into custody on Aug.

6, the day before the cancellations were announced. A third suspect, 18, was arrested Aug. 8. Their names have not been released in line with Austrian privacy rules.

The shows in London, the next stop after Vienna, came on the heels of a stabbing at a Swift-themed dance class that left three little girls dead in the UK. In a statement issued after the Southport attack, Swift said she was "just completely in shock" and "at a complete loss for how to ever convey my sympathies to these families." News outlets reported that Swift met with some of the survivors backstage in London.

The Vienna plot also drew comparisons to a 2017 attack by a suicide bomber at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England, that killed 22 people. The bomb detonated at the end of Grande's concert as thousands of young fans were leaving, becoming the deadliest extremist attack in the United Kingdom in recent years.

Cohen on Wednesday praised the CIA's work in preventing the planned violence, saying that other counterterrorism "successes" in foiling plots typically go unheralded.

"I can tell you within my agency, and I'm sure in others, there were people who thought that was a really good day for Langley," he said, referring to the CIA headquarters. "And not just the Swifties in my

#### **Variety**



Angelina Jolie arrives at the 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Thursday, Aug. 29. (AP)

Film

Ryder, Keaton attend festival opening

#### **LONDON**: Oasis has added three more dates to its reunion tour of Britain and Ireland, citing "un-

Manchester, London, Edinburgh

acts of the 1990s Britpop era, producing hits including "Wonderwall" and "Don't Look Back in Anger." Its sound was fueled by singalong rock choruses and the combustible chemistry between guitarist-songwriter Noel Gallagher and his brother **Liam.** the band's singer.

Gallagher officially leaving the

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.

Announcing the reunion on experience "the spark and intensity" that occurs only when they

at the Principality Stadium. Oasis will also perform in Manchester, on July 11, 12, 16, 19 and 20; in London on July 25, 26 and 30 and Aug. 2 and 3; in Edinburgh on Aug. 8, 9 and 12; and Croke Park in Dublin on Aug. 16 and 17. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Rapper, singer, songwriter, businesswoman, hot girl summer purveyor and now... award show host? Megan Thee Video Music Awards.

It marks her first time hosting hosted "Saturday Night Live' and served as a co-host for "The lon" in the past. This time, it's in

Thursday are at **Heaton Park** in the band's home city of Manchester, England on July 16, 2025, at London's Wembley Stadium on July 30 and at Edinburgh's Mur-

scheduled to play 17 gigs in Cardiff, and Dublin starting at Cardiff's Principality Stadium on July 4.

band after a backstage dustup with

Tuesday, the band said fans would appear on stage together. The tour will begin July 4 and 5

Stallion will host the 2024 MTV

an award show, though she's guest Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fal-

front of her musical peers. The 2024 award show promises star-studded performances, tons of moon people, and even more Taylor Swift.

#### precedented demand" for tickets. The new shows announced

rayfield Stadium on Aug. 12. The Britpop-era rock band is now

Oasis was one of the dominant

Oasis split in 2009, with Noel his brother at a festival near **Paris**.

She died in Paris at age 53 after a heart attack. Larraín told Vanity Fair that Jolie trained for six months to prepare for the role. The singing in the film, which reportedly focuses on the final week of her life in

Jolie has twice been nominated for acting Oscars. She won for her supporting role in "Girl, Interrupted," and was last nominated for her leading role in Clint Eastwood's "Changeling."

Jolie is expecte to depart Venice before her ex-

Venice welcomes Jolie and her 'Maria'

VENICE, Italy, Aug 29, (AP): Angelina Jolie has played an evil queen, a war correspondent, a hacker, an international spy and a sociopath and is now adding opera singer to her resume.

It's not just any opera singer either: Jolie stars as the legendary soprano Maria Callas in a new film from Chilean filmmaker Pablo Larraín. "Maria" will have its world premiere in competition at the Venice Film Festival Thursday night.

Larraín, a Venice regular, continues his to explore the lives of very famous women with tragic narratives attached to them. In 2016, he came to the festival with his Jackie Kennedy portrait, "Jackie," starring Natalie Portman as the first lady in the aftermath of her husband's assassination. In 2021, he returned with Kristen Stewart playing Princess Diana as she considered divorce over the Christmas holiday in "Spencer." Both films earned their leads best actress Oscar nominations.

"Maria" is the so-called conclusion to this trilogy of historical women, though Callas may be a bit less known to younger generations who weren't around for the headlines and scandals. Born Maria Kalogeropoulos, to Greek parents in New York and made her professional debut in Athens as a 17-year-old.

During her brief life she became one of the greatest opera singers of all time with her unparalleled voice and stage presence; but the accolades also came with the intense scrutiny of her life in the public eye, whether it was her exacting demands and "diva" behavior, her weight or her romantic life. Callas famously had a relationship with shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis who left her for Jackie Kennedy.

1977, is a blend of actor and the real thing.

"Maria" was recently acquired by Netflix for distribution.

husband Brad Pitt arrives for the premiere of his film "Wolfs" on Sunday. Though legally single since 2019, they are still fighting over issues like custody, finances

and a winery in France. "Maria" is among the 21 features competing for the festival's awards which will be announced on Sept. 7.

The 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival kicked off in Hollywood fashion with the world premiere of "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" Wednesday evening on the Lido. To make the sequel, Tim Burton reunited with sev-

eral key cast members from his 1988 horror-comedy, including Michael Keaton playing the titular ghoul, Catherine O'Hara, and Winona Ryder as Lydia, now mother to her own sullen teen played by Jenna Ortega.

"I'm not out to do a big sequel for money," Burton said a few hours before the premiere, with his cast alongside him. "I wanted to make this for very personal reasons."

The reason, he said, was that he'd become disillusioned with the film industry in the past few years. "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" was the kick he needed to fall in love with the process again.

#### Success

"I just realized if I'm going to do anything again, I just wanted to do it from my heart. Something that I wanted to do," Burton said. "It's a bit like the Lydia character. Sometimes your life takes a little bit of a turn, you go down a different path. I sort of lost myself a little bit.'

The film comes 36 years after audiences first met the Deetz family. Though the original "Beetlejuice" was a hit, the tenth highest grossing film of 1988, and remains a beloved staple, Burton said he never quite understood why it was such a success. In fact, he didn't even watch it to prepare to make this one. He remembered the spirit well enough.

"There are so few opportunities to be in something that you can say is 100% original and unique," said Keaton, who joked about his character's evolution.

"I think my character has matured," Keaton said. "As suave and sensitive as he was in the first, I think he's even more so in this one.'

"Beetlejuice Beetlejuice," which Warner Bros. opens in theaters worldwide next week, may be a major Hollywood studio release, but it was made with a scrappy and improvisational energy which extended from the cast to the crew, who were often building puppets on the spot. "It's not going to win any Academy Awards for spe-

cial effects," Burton laughed. "It doesn't matter. It's part of the DNA of the project."

The film finds Ryder's Lydia, now the host of a cheesy ghost-hunting television show, her stepmother Delia (O'Hara) and Ortega's Astrid going back to the old Winter River home after the death of Charles. Astrid is a reluctant presence: Her character is just as surly as Lydia was as a teen, but unlike her mother, she

doesn't believe in ghosts. "I was a huge fan of the first one," said Ortega, who met Burton working on the popular Netflix series "Wednesday." "He's somebody I trust immensely.

Ryder, who was 15 when she first played Lydia, found the experience of the sequel very similar even 30+ years later.

"It had been such a special experience, the first one, and just to be able to come back to it was a dream come true," Ryder said. "My love and trust for Tim runs so deep. There's a sense of playfulness where you can try things and you know if it's bad he won't use it ... You feel safe and also completely free."

In addition to Ortega, new to the world of Beetlejuice are Justin Theroux, who plays Lydia's sleazy boyfriend and manager, Willem Dafoe as a dead cop/actor, and Monica Bellucci as a soul-sucking ghost out for revenge against Beetlejuice, her ex.

Theroux observed that the playful atmosphere on set existed without the "normal downward pressure of a

And everything in "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" was special to Burton, from the music to the references and homages to Italian and Spanish cinema and the "dumb movies" he loves.

"(It was) getting back to the things I love doing, the way I love doing them, and the people I love doing them with. I realized that's the only way for it to be a success. I have to love doing it. It didn't matter how it turned out. I just enjoyed and loved making it with all of these

people," Burton said. "It's like a weird family movie."

Here's everything you need to know about the MTV VMAs. The VMAs will air live on Sept.

11 at 8 p.m. Eastern from the **UBS** Arena on New York's Long Island.

The award show moved back a day because of the forthcoming U.S. presidential debate. ABC News recently confirmed that the campaigns of both Vice President





by her "Fortnight" collaborator Post Malone, who has nine. He is

dent Donald Trump had agreed to participate in a debate on Sept. 10. Swift tops the VMA nominations with 10 - eight for her "Fortnight" music video and nods in the artist of the year and best pop categories. She's followed

Kamala Harris and former Presinominated along with Swift eight times and earned his ninth nom for his country hit "I Had Some Help," featuring Morgan Wallen.

Rounding out the artist of the vear category nominees are Ariana Grande, Bad Bunny, Eminem, Sabrina Carpenter

Grande, Carpenter and Eminem

are tied with six nods; Megan Thee Stallion and SZA have five each. Blackpink's LISA, Olivia Rodrigo and Teddy Swims follow with four nominations each.

This year features 29 first-time nominees, which include Wallen, Carpenter and Swims as well as Benson Boone and Tyla - the latter boast three nominations each. (AP)

### People & Places

#### **People**

#### **Ludacris defended**

#### Thai court sentences YouTube chef to life

BANGKOK, Aug 29, (AP): A court in Thailand on Thursday found Daniel Sancho Bronchalo, a member of a famous Spanish acting family, guilty of premeditated murder and sentenced him to life in prison, in a lurid case that involved the victim being dismem-

The Koh Samui Provincial Court issued an initial sentence of death for Sancho but commuted it to life imprisonment due to his cooperation during the trial, said Police Col. Paisan Sangthep, deputy commander of the Surat Thani Provincial Police, who attended the

Sancho, a 30-year-old chef with a YouTube channel, had been charged with the murder of Edwin Arrieta Arteaga, a 44-year-old plastic surgeon from

Colombia, when both were vacationing on the Thai holiday island of Koh Pha-ngan in

August last year. The island is famous for its monthly "Full Moon" beach parties, attracting travelers from around the world for allnight raves.

The convicted man is the son of Rodolfo Sancho Aguirre, a prominent Spanish actor, and Silvia Bronchalo, who has also been in acting. Both par-

The court also ordered Sancho to pay more than 4.2 million baht (\$125,000) in compensation to the victim's family. Lawyers representing the family at the trial had asked for 30 million baht (\$882,000), Spain's EFE news agency reported.

ents are 49 years old and attended Thursday's court

Verdict

EFE also quoted Sancho's father Rodolfo telling media after the verdict that he intended "to always keep fighting, to keep fighting.

At his trial on the island of Samui, Daniel Sancho had claimed he got into a fight with Arrieta for allegedly trying to sexually assault him. He said that Arrieta fell as they scuffled and hit his head on a bathtub, losing consciousness and then dying.

He had pleaded not guilty to charges of premeditated murder.

Sancho acknowledged dismembering the victim's body and disposing of the parts on land and at sea. For the charge of concealing or damaging a body, he received a four-month prison sentence, reduced to two months for acknowledging the act, said Paisan.

He had also pleaded not guilty to the charge of destroying another person's documents - the victim's passport for which he received a two-year prison term.

The elements of the case - violent death on a holiday island, the celebrity connections and the lurid details - attracted huge coverage in Spanish media. HBO produced a Spanish-language documentary on the events. The case came to light when trash collectors found

what the Bangkok Post newspaper described as a sawed-off pelvis and intestines weighing about 5 kilograms (11 pounds) in a fertilizer sack at a garbage

Shortly after that, Sancho reported to police that Arrieta was missing, and police then gathered evidence linking the two men that led them to detain and inter-

Police established a narrative, claiming to the press that Sancho had confessed to the murder and saying he had planned it because Arrieta threatened to disgrace him and his family by revealing their alleged sexual relationship.

Sancho, through his father and his lawyers, said that was a distorted version of what he told police, and denied having a sexual relationship with Arrieta.

Police obtained surveillance video showing Sancho allegedly purchasing a knife, rubber gloves, garbage bags and cleaning solutions at a convenience store before Arrieta's death, which prosecutors claimed bolstered the charge of premeditated murder.

In his closing statement earlier in his trial, Sancho told the court he regretted his actions, the Spanish newspaper El País reported.

"I am sorry that a life has been lost and that parents have lost a son," Sancho said. "I am sorry that his family was not able to bury him properly. I'm sorry for what I did after the death.'

Under certain conditions, Sancho can apply to be repatriated to serve the remainder of his prison term back home after several years of incarceration in Thailand, according to a treaty between Thailand and Spain.

Rapper-turned-actor Chris "Ludacris" Bridges sparked concern from some social media followers when he knelt on an Alaska glacier, dipped an empty water bottle into a blue, pristine pool of water and

Video of Ludacris tasting the glacial water and proclaiming, "Oh my God!" got millions of views on Tik-Tok and Instagram. Some viewers expressed concern that he was endangering his life by drinking the untreated water, warning it might be contaminated with the parasite giardia.

But an expert on glaciers from the University of Alaska in Fairbanks said the online brouhaha "was

"He's totally fine," glaciologist Martin Truffer said Wednesday.

"It's sort of understandable that somebody would be concerned about just drinking untreated water, but if you drink water from a melt stream on a glacier, that's about the cleanest water you'll ever get."

Ludacris donned ice cleats to knock off a bucket list item and walk Knik Glacier, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) north of Anchorage, while he was in the nation's largest state to perform Friday at the Alaska State Fair. He was clearly pleased by the taste of the

"I'm a water snob," he said in a later video before a concert Tuesday in Minneapolis. "It was the best tasting water I've ever had in my life.'

Symptoms of giardiasis, the illness caused by giardia, include diarrhea, stomach cramps and dehydration. It can spread from one person to another or through contaminated water, food, surfaces or objects. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests people avoid swallowing water while swimming and boiling or filtering water from lakes, springs or rivers before drinking it to prevent getting sick.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation does not recommend drinking untreated surface water, spokesperson Kelly Rawalt said in an email. It also has produced a flyer with safe drinking practices for outdoor enthusiasts, including adding chlorine or iodine to quart-size water containers and letting them sit an hour before drinking.



Winona Ryder poses for photographers upon arrival for the premiere of the film 'Beetlejuice' and the opening ceremony of the 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Wednesday, Aug. 28. (AP) - Details Page 11



Music producer Zedd poses for a portrait on Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024, in Los Angeles. (AP)





**Variety** 

**NEW YORK:** A federal appeals court revived Sarah Palin's libel case against The New York Times on Wednesday, citing errors by a lower court judge, particularly his decision to dismiss the lawsuit while a jury was deliberating.

The 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan wrote that Judge Jed S. Rakoff's decision in February 2022 to dismiss the lawsuit mid-deliberations improperly intruded on the jury's work.

It also found that the erroneous exclusion of evidence, an inaccurate jury instruction and an erroneous response to a question from the iury tainted the iury's decision to rule against Palin. It declined, however, to grant Palin's request to force Rakoff off the case on grounds he was biased against her. The 2nd Circuit said she had offered no proof.

The libel lawsuit by Palin, a onetime Republican vice presidential candidate and former governor of Alaska, centered on the newspaper's 2017 editorial falsely linking her campaign rhetoric to a mass shooting, which Palin asserted damaged her reputation and career.

The Times acknowledged its editorial was inaccurate but said it quickly corrected errors it called an "honest mistake" that were never meant to harm Palin. Shane Vogt, a lawyer for Palin, said he was reviewing the opinion.

Charlie Stadtlander, a spokesperson for the Times, said the decision was disappointing. "We're confident we will prevail in a retrial," he said in an email. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Comedian and actor Nikki Glaser has been picked to host the next Golden Globes, adding an edgy voice known for

mercilessly teasing the rich and powerful. Glaser will make her Globe debut Jan. 5 live on CBS and streaming on Paramount+. In a statement, she cited **Tina Fey**, **Amy** Poehler and Ricky Gervais as inspirations.

"Some of my favorite jokes of all time have come from past Golden Globes opening monologues when Tina, Amy or Ricky have said exactly what we all didn't know we desperately needed to hear. I just hope to continue in that time-honored tradition (that might also get me canceled)," she said.

Glaser has made a name for herself as a riotously sharp wit, especially at roasts, including recently for  $Tom\ \hat{B}rady,$  who she needled for his complex love life and his one-time advocacy of crypto. She earned an Emmy nomination for her latest special, "Someday You'll Die" for HBO, which dealt with everything from offering to pay for her friends' abortions to her darkest porn habits. (AP)





#### Singer ends his 9-year hiatus

### Zedd says 'Telos' is 'timeless'

LOS ANGELES, Aug 29, (AP): It has been almost a decade since Zedd, the Grammy - winning producer and DJ, released his sophomore album, "True Colors." A lot can happen in that time. Mostly, the German dance-pop maverick needed to push himself to make an album that would move the needle - one that told a story beyond the success of his debut LP, "Clarity," or "True Colors," which he says was created to prove that he could not be placed into "this EDM box of making 128 BPM club bangers, because I have more to say."

Enter "Telos," his long-awaited

third full-length.

"It is an album that for many years I doubted I could create," he told The Associated Press. "I wanted something something that I proud of forever, and something that is very detailed and where it's not just songs thrown together onto a record, but where every song leads into the

The project is also highly collaborative, including features from Muse and John Mayer to newer pop voices like Remi Wolf and Bea Miller.

In the interview, ZEDD discusses "Telos," being inspired by Jeff Buckley and the state of EDM. It has been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: It has been nine years since your last album. Why is that?

**Zedd:** I've enjoyed not putting pressure on myself, and just releasing singles. And of course, I always - in the back of my mind - I was like, I will make another album. But what am I trying to do, and what am I trying to say? And I came up with these concepts before ever starting (to) work on an album. I wanted it to be meaningful and have some sort of concept behind it, not just, "Hey, I have a contract, I need to make an album.

Then the pandemic came around and I thought, "Well, this is a perfect time. Now everybody's off. I can finally sit down and make an album." And I was aimlessly trying to make this album that just didn't feel genuine to me, and I scrapped the entire thing besides one song, "Dream Brother," which kind of became a pillar of my album.

AP: "Dream Brother" is a surprise.

**Zedd:** The whole inspiration behind "Dream Brother" was this artist, Jeff Buckley, that was so hugely inspiring to me in my life, and that song that was really meaningful to me and that felt like, "Well, this is a concept: making things that are genuinely meaningful to me, that have some sort of connection to my musical education or life." And I sort of started redoing my album from around "Dream Brother," And all of a sudden, I felt like, "Oh, there's a concept there." And there was this moment when I kind of cracked the code by saying, "This is going to be an album that is purely for me, whatever that means musically.

So that kind of clicked and I realized, "OK, anything that's coming from the heart is going to be put into And any emot could kind of grasp, of what inspired me back in the day, I want to try to recreate in whichever way, to let other people feel what I felt back in the day when I was deeply inspired by albums.

**AP:** You've always wanted to work with Matt Bellamy, and Muse is featured on the closing track, "1685," which references Bach's "The Well Tempered Clavier."

Zedd: They're amongst the most influential people ever to me. So, for me to get to work with Matt Bellamy was a dream - and the entire band, really. And we have tried multiple times in the past... we both tried twice with two different songs. And they felt awesome, but not perfect and not forever. So luckily, he's very similar to me, musically, in the regard that we're not going to force anything.

I had this vision (for "1685"), and I told my manager, "This one is going to be the instrumental track or with Muse. but with nobody else." There's nobody I would consider, because Muse is an artist who works music this way. They oftentimes will take classical pieces and re-interpret them and make it their own. And to me, it was like, "Well, if I'm going to reinterpret my favorite classical piece of all time, I'm only going to do it with somebody who does that as well - and who inspired me to do that to begin with.'

AP: "Telos" comes from ancient Greek; it can mean "end" or "goal."

What does it mean to you?

Zedd: "Telos" does have multiple

meanings. One of them is accomplishment and reaching your goal, celebrating the human art. And that was what I was feeling for the majority of making the record. I felt like I've accomplished something that I didn't know I could accomplish, creating an album on a level that I wasn't sure I could still do.

And then towards the tail end of making "Telos," I started feeling the other emotion, which was just that I exhausted myself so extensively to the point of losing nearly 20 pounds. I couldn't sleep at night. I would wake up at four in the morning with the song stuck in my head that I was just working on. It was really kind of traumatizing in a sense for me, and I kind of really resonated with the meaning - the end - of "Telos."

AP: What are your thoughts on the state of EDM? It's a rollercoaster highs and lows — in terms of popular-

Zedd: I have to admit that I'm not even that in the loop on the state of EDM, and I think - I don't know if it's subconsciously - but since I started working on my album, to me, I started working on a body of work that to me was completely separate from what the trend of EDM is. I don't even know how EDM my album really is. It's half organic, it's half orchestral, it's half electronic. And I'm also not really interested in following the trends, and I haven't been a huge fan of a lot of the trends that are kind of picked up on. And I feel like trends last a shorter period of time than they ever have, so chasing that tail. I feel like will never fulfill you. Because by the time you arrive, there's already something else that's trendy.

I kind of just made that decision early on in my career that I'm going to create my own path, and I'm going to walk my path the way I want to and whoever wants to join me is welcome to join me. But I'm not for everybody. And my goal has never been to satisfy everybody's opinions. And that's an unachievable goal to begin with. And I think if you're genuine about what you do, if you love the music you create, then there are going to be people out there who will feel the same way.

**SEOUL, South Korea:** South Korean singer Taeil has left K-pop band NCT after being accused of an unspecified sexual crime, his label announced

Wednesday.

His agency, SM Entertainment, released a statement on X, saying the NCT member will depart from the boy band after learning



Sigourney Weaver poses with the golden lion lifetime achievement award at the opening ceremony of the 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Wednesday, Aug. 28. (AP)

he has been "accused in a criminal case related to a sexual crime." The label did not specify the nature of the crime.

"We recognized the seriousness of the issue, and we have decided that Taeil can no longer continue team activities," the label said. "We have discussed this matter with Taeil, and it has been decided that he will leave the group." The label added that he's fully cooperating with the police investigation. (AP)

LAS VEGAS: Rapper Lil Baby was arrested in Las Vegas after police accused him of carrying a concealed weapon without a permit.

The **Atlanta**-born rapper, whose real name is **Dominique Jones**, was taken into custody on the Las Vegas Strip just before dawn Monday, according to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Details about what led to the arrest weren't immediately released.

His attorneys, Drew Findling and David **Chesnoff**, said in joint a statement that they were "actively investigating" why the 29-year-old rapper had been arrested in the first place despite having a valid permit in Georgia to carry a concealed weapon.

Lil Baby has not been formally charged with the crime, which is a felony in Nevada, and was released from custody after posting bond, court records show. He is due in court in Las Vegas on Oct. 1. (AP)

#### WHO and partners now aim to wipe out polio by 2026

### Wasn't polio wiped out? Why the virus is still spreading

LONDON, Aug 29, (AP): Polio was eliminated from most parts of the world as part of a decadeslong effort by the World Health Organization and partners to wipe out the disease. But polio is one of the world's most infectious diseases and is still spreading in a small number of countries. The WHO and its partners want to eradicate polio in the next few years.

Until it is gone from the planet, the virus will continue to trigger outbreaks anywhere children are not fully vaccinated. The recent polio infection in an unvaccinated baby in Gaza is the first time the disease has been reported in the territory in more than 25 years.

Polio is an infection caused by a virus that mostly affects children under 5. Most people infected with polio don't have any symptoms, but it can cause fever, headaches, vomiting and stiffness of the spine. In severe cases, polio can invade the nervous system and cause paralysis within hours, according to the WHO. The UN agency estimates that 1 in 200 polio cases results in permanent paralysis, usually of the legs. Among children who are paralyzed, up to 10% die when their breathing muscles are paralyzed.

The virus spreads from person to person, entering the body though the mouth. It is most often spread by contact with waste from an infected person or, less frequently, through contaminated water or food.

Very bad. Polio has existed for centuries; ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics show children walking with canes, with the wasted limbs characteristic of polio victims.

Before the first vaccine was developed in the 1950s, polio was among the most feared diseases. An explosive 1916 outbreak in New York killed more than 2,000 people and the worst recorded U.S. outbreak in 1952 killed more than 3,000. Many people who survived polio suffered lifelong consequences, including paralysis and deformed limbs. Some people whose breathing muscles were paralyzed required "iron lung" chambers to help them breathe.

WHO passed a resolution to eradicate polio in 1988, spurred on by the success of eliminating smallpox eight years earlier. Their original target was to wipe out polio by 2000. The WHO - along with partners including the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF and Rotary International - boosted the production of an oral vaccine and rolled out widespread immunization campaigns. Polio cases dropped by more than 99%.

Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only countries where the spread of polio has never been stopped. There are also outbreaks in more than a dozen other countries, mostly in Africa. WHO and partners now aim to wipe out polio by 2026.

It's extraordinarily difficult. Stopping polio outbreaks means vaccinating at least 95% of the population everywhere, including in conflictridden countries and poor regions with broken health systems and other priorities.

The oral vaccine is cheap, easy to use and is better at preventing entire populations from becoming infected. But it contains weakened, live polio virus and in very rare cases can spread and cause polio in unvacci-

Low death risk post surgery

nated people. In even rarer instances, the live virus from the vaccine can mutate into a new form capable of

starting new outbreaks. Health authorities have become more successful in reducing the number of cases caused by the wild polio virus. Vaccine-related cases now cause the majority of infections

"The problem with trying to eradicate polio is that the need for perfection is so great and there are so many weak links," said Scott Barrett, a Columbia University professor who has studied polio eradication. "The technical feasibility is there, but we live in a vastly imperfect world."

worldwide.

#### 'Charge phones overnight'

LONDON, Aug 29, (AP): If you want to use your shiny new iPhone for as long as possible, you better take good

Most people are now holding on to smartphones longer instead of regularly upgrading them, and there are many reasons why.

At the dawn of the smartphone age, you might have upgraded to a new device every few years to make sure you had the latest must-have features or because your carrier's contract subsidized the purchase of the newest model. But that's no longer the case as smartphone technology has matured and innovations have become more incremental, and carrier pricing models have changed.

There's also an environmental push to keep old phones out of landfills as electronic waste becomes a larger sustainability issue. Smartphones these days are also just sturdier and better able to survive dunks and shocks

#### Updated

"As long as you take care of your phone and keep it updated, you're going to get at least four or five good years of use out of it," said Chris Hauk, of Pixel Privacy, a tech website. Some device owners boast in online forums that they've had phones last more than seven years.

And if you're paying over \$1,000 for your smartphone, you'll probably want to it to last as long as it can. Here are some tips to extend the lifespan of your Apple or Android mobile device:

One of the biggest factor in your phone's lifespan is the battery. A rechargeable battery's chemical age isn't related to when it was manufactured. Instead, it's based on a complex mix of factors including "temperature history and charging pattern," according to Apple.

"As lithium-ion batteries chemically age, the amount of charge they can hold diminishes, resulting in reduced battery life and reduced peak performance," the iPhone maker says.

The company says its charging timization technology is designed to improve battery life, and it's safe for iPhone users to charge their phones overnight.

Samsung, meanwhile, says its lithium ion batteries do best when kept above 50% charge. It advises against running the battery down.

"Repeatedly allowing the battery to drain fully may shorten its life and decrease its overall capacity," the company says in an online guide. "If this happens, you'll need to charge the battery more frequently and it may last only a few hours before needing a charge, for example.'

Apple says says that batteries warm up as they charge, which can shorten their lifespan. It warns against using your phone or charging it in very hot temperatures, above 95 degrees (35)



The iPhone 15 Pro is shown after its introduction on the Apple campus, Sept. 12, 2023, in Cupertino, Calif. (AP)

Improve network reliability

### Al tool speeds up diagnosis and 'repair' of EV chargers

CAMPBELL, Calif., Aug 29, (AP): ChargePoint, a leading provider of networked charging solutions for electric vehicles (EVs), has announced an AI-powered driver support tool to rapidly accelerate the diagnosis and repair of charging stations in the field. The software utilizes AI for the first time in the EV charging space to identify physical charger issues, thereby improving their uptime. The software is the latest deliverable of ChargePoint's ongoing investment in charging station reliability.

The software is user-friendly on the outside, yet sophisticated behind the scenes. All a driver needs to do when encountering a nonfunctional charging station is submit photos via an improved "report a problem" feature in the ChargePoint app. The app links the issue to the driver's location and analyzes the images for anomalies, discovered thanks to a multitude of inputs

Celsius), "which can permanently reduce battery lifespan.

Samsung also says extreme heat or cold can damage batteries and warns people not to, for example, leave their phones in a car's glove box when it's very hot or cold. And don't put your phone in a freezer either, it's a myth that it can prolong battery life. "This is not correct and can damage your battery," Samsung says.

Google, which makes the Android operating system and Pixel phones, says hot batteries drain faster, even when they're not in use, and that can utilized to train the technology for the EV charging domain. Once the software identifies the issue, it relays the information to ChargePoint's Network Operations Center, eliminating the need for most on-site inspections, considerably shortening the time to resolution.

"By deploying AI technology that can diagnose hardware issues, Charge-Point has a critical new tool joining our Network Operations Center to ensure station uptime," said Rick Wilmer, CEO of ChargePoint. "This technology will enable us to triage and resolve physical issues that cannot not be detected via remote monitoring, demonstrating our commitment to innovations which deliver a reliable charging network."

Drivers who report an issue will be able to track repair status in their app, and their report will automatically generate an alert for that station's owner. streamlining a repair process which often requires their authorization.

damage the battery.

Tweak your device settings so apps or features use less power, which extends your battery's daily life and the time between charging cycles.

You can turn down your phone's screen brightness, turn on the dark theme and reduce the time for the screen to power off. Enable the autobrightness feature, which adjusts screen brightness according to the level of ambient light. Also check battery usage in your settings to see if there are any power-hungry apps you can switch off or uninstall.

## Tips to extend your device's life Donating a kidney even safer now than long thought: study

WASHINGTON, Aug 29, (AP): People who volunteer to donate a kidney face an even lower risk of death from the operation than doctors have long thought, researchers reported Wednesday.

The study tracked 30 years of living kidney donation and found that by 2022, fewer than 1 of every 10,000 donors died within three months of the surgery. Transplant centers have been using older data - citing a risk of 3 deaths per 10,000 living donors - in counseling donors about potentially deadly surgical complications.

"The last decade has become a lot more safe in the operating room for living donors," said Dr. Dorry Segev, a transplant surgeon at NYU Langone Health. He co-authored the study published in the journal JAMA.

#### Guideline

Newer surgical techniques are the key reason, said Segev, calling for guideline updates to reflect those safety improvements - and maybe increase interest in living donation.

He often finds transplant recipients more worried about potential risks to their donors than the would-be donors themselves.

"For them, this is even more reassuring to allow their friends or family to donate on their behalf," Segev said.

Thousands of people die each year waiting for an organ transplant. It's possible for living donors to give a one of their two kidneys or part of a liver, the only organ that regenerates.

With nearly 90,000 people on the US list for a kidney transplant, finding a living donor not only shortens the yearslong wait -- those organs also tend to survive longer than ones from deceased donors.

Yet last year, just 6,290 of the nation's more than 27,000 kidney transmost since before the pandemic. Safety isn't the only barrier to living donation. So is awareness, as many patients are reluctant to ask. And while the recipient's insurance covers medical bills, some donors face expenses such as travel or lost wages as they recover.

The NYU team analyzed U.S. records of more than 164,000 living kidney donations from 1993 through 2022 and found 36 post-surgical deaths. Most at risk were male donors and those with a history of high blood pressure.

Only five of those deaths occurred since 2013. That period coincided with U.S. transplant centers switching to minimally invasive kidney removal as well as adopting a better way to stop renal artery bleeding, Segev said.

"Over time, it's a safe operation that's become even safer," important



Surgeons work on a kidney during a transplant surgical procedure in Washington on June 28, 2016. (AP)

#### At least 57 people sickened

### Deli meat listeria outbreak death toll rises to nine: CDC

NEW YORK, Aug 29, (AP): At least nine people have died after being infected with listeria from Boar's Head deli meats tied to a massive recall last month, federal health officials said Wednesday.

The new food poisoning toll includes two deaths in South Carolina plus one each in Florida, New Mexico, Tennessee and New York, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. Three deaths were previously confirmed in people who lived in Illinois, New Jersey and Virginia.

At least 57 people have been sickened and hospitalized in the outbreak. Illnesses were reported starting in late May and have continued into August, the agency said. It is the largest listeria outbreak in the US since 2011, and Boar's Head has recalled more than 7

million pounds of deli products. Listeria infections are caused by a

for would-be donors to know, said Dr. Amit Tevar of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, who wasn't in-

volved in the study. But there are long-term risks to consider, too, he stressed -- including whether a donor's remaining kidney is expected to last the rest of their life.

The risk of a donor later experiencing kidney failure also is small and depends on such factors as obesity, high and even thrive during refrigeration. An estimated 1,600 people get listeria food poisoning each year and about 260 die, according to the CDC. Infections can be hard to pinpoint because symptoms may occur quickly - or up to 10 weeks after eating contaminated food. The infections are especially dan-

hardy type of bacteria that can survive

gerous for older people, those who are pregnant or those with weakened immune systems.

The problem was discovered when a Boar's Head liverwurst sample collected by health officials in Maryland tested positive for listeria. Further testing showed that the type of bacteria was the same strain causing illnesses in people.

Boar's Head officials originally recalled liverwurst and other products meant to be sliced in retail delis with sell-by dates from July 25 to Aug. 30.

blood pressure, smoking and family history of kidney disease. Risk calculators help doctors determine a potential donor's likelihood of later-in-life trouble, and transplant centers may have slightly different eligibility criteria.

'There's no such thing as a moderate- or high-risk donor - either you're perfect or you're not," is how Tevar puts the decision to accept or turn away a potential donor.



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#### Bid to level the two-test series

### Pakistan drops Shaheen Shah Afridi for 2nd test vs Bangladesh

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Aug 29, (AP): Embattled Pakistan dropped rusty fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi for leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed against Bangladesh to try and level the two-test series from Friday.

Ahmed was surprisingly released before the first test and played a four-day game against Bangladesh A in Islamabad. He replaced Afridi in the 12-man squad announced by coach Jason Gillespie on Thursday.

Last week, Bangladesh recorded an historic maiden test win against Pakistan in the first test, also in Rawalpindi. Pakistan crumbled for 146 against the spin of Shakib Al Hasan and Mehidy Hasan Miraz on the fifth and final day and lost

"He's (Afridi) working on some things with his bowling to be as effective as he possibly can be," Gillespie said. "We certainly want to see Shaheen at his very best, because we know we've got a lot of

#### **CRICKET**

cricket in all formats."

Afridi looked rusty in his first test in eight months and had to wait until Pakistan took the third new ball to finish with 2-88 off his

The greenish-look of the pitch at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium deceived the home team, and it's ploy to attack with an all-out pace attack backfired. Bangladesh - led by Mushfigur Rahim's 191 - posted a mammoth total of 565 in the first innings and got a vital 117-run lead before rattling Pakistan through its spinners on the final day.

Pakistan was also docked six World Test Championship points by the ICC for its slow rate of overs which left Gillespie unhappy, as the Shan Masood-led side languishes at eighth in the standings just ahead of the West Indies.

'That's something we did speak about as a whole team because our over-rates were poor in the first test and unacceptable, it's as simple as

Pakistan's top-order batters are struggling, especially captain Masood and Babar Azam. Masood hasn't scored a century in his last 13 test matches and the left-handed batter scored a couple of half-centuries before Australia swept Pakistan 3-0 in Masood's debut series as the test captain last year.

Babar has slipped six places to ninth in the latest ICC test rankings after going without a half-century in his last seven test matches. He has a top score of 41 against Australia at Perth late last year. Babar escaped with a pair against Bangladesh in the last test where he was dropped by wicketkeeper Litton Das in the second innings.

In sharp contrast, Bangladesh's top and and lower order batted around Mushfiqur's brilliant century; Shadman Islam, Mominul Haque, Das and Mehidy compiled meaningful half-centuries.

"We talked about spending time in the middle, getting their fast bowlers to come and bowl second and third spells," Sri Lanka coach Chanbdika Hathurusingha said. "Our gameplan was slightly different because the conditions helped a lot to put up a good show with the bat.

Monsoon rains have limited both teams to only one training session at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium

over the last four days and the new pitch was also mostly kept under

the covers. Hathurusingha said he was wary of a Pakistan fightback but was happy with Bangladesh's high mo-

rale going into Friday's test. "The morale is really good because to beat Pakistan in Pakistan is not an easy task," Hathurusingha said. "We expect a very good fight in the second game as well."

Pakistan hasn't won a home test since December 2021. It has gone five straight tests at home without a win; the previous four against New Zealand and Australia were drawn.

# **Newcastle & West Ham advance** as Ipswich eliminated in shocker



Newcastle United's Joelinton and Bournemouth's Antoine Semenyo, right, battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Bournemouth and Newcastle United at the Vitality Stadium, Bournemouth, England. (AP)

Tonali returns from gambling ban

#### LONDON, Aug 29, (AP): Newcastle scored a goal inside 19 seconds and then won a penalty shootout against Nottingham Forest to advance in the English League Cup in a match featuring a comeback by Italy midfielder Sandro Tonali after a 10-month gambling

Tonali was involved in the buildup to Newcastle's extremely early goal scored by Joe Willock at the City Ground and played 62 minutes before being substituted, by which time Forest had equalized through Jota Silva.

#### **SOCCER**

The second-round game finished 1-1 in regulation time and went immediately to a shootout, during which Newcastle came from behind to win it 4-3 after misses by Ibrahim Sangare and Taiwo Awoniyi for Forest. Sean Longstaff converted the clinching penalty.

In another all-Premier League matchup, Jarrod Bowen unwittingly scored a controversial goal in the 88th minute to earn West Ham a 1-0 home win over Bournemouth.

A shot by Mohammed Kudus appeared to deflect in off the arm of Bowen. The goal was awarded and with no video reviews at this stage of the competition, there was no chance for it to be over-

### Leverkusen starts German Cup defense with victory over Jena

The Spanish coach took Arthur off

for Grimaldo at the break and the move

paid off in the 52nd minute, when the

Spanish wing back crossed for Hof-

SOCCER

mann to head the opener. It proved to

ings. Alonso sent Wirtz and Frimpong

on in the 68th. Xhaka entered five min-

Leverkusen still struggled for open-

frustration on the sideline.

be the winner, too.

JENA, Germany, Aug 29, (AP): Jonas Hofmann's second-half goal was enough for Bayer Leverkusen to start its German Cup title defense with a meager 1-0 win at Carl Zeiss Jena.

The fourth-tier side largely nullified Leverkusen's attacking threat. Leverkusen, the defending German Cup and Bundesliga champion, started with the influential Granit Xhaka, Álex Grimaldo, Florian Wirtz and Jeremie Frimpong all on the subs' bench.

Amine Adli went closest when he struck the post but it was a rare chance for the visitors, much to Xabi Alonso's

turned - much to the annoyance

of Bournemouth manager An-

doni Iraola, who complained to

utes later. the fourth official in the technical

The only shock of the night - in-



Red Star's Felicio Milson, left, challenges for the ball with Glimt's Fredrik Sjovold during the Champions League play-off second leg soccer match between Red Star and Bodo Glimt, at the Rajko Mitic Stadium, in Belgrade,

Jena pushed hard for an equalizer and almost got it in the third minute of stoppage time when Hamza Muqaj was unable to direct Nils Butzen's fiercely struck cross on target.

The teams' match was postponed from the weekend of the other firstround fixtures because of Leverkusen's participation in the German Supercup, a match boycotted by both Leverkusen and Stuttgart ultras because of its effect

on their teams' German Cup fixtures. Stuttgart defeated second-division team Preußen Münster 5-0 in their postponed game on Tuesday.

deed, in the whole second round - saw top-flight Ipswich get eliminated by fourth-tier AFC Wimbledon, which won a shootout 4-2 after a 2-2 draw. AFC Wimbledon's reward was a third-round match at home against Newcastle.

Southampton needed stoppagetime goals by James Bree and Cameron Archer to beat secondtier Cardiff 5-3 in a wild match, while Wolverhampton defeated second-tier Burnley 2-0 thanks to goals by Gonçalo Guedes. Brentford beat fourth-tier Colchester 1-0 away.

The teams that are playing in European competition this season will enter the League Cup in the third round, which will see defending champion Liverpool host West Ham, while Manchester City, Arsenal and Manchester United all play against lowerleague opponents in Watford, Bolton and Barnsley, respectively.

### Lynx continues good run

### Clark sets record as Fever snaps series losing streak against Sun

WASHINGTON, Aug 29, (AP): Kelsey Mitchell scored 23 points, Caitlin Clark had 19 points, five rebounds and five assists, and the Indiana Fever beat the Connecticut Sun 84-80 on Wednesday night to snap an 11-game losing streak in the series.

It was Indiana's first win against Connecticut since July 3, 2021.

Neither team led by double figures in a game where Clark set a WNBA rookie record for made 3-pointers, passing Rhyne Howard's 85 in 2022, with a triple in the first quarter. Clark added two more 3-pointers before finishing 3 of 12, giving her 88 on the season.

With Indiana leading 82-80, Clark had a long 3-pointer rattle out and Connecticut called a timeout with 38.6 seconds left. Marina Mabrey worked the clock down before passing it to Alyssa Thomas, who had it stolen by In-

#### **BASKETBALL**

diana's Temi Fagbenle with 24.1

remaining.
Lexie Hull, a 76% free-throw shooter, made two free throws with 19.4 seconds left to give Indiana a four-point lead. DiJonai Carrington was short on a 3-point attempt and Clark grabbed the rebound before running out the clock.

#### Mystics 74, Sky 70

In Chicago, Stefanie Dolson scored 17 points and Ariel Atkins added 15 points and five assists to help Washington beat Chicago.

Washington (9-22) has won three consecutive games - including a 74-72 win over the Storm in Seattle on Monday - for the first time this season. That winning streak comes on the heels of a five-game skid.

The Sky had a 68-61 lead with 4:38 to play, but the Mystics rallied and closed the game on a 13-2 run to clinch their first three-game winning streak since last June.

After falling behind by seven, an Aaliyah Edwards putback off a miss by Brittney Sykes sparked an 11-0 run that gave Washington a 72-68 lead with 1:01 left.

Chicago's Kamilla Cardoso snapped a scoring drought of nearly four minutes with a basket to make it 72-70 with 51.1 seconds to play, but the Sky (11-19) would not score again.

#### Lynx 89, Mercury 76

In Phoenix, Kayla McBride scored 19 points and hit three of Minnesota's 11 3-pointers to help the Lynx beat Phoenix and extend

their winning streak to seven.

Courtney Williams scored 16 points with five assists, Napheesa Collier added 12 points, eight rebounds and five assists and Myisha Hines-Allen had 11 for Minnesota (23-8). Bridget Carleton finished with nine points, six rebounds, five assists and three steals.

Minnesota, which is now a halfgame ahead of Connecticut for the second-best record in the WNBA, built an early edge with a 17-0 run in the first quarter and never looked back. Phoenix had scoring drought of more than five minutes, allowing the Lynx to flip a 5-3 deficit into a 20-5 lead.

#### Storm 85, Dream 81

In Seattle, Jewell Loyd scored 28 points, including a go-ahead 3-pointer with 23.1 seconds left, and Seattle rallied past Atlanta despite veteran Tina Charles becoming the 18th player in WNBA history to record a triple-double.

Seattle (19-11) trailed 81-77 with 1:40 remaining but a bucket from Nneka Ogwumike and Loyd's clutch triple and subsequent free throws allowed the Storm to pull out the victory.

Atlanta guard Allisha Gray had it stripped away by Skylar Diggins-Smith and Seattle forward Ezi Magbegor secured the loose ball before calling a timeout with 28.1 seconds left. Loyd curled around a high screen and sank the open 3-pointer to give Seattle an 83-81 lead.

#### Sparks 94, Liberty 88

In Los Angeles, Dearica Hamby scored 21 points, rookie Rickea Jackson added 19 and last-place Los Angeles beat the WNBAleading New York to snap a sevengame losing streak.

Rae Burrell made 7 of 8 from the field, 3 of 3 from 3-point range, and tied her season-high with 18 points for the Sparks (7-24). Odyssey Sims added 14 points and seven assists and Azurá Stevens scored 10.

New York (26-5) has lost two of its last three games following an eightgame winning streak and is just 2 1/2 games ahead of the Minnesota Lynx - who have won seven straight - for the best record in the league.



Indiana Fever guard Caitlin Clark (22) drives on Connecticut Sun guard DiJonai Carrington (21) in the second half of a WNBA basketball game in

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#### Trippier retires, Walker left out and Madueke gets call-up ingham and Luke Shaw were out because

LONDON, Aug 29, (AP): Kieran Trippier announced his retirement from England duty and Chelsea winger Noni Madueke was one of four uncapped players summoned on Thursday as interim coach Lee Carsley named his first selection since re-

placing Gareth Southgate. The 33-year-old Trippier, a right back at Newcastle, was one of Southgate's most trusted defenders in his eight-year tenure that came to an end when he stood down after England lost the European Championship final to Spain last month. Trippier's most famous moment in his 54 appearances for England came at the 2018 World Cup when he curled in a free kick

#### SOCCER

to give his team the lead against Croatia in the semifinals. England went on to lose the

Trippier also started the European Cham-

pionship final in 2021 when England lost a penalty shootout to Italy and played out of position at left back, or left wing back, for much of Euro 2024.

Ahead of Nations League games against Ireland and Finland, there was no place for Kyle Walker, who hasn't started for Manchester City this season after Euro 2024. Ivan Toney, Aaron Ramsdale, Joe Gomez, Lewis Dunk and Adam Wharton also missed out after being in the squad for the tournament. Jude Bell-

of injury. Carsley attempted to put his own stamp

on the group by calling up four newcomers, including Madueke after scoring his first hat trick for Chelsea at Wolverhampton on

Morgan Gibbs-White, Tino Livramento and Angel Gomes, who plays in France for Lille, were the others and they know Carsley from his time in charge of the England

# **Groot wins Paralympic Games' first gold medal**

Games opening ceremony marks final chapter of long summer of sport in Paris

PARIS, Aug 29, (AP): Track cyclist Caroline Groot of the Netherlands won the first gold medal of the Paralympic Games on Thursday.

Groot won the final of the C4 and C5 classifications in the 500-meter time trial in women's track cycling. It was the first medal event of the Games that opened with a spectacular ceremony on Wednesday.

Groot went last after watching C4 world record holder Kadeena Cox crash on her attempt. The British

#### **PARALYMPICS**

cyclist was denied the opportunity of restarting because a mechanical error was not to blame for her fall.
Groot won in 35.390 seconds, a

world record in C5. French cyclist Marie Patouillet (C5) took the silver, and Canada's Kate O'Brien (C4) took bronze.

C1 to C5 are para cycling classifications for athletes with physical impairments that affect their legs, arms and/or trunk causing issues with functionality who can use a standard

Č4 is for cyclists with lower limb impairments or issues with lower limb functionality caused by the likes of cerebral palsy, amputations and other lower limb impairments, while C5 is for cyclists with less severe impairments.

Just weeks after hosting the Olympics, Paris inaugurated the 2024 Paralympics on Wednesday with a nearly four-hour-long opening ceremony in the heart of the city.

Against the backdrop of a setting sun, thousands of athletes paraded down the famed Champs-Elysées avenue to Place de la Concorde in central Paris where French President Emmanuel Macron officially declared the Paralympic Games open.

About 50,000 people watched the ceremony in stands built around the iconic square, which is the biggest in Paris and is visible from afar because of its ancient Egyptian Obelisk. Accessibility for athletes in wheelchairs was facilitated with strips of asphalt laid along the avenue and placed over the square.

Organizers say more than 2 million of the 2.8 million tickets have been sold for the various Paralympic

The opening ceremony was held



Jayci Simon, 19, left, and Miles Krajewski, 19, from the U.S., compete in their first doubles badminton match in the SH6 classification at Porte La Chapelle Arena during the Paralympic Games in Paris. (AP)

outside the confines of a stadium, just like when the Olympics opened in the city on July 26. Fighter planes flew overhead, leaving red-whiteand blue vapors in the colors of the French national flag, before the delegations entered the square in alphabetical order.

Some delegations were huge more than 250 athletes from Brazil - and some were tiny - less than a handful from Barbados and just three from Myanmar.

Ukraine's delegation got a loud cheer and some of the crowd stood to applaud them.

Flag bearers Steve Serio and Nicky Nieves led the U.S. team's delegation. The French arrived last and to roars from the crowd, which then sang along to popular French songs, including "Que Je T'aime" by late rocker Johnny Hallyday.

Throughout the show, directed by Thomas Jolly who also led the Olympic opening ceremony, sing-



Fireworks are fired during the Opening Ceremony for the 2024 Paralympics, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024, in Paris, France. (AP)

ers, dancers and musicians with and without disabilities performed on stage together seamlessly, projecting a theme of inclusion and overcoming physical differences. Lucky Love, a French singer who lost his left arm at birth, was joined by performers in wheelchairs. Other acts featured dancers with crutches.

International Paralympic Committee President Andrew Parsons said he hoped the Paris Paralympics would start an "inclusion revolution" beyond the field of sport.

"The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games will show what persons with disabilities can achieve at the highest level when the barriers to succeed are removed," he said in a speech. "The fact these opportunities largely exist only in sport in the year 2024 is shocking. It is proof we can and must do more to advance disability inclusion - whether on the field of play, in the classroom, concert hall or in the boardroom.'

As the ceremony concluded, the Paralympic torch was carried into the area by former Olympic wheelchair tennis gold medalist Michaël Jérémiasz, who was surrounded on stage by dozens of torchbearers. Five French Paralympians lit the Olympic cauldron, which is designed to look like a hot air balloon and glowed

gold-like in the night.

The Paralympic flag was raised high into the night sky and its emblem adorned the top of the Arc de Triomphe about 3 kilometers (2 miles) away.

Wednesday night's Although show started at 8 p.m. local time, fans had gathered hours earlier under a scorching sun to get top spots along the way. As performers enter-tained the crowd on stage, volunteers danced alongside Paralympians as they waved their national flags and the sky gave off a postcard-perfect orange glow.

Tony Estanguet, the president of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, called Paralympians "immense champions who we have the honor of being with tonight."

The first medals handed out on Thursday will be in taekwondo, table tennis, swimming and track cycling. Athletes are grouped by impairment levels to ensure as level a playing field as possible.

The closing ceremony will be held at Stade de France, the national sta-

Miles Krajewski and Jayci Simon barely spoke throughout the most pivotal points of their Paralympic

Team USA's mixed doubles para badminton pair offered brief encouragement between points but moved around each other without a word once the shuttlecock was in the air. The 19-year-olds' chemistry was on full display on Thursday at La Chapelle Arena in northern Paris as they defeated India 23-21, 21-11 to start their pursuit of Paralympic Krajewski and Simon already

minton Paralympians and are now chasing their country's first medal in the sport. They need to finish in the top two of their group to advance to the semifinals in the mixed doubles event in the SH6 category for players of short stature. "Our coach instilled in us that

made history as the first U.S. bad-

we're one when we're out there,' Simon said. "We work together a lot better now, and it definitely has paid

Krajewski and Simon will both compete in men's and women's singles competition before facing Thailand to close group play at 8:00 p.m. Thursday in Paris. A win over Thailand would put Team USA among the final four pairs, one win away from securing the historic medal.

#### Al-Arabi 'joins' top regional teams for 5th Sharjah Basketball Championship

By Khaled Al-Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: Al-Arabi Club has confirmed its participation in the upcoming 5th Sharjah International Basketball Championship, held under the patronage of Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Al Oasimi. Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of

The championship is set to begin on September 5, featuring Al-Arabi, Al-Bataeh, Sharjah (UAE), Hoops of Lebanon, Al-Fateh of Saudi Arabia, and Dijlah of Iraq.

Al-Arabi's team began training early in August to prepare for the 2024-2025 season. The team has undergone significant changes, with the departure of Ali Al-Hudhud, Hussein Al-Khabbaz, and Mosaed Al-Otaibi, who contributed positively last season. To strengthen its squad, the management has signed professionals Anderson Gomez and Salas Mongi to bolster the "Green" in both local competitions and the Sharjah International Championship.

In related news, Al-Qadisiya basketball team has renewed the contract of American professional player Chinemelo Elono for the third consecutive season, following his impressive performances last year. However, his compatriot Robert



Players fighting for the ball in this file photo.

Lowry is unlikely to be retained by American coach Anthony Stephen, who has opted for Croatian Tomislav Zubek and American Vilgrim among the professionals for the "Yellow" team.

Al-Qadisiya will also compete in the Arab Clubs Championship this October in Alexandria, alongside Kazma, and participate in the Asian Basketball League (Super League) next season. Following its victory in the Federation Cup at the end of last season, along with league champion

### Al-Shammari suffers injury

#### By Khaled Al-Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: Kuwait handball team player Bandar Al-Shammari sustained a cruciate ligament injury during a training session at the team's current camp in Slovenia. He will undergo medical examinations to determine the extent of the injury and the expected recovery period.

Al-Shammari, a key player for "Al-Azraq," was recently selected by the coaching staff led by Saeed Hijazi to join the squad for this camp. The national team director, Abdul Aziz Al-Zaabi, expressed his disappointment over the injury, highlighting Al-Shammari's dedication and high skill level. He wished the player a swift recovery and a prompt return to both club and national team duties.

Al-Zaabi noted that the team is making steady progress in their physical and technical preparations during the Slovenia camp, gearing up for the 2025 World Cup in Croatia, Denmark, and Norway next January. He praised the players for their commitment and adherence to the instructions of the technical and administrative staff, aiming to achieve peak condition for the upcoming tournament. Kuwait junior team will face the

South Korea at 4 pm at Martyr Fa-

#### **HANDBALL**

had Al-Ahmad Hall in Al-Daiya. This will be the final friendly match for the m team as it prepares for the 10th Asian Championship, which serves as a qualifier for the World Cup finals. The tournament is scheduled to take place next September in Jordan, where Kuwait will compete in Group Four alongside Chinese Taipei, China, and Iran. In the first encounter, the teams drew 27-27.

#### We lacked efficiency in front of goal: Simeone

### Atletico struggles to find net in draw with Espanyol

MADRID, Aug 29, (AP): Atletico Madrid couldn't find the net from 25 attempts and had two goals disallowed in the second half of a 0-0 draw at home against promoted Espanyol in the Spanish league.

It was the second draw in three matches to start the season for Diego Simeone's team, and the first point for Espanyol in its return to the top

Rodrigo Riquelme twice scored in the second half, including deep into stoppage time, but both goals were called off because of offside at the Metropolitano Stadium.

"The team played very well but

#### **SOCCER**

we lacked efficiency in front of the goal," Simeone said. "We got off to a strong start in the first half, but then there was a bit of a letdown. We tried until the end but the ball didn't go in because of our lack of efficiency.'

Atletico was trying to build momentum after beating Girona 3-0 at home on Sunday. It had opened its league campaign with a 2-2 draw at

Barcelona became the only team with three wins in the first three rounds this season after a 2-1 victory at Rayo Vallecano.

Espanyol had only one attempt on goal. It was among the bottom three clubs early on in its return after a season in the second division.



Athletic earned its first win of the season by defeating Valencia 1-0 at home, leaving the rival in last place after three straight losses.

Alaves also won for the first time, coming from behind on the road to beat Real Sociedad 2-1. Sociedad played a man down from the 29th minute after Mikel Oyarzabal was sent off with a straight red card for

In a match between promoted clubs, Valladolid and Leganes drew 0-0 in Valladolid.

You could say he has slotted in just fine.

Arne Slot clearly didn't get the memo that it's supposed to be a near-impossible job to follow a club great

Take David Moyes after replacing Alex Ferguson at Manchester United. Moves lasted 10 months.

Or Unai Emery after replacing Arsene Wenger at Arsenal. Emery lasted an uncomfortable 18

These are very early days but Slot has barely put a foot wrong since succeeding Jurgen Klopp as Liverpool manager following the popular German's nearly nine years in the dugout. Klopp forged such a connection with the port city and its soccermad people that he was compared with Bill Shankly, the club's most legendary manager.

Maybe it's because, at the moment, Slot's Liverpool doesn't look too much different to Klopp's team.

Two Premier League matches. Two wins. Two clean sheets.

There was even a convincing win over Manchester United in a preseason game in the United States, which is never a bad thing when it comes to getting fans of the Reds

There are bigger challenges to come, of course. Starting on Sunday when Liverpool plays United for real, this time in the league at Old Trafford in what is historically the biggest match in English soccer between the country's two most successful teams.

While United opted to stick with its manager, Erik ten Hag, despite a woeful eighth-place finish last season, Liverpool's hand was forced by Klopp's decision to step down after a tenure that included a Premier League and a Champions League

Slot was regarded as a natural successor because of his style of play which, while not as intense and suffocating, is still very attacking and

high-energy like Klopp's.

Indeed, Richard Hughes, Liverpool's new sporting director who identified Slot as Klopp's replacement, said during the summer that the Dutchman's coaching philosophy and approach "lend really well with the kind of squad we have, the supporters and the football club as a



Al-Adwani gives instructions to his players.

#### Al-Nasr faces setback as Cairo camp is canceled three rounds and is aiming to ad-

**By Hassan Moussa** 

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 29: Al-Nasr's planned training camp in Cairo, Égypt, set to begin today, has been canceled due to complications preventing coach Dhaher Al-Adwani and several players from traveling.

The cancellation is a result of ongoing administrative issues that Al-Nasr has faced since last season, which had already delayed their preseason preparations. Although the Public Sports Authority approved the camp earlier this week, logistical problems led to its abrupt cancella-

Currently, "Al-Annabi" has secured only 3 points from the past equately prepare for its upcoming match against Kuwait Club on September 14.

Coach Dhaher Al-Adwani expressed dissatisfaction with the team's recent performance, attributing the lackluster results to insufficient preparation and the club's challenging circumstances. "We've experienced two defeats and one win due to inadequate preparation," Al-Adwani noted. Despite a strong performance against Al-Salmiya, which ended in a 1-3 loss, and an unexpected defeat to Khaitan, the team managed a win against Kazma, showing some improvement.

Al-Adwani highlighted that the team's fluctuating performance in the early rounds was due to poor both foreign and local players. He remains hopeful for improved results in the upcoming rounds. Additionally, Al-Adwani men-

preparation and delays in integrating

tioned the absence of Dominican professional Carlos Ventura, who is currently with his national team, and Salman Burmiah's involvement with the Blues, who are preparing for qualifiers. He stressed the need for the team to be in optimal condition before league matches resume.

Goalkeeper Khaled Al-Ajaji acknowledged that despite the team's challenging start; it played well under the circumstances. He emphasized that while the external camp's cancellation is regrettable, the main issue was the team's lack of physical fitness in the early rounds.



Taylor Fritz, of the United States, returns a shot to Mattia Bellucci, of Italy, during a second round match of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

# OPTS

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Left-right: Kuwaiti swimmers pose with other winners on the podium after the awarding ceremony.

### **Kuwait secures seven more medals on final day of Arab Aquatics Championships**

Wimbledon champ Krejcikova knocked out

Shelton and Tiafoe set to meet

CAIRO, Aug 29, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti swimming team extended its medal count to 26, adding seven more medals, the final day of the Third Arab Age Group Aquatics Championships in Cairo. The new haul includes six bronze and one silver medal.

In the 15-16 age group, Mohammad Zbeid, Abdulwahab Al-Waheeb, Saud Al-Anzi, and Hassan Al-Seilik secured a silver medal in the 100x4 freestyle relay. Additionally, Saud Al-Anzi clinched a bronze medal in the 100m butterfly race for the same age group.

#### **SWIMMING**

In the 17-18 age group, Khaled Al-Otaibi won bronze in the 400m freestyle, while Abdullah Sultan took bronze in the 100m backstroke for the 13-14 age group. Abdullah Sultan, Hassan Zaid, Homoud Al-Homoud, and Meshari Al-Haqqan also earned bronze in the 100x4 freestyle relay for the 13-14 age group.

In diving, Fadehl Al-Abbas secured bronze in the 3m springboard for the 16-17 age group. He, along with Jasem Al-Qallaf, also earned bronze in the doubles 3m springboard event for the same age group.

With these results, the Kuwaiti team's total medal count stands at 26, comprising three gold, five silver, and 18 bronze medals. Faisal Abol-Hassan, head of the Kuwaiti team, expressed gratitude for the swimmers' remarkable achievements and acknowledged the support of Sheikh Khaled Al-Bader Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, President of the Kuwait Swimming Association.

#### Chiesa completes move to Liverpool

LIVERPOOL, England, Aug 29, (AP): Italy winger Federico Chiesa completed his move to Liverpool from Juventus for 10 million pounds (\$13.2 million) on Thursday. The 26-year-old Chiesa, the

son of former Italy striker Enrico Chiesa, is the first outfield player signed by Liv-

new manager

Arne Slot in

deal

Chiesa

million

The



at Euro 2024.

pounds (\$3.3 million) add-ons based primarily on team performance. Chiesa joined Juventus from Fiorentina in October 2020 for 50 million euros (then \$60 million) and starred for Italy in its

run to the European Championship title the following year. He damaged his ACL in January 2022 and was out of action for 10 months but returned for the Azzurri and played four times

"I'm so happy to be a Liver-pool player," Chiesa said. "When (sporting director) Richard Hughes called me and he said, 'Do you want to join Liverpool?' - and the coach called me - I said 'Yes' immediately because I know the history of this club, I know what it represents to the fans.

'So, I'm so happy and I can't wait to get started.

Chiesa, who was into the last year of his contract at Juventus, can play on the left or right wing.

Earlier this week, Liverpool signed Georgia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili from Valencia on Tuesday in a deal that will see him stay at the Spanish team for the remainder of the season.

### as Gauff marches into US Open 3rd round NEW YORK, Aug 29, (AP): Frances Tiafoe is get-

ton at the U.S. Open. But there won't be a second straight Grand Slam title for Barbora Krejcikova.

ting the rematch he wants, a second shot at Ben Shel-

The Wimbledon champion was knocked out of the U.S. Open in the second round on Wednesday, defeated by Elena-Gabriela Ruse 6-4, 7-5.

The No. 8-seeded Krejcikova won her second Grand Slam singles title this summer, but then she didn't play any matches after the Paris Olympics. She acknowledged last week not knowing where her level of play was.

Turns out, it wasn't good enough. "I mean, winning Wimbledon is amazing. It's a great, great, great result, I'm very proud about it and how I was able to handle everything there," said Krejcikova, who hadn't played a tournament on hard courts since February.

No woman has won Wimbledon

#### **TENNIS**

and the U.S. Open in the same year since Serena Williams in 2012.

Tiafoe had short work on the steamiest day of the tournament thus far with temperatures in New York surpassing 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees Celsius). Three men's matches ended when an opponent stopped playing, the last one sending defending champion Novak Djokovic to the third round when Laslo Djere retired early in the third set with what appeared to be pain near his hip after they played for more than two hours across the first

"You know, in the end, not the kind of finish that we players or crowd wants to see, but I think it's probably due to that physical battle that we had in the opening two sets," the No. 2-seeded Djokovic said.

Tiafoe, the No. 20 seed, won the first two sets before his opponent, Alexander Shevchenko, retired after the first game of the third set.

Shelton, the No. 13 seed, later beat Roberto Bautista Agut 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. He ousted Tiafoe last year in the quarterfinals, stopping Tiafoe from what would have been a second straight trip to the U.S. Open semifinals.

They were two of the four American men to reach the third round in the bottom half of the draw. No. 12 Taylor Fritz got there by beating Matteo Berrettini 6-3, 7-6 (1), 6-1, while Brandon Nakashima beat Arthur Cazaux and will next play No. 18 Lozenzo Musetti, the bronze medalist at the Olympics.

Defending champion Coco Gauff marched into the third round on the women's side with a 6-4, 6-0 victory over Tatjana Maria. The No. 3 seed will next face No. 27 seed Elina Svitolina.

Ruse, a 26-year-old from Romania, advanced to the third round of a Grand Slam for the first time and will play No. 26 seed Paula Badosa,



The winners with their coaches on the podium.

#### Young footballers shine in Haido Championship

The "Al-Rafai" team claimed the title of the "Haido" Penalty Kick Championship for young footballers, with the Catalonia team finishing in second place. This championship is part of the sports programs and activities organized by Haido "Kan.

Abdullah Al-Saleh, Director of Haido Sports Academy, stated that the championship is one of the summer activities conducted by Haido "Kan"

Sports, aiming to instill the principles of sports, highlight its significance, and emphasize the importance of regular physical activity for children.

He explained that this is the second consecutive year the championship has been held for age groups ranging from 4 to 15 years old, at Mishref Sports Stadium. A total of 134 young players participated and were honored during a

special sports event in the presence of their parents. The event recognizes the efforts of many parents who encourage their children to engage in sports, as it provides an opportunity to develop positive personality traits and fosters a sense of cooperation, contributing to the child's personal growth, moral values, and understanding of the ethics of soccer.

Arrizabalaga sent out on loan again

### Lukaku ends underwhelming second spell at Chelsea

who eliminated American Taylor Townsend 6-3, 7-5.

Jiri Lehecka ignored the heat to engineer the biggest comeback of his career, rallying to beat Mitchell Krueger 6-7 (5), 0-6, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 in a match that finished a minute shy of four hours. Lehecka, the No. 32 seed, not only came from two sets down for the first time in his career, but he was even down 3-0 in the third set against the American qualifier.

He will face No. 6 seed Andrey Rublev, who also came from two sets down to outlast Arthur Rinderknech 4-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

Past U.S. Open finalists Aryna Sabalenka and Alexander Zverev both won their matches in straight sets, while Olympic gold medalist Zheng Qinwen, the No. 7 seed, rallied passed Erika Andreeva in three sets. But No. 12 Daria Kasatkina was upset by American Peyton Stearns, who will next face No. 24 seed and Olympic silver medalist Donna Vekic.

Another women's third-round match will see No. 14 seed Madison Keys against No. 33 Elise Mertens. Keys, the 2017 runner-up in Flushing Meadows, rolled past Maya Joint 6-4, 6-0, while Mertens knocked out Ajla Tomljanovic 6-3, NAPLES, Italy, Aug 29, (AP): Romelu Lukaku ended his underwhelming second spell at Chelsea by completing a move to Napoli on Thursday, with coach Antonio Conte saying the Belgium striker could play immediately.

Napoli announced the news on social media, saying "Romelu is proud to be one of us!" plus a brief statement on its website.

Napoli did not give any details of the deal, but Italian media reported Lukaku signed a three-year contract and the Serie A club paid Chelsea 30 million euros (\$33 million) plus 30% of any future transfer fee.

Conte said Lukaku could make his debut Saturday at home against Parma. The pair will be rekindling a win-

ning combination, with Lukaku - Belgium's all-time record scorer - enjoying his two most productive seasons under Conte at Inter Milan

The 31-year-old Lukaku had been training away from the main Chelsea squad in recent weeks as the London club sought to find a buyer for a striker who cost \$135 million in 2021 - making him the seventh most expensive soccer player at the time - but had been a flop in his second spell at Stamford

He spent the 2022-23 season on loan at Inter and last season on loan at

Chelsea bought Lukaku from Inter, shortly after the center forward helped fire the Nerazzurri to the Serie A title. He finished that season as the team's top scorer with 24 league goals.

Inter was then managed by Conte, who left at the same time as Lukaku. Conte returned to Italy two months ago and was tasked with overturning last year's debacle at Napoli, which saw three different coaches in charge.

Napoli lost its first league match under Conte 3-0 but went on to win its second by the same scoreline last weekend.

#### SOCCER

Napoli missed out on European competition last season with a 10thplace finish, coming a year after winning its first Serie A title since the days when Diego Maradona played for the

Lukaku has previously played for English clubs Manchester United, Everton and West Bromwich Albion, after a first spell at Chelsea from 2011-14 during which he only played 10 times.

Kepa Arrizabalaga, the world's most expensive goalkeeper signed for \$92 million six years ago, left Chelsea to go on a season-long loan at English Premier League rival Bournemouth on Thursday.



Haif visits Kuwait training grounds in Dubai with the head of the delegation,

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