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Opinion

Wise decisions of Amir of the moment need minds to understand

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

SHAPING the future is our collective responsibility. We must rise up to the challenge and fulfill the vision announced by His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, the Amir of the moment.

For six decades, Kuwait endured a power struggle and parliamentary interference in the executive authority's work. Ministers often acted merely as executors of the orders of 50 parliamentarians. This led to a perception that Kuwait was governed by 51 amirs, with MPs assuming roles akin to de facto rulers. His Highness's decision to amend the constitution aims to address this irregular situation.

The turmoil in the past few decades hindered development and impacted the social fabric, leaving citizens caught between the rock of the game of political interests and the hard place of the failure of successive Cabinets in curbing parliamentary encroachment on governmental powers and blocking legislation that threaten to fundamentally change the Kuwaiti culture.

In contrast, the neighboring Gulf countries pursued their development goals with a clear vision and without being deterred by discordant voices.

Their leaders focus on advancing development, regardless of all considerations. For instance, they amended laws related to nationality and residency to foster a culture of productivity, rather than resting on past achievements. As the poet Ibn Al-Wardi wisely said, "Never say my origin and my lineage; a man's worth is defined by what he acquires. The value of a person lies in what he does best."

In this context, we observed how the UAE defended the owner of the "Telegram" app, who is an Emirati of Russian-origin. The UAE even suspended certain agreements with France, because it is focused on using minds for achieving sustainable development, similar to Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

These countries benefit from the talents and expertise that we in Kuwait unfortunately often overlook or expel. They understand the value of nurturing such minds for their development.

Therefore, when we talk about our collective responsibility in shaping the future, we must be meticulous in dotting the i's and

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MEW plans to buy solar energy from its citizens

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy has prioritized the project of purchasing renewable energy from citizens as part of its annual development plan for 2024-2025, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to informed sources, the ministry considers this project a key initiative aimed at encouraging citizens to produce electricity from renewable sources by installing solar panels on their rooftops.

The ministry plans to purchase the generated electricity at competitive prices, which will help reduce the state's water and electricity costs while also lowering carbon emissions from power plants.

The ministry's strategy includes acquiring up to 2,500 megawatts of renewable energy produced by citizens, which is expected to yield significant economic, environmental, and developmental benefits.

Currently, the ministry is evaluating the economic impact of the project, the logistics of installing solar panels on rooftops, and the benefits for customers, whether individuals or institutions, in addition to ensuring safety procedures are in place.

NewsWatch

GAZA: At least 25 Palestinians fell martyred in airstrikes launched by Israeli occupation forces at the Nuseirat refugee camp in the middle of the Gaza Strip and southern city of Khan Yunis.

Three martyrs of one family were transferred to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital following an Israeli occupation air raid on a house in the west of the camp, health authorities said in a press release. (KUNA)

DUBAI: The United States military and Iraq launched a joint raid targeting suspected Islamic State group militants in the country's western desert that killed at least 15 people and left seven American troops hurt, officials said Saturday.

For years after dislodging the militants from their self-declared caliphate across Iraq and Syria, U.S. forces have fought the Islamic State group, though the casualties from this raid were higher than in previous ones. (AP)

DUBAI: Two missiles suspected to have been fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted a Liberian-flagged container ship in the Gulf of Aden late Friday, splashing down nearby without causing any damage, authorities said.

The attack comes after the Houthis repeatedly assaulted and then boarded a Greek-flagged oil tanker in the nearby Red Sea, planting explosives on it they later detonated. That attack, the worst in weeks, risked a major oil spill as the rebels' campaign disrupted the \$1 trillion in goods that pass through the Red Sea each year over its Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip, as well as halting some aid shipments to conflict-ravaged Sudan and Yemen. (AP)

US reiterates commitment to bolster ties with Kuwait, Gulf

We're deeply engaged in region: Ambassador Sasahara

By Paulo Francisco X. Fernandes
Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: "Given the evolving political landscape and increasing tensions in the Middle East, the United States of America remains fully committed to strengthening its strategic partnership with the Gulf countries, and Kuwait plays a vital role in these efforts," said the US Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Karen Sasahara.

Addressing the Kuwaiti media at the US Embassy, Thursday, the US envoy added, "The US is deeply engaged in the region, both militarily and diplomatically. The US presence is evident through operations in the Red Sea, the deployment of carrier groups, and the constant communication the US maintains with Kuwaiti partners."

"This collaboration," she added, "extends from military exchanges between Kuwait and the Pentagon to diplomatic visits between Washington and Kuwait. The primary goal of this partnership is to ensure regional stability and prevent any escalation of conflicts. This is achieved through continuous information exchange and close coordination with our Kuwaiti allies, reflecting our shared interest in maintaining peace and security."

The US prioritizes stability in the Gulf, as it is essential for the continued well-being and economic prosperity of the region. Stability ensures that people can live their lives peacefully and that commercial activities can proceed without disruption. Recent events, such as the Houthi attacks in the Red Sea, which have targeted international shipping and taken crew members hostage, are deeply concerning and unacceptable, she added.

She stressed, the United States of America is working closely with Gulf partners to uphold the principle of freedom of navigation, which is a fundamental doctrine of US policy. This is crucial for keeping shipping lanes open, as they are vital for global trade, with up to 30 percent of container ships passing through the region.

The stability of these lanes has significant implications, not just for the Gulf, but for the global economy, affecting countries like Egypt and Jordan and exacerbating their economic difficulties. Ensuring stability and freedom of navigation in the Gulf is, therefore, a critical priority for the US and its partners, she added.



Sasahara



Minister of Public Works Noura Al-Mashaan discussing the progress of the project with the head of the Chinese delegation.

Call to expedite work at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port

Al-Mashaan, China team visit Boubyan Island project

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan held an inspection tour of the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Project site on Boubyan Island on Saturday morning by helicopter, along with senior state officials and the Chinese government delegation that arrived in Kuwait on an official visit.

Minister Al-Mashaan explained that the delegation's field visit to the site was aimed to activate the memorandum of understanding signed between the governments of the two friendly countries in September 2023.

It was related to the establishment and development of the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project on Boubyan Island.

The visit also aimed to provide the Chinese government delegation with a complete on-the-ground understanding of the project. This will enable them to implement the project effectively at all stages, in line with the ambitions of the leadership of both countries. It also seeks to advance the establishment of the current and future plans for this vital project.

In this regard, the Chinese delegation expressed its keenness during the field visit to accelerate the implementation of the establishment and development of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port.

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Rights body slams rape in the family

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The National Human Rights Bureau has expressed profound regret and dismay over the recent kidnapping and assault of a young Kuwaiti girl by her father, a relative, and another citizen. It stressed the urgent need to implement all necessary legal actions against the perpetrators.

In a special statement issued yesterday, the National Human Rights Bureau called on the Supreme Council for Family Affairs to closely monitor the incident and take necessary measures to protect children from violence and exploitation.

The Bureau urged the Council to ensure the child receives every kind of protection and all rights in accordance with law No. 21/2015.

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PACI deletes residential addresses of 519 people

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has announced through the official gazette "Kuwait Alyoum" that the residential addresses of 519 individuals have been deleted due to the owner's declaration or the demolition of the building.

These individuals are required to visit the authority to register their new address and provide the necessary supporting documents within 30 days from the date of publication in the official gazette.

Failure to do so may result in a penalty as specified in Article 33 of Law No. 32/1982, which imposes a fine not exceeding KD 100, which will be multiplied by the number of affected individuals.

It is worth highlighting that PACI will continue to periodically publish in the official gazette the details of those whose addresses have been deleted.

Minister gives nod for two new charities

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthar Al-Huwailah issued two decisions on the official declaration of Kuwaitis for Jerusalem Charity Association and Atf Charity Association.

The objectives of Kuwaitis for Jerusalem Charity

Association include strengthening social and cultural solidarity between the Kuwaiti and Palestinian peoples; raising societal awareness in a way that promotes volunteerism and encourage participation in the association's charitable projects; and supporting development projects that serve the Palestinian people in the fields of health, education, and vocational and craft courses.

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Preparations for new school year opening are in full swing

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: With about 100,000 employees in educational and administrative entities preparing for the opening of schools next Sunday, the Ministry of Education has intensified its efforts to distribute six million reference books for three educational stages - primary, intermediate and secondary - to around 1,000 schools in various educational districts, including Mutla'a and Sabah Al-Ahmad City.

In a statement to the newspaper, Assistant Undersecretary for Financial Affairs at the ministry Matrouk Al-Mutairi confirmed the arrival of all reference books at the ministry's warehouses. He disclosed the book distribution will be done in the morning and evening; while the Warehouses and Supplies Department is working hard to meet the schools' need for furniture based on the statistics and observations submitted by the concerned teams that started working on Aug 11.

He stressed the importance of distributing the books before the school year begins to ensure that students and teachers are fully prepared for the new school year, affirming this step contributes to the effective organization of classes from the first day.

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Kuwait adopts advanced tech for delicate glaucoma surgery

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Dr. Youssef Al-Harz, Head of the Ophthalmology Department at Farwaniya Hospital, announced the successful completion of a delicate glaucoma surgery using the state-of-the-art EyeWatch System. This advanced technology is one of the latest global innovations in glaucoma treatment, representing a significant step forward in managing this dangerous eye disease.

Speaking to Al-Seyassah, Dr. Al-Harz highlighted the efforts of glaucoma specialist Dr. Abdullah Al-Kandari, who led the surgery.

He emphasized that the EyeWatch System, a cutting-edge device in the



KUNA photo
Glaucoma specialist Dr. Abdullah Al-Kandari during surgery.

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:03	Asr	15:22
Sunrise ..	05:25	Maghrib ..	18:12
Zohr	11:48	Isha	19:31

Local

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

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-35 km/h.
By Night: Hot to rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly

Weather			
wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	44	33	
Kuwait Airport	45	34	
Abdaly	45	28	

Bubyan	46	26
Jahra	46	31
Failaka Island	43	28
Salmiyah	41	33
Ahmadi	42	29
Jal Aliyah	44	29
Nuwaisib	45	31

Leadership sends greetings on the occasion of national days

HH Amir congratulates Trinidad and Tobago, Malaysia and Kyrgyzstan

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Saturday a cable of congratulations to President of Trinidad and Tobago Christine Carla Kangaloo on the country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the president well-being, and her country and people progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Christine Carla Kangaloo on the country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the president well-being.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to President Christine Carla Kangaloo.

Malaysia

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent on Saturday a cable to Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the king and the Malaysian people more progress and welfare.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled sent a cable to Sultan Ibrahim, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day, and wishing him well-being.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah sent a cable to Sultan Ibrahim, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Kyrgyzstan

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent on Saturday a cable of congratulations to President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov on the country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the president well-being, and his country and people progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled sent a cable of congratulations to President Sadyr Japarov on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the president well-being.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah sent a cable of congratulations to President Sadyr Japarov on the country's National Day.

Belgium hands over Presidency of the EU Council to Hungary as ambassadors express gratitude

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: European Union (EU) Ambassador Anne Koistinen expressed her gratitude to Belgian Ambassador Christian Doms for hosting the ceremony for handing over the presidency of the Council of the European Union from Belgium to Hungary.

Koistinen explained: The presidency of the council rotates every six months, with each member-state setting priorities in the EU agenda. The president plays a key role in advancing the EU legislative agenda, facilitating agreement between member-states and advancing collective foreign policy objectives.

She affirmed that Kuwait fully cooperated with Belgium during its presidency of the council. "We may not have seen the daily legislative work that the president carried out in Brussels, but the 'Team Europe' spirit was present. Among many highlights, I fondly remember the joint public diplomacy activity we carried out in the context of the Europe Month events, with the support of the French Embassy.

"Since Belgium passed the torch to Hungary on July 1, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to Hungarian Ambassador András Szabó on Hungary's presidency of the council. We look forward to continuing our cooperation with the Hungarians in the coming months.

"I do not want to forget Gaza, where a humanitarian catastrophe has been unfolding before our eyes for the past 10 months. The EU will continue to join forces with Arab partners and those interested in ending the war in Gaza and promote regional peace.

Congratulate

"I also congratulate our Ukrainian friends who celebrated their Independence Day a few days ago. The EU remains committed to supporting Ukraine in its existential struggle for independence and sovereignty, which is also existential for the EU."

Meanwhile, Doms disclosed that the Belgian presidency of the council focused on achieving three goals: completing legislative files before the dissolution of the European Parliament, dealing with ongoing crises and preparing the EU for the future.

He confirmed that "several agreements were finalized; such as immigration and asylum, and the European Freedom of the Media Act. We reached consensus on 74 additional files around six pivotal priorities - protect democracy and the rule of law, enhance the competitiveness of the EU, achieve green and fair transformation, support health and social agendas, protect people and borders, and support global Europe."

He described his country's presidency

of the council as "successful and fruitful," wishing Hungary success in its presidency.

Furthermore, Szabó confirmed that Hungary started its presidency of the council and will continue doing so until December 2024.

He said Hungary works as a trustworthy expert in the spirit of sincere cooperation between member-states and institutions for the sake of peace, security and prosperity in a strong Europe; indicating the Hungarian presidency came at a crucial period in the institutional cycle.

Transition

"After the European Parliament election, we are now in the middle of an institutional transition period. During this important period, the most crucial task for the Hungarian presidency is to ensure a smooth institutional transition, assist the European Parliament and the European Commission in the transition process, and push for stability and continuity," he stated.

He pointed out that at the beginning of the new institutional cycle, which lasts until the next European Parliament election five years later, the president's mission is to initiate strategic policy discussions in all areas. "We believe that the new institutional cycle needs to bring about change or new dynamics in some areas," he stressed.

He revealed "we have identified competitiveness of the EU, security and defense policy, expansion, cohesion, agriculture and demographic challenges as key areas where we believe that European policies need to change and the EU needs a new approach."

Regarding the Middle East, he said the common goals include preventing regional escalation of the conflict, alleviating the suffering of innocent civilians, and resolving the humanitarian crisis. "Special attention is needed to ensure the immediate and safe delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza. Hungary will also ensure that the EU continues to play a vital role in the long-term political settlement of the conflict," he added.

On relations between the EU and the GCC, he confirmed that Hungary will strengthen cooperation with the Gulf countries through joint communication and building a strategic partnership with the Gulf. "We will strengthen EU-GCC relations in the fields of security, counter-terrorism, energy, green transformation, people-to-people contacts, trade and investments. We intend to intensify EU's efforts to restore regional stability and secure the supply chain in the Red Sea," he asserted.

He also announced that the first-ever EU-GCC Summit will be held in Brussels on Oct 16, and that Hungarian Foreign Affairs Minister Péter Szijártó will visit Kuwait on Sept 5.



A group photo from the ceremony commemorating 102nd Turkish Victory Day

Photo by Mohammad Morsi

Kuwait-Turkey military relations 'excellent': Sheikh Dr Abdullah

Embassy marks 102nd Turkish Victory Day

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Ministry of Defense Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Al-Mishaal has affirmed that the Kuwaiti-Turkish relationship is "excellent, as we are keen on maintaining security in the country through our Armed Forces and in cooperation with the armies of friendly countries."

Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Al-Mishaal made the statement during the reception organized by the Turkish Embassy to commemorate the 102nd Turkish Victory Day; with Air Defense Commander Major General Khaled Al-Shariaan, officials, military personnel and members of the diplomatic corps in attendance.

He pointed out that attending this ceremony embodies the nature of the relationship between the two countries; asserting there are many ways of cooperation between the two countries in different fields, especially in the military field. He said the latest cooperation between the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense and the Turkish Industries Agency is on the drones.

Meanwhile, Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Tuba Nur Sonmez highlighted the progress achieved by the Turkish Armed Forces during the past century, especially in the past two decades when great strides were made through reforms, technological innovation and international cooperation.

She added the relationship with Kuwait is strong, deep and historical; indicating the two countries share a similar vision on regional peace and security. She stated that the recent visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Turkey and the signing of a defense procurement agreement between the two governments are considered a manifestation of the strong cooperation between the two countries.

On the ongoing crisis in Gaza, she hopes the international community will take decisive measures to end the violence. She stressed that Turkey and Kuwait are committed to supporting the Palestinian cause, as well as calling for justice and lasting peace.

Kuwait cultural week in UK from Sept 2 to 6

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: As part of the Kuwait cultural week in the UK under the umbrella of the celebrations marking 125 years of the Kuwaiti-British partnership, the Al Sadu Society is proud to launch this exhibition, says a press release issued by the British embassy in Kuwait.

Bayt AlSha'ar, a mobile cultural space, is showcasing the crucial role of the tent in the sustenance and hospice of the nomadic Bedouin of the past, along with the rich traditions of nomadic culture. The interactive Sadu weaving demonstrations will be from 10 am to 1 pm and from 3 pm to 6 pm at the embassy of the State of Kuwait in the UK from Sept 2 to Sept 6, 2024.



Major General Saffah during the inauguration of the building.

Al-Seyassah photo

Mol inaugurates facilities security building

The Ministry of Interior has announced the inauguration of the Facilities Security Building at the Al-Zour Refinery, underlining its commitment to providing top-tier security and protection for the nation's critical infrastructure, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The building, affiliated with the Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC), was opened by Assistant Undersecretary for Special Security Affairs, Major General Abdullah Saffah.

During the inauguration, Major General Saffah was briefed on the operations of KIPIC and the responsibilities of the security teams stationed at the company's facilities. He conducted an inspection of the new building, reviewing its equipment and ca-

capabilities, and concluded his visit with a field tour of the security points at the refinery.

Major General Saffah expressed his gratitude to all those involved in the successful completion of the project. He emphasized that the opening of this facility aligns with the Ministry of Interior's senior leadership's directives to foster collaboration between civil and security sectors, ensuring the highest levels of security and protection for vital national facilities.

He commended the efforts of the General Department of Facilities Security, highlighting the importance of continued vigilance and caution in safeguarding the nation's critical assets.

Other Voices

Kuwait Real Estate Valuers Assoc seeks validation from 'Commerce'

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Head of the Kuwait Real Estate Valuers Association Qais Al-Ghanim congratulated Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel for the trust of the wise political leadership in him, and for achieving his new role of overseeing the state's trade portfolio.

He encouraged Minister Al-Ajeel to benefit from the association's expertise in real estate valuation and to seek their input on relevant ministerial decisions.

Al-Ghanim affirmed the importance of incorporating their insights to effectively oversee real estate appraisers in the country.

In a press statement, Al-Ghanim explained that the association was officially established a year ago on October 9, 2023 by ministerial resolution No. 160 issued by the Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Sheikh Firas Al-Saud Al-Sabah. The establishment of the association highlights its important role in organizing the real estate appraisal profession.

He said, "We are hoping that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will officially recognize the association as the responsible body for real estate valuers in Kuwait. We have a strong track record and great expertise in this field, particularly after joining the International Valuation Standards Council (IVSC) based in London, which is one of the most prestigious global organizations in real estate valuation."

Al-Ghanim also mentioned that the association has signed an agreement with an applied institute to offer training courses for

Arab economic council's prep meets start Sunday

CAIRO, Aug 31, (KUNA): Preparatory meetings for the 114th session of the Arab Economic and Social Council (AESC) will kick off on Sunday at the Arab League's headquarters in Cairo to discuss cooperation issues in social and economic fields.

The council's 114th session will kick off on Thursday.

The meetings, in which Kuwait takes part, is set to start with the social committee's meetings which focus on some topics in social field.

The meeting includes the Arab strategy for lifetime education, the role of social support to achieve equity in education and elderly education as well as some reports and decisions of the ministerial councils and committees.

On Monday and Tuesday, the economic committee will hold its meetings to deal with the economic issues listed on the agenda, including the report of Arab food security for 2023 and follow-up implementing the Arab program for sustainable food security, and the agricultural development strategy for 2020-2023 as well as others.

real estate valuers both locally and internationally. He highlighted the association's commitment to consistency, neutrality, and transparency, which are essential principles to build public trust in the appraisal profession.

125 years of Kuwait-UK relations: A special bond

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

As we celebrate the 125th anniversary of Kuwait-UK relations this year, it's a fitting moment to reflect on a partnership that has stood the test of time. This enduring relationship, which began in the late 19th century, is marked by a rich history of mutual support, shared values, and a deep understanding of each other's cultures and aspirations. Over the years, what started as a strategic alliance has blossomed into a multifaceted partnership, encompassing not only political and military cooperation but also strong cultural and economic ties. This milestone anniversary is a reminder of the lasting friendship and respect between Kuwait and the United Kingdom, one that continues to evolve and strengthen with each passing year.



Al-Hajeri

The origins of the Kuwait-UK relationship date back to the 19th century when the Anglo-Kuwaiti Agreement was signed in 1899. This agreement, which provided British protection in exchange for Kuwaiti autonomy, laid the foundation for a partnership that would grow stronger over the decades. The agreement was not merely a strategic move but a testament to the mutual trust and respect between the leadership of both nations. It marked the beginning of a relationship that would weather the storms of global conflicts, economic challenges, and regional instabilities.

At the heart of the Kuwait-UK relationship is a shared commitment to stability, security, and prosperity. Both nations have consistently supported each

other in times of need, whether through military cooperation or diplomatic support in international forums. The UK has played a significant role in Kuwait's defense, particularly during the Gulf War in 1990-1991, when British forces were instrumental in liberating Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. This enduring experience has further strengthened the bond between the two countries, reinforcing their commitment to peace and security in the region.

Beyond political and military cooperation, the Kuwait-UK relationship is enriched by strong cultural and economic connections. The UK has long been a favoured destination for Kuwaiti students, with thousands of young Kuwaitis pursuing higher education in British universities. This educational exchange has fostered greater understanding and goodwill between the people of both nations. Furthermore, the UK is a key trading partner for Kuwait, with significant investments flowing in both directions. From energy to finance, the economic ties between the two countries have created a robust partnership that benefits both economies.

As we look forward to the next chapter of the Kuwait-UK relationship, there is a shared vision of continued cooperation and mutual growth. Both nations are committed to addressing global challenges such as climate change, regional security, and economic diversification. With a foundation built on trust, shared values, and common goals, the future of the Kuwait-UK relationship looks bright.

The Kuwait-UK relationship is a testament to the power of diplomacy, mutual respect, and shared interests. As we celebrate 125 years of this enduring partnership, we can look forward to a future of continued collaboration and friendship between these two great nations.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Defending forgery offenders is a threat to law and order'

"FORGERY is a serious crime universally condemned, and its perpetrators face zero tolerance. Kuwait, unfortunately, has witnessed various forms of forgery -- ranging from fake citizenship and falsified certificates to fraudulent employment claims and deceptive university promotions. Each form of forgery is a severe and dangerous crime," columnist **Dr. Mohammed Al-Maqati** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"Among these, the forgery of citizenship is particularly alarming. It represents a covert entry into the nation, allowing someone who does not belong to it to assume its identity.

"The ethical implications and the threat to national security and social harmony posed by such actions are profound. Those who engage in this deceitful behavior undermine the nation's sovereignty and stability, driven by personal gain and harmful intentions.

"It is both misguided and troubling that some downplay this grave danger or, worse, defend these offenders with weak justifications that effectively endorse forgery and criminality.

"Forgery cases have involved various fraudulent activities, including falsely claiming citizenship through fabricated documents, illegal marriages, and misleading affiliation claims.

"The defenders of these criminals may view the removal of fake citizenship as harsh or unjust. However, those who commit forgery or falsify their affiliations are engaged in serious crimes that cannot be overlooked.

"The state has an obligation to address these issues decisively, ensuring that those who benefit from such crimes are stripped of their ill-gotten gains.

"The judiciary has consistently ruled against individuals involved in forgery, affirming that citizenship issues are sovereign matters under the sole jurisdiction of the executive authority.

"The appeals in these cases are typically rejected, and the judiciary upholds the removal of fraudulent citizenship as a necessary measure to preserve national integrity.

"Anyone who supports, defends, or shields individuals involved in forgery is complicit in their crime. Such positions are not a matter of free opinion but a direct challenge to the law, the state's sovereignty, and social peace. Misrepresenting these actions as a human rights issue undermines justice and law enforcement.

"Kuwait's stance is clear: the nation must remain free from counterfeiters. This is a non-negotiable decision vital for maintaining the country's integrity and sovereignty."

Also:

"In times when financial matters and personal grievances seem to overshadow basic human rights, it is crucial to remember that the rights of individuals hold great significance and cannot be compromised," columnist **Turki Al-Azmi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"This article is directed at those responsible for ensuring fair treatment and due rights, especially in an era where financial concerns and envy often dominate. The notion that the right to a decent life, or 'prosperity', should be measured solely by financial costs is a flawed perspective.

"Despite years of rising inflation and escalating living expenses, salaries have stagnated, leading many to struggle with debt, particularly retirees. It is not uncommon to hear pleas like, 'Oh God, pay off our debts and enrich us from poverty'.

"It is disheartening to witness some individuals advocating for cuts to bonuses and allowances rather than increasing salaries and enhancing the living standards of citizens. The reductions in employees' wages, especially when combined with existing financial obligations, further exacerbate their hardships.

"Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) warned of the grave consequences of oppressing others, stating, 'Beware the supplication of the oppressed, for there is no veil between it and God'. This serves as a reminder to government leaders to respect and restore rights before it is too late.

"The material considerations and cost-saving measures should never come at the expense of people's rights. Allah has forbidden injustice, emphasizing that no one should inflict harm upon others. Article 20 of the Kuwaiti Constitution affirms the right to live in prosperity.

"Upholding trust and ensuring justice are fundamental for stability and development. The Quran commands, 'God commands you to render trusts to those to whom they are due', highlighting the importance of fairness in evaluating and distributing rights and responsibilities.

"Every leader should reflect on their role in upholding citizens' rights and improving their living conditions.

"This includes providing quality education, healthcare, diversified income sources, good infrastructure, and holding corrupt individuals accountable. Leaders should also work to recover misappropriated funds and enhance public services.

"I leave this reflection to those with a conscience and sense of patriotism. We

pray to God guide to us in fulfilling our duties with integrity and compassion."

"If the government has no work to do, it ends up focusing on "supplies", and keeping a close eye on our supplies. Sometimes supplies are delivered to our homes, and other times new items are added. They occasionally might deprive citizens of their right to supplies. If it were up to certain senior officials, they might cancel the supplies altogether and leave us at the mercy of unscrupulous merchants, slaughtering us Islamically from vein to vein!," columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"The government continues to taunt us with this issue, making supplies a constant source of concern. They often suggest or hint at the possibility of canceling or redirecting them away from those who need them. Yet, every Kuwaiti living on this land is entitled to these supplies, as the law does not discriminate based on wealth or income level.

"I wish the senior officials would explicitly clarify their intentions regarding this supply issue, rather than all the commotion and uncertainty. The Kuwaiti public is well aware that the government is struggling with the problem of supplies being stolen and exported abroad, particularly to Egypt, and now to Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. This is clear evidence that the government, despite its efforts, is unable to manage the company's warehouses and branches, which are run by expatriates. These expatriates, though diverse in many aspects of life, seem united in their actions against us. When the government fails to address these issues, the burden falls heavily on the ordinary citizens, who anxiously wait each month to receive their supplies and meet their household needs.

"On behalf of the Kuwaiti public, we urge the government to refrain from delivering or increasing the number of supplies for us. What we need is for you to leave the supplies alone and focus on improving control and oversight.

"Prioritize tightening control and dealing with the theft of supplies from company warehouses and branches. As long as the legislation is in your hands, impose stricter penalties for supply theft, such as confiscating the vehicle used in the crime, doubling the fines, and holding senior officials accountable before the petty thieves.

"Ensure rigorous monitoring and administrative action is taken against anyone suspected of wrongdoing, even if they are not caught in the act. Accelerate the Kuwaitization of associations, starting with the supplies branches. This approach would be more effective than merely managing the supply distribution."

"Surah Ash-Shams, 7-10 (translated): And by the soul and He who proportioned it, and inspired it (with discernment of) its wickedness and its righteousness. He has succeeded who purifies it. And he has failed who instills it (with corruption)," columnist **Dr. Khaled Ayed Aljenawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"The term "reformer" in this article describes an ordinary person who does not hold any official position but presents themselves on social media or local visual and audio media as a champion of societal reform. However, it often turns out that such individuals, who are disconnected from their personal reality and are excessively vocal about their reform demands, may be the ones most in need of internal reform in their own private lives and in their interactions with others in public life.

"Based on my humble understanding of psychological motives and general human behavior, there are compelling reasons for individuals in today's world to focus primarily on self-reform rather than attempting to reform society. This approach is often more beneficial to the individuals rather than being preoccupied with reforming society. Here are some key points:

1. The reasons for the "reformer" being preoccupied with the affairs of others while neglecting their own self:

Some individuals become so enamored with their own perceived righteousness that they reached the stage of detachment from reality. They view themselves as the moral exemplars of society, which causes them to stick their noses in others' lives. This delusional mindset results in these individuals offering unsolicited advice, reprimanding others, and making unfounded accusations of corruption, all while failing to address their own internal issues. These individuals often direct their criticism toward imaginary problems and people. They are driven by a desire for fame, media attention, and maintaining a spotlight for as long as possible.

2. The importance of self-improvement: A wise and intelligent person focuses on reforming their own inner and outer selves religiously, morally and socially, which, in turn, contributes to the betterment of their social environment. Someone who fails to address their own self-reform cannot effectively contribute to societal improvement. Those who acknowledge the need for internal reform will also care for the rights of their family and will respect the autonomy of others, avoiding undue interference in their lives."

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



KUNA photo National Authority for Academic Accreditation and Education Quality Assurance and team from Sa'ad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences and Training during the meeting.

National Authority & Sa'ad Al-Abdullah Academy discuss military accreditation

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: A coordination meeting was held between the National Authority for Academic Accreditation and Education Quality Assurance and a team from the Sa'ad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences and Training to initiate the process of obtaining military institutional accreditation for the academy, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

In a press statement, the authority

highlighted that this meeting aligns with the state's vision and reflects the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Al-Abdullah.

The statement also emphasized that this effort represents an ongoing commitment to collaborative work between the authority and military higher

education institutions. Dr. Jassim Al-Ali, the Director General of the authority, and his team welcomed the academy's representatives and presented an overview of the authority's role in evaluating higher education programs.

This initiative aims to enhance community security knowledge and improve the quality of education in Kuwait by starting the accreditation process for the academy.

Expat accused of embezzling 450,000 dinars by using fake invoices of co-ops

Two arrested for altering mileage meters of vehicles

By **Munif Nayef**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The General Traffic Department (GTD) of the Ministry of Interior has apprehended two individuals involved in tampering with vehicle mileage meters at a car repair workshop in Al-Rai area. The arrest took place on Thursday, August 29, 2024, following an investigation by the Technical Inspection Department's Workshop Monitoring Section, reports Al-Jarida daily.

According to officials, the garage in question was found altering the meters of used vehicles in exchange for payment. The International Standards Department of the Technical Inspection Department compiled a comprehensive report documenting the illegal activities. The report included detailed information about the garage's location and the identities of those involved.

Subsequently, the General Department of Criminal Investigations, specifically the Department of Combating Counterfeit-

ing and Forgery Crimes, was alerted to take immediate action. The two individuals were caught in the act and all equipment used for tampering was seized. The suspects have been referred to the appropriate authorities, and the workshop has been shut down by the Ministry of Commerce.

‘**KD 450K embezzled**’: A Kuwaiti citizen has accused an expatriate of embezzling KD 450,000 using fake invoices related to transactions with cooperative societies, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

Based on instructions from the Attorney General's representative, the suspect has been arrested for investigations into the allegations that the suspect tampered with invoices from a general trading and contracting company and illegally appropriating a huge sum of money.

According to security sources, the Kuwaiti manager of the company had filed the report at Maidan Hawally Police Station, stressing that the expatriate, who works in the finance department of the company, embezzled KD 450,000 by using fake invoices related to transactions with cooperative societies.

Specialized audits revealed that the suspect diverted the funds intended for products that were supposed to be delivered to the societies, including returns of returned products.

The suspect will soon be confronted with the evidence submit-

ted by the informant in the case, which is categorized as a breach of trust.

KM issues 249 warnings: Kuwait Municipality revealed that 249 warnings were issued and 19 violations were recorded in Mutla'a; where some property owners failed to comply with safety rules and regulations and endangered pedestrians in the area, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

In a press statement, the Municipality announced that the violations were uncovered when the inspection team at the Safety Department in its branch in Jahra Governorate carried out a comprehensive inspection campaign in Mutla'a recently.

It called on property owners to take all the prescribed safety measures, adhere to regulations, and remove the construction debris left by the contractor and the property owner to avoid legal problems. It warned that the inspection team will not hesitate in taking legal action against anyone proven to have committed violations.

Young drunk driver held: A 23-year-old man was detained at Jahra Police Station for driving under the influence of alcohol, while a bottle of alcohol and a drinking glass containing a yellow intoxicating substance were seized, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The Operations Unit at the Interior Ministry received a report

about a vehicle in running mode in a school parking lot. When the patrol officers arrived at the scene, they found the young man inside the vehicle in an abnormal condition with a drinking glass containing a yellow substance in his hand. A bottle of imported liquor was found in the vehicle.

No trace of missing man: For the second consecutive day, the Ministry of Interior's search and rescue teams, along with helicopters, have been extensively searching the Al-Salmi desert for a missing citizen. Despite their efforts, no trace of the missing person has been found, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

According to security sources, the informant, who is the citizen's brother, said his brother was stranded in the desert without water or gasoline.

The helicopter unit has conducted two flight missions over the desert area, but yielded no new information.

The missing person's friend had informed the brother that he had received a call from the missing person, who said he was lost and did not have water and gasoline. This friend had a dispute with his brother who has been missing for 13 years.

The sources revealed that the investigation is now focused on the friend to figure out if he was involved in the citizen's disappearance. The search area, characterized by dense sand, is located approximately seven kilometers from the nearest asphalt road.



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MoE 'tightens rules' on workers termination of service requests

New guidelines safeguard employee benefits

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Mansour Al-Daihani has approved new guidelines for all ministry employees regarding requests for termination of service.

The decision issued by the undersecretary in this regard addresses issues related to incomplete applications for service termination within the Administrative Affairs and Administrative Development Sector. It reflects the ministry's commitment to ensuring that employees do not lose any of their benefits when requesting to end their service either through resignation or retirement. It aims to prevent employees from losing benefits due to a lack of awareness, which could adversely affect their retirement pension.

The decision issued by the Ministry of Education outlines specific guidelines for employees requesting to end their service:

1. Review of Retirement Entitlement:

Employees must consult with the Public Institution for Social Security to verify their retirement pension entitlement before submitting a service termination request. They should also bring a recent salary certificate.

2. Submission Procedure:

Requests to end service must be submitted at the employee's work center and approved by an authorized individual according to ministerial decisions.

The request must be signed by the employee or their authorized representative, specifying the resignation or retirement date. Requests will not be accepted if submitted after the specified termination date.

3. Request Date and Leave Balance:

Requests with a submission date after the termination date will not be accepted. The leave balance must be recorded in both letters and numbers and approved by the competent authority. Applications with manually modified termination dates will only be accepted if approved by the authorized person.

4. File Review and Timing:

Employees should review their file with the termination of service department in their educational zone to ensure they have completed the required retirement period. Requests should be submitted at least one month before the desired termination date to allow sufficient time for processing.

5. Supplemental Benefits and Insurance:

Employees seeking benefits under Articles 1 and 42 of Law No. 8/2010 regarding the rights of persons with disabilities or those who wish to subscribe to the optional supplemental insurance as per Minister of Finance's Resolution No. 7/2019 must:

- Submit an electronic request through the Ministry's website.
- Obtain approvals from the Public Authority for Disability Affairs and the Public Institution for Social Security.

■ Attach these approvals to their official termination request.

6. Service Period Verification:

Employees who have been on mission or study leave must ensure they complete a similar period of service upon return to avoid financial consequences as outlined in Article 32 of Civil Service Council's Resolution No. 10/1986. They must also ensure that decisions regarding their delegation are confirmed or canceled before submitting a termination request.

7. Leave Coordination:

Employees must ensure that they do not submit any leaves that conflict with the termination date. All submitted leaves must be approved before the termination request is made. Coordination with the Leaves and Attendance Department is required, including providing a leave extract for the last three years of service and obtaining clearance from the Supplies and Warehouses Department if applicable.

8. End-of-Service Bonus:

Non-Kuwaiti employees with a second contract must submit their termination request at least one month before the contract end date to avoid losing part of their end-of-service gratuity. For terminating the contract, the request should be made three months before the service end date as stipulated in the contract to avoid losing a quarter of the gratuity. Employees must continue working until the termination date and avoid unapproved absences that could delay the end-of-service gratuity.

The Ministry urges all employees to adhere to these guidelines to ensure the protection of employees' rights.



Al-Daihani

Secure benefits, follow protocols

Education undersecretary suggests pre-retirement PIFSS consultations

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, Mansour Al-Daihani, has issued a directive advising citizens who are considering retirement to first consult with the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) to determine their eligibility for a retirement pension before formally submitting a request to terminate their services, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This consultation should be accompanied by a recent contract salary certificate to ensure that employees are fully aware of their entitlements and do not lose out on any benefits due to lack of knowledge.

For expatriates, Al-Daihani emphasized the importance of submitting a request to end their contract at least three months before their desired termination date. Failure to do so may result in losing a quarter of their end-of-service bonus.

The decision, a copy of which has been obtained by the daily outlines the process for submitting a resignation or retirement request.

Employees must submit their request at their respective work center, and it must be approved by the authorized individual as per the ministry's regulations.

The request must be properly signed by the concerned employee or an official with a special power of attorney, and the resignation date must be clearly specified.

Regarding the rights of persons with disabilities and their participation in optional supplementary insurance, the following guidelines must be followed -- submit an electronic application through the Ministry's website; obtain approval from the Public Authority for Disability Affairs; get a formal letter of approval from the PIFSS and attach copies of these approvals with the application for retirement.

For participation in optional supplementary insurance, submit an electronic application through the

Al-Omar will receive citizens each Sunday

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The Ministry of State for Communications Affairs announced that Minister Omar Al-Omar will begin receiving citizens every Sunday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The appointments can be booked through the ministry's "Appointments" feature in the Sahel application for government e-services.

This initiative by Minister Al-Omar aligns with the open-door policy, which he is committed to following in accordance with the instructions of the political leadership.

The policy emphasizes direct engagement with citizens and employees across the agencies under his purview, including the Ministry of Communications, Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) and the Central Agency for Information Technology.

Ministry's website and ensure that the period of service for employees who were on mission or study leave is properly accounted for before submitting the request to terminate service.

This is in accordance with Article 32 of Civil Service Council Resolution No. 10 of 1986, which requires employees to serve a period equal to the duration of their mission or study leave in the same sending entity.

All employees are urged to adhere to government guidelines to ensure a smooth termination process and avoid any financial or procedural complications.



Al-Omar

CSC upgrades website for 7,000 new job seekers

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) is developing its website to ease the registration of 7,000 new job seekers for the 88th recruitment period, which will start on Sept 6 and will last for 14 days, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources clarified that while technical preparations are proceeding well; there will be a precautionary overlap during the first six days of the recruitment pe-

riod, as approximately 6,000 new job seekers will register concurrently with 1,000 who hold intermediate and secondary certificates whose registration starts on Sept 15 while that of the new job seekers continues until Sept 20.

Asked about the end of the registration period for intermediate and secondary certificate holders, sources affirmed that the deadline will be announced soon.

Sources said more questions were

raised about the training plan for 2,000 citizens with intermediate and secondary certificates as follows:

- Will these citizens receive the same salary if appointed to similar positions?
- Will the training course affect allowances or job titles?
- How will the training course be integrated into the central employment system?

Sources revealed there is a suggestion

to limit the training period to one month. Sources added there is a call to clarify the budget for the training plan, as some have emphasized the need to determine whether the cost will be covered by the CSC or the budget of each government agency.

Sources pointed out the training budget for the CSC has been approved and it has announced the upcoming training program, but there is still a need to resolve differences on budgetary responsibilities.

Top hygiene standards ensured

MoE carries out comprehensive school cleaning plan ahead of academic year

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The Ministry of Education has implemented an urgent and comprehensive plan for cleaning schools, with eight cleaning workers assigned in each school in preparation for the 2024 academic year.

Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Affairs Mansour Al-Dhafiri has instructed the directors general of educational districts, as well as the directors of the Religious Education Department and Special Education Schools Department, to look into any negligence on the part of companies contracted to provide cleaning workers to ensure proper implementation of the plan. He also asked them to conduct regular assessment of the readiness of schools and to focus on cleaning classrooms, bathrooms and school facilities in general.

Al-Dhafiri pointed out that in the context of preparing and equipping schools for the new academic year and to avoid the recurrence of problems related to providing workers in schools, it is necessary to report manpower shortage if any or lack of cooperation on the part of companies in charge of implementing the plan through coordination and follow up with the public services monitoring units in the educational districts. He stressed the need for the preparation teams to record observations in this regard in order to guarantee the completion of tasks within the specified period.

In addition, educational sector sources confirmed the plan to provide eight cleaning workers in each school before the opening of classes. Sources clarified that the tasks and distribution of cleaning workers are based on the size of the school and its needs. They said the tasks include daily cleaning of floors; wiping tables and desks; ensuring that places are free of garbage; weekly cleaning of glass, doors and panels; daily cleaning of bathrooms, including washing toilets and sinks; cleaning floors; providing cleaning and sterilization materials several times a day or as needed; sterilizing surfaces and changing soap and paper; daily cleaning of corridors and yards, including sweeping and mopping floors in corridors; cleaning outdoor yards and collecting garbage; weekly comprehensive washing and disinfection of corridors and yards; daily cleaning of offices, laboratories and



Al-Jarida photo
School cleaning schools in preparation for the 2024 academic year.

MoE calls upon self-funded students to update records

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The Ministry of Higher Education has urged students studying at their own expense to update their academic records through the cultural office in their country of study to ensure the continued disbursement of their social allowance, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Additionally, students accepted into the external missions plan for the 2024/2025 academic year are required to visit the ministry with their guardian to sign the financial pledge within 60 days of the announcement of results.

Failure to do so may result in the termination of the student's mission and disqualification from applying for future mission plans.

administrative facilities; wiping devices and ensuring the cleanliness of common spaces; collecting waste from classrooms and other facilities; emptying containers at designated collection points; periodic sterilization according to the schedule agreed with the school administration; and continuous sterilization of sensitive areas like laboratories, canteens and computer rooms.

The plan includes the need for the school administration to closely monitor the performance of tasks, in coordination with the public services monitoring units, to ensure that tasks are carried out properly, and to immediately respond to emergency cleaning and maintenance needs.

Al-Maqwa drainage plan approved

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Kuwait Municipality has approved the request of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) to allocate water basins, channels and links for collecting and draining rainwater in Al-Maqwa to serve Ahmadi and Mangaf, reports Al-Jarida daily.

PART affirmed this is a good solution to the accumulation of rain in the area surrounding Ahmadi and Mangaf.

The request is to allocate a part of the area for afforestation for two water basins -- one basin measures 92,102 square

meters and the other measures 209,405 square meters; in addition to two water channels -- one is 2,021 meters long and 40 meters wide and the other is 343 meters long and 40 meters wide, and two water links.

In its approval, the Municipality emphasized the need to comply with the conditions specified by members of the Public Facilities and Services Subcommittee during its meeting No. 5/2021 on May 4, 2021; as well as to coordinate with the members before implementing the project.

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LOCAL

Wise decisions

Continued from Page 1

crossing the t's, because we strive for development, which is the vision clearly set forth by His Highness the Amir of the moment.

We cannot stand idly by while we restrict the great potential of talented individuals, including those from the Bedouin community and others.

It seems that some view the state as a "cash cow" of privileges, reserving these benefits solely for themselves.

Those we expelled have sought opportunities in other countries, where their skills are valued. Many have achieved high positions as doctors, professors, artists, and investors, which are roles they could have carried out here in Kuwait.

Instead of pursuing those who could contribute to Kuwait's progress, we must recognize our need for skilled professionals. Building a modern state and undertaking major projects requires skilled workers. It is counterproductive to drive away those who can serve and advance our nation.

Today, we face a pivotal moment under the leadership of His Highness, who has made bold decisions to address decades of inefficiency in state institutions. For 50 years, past glories, which are often exaggerated, have obscured the real issues caused by mismanagement and social, economic, and political missteps.

His Highness's directives are clear. They require individuals to fully commit to their responsibilities, leveraging every worker, skilled professional, and innovative thinker.

We must not ignore the wrong practices that have been emerging lately, particularly those related to residency law violations, which burden public finances and security services. The private sector has benefited significantly from the recent decision to allow domestic workers to transfer their residency to companies.

Hence we ask - What harm would it cause the state to amend the residency law and make the government the sponsor of visas, rather than making the expatriates pay the fees? This approach could resolve the issue related to violations of residency and labor laws, as many countries have successfully done.

Also, what harm would it cause the Ministry of Commerce and Industry or the Public Authority for Manpower if a resident is a partner with a Kuwaiti, even if his residency is under Article 18? Why should someone over the age of 60, without a university degree, be barred from working unless they pay a specific amount?

Such restrictions hinder businesses and projects, and push valuable expertise out of Kuwait. Is it reasonable for someone who has worked for 30 years to be forced to leave their job and this country due to arbitrary decisions?

We must ask over and over again - How would the position of Kuwait be if other countries imposed similar restrictions or denied Kuwaiti citizens entry? Can projects succeed with mere slogans? A clear vision is needed to maximize the potential of the labor market and facilitate the work of the private sector, particularly when it comes to certifications. If an entrepreneur wants to collaborate with an honest worker, will the state expel them simply for lacking a university degree?

These policies do not align with the aspirations of the Amir of the moment, who envisions a future that benefits Kuwait.

Minister gives

Continued from Page 1

Atf Charity Association aims to build religious centers, schools and mosques; dig wells and implement other water projects outside the country; and focus on human development and productivity to help those affected by disasters, wars and conflicts.

Preparations for

Continued from Page 1

He said the ministry is keen on providing the needs of schools; including chairs and tables, while preparing the sections for teachers and administrative offices.

Al-Mashaan, China

Continued from Page 1

which will contribute to creating a safe regional corridor and a commercial hub in the region.

It highlighted the seriousness of the Chinese government for its companies to implement the project stages and link it to the "Belt and Road Initiative", which will positively reflect on the economic development of Kuwait and neighboring countries.

The two parties discussed the dates for completing the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project, as well as ways to enhance strategic cooperation in the fields of investment and development.

During the meeting, they agreed to initiate the first steps for the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project by collaborating with a major Chinese government company. This partnership will focus on gathering essential information and developing a work program for the investment, implementation, and operation of the port, covering both the initial phase and subsequent stages of the project.

Kuwait adopts

Continued from Page 1

field, has already contributed to the treatment of around 500 cases worldwide. The device stands out for its precise control of eye fluid drainage, enabling doctors to manage eye pressure more effectively and efficiently.

Initial studies have demonstrated that the device significantly reduces eye pressure and minimizes potential post-surgery complications. Furthermore, it has been shown to drastically reduce patients' reliance on eye drops, with a 90% decrease in drop usage, and 40% of patients able to stop using drops altogether.

Dr. Al-Harz reaffirmed that these surgeries align with the Ministry of Health's ongoing policy of adopting the latest advancements in medicine, surgical tools, and equipment to empower doctors to provide world-class treatments and elevate the quality of healthcare services in Kuwait.

Glaucoma specialist Dr. Abdullah Al-Kandari added that glaucoma affects people of various ages, from premature babies to the elderly, but is most prevalent in individuals over 50. He explained to Al-Seyassah that genetic factors play a significant role in glaucoma development, with studies indicating that certain genes can increase the risk, especially among first-degree relatives. Those with a family history of glaucoma are nine times more likely to develop the disease compared to the general population.

Rights body

Continued from Page 1

It affirmed the need for cooperation among government institutions and civil society organizations to protect children from violence, torture, and harm.

The Bureau called for raising awareness of children's rights, preserving their right to life, survival, and development, and providing necessary social and economic assistance, as well as protecting children from sexual assault and exploitation.

In light of these concerns, the Bureau recommended that the court take legal action against the aggressors and impose the maximum penalty.

It also highlighted the importance of evaluating guardianship cases to ensure that guardians are fit to provide proper care to children, safeguard them, and ensure they grow up in a healthy, safe, and balanced environment.

US reiterates

Continued from Page 1

The US envoy went on to say, in the context of the evolving security landscape in the Middle East, the US maintains a high state of alert across the region, including in Kuwait. This heightened vigilance is necessary to prepare for any potential contingencies or scenarios that may arise. The security architecture between the US and Kuwait is robust, characterized by constant information exchange and collaboration between military and diplomatic channels.

She added, "Although I can't delve into specifics, we are constantly in a high state of alert. It's essential to remain prepared for any contingencies or scenarios that might arise in the region, and we see the results of this vigilance every day. It's not just us in Kuwait -- this readiness extends throughout the entire region. Kuwait's security measures are highly regarded, and the ongoing cooperation ensures that both nations remain prepared for any challenges."

On the issue of evolution of military cooperation between Kuwait and the US, she stressed, the military cooperation between Kuwait and the United States has been continuous over the years, reflecting the changing dynamics in both nations and the broader Middle East region. This relationship, which was solidified during the liberation of Kuwait over three decades ago, has since grown deeper and more multifaceted.

"Our commitment to equip and train the Kuwaiti army remains strong. The recent Joint Military Commission meeting held here in Kuwait in June is a concrete indication of this commitment. A large delegation from Washington participated, engaging in a full day of discussions and bilateral meetings with the Minister of Defense.

"This provided an excellent opportunity for our senior representatives to update the Minister on developments in Washington and to hear directly from him about Kuwait's activities.

"The discussions were extensive, covering various aspects of our security partnership and addressing potential contingencies in the region. This ongoing dialogue is crucial; it's not something that stops but is a continuous, daily process. Our embassy here has a very active senior military attaché who maintains strong connections with counterparts throughout the Ministry of Defense. We highly value Kuwait's insights on regional and broader issues, ensuring that our cooperation remains robust and responsive to evolving needs," she said.

She went on to say, currently, the US maintains a significant military presence in Kuwait, with a large contingent of servicemen and women stationed in the country. This presence is not just a symbol of the strong commitment between the two nations but also a testament to the ongoing and evolving nature of their military cooperation. Both countries engage in constant consultations to assess and adapt their partnership in response to the immediate and larger regional security environment.

Regarding recent threats, such as those posed by pro-Iranian Iraqi Hezbollah Brigades, the US military presence in Kuwait has taken appropriate measures in response, calling it "a self-defense action based on credible intelligence of imminent threats".

The US military, in close coordination with Kuwaiti counterparts, remains on high alert to respond swiftly to any new threats. This vigilant posture is crucial in a tumultuous region, where the security situation can change rapidly.

"Maintaining a high level of alert-

ness, exchanging information with our partners, and keeping a vigilant eye on developments are all crucial. The security in Kuwait is exceptionally strong. We have a very robust security architecture in place and a continuous flow of information between Kuwait and Washington," she said.

In light of threats, the security of the US Embassy in Kuwait and the personal security of its staff, including high-ranking officials, are of utmost priority. While the US embassy and its personnel are always on high alert, this vigilance is part of routine security measures; has a strong security framework in place, supported by close cooperation between military and diplomatic personnel.

Despite the high alert, daily activities continue with normalcy, reflecting the confidence in the security arrangements. The active engagement of US diplomats in public life and their continued presence in various events across Kuwait demonstrate the effectiveness of these security measures.

On the issue of the ceasefire in Gaza, she said, the US is fully committed to ending the conflict and has been actively involved in diplomatic efforts, including ongoing talks in Cairo and Doha. The US administration, led by President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, has been working tirelessly to achieve a ceasefire, provide humanitarian assistance, and pave the way for a viable two-state solution.

Despite skepticism from some quarters in Kuwait and other Arab countries about the role of US, the commitment to peace and stability in the region remains steadfast. The US is in regular contact with Kuwaiti officials, including the Foreign Minister, to coordinate efforts towards achieving these goals.

As the geopolitical landscape in the Middle East continues to shift, Kuwait and the US remain committed to working together closely. This cooperation is marked by honesty, transparency, and a shared commitment to regional stability and security. The relationship is dynamic, constantly being reviewed and strengthened to meet the challenges of the present and future.

Speaking of the humanitarian collaboration in the Gulf region she said, "I want to highlight that Kuwait was among the first countries to swiftly establish a humanitarian assistance air bridge following the events of October 7. Kuwait has been actively involved in this effort in cooperation with neighboring countries, and this prompt response was crucial -- it's just what Kuwait does.

"We regularly consult with Kuwait and coordinate our own humanitarian assistance programs in full alignment with the neighboring countries, especially under the auspices of the UN. It is absolutely vital that as much humanitarian aid as possible reaches those in need every day.

"We are in constant communication with our Qatari, Saudi, and other regional partners to ensure that the assistance reaches Gaza and other areas where Palestinians need it. To be honest, ensuring the delivery of this aid is one of our top priorities. This collaboration is crucial and remains a priority, as we work together to address the humanitarian challenges in the region," she said.

On the issue of the Strategic Dialogue, the US envoy said, "We haven't set a specific date yet, but we expect it to happen by the end of the year, and possibly even sooner. The last meeting was in early 2022 in Washington, so it's been a while. We're currently engaged in productive discussions with our Kuwaiti counterparts to finalize the agenda, address key issues, and explore opportunities for partnership, cooperation, and exchanges.

"As we move forward, we'll be narrowing down the dates. This dialogue will be an important opportunity to focus on strengthening our bilateral relationship and leveraging the opportunities available for both sides, both here in Kuwait and in the US. The timing will be coordinated to ensure it fits well with both our schedules and any upcoming events or elections."

When asked if changes in the presidency can lead to shifts in specific policies, such as decisions on treaties or new initiatives, she said, there is fundamental bedrock of policies and core values that remain consistent regardless of who is in the White House. Long-standing relationships, whether in Europe, Asia, Africa, or the Middle East, are built on shared values and mutual interests, which help maintain a steady course in foreign policy.

For instance, the depth of military cooperation between the US and Kuwait, spanning multiple generations, reflects this stability. The alignment of values and goals between the US and Kuwait, including the direction set by His Highness the Amir, underscores the continuity in our partnership. Despite changes in leadership, these enduring relationships and shared values provide a solid foundation for ongoing collaboration and mutual support.

The US and Kuwait have a wide array of significant agreements that span multiple sectors, including cultural, commercial, and military domains. These agreements form the foundation of the strong bilateral relationship between the two nations.

While a comprehensive catalog of all agreements may not be readily available, the ongoing cooperation between the US and Kuwait is supported by a strong legal and diplomatic framework. This allows for the continuous development of new agreements to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future.

On the investment front, she said, the opportunities for American businesses in Kuwait are in the area of infrastructure development, healthcare sector, higher education, oil and gas technology, media and arts, she said.



Participants pose for a group photo.

Al-Jarida photo

PAM joins Kuwaiti-Egyptian labor talks in Cairo

The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) participated in the Kuwaiti-Egyptian Joint Consular Committee and the Kuwaiti-Egyptian Labor Committee meetings held in Cairo, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During these meetings, many labor-related issues of mutual interest were discussed with the aim of enhanc-

ing cooperation between the two countries and achieving shared objectives in regulating the labor market.

PAM was represented by Director of the International Relations Department Jaber Al-Ali, and Senior Legal Researcher in the International Relations Department Abdul Aziz Muhammad.

Kuwait calls for unity to end Israeli crimes

Al-Jarallah pushes for UN action and aid

JEDDAH, Aug 31, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Affairs Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah highlighted the need of the Muslim countries doubling their efforts to put an end to the human rights abuses being committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people.

Delivering Kuwait's speech to the 50th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Thursday, Al-Jarallah said the OIC meeting takes place at a time when the Muslim world is facing formidable challenges, foremost among which are the ongoing Israeli aggression and the failure of the international community to stand the test of ethics.

He underscored the need of implementing the UN resolutions relating to Palestine, providing international protection for the civilians and ensuring safe and immediate delivery of relief aid and medical supplies to the besieged people in Gaza Strip.

Al-Jarallah, a minister plenipotentiary, also stressed the need of bringing to book those responsible for the crimes against the Palestinian people.

Question continues

"The Palestine question continues to be a main concern for the Arab and Muslim nations," he said, adding that the State of Kuwait warned repeatedly against the leniency of the international community in dealing with atrocities of the occupying power.

"Security, stability and prosperity are out of the question in the Middle East as long as there is no fair and comprehensive settlement to the Palestine cause that could guarantee the establishment of the Independent State of Palestine within the borders of June 4, 1967, and with East Jerusalem as

particularly valuable.

The healthcare sector presents numerous opportunities, ranging from nursing and surgical services to specialized training programs. American hospitals, like the Mayo Clinic and Cleveland Clinic, have established strong reputations among Kuwaiti patients. Expanding these relationships through exchanges of medical professionals and collaborative projects could further enhance ties in this sector.

With Kuwait's significant oil and gas industry, there are opportunities for American companies specializing in high-tech services and drilling technologies. The annual Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, attended by Kuwaiti businesses, highlights the interest in collaboration in this sector.

The US Embassy in Kuwait, through its Foreign Commercial Service (FCS) office, plays a pivotal role in facilitating investment opportunities for American businesses and actively supports these efforts, ensuring that American businesses can successfully navigate and invest in the Kuwaiti market. The embassy's initiatives, such as the Select USA program and industry-specific delegations, are crucial in fostering these commercial ties. The US and Kuwait also continue to



Group photo during Jahra Governor's visit to the site.

Al-Seyassah photo

Red Palace restoration on track for November opening, says governor

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi said the ongoing maintenance, development, and rehabilitation of the Red Palace and the Weapons Museum are progressing as planned, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He added, the project is expected to be completed and opened to the public in early November.

During his visit to the site, accompanied by researcher and writer Mishaal Al-Saeed, Al-Habashi reviewed the latest developments and discussed with officials the necessary steps to ensure that the restoration efforts honor the pal-

ace's historical significance.

He emphasized that the Red Palace should stand as a key landmark for those interested in Kuwait's history and the significant events associated with it.

Al-Habashi underscored the importance of collaborative efforts to bring ideas to life and ensure that this historical site narrates Kuwait's rich heritage.

Researcher Mishaal Al-Saeed expressed his satisfaction with the governor's visit, noting the progress made in preserving this important national landmark and emphasizing that their work is a national duty.

Regarding the conflict in Sudan, Al-Jarallah renewed Kuwait's support to the unity, stability and territorial safety of the country.

Appreciating the mediation efforts of regional and international partners, he reaffirmed Kuwait backing to the joint statement issued recently in Geneva by the Aligned for Advancing Lifesaving and Peace in Sudan (ALPS) Group.

On the relief effort for the brotherly people of Sudan, he said Kuwait has sent 22 planeloads of humani-

arian assistance, including medical supplies and ambulances to Sudan so far.

Al-Jarallah appreciated the efforts of the OIC in the combat against Islamophobia, which culminated in the unanimous adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution declaring March 15 as International Day to Combat Islamophobia.

He thanked the Republic of Cameroon for hosting the OIC Ministerial in Yaounde, and the Secretary-General Hissen Brahim Taha and the staff of the OIC for the neat organization of the event.

healthcare, education, and security, with a keen interest in expanding commercial opportunities. The establishment of offices for companies like Google and Johnson & Johnson highlights the progress we've made, and we aim to build on these strong commercial ties.

"As summer ends and Kuwaitis return from their travels, it feels like a new phase is beginning. We're considering what initiatives to focus on next, particularly in infrastructure and transportation, in alignment with government signals. We're also exploring new areas such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and media collaborations, preparing for significant events like the upcoming 79th General Assembly in New York," she added.

In addition to ongoing projects, she concluded saying, the US is exploring new areas such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and media collaborations, like the work with Netflix. "As we approach the 79th General Assembly in New York, it will be a significant event later this month, we're preparing to reaffirm our commitments and continue these important discussions. There's a lot of exciting potential ahead, and I'm eager to see how we can continue to be a strong partner in these developments."

World News Roundup

Europe

Ukraine prez fires air force commander: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy fired the commander of the country's air force Friday, four days after an F-16 warplane that Ukraine received from its Western partners crashed during a Russian bombardment and killed the pilot.

The order to dismiss Lt. Gen. Mykola Oleshchuk was published on the presidential website.

"We need to protect people. Protect personnel. Take care of all our soldiers," Zelenskyy said in an address minutes after the order was published. He said Ukraine needs to strengthen its army on the command level.



Zelenskyy

Lt Gen Anatolii Kryvonozhko was appointed acting air force commander, the army's general staff said.

The dismissal came on the same day that Oleshchuk directed scathing criticism at a lawmaker who is deputy head of the Ukrainian parliament's defense committee for her claims that the F-16 was downed by a Patriot air-defense system. Ukraine has received an unspecified number of the US-made systems.

Mariana Bezuhla cited unnamed sources for her claim and demanded punishment for those responsible for the error.

Oleshchuk accused Bezuhla of defaming the air force and discrediting US arms manufacturers and said that he hoped she would face legal consequences for her claims.

The air force did not directly deny that the F-16 was hit by a Patriot missile. (AP)



5 killed in Russian strike: Five people were killed by Russian shelling in the town of Chasiv Yar on Saturday as Moscow's troops continue their push on Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region.

The attack struck a high-rise building and a private home, said regional governor Vadym Filashkin, who said the victims were men aged between 24 and 38. He urged the last remaining residents to leave the front-line town.

"Normal life has been impossible in Chasiv Yar for more than two years," Filashkin wrote on social media. "Do not become a Russian target - evacuate."

Meanwhile, Russia's Ministry of Defense said that it had captured the town of Pivnichne, also in Ukraine's Donetsk region. (AP)



Helicopter goes missing in Russia's Far East: Rescuers are searching for a helicopter that went missing in Russia's Far East on Saturday with 22 people on board.

The Mi-8 helicopter took off close to the Vachkazhets volcano in the Kamchatka region, but did not arrive at its destination as scheduled, Russia's Federal Air Transport Agency said in a statement.

It said it believed that 19 passengers and three crew members were on board.

The Mi-8 is a two-engine helicopter designed in the 1960s. It is widely used in Russia, where crashes have been frequent, as well as in neighboring countries and many other nations. (AP)



'Ex-ruling party violated campaign rules': Poland's electoral authority said that the former governing nationalist conservative party violated campaign funding rules in the 2023 parliamentary vote, and imposed a penalty worth millions of dollars that would undercut the party's resources for next year's presidential election.

The State Electoral Commission said that the campaign of the Law and Justice party, which led Poland from 2015-2023 and is now the main opposition force, improperly took 3.6 million zlotys (\$930,000) in public money.

The commission ordered the conservative party to repay the money, and it also ordered a cut in the party's government subsidies for the coming years, amounting to about 10 million zlotys (\$2.5 million) per year.

The commission's decision can be appealed to the Supreme Court, where Law and Justice still holds some sway.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk posted on X that the party was now "learning the true meaning of the words law and justice." (AP)



Danish PM appoints 6 new ministers: Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen appointed six new ministers in a major reshuffle of her three-party centrist government, bringing the number of ministers to 25 - the largest ever in 30 years. One of the ministers will head a new government office of emergency preparedness, climate change and cyber crimes.

"The world has become more troubled," Frederiksen said as she announced that Torsten Schack Pedersen will be in charge of the new ministry, after the reshuffled cabinet was formally presented to King Frederik X. Denmark now joins Sweden to have such a department.

Besides the new emergency office, the government now has two other new ministries, bringing the total to 25, the largest since the 1993-1994 Cabinet of Social Democratic Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen who had 24 ministers. (AP)



German politician sprayed with red liquid: A prominent German leftist politician was sprayed with a red liquid, likely paint, during a campaign event Thursday in the eastern city of Erfurt, ahead of closely watched state elections on Sunday.

Sara Wagenknecht, founder of the new Sahara Wagenknecht Alliance, was only lightly splattered by the liquid but briefly left the stage, according to German news agency dpa.

A man was immediately pushed to the ground by security forces, handcuffed and taken away. Wagenknecht returned to the stage and later wrote on the social media platform X that she was scared but fine.

While no one was injured in Erfurt, the incident comes as political violence in Germany is on the rise. In May, a prominent Berlin politician was violently assaulted and suffered injuries to her head and neck. Before that, a candidate from the party of Chancellor Olaf Scholz was beaten up in the eastern city of Dresden while campaigning and had to undergo surgery. (AP)



Serbia makes \$3b deal to buy French warplanes: Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic on Thursday announced a \$3 billion deal to buy 12 French warplanes, in a move that shifts his country away from its dependence on Russian arms.

The announcement about the Rafale multi-purpose fighter jets was made during a joint news conference in Belgrade with French President Emmanuel Macron during a two-day visit to Serbia as part of what French officials have called a strategy of bringing Serbia closer to the European Union.

Macron called the deal "historic and important," and said it demonstrated Serbia's "strategic courage."

"The European Union needs a strong and democratic Serbia at its side and Serbia needs a strong, sovereign Europe to defend its interests," Macron said. "Serbia's place is in the EU, and it has a role to play to be an example for all the region." (AP)



Czech explosive experts detonate bomb: Czech explosive experts detonated a World War II bomb on Friday at a major chemical plant in northwestern Czech Republic where it was found last week, authorities said.

Besides a few broken windows, the controlled explosion didn't immediately seem to cause serious damage, police said in a statement. The plant near the city of Litvinov belongs to Polish oil company PKN Orlen.

The bomb was found during construction work last week on Aug. 21 away from a building. Experts decided not to transport the 250-kilogram (550-pound) bomb to a safer place to dispose of it, because it contained a chemical mechanism designed to delay the explosion, a rare discovery in the country. (AP)



Police officers stand in front of a bus on a special route to a city festival in Siegen, Germany on Aug 30 after a suspect allegedly attacked other passengers on the bus with a knife. (AP)

Knife attack on bus injures 6 in Germany

Police arrested a 32-year-old woman after six people were hurt in a knife attack on a bus headed to a festival in western Germany. Authorities said Saturday that there was no evidence of a political or religious motive.

Three of those attacked are in life-threatening

condition, police said on Friday evening.

The knife attack took place in Siegen, east of Cologne. The bus was on its way to a local festival in the town and at least another 40 people were on board when the attack took place at about 7:40 pm.

Police and prosecutors said the six people wounded were aged between 16 and 30 and all were from the region. By Saturday morning, three of them had left the hospital after outpatient treatment.

Local authorities planned to go ahead with the festival. (AP)

Politics

Ex-prez moves to halt hush money proceedings

Harris, Trump offer visions on warming

WASHINGTON, Aug 31, (AP) — As the Earth sizzled through a summer with four of the hottest days ever measured, Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump have starkly different visions on how to address a changing climate while ensuring a reliable energy supply. But neither has provided many details on how they would get there.

During her acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, Harris briefly mentioned climate change as she outlined "fundamental freedoms" at stake in the election, including "the freedom to breathe clean air and drink clean water and live free from the pollution that fuels the climate crisis."

As vice president, Harris cast the tie-breaking vote on the Inflation Reduction Act, President Joe Biden's landmark climate law that was approved with only Democratic support. As a senator from California, she was an early sponsor of the Green New Deal, a sweeping series of proposals meant to swiftly move the US to fully green energy that is championed by the Democratic Party's most progressive wing.

Boost

Trump, meanwhile, led chants of "drill, baby, drill" and pledged to dismantle the Biden administration's "green new scam" in his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention. He has vowed to boost production of fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas and coal and repeal key parts of the 2022 climate law.

"We have more liquid gold under our feet than any other country by far," Trump said at the RNC. "We are a nation that has the opportunity to make an absolute fortune with its energy."

Environmental groups, who largely back Harris, call her a "proven climate champion" who will take on Big Oil and build on Biden's climate legacy, including policies that boost electric vehicles and limit planet-warming pollution from coal-fired power plants.

"We won't go back to a climate denier in the Oval Office," said Lena Moffitt, executive director of Evergreen Action.

Republicans counter that Biden and Harris have spent four years adopting "punishing regulations" that target American energy while lavishing generous tax credits for electric vehicles and other green priorities that cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

"This onslaught of overreaching and outrageous climate rules will shut down power plants and increase energy costs for families across the country," said Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo. "Republicans will work to stop them and fight for solutions that protect our air and water and allow our economy to grow."

Clear

Democrats have a clear edge on the issue. More than half of US adults say they trust Harris "a lot" or "some" when it comes to addressing climate change, according to an AP-NORC poll conducted in July. About 7 in 10 say they have "not much" trust in Trump or "none at all" when it comes to climate. Fewer than half say they lack trust in Harris.

A look at where the two candidates stand on key climate and energy issues:

Harris said during her short-lived 2020 presidential campaign that she opposed offshore drilling for oil and hydraulic fracturing, an oil and gas

extraction process better known as fracking.

But her campaign has clarified that she no longer supports a ban on fracking, a common drilling practice that is crucial to the economy in Pennsylvania, a key swing state and the nation's second-largest producer of natural gas.

Kevin Book, managing director at ClearView Energy Partners, a Washington research firm, said Harris' evolving views show she is "trying to balance climate voters and industry supporters," even as her campaign takes "an adversarial stance" with the oil and gas industry overall.

Also:

NEW YORK: Former US president Donald Trump's lawyers moved Friday to halt proceedings in his New York hush money criminal case and postpone next month's sentencing indefinitely while he attempts to have a federal court intervene and potentially overturn his felony conviction.

In a letter to the judge presiding over the case in state court, Trump's lawyers asked that he hold off on a decision, slated for Sept. 16, on Trump's request to overturn the verdict and dismiss the indictment in the wake of the US Supreme Court's recent presidential immunity ruling.

They also urged the trial judge, **Juan M. Merchan**, to postpone Trump's Sept. 18 sentencing indefinitely.

Trump's lawyers filed paperwork late Thursday asking the U.S. District Court in Manhattan to seize the case from the state court where it was tried. The federal court kicked back that request on Friday on technical grounds, but Trump's lawyers will have a chance to resubmit it.



US Republican presidential nominee former president Donald Trump speaks during a town hall with former Democratic Rep. Tulsi Gabbard on Aug 29 in La Crosse, Wis. (AP)



Walz



Garcia

America

Shooting victims identified: Authorities released autopsy results Friday for three bodies recovered from a home, a car's back seat and a river between New Hampshire and Maine, identifying a man accused of fatally shooting his wife and their 8-year-old son before being shot to death by police.

Police identified the family of three as Brittany and Trent Weston, both 37, and their son, Benson. Officials said the mother and son died from multiple gunshot wounds inflicted by Trent Weston, who was shot multiple times by troopers during a standoff on a bridge and fell 100 feet (30 meters) into the water below.

The Westons had recently moved into a duplex in Troy, New Hampshire, where Brittany Weston's body was discovered early Thursday after her husband called 911 to report that they'd argued and that she was dead. The boy's body was found in Trent Weston's car parked about 100 miles (160 kilometers) away on the Interstate 95 bridge between Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Kittery, Maine.

After failed attempts to negotiate, two New Hampshire troopers and a Maine trooper fired their weapons after Trent Weston got out of the car and raised a weapon, officials said. (AP)



Dallas officer killed: Dallas' police chief said Friday that a man intentionally set out to shoot police when he killed an officer sitting in his patrol car and wounded two others in a late-night attack that set off a highway chase and ended with officers fatally shooting the suspect.

The shooting Thursday night brought fresh anguish and anger in a city where a gunman's ambush on police in 2016 killed five officers.

Chief Eddie Garcia said at a news conference that the suspect - 30-year-old Corey Cobb-Bey - approached Officer Darron Burks while he was parked at a community center between calls, talking to him briefly and recording the encounter before pulling out a handgun and "executing" Burks. Police said Cobb-Bey pulled into the

parking lot at 10:02 p.m., about two minutes before Burks. After shooting Burks, Cobb-Bey retrieved a shotgun from his own vehicle and placed it on the roof of the squad car, police said. (AP)



'Delay execution': An inmate set to be executed in South Carolina in three weeks wants the state Supreme Court to delay the execution so his lawyers can argue his co-defendant who testified against him lied about having no plea deal in exchange for

his testimony.

Attorneys for Freddie Owens also said in court papers filed late Friday that a juror saw an electronic stun device Owens had to wear in court to assure good behavior and a judge never talked about why he had to wear it.

It's part of a flurry of legal action as South Carolina tries to restart its death chamber after not putting an inmate to death in 13 years. At least six executions are looming.

Also on Friday, the South Carolina's Supreme Court promised it would wait at least five weeks between executions. (AP)



Taser used to subdue man: A man at Donald Trump's rally in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, stormed into the press area as the former president spoke Friday but was surrounded by police and sheriff's deputies and was eventually subdued with a Taser.

The altercation came moments after Trump criticized major media outlets for what he said was unfavorable coverage and dismissed CNN as fawning for its interview Thursday with his Democratic rival Kamala Harris and her running mate, **Tim Walz**.

The man made it over a bicycle rack ringing the media area, and began climbing the back side of a riser where television reporters and cameras were stationed, according to a video of the incident posted to social media by a reporter for CBS News. People near him tried to pull him off the riser and were quickly joined by police officers. (AP)



Children and adults cool down by playing in a fountain in Polk Brothers Park outside Navy Pier as temperatures in Chicago reached over 90 degrees Fahrenheit on Aug 26. (Xinhua)

Lat/Am

Mexico army attacked

Power outage hits Venezuela's capital

CARACAS, Venezuela, Aug 31, (AP): Venezuelans spent most of Friday in the dark as a major outage knocked out power in the capital, Caracas, and several states.

President Nicolás Maduro's government blamed the outage, which it said began about 4:50 a.m., on "electrical sabotage."

"Nobody will take away our peace and tranquility of the Venezuelan people," Freddy Nanez, the communications minister, wrote in a message shared with journalists on Telegram.

Nanez said in a voice message on Telegram that all 24 of Venezuela's states had been at least partially impacted. He characterized the outage as a "desperate" attempt by Maduro's opponents to violently oust the president.



Maduro

"The entire national government has been activated to overcome this new aggression," he said.

By nightfall, power had been restored in many parts of the capital after a day of sporadic outages. Maduro, in a Friday evening appearance on state TV, thanked Venezuelans for their patience after a chaotic day that saw businesses shutter, hospitals rely on backup generators and the closure of Caracas' subway leave tens of thousands of people stranded.

Venezuela in 2019, during a period of political unrest, suffered from regular power outages that the government almost always blamed on its opponents, but that energy experts said were the result of brush fires damaging transmission lines and poor maintenance of the country's hydroelectric infrastructure.

Many of the energy problems have subsided as the South American nation's economy has stabilized, high inflation has eased and a de facto dollarization has reduced shortages of imported goods.

Blame

Still, following last month's contested presidential election, officials are quick to blame opponents for even minor disruptions. That was the case on Tuesday, when a brownout affected Caracas and several central states.

"This is a constant strategy of the opposition, the enemies of this country, to impact the population," Diosdado Cabello, the newly appointed interior minister who is believed to be the second most powerful man in the country, said after the earlier outage.

Residents of the capital were taking Friday's disruption in stride. Traffic during the normally busy rush hour was lighter than usual and some people complained about being unable to communicate with family members due to a lack of cellphone service.

Alejandra Martinez, a 25-year-old salesclerk, said she noticed the power went out when a fan stopped working. "I thought the power would come back and I went back to sleep," she said while trying to catch a bus to work as dawn broke over Caracas.

Venezuela's power grid relies heavily on the Guri Dam, a giant hydroelectric power station that was inaugurated in the late 1960s.

Mexican military attacked: Mexican authorities said Thursday there have been attacks on military personnel and roads blocked with vehicles in northern Sinaloa state.

The state police department said the violence broke out in an area just north of the state capital, Culiacan. The state is home to the drug cartel of the same name, and similar violence has broken out in the past whenever a cartel leader has been arrested.

However, federal authorities said they had no immediate information on any such arrest.

Local media showed images of burning vehicles blocking roads, but authorities did not confirm that.

"We are aware that military personnel suffered an attack," the Sinaloa state police department wrote in its social media accounts. "We are also aware that roads have been blocked with vehicles."

State Gov. Rubén Rocha wrote that assailants had set two vehicles on fire "with the aim of blocking authorities." He called for calm, but did not specify the motives of the attack or if there were victims.

Local media showed video and photos of the vehicles in flames. Cartels in Mexico often use that tactic to prevent police or military units from reaching a given area.

3 migrants dead in vehicle accident: Three migrants were killed and 17 were injured Thursday when they were hit by a vehicle on a highway in Mexico's southern state of Oaxaca, authorities said.

Officials confirmed that two of the dead — an adult and a child — were from Nicaragua. Oaxaca state prosecutors said they were a father and his 8-year-old daughter.

A woman from Ecuador was also killed. There was no immediate information on the condition of those injured in the accident.

Oaxaca is a key route for migrants seeking to cross Mexico to reach the U.S. border, and accidents involving migrants there are common.

The deaths happened early Thursday on a two-lane highway near the city of Juchitán, Oaxaca. Groups of migrants frequently walk along the sides of highways in southern Mexico in the pre-dawn darkness to avoid the scorching daytime heat.

Police patrol vehicles sometimes accompany large groups of migrants walking on highways to try to prevent such accidents. It was not clear why the group hit Thursday did not have such protection, and immigrant rights activists criticized police for not preventing the deaths.

Mexican drug lord released from jail: Osiel Cárdenas Guillén, one of Mexico's most-feared drug lords, has been released from a U.S. prison after serving most of a 25-year prison sentence, authorities confirmed Friday.

A US Bureau of Prisons official said Cárdenas Guillén had been released from prison and was placed in the custody of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. That would normally suggest he would be deported back to Mexico.

A Mexican official who was not authorized to be quoted by name said Cárdenas Guillén faces two arrest warrants in Mexico, making it likely he would be detained upon arrival.

The former head of the Gulf cartel was known for his brutality. He created the most bloodthirsty gang of hitmen Mexico has ever known, the Zetas, which routinely slaughtered migrants and innocent people.



In this photo released by the State Railway of Thailand, ambulances are prepared on Aug 30, to carry away bodies of two workers who had been trapped in a collapsed tunnel in Nakhon Ratchasima province, Thailand, that is part of the Thai-Chinese high-speed railway construction site. Inset: In this photo released by the State Railway of Thailand, rescuers work on Aug 29 at the scene of a collapsed tunnel in Nakhon Ratchasima province that is part of the Thai-Chinese high-speed railway construction site. (AP)

Searchers recover 3 bodies from Thai rail tunnel that collapsed during construction

The bodies of three foreign workers who were trapped for days in a railway tunnel in northeastern Thailand that collapsed during construction have been retrieved after an intensive rescue effort, Thai officials said Friday.

The tunnel is a part of a Thai-Chinese high-speed railway project linking the capital Bangkok to the northeastern province of Nong Khai, bordering Laos.

Part of it collapsed on Saturday night while three foreign workers, one from Myanmar and two from China, were inside. The tunnel is in Nakhon Ratchasima province, 250 kilometers (155 miles) north-east of Bangkok.

Investigation of the accident is ongoing, but Thai media reported that Deputy Transport Minister Surapong Piyachote said Monday that it appeared that the earth above the tunnel had become espe-

cially heavy due to days of rain.

The body of one worker, a truck driver from Myanmar, was found Thursday and the other two on Friday, Interior Minister Anutin Charnvirakul told the media.

He said the two Chinese victims were a supervisor and a backhoe operator.

Autopsies carried out at a provincial hospital would ascertain the cause of death, he said. (AP)

Asia

Beijing accuses Manila of deliberate collision

Japan lodges formal protest over China ship

TOKYO, Aug 31, (AP): Japan lodged a formal protest via China's embassy against what it called an incursion by a Chinese survey ship into its territorial waters Saturday, the Japanese foreign ministry said.

The ministry expressed "strong concern" after the ship was spotted near Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan, early in the morning.

The Chinese ship, confirmed in territorial waters at 6 a.m. local time, left shortly before 8 a.m., according to Japan's Defense Ministry, adding it was monitored by a Japanese military vessel and plane.

Recently, China's increasingly assertive activity around Japanese waters and airspace has caused unease among Japanese defense officials, also concerned about the growing military cooperation between the Chinese and Russian air forces.

This follows Tokyo's protest after a Chinese military aircraft briefly entered Japan's southwestern airspace on Monday. It was the first time the Japanese Self Defense Force detected a Chinese military aircraft in Japan's airspace.

China accuses Philippines: China accused a Philippines coast guard ship of deliberately colliding with a Chinese vessel Saturday in the latest flareup of tensions over disputed waters and maritime features in the South China Sea.

In a statement posted on social media, Chinese coast guard spokesperson Liu Dejun was quoted as saying that the Philippine ship with hull number 9701 collided with the Chinese ship 5205 just after 12:06 p.m. (04:06 GMT) Saturday.

As the Philippine ship maneuvered, it "deliberately collided" with the Chinese coast guard ship "in an unprofessional and dangerous manner, resulting in a collision," Liu was quoted as saying, adding the standard claim that

New Zealand's Maori King Tuheitia dies after eighteen years on throne

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga, Aug 31, (AP): New Zealand's Maori King, Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wheoro VII, died Friday at age 69, days after the celebration of his 18th year on the throne.

He was the seventh monarch in the Kiingitanga movement, holding a position created in 1858 to unite New Zealand's Indigenous Maori tribes in the face of British colonization.

Tuheitia died in hospital after heart surgery, said Rahui Papa, a spokesperson for the Kiingitanga, the Maori King Movement, in a post on Instagram.

The movement's primary goals were to end the sale of land to non-Indigenous people, stop inter-tribal

warfare, and provide a springboard for the preservation of Maori culture, the Waikato-Tainui tribe website said. The monarch has a largely ceremonial but still consequential role in New Zealand, where Maori make up close to 20% of the population.

"The death of King Tuheitia is a moment of great sadness for followers of the Kiingitanga, Maaoriom and the entire nation," Papa wrote on social media.

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon paid tribute to Tuheitia, saying his "unwavering commitment to his people and his tireless efforts to uphold the values and traditions of the Kiingitanga have left an indelible mark on our nation."

The other winners announced on Saturday were a group of doctors who struggled to secure adequate healthcare for Thailand's rural poor, an Indonesian environmental defender, a Japanese animator who tackles complex issues for children and a Bhutanese academician promoting his country's cultural heritage to help current predicaments.

First given in 1958, the annual awards are named after a Philippine president who died in a 1957 plane crash, and honor "greatness of spirit" in selfless service to people across Asia.

"The award has celebrated those who challenge the status quo with integrity by courageously confronting systemic injustices, transform critical sectors through groundbreaking solutions that drive societal progress, and address pressing global issues with unwavering resilience," said Susanna B. Afan, president of the award foundation.

Magsaysay winners announced: A Vietnamese doctor Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong who has helped seek justice for victims of the powerful defoliant dioxin "Agent Orange" used by US forces during the Vietnam War is among this year's winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards - regarded as Asia's version of the Nobel Prizes.

31, when an African Union's peacekeeping mission to Somalia ends.

There was no confirmation of such plans from Egypt, which has been seeking to

strengthen its influence in the Horn of Africa. Cairo has also not confirmed sending military equipment to Somalia. (AP)

Sánchez meets Senegal prez: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez met with Senegal's President Bassirou Diomaye Faye on Thursday to conclude his trip through three West African nations aimed at tackling irregular migration to Spain's Canary Islands.

The two leaders signed agreements to promote temporary work opportunities in Spain for Senegalese nationals and vocational training in the West African country. Irregular migration is a term for illegal or unauthorized immigration commonly used in the region and by some international organizations.

"Regulated migration benefits us all," Sánchez said. "It vaccinates us against those who make a business out of irregularity, like the mafias, and against those who use it as an excuse to spread hatred and xenophobia in our societies." He was referring to people-smuggling networks and far-right parties who have pushed for tougher immigration policies.

Sánchez began his tour in Mauritania on Tuesday where he announced that Spain will provide temporary work opportunities in Spain to Mauritians and renew cooperation between the two nations' security forces to combat people smuggling networks. The Spanish prime minister continued his tour going south to Gambia on Wednesday. He arrived in Senegal the same day before meeting with Senegal's president on Thursday. (AP)



This undated photo provided by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation shows 2024 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee, Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, (center), from Vietnam. A Vietnamese doctor who has helped seek justice for victims of the powerful defoliant dioxin "Agent Orange" used by US forces during the Vietnam War is among this year's winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards - regarded as Asia's version of the Nobel Prizes. (AP)



A bakery worker adjusts the shop during a blackout in Caracas, Venezuela on Aug 30. Venezuelans spent most of Friday in the dark as a major outage knocked out power in the capital, Caracas, and several states. (AP)



Faye



Mohamud

Africa

Nigeria floods killed nearly 200: Weeks of flooding have killed nearly 200 people in Nigeria and washed away homes and farmlands, the country's disaster management agency said, further threatening food supplies, especially in the hard-hit northern region.

The floods blamed on poor infrastructure and badly maintained dams have killed 185 people and displaced 208,000 in 28 of Nigeria's 36 states, the National Emergency Management Agency said in an update Friday, triggering frantic efforts to evacuate hundreds of thousands to makeshift shelters.

Nigeria records flooding every year mostly as a result of failure to follow environmental guidelines and inadequate infrastructure. The worst floods the country has seen in a decade were in 2022 when more than 600 people were killed and over 1 million displaced.

However, unlike in 2022 when the floods were blamed on heavier rainfall, the Nigerian Meteorological Agency predicted delayed or normal rains in most parts of the country this year and said the current floods were more a result of human activities. (AP)

Ethiopia worried over defense deal: Ethiopia is increasingly concerned over a recent defense deal between Egypt and Somalia, two countries that Addis Ababa is embroiled in disputes with amid rising tensions in the Horn of Africa region.

Cairo and Mogadishu earlier this month signed a security agreement during a visit to the Egyptian capital by Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who held talks with his Egyptian host, President Abdel-Fatah el-Sisi.

Details of the deal have not been made public but Ali Abdi Aware, the Somali ambassador to Cairo, told a radio station in Mogadishu that the arrival of military equipment from Egypt to Somalia this week was "the first practical step to implementing" that deal.

Speaking by phone from Cairo to Arlaadi Media radio on Tuesday, he also asserted that under the agreement, Egyptian troops would be deployed to Somalia after Dec.

oil plunges

The Kuwaiti oil price went up by USD 1.69 to reach USD 79.48 per barrel (pb) on Friday, compared to USD 77.79 on Thursday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Saturday.

At international markets, Brent crude oil fell by USD 1.14 to USD 78.80 pb, while West Texas crude went down by USD 2.36 to USD 73.55 (KUNA)

Iraq Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani confirmed to the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Haitham al-Ghais that Iraq is committed to OPEC's plans regarding production.

The Prime Minister's media office said in a statement on Thursday that Al-Sudani received Al-Ghais to discuss issues related to the oil market and the importance of the joint efforts by all member states of the organization.

Iraq, as one of the largest oil exporting countries in the organization, maintains commitment to the general policies of the plans adopted by OPEC countries regarding production, or what is determined within the framework of the OPEC Plus agreement, Al-Sudani affirmed

OPEC's Al-Ghais praises Iraq's support for oil market stabilization

On August 22, the Iraq Ministry of Oil reaffirmed its commitment to voluntarily reducing crude oil production in line with OPEC+ decisions. In a statement, the Ministry emphasized that it had undertaken "real and tangible steps" to lower production levels, while also working to compensate for the excess quantities produced in previous months.

Secretary-General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Haitham Al-Ghais said his visit to Iraq was fruitful, as the country affirmed "limitless support" for the efforts to stabilize the global oil market.

Speaking to KUNA on Thursday on the sidelines of the visit, Al-Ghais said he met with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani who stressed his country's full backing

to the OPEC and the OPEC+ deals.

Al-Sudani also affirmed Iraq's commitment to all pledges and agreements in a way that boosts the stability of global oil markets in the next period, Al-Ghais noted.

Iraq, which is an OPEC main member, is one of the largest supporters to the agreements of OPEC and OPEC+, he noted. Al-Ghais also held a meeting with Iraq's Oil Minister Hayan Abdul-Ghani and some senior officials, extolling the role of the Iraqi government and officials at the oil sector.

Meanwhile, OPEC said in a news statement that Al-Ghais visited Iraq and earlier Kazakhstan to discuss the conditions at oil markets, and stress the great importance of ensuring the success of efforts for the oil markets stability. (KUNA)

Market Movements 30-08-2024

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	+285.22	38,647.75	DUBAI	- DFMGI	-8.81	4,325.45
PHILIPPINES	- PSEi	+5.99	6,897.54	BRITAIN	- FTSE 100	-3.01	8,376.63
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+190.93	78,543.98	EUROPE	- EURO Stoxx 50	-8.29	4,957.98

Business

Other Voices

OPEC warns of oil shortages

ExxonMobil, Shell diverge on oil and gas future strategies

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

Two major oil and gas companies - ExxonMobil and Shell - with two different strategies for the future of the industry until 2050, which is about 25 years from now.

ExxonMobil is raising concerns about a potential shortage of fossil fuels due to lack of investments in the exploration for new oil and gas reserves. In contrast, Shell is taking a more drastic approach by reducing its upstream oil and gas workforce by more than 20 percent, or one-fifth of its core staff, with the aim to enhance efficiency and remain competitive with its peers in terms of operational performance.

Despite expectations by most analysts about lower oil demand and lesser oil prices, OPEC has warned of potential shortages of oil supply and is urging oil companies and oil-producing countries to invest more in exploring and developing new reserves. It predicts that demand for oil will rise, leading to shortages and higher prices due to limited availability.

ExxonMobil's concerns are similar to OPEC, as it states that global oil demand could exceed 100 million barrels per day by 2050, and the same for natural gas. This outlook persists even though the demand for electric

vehicles is increasing, notably in China, where oil demand remains strong. This suggests that oil and gas will continue to play a significant role alongside emerging energy sources.

For oil-producing and oil-exporting countries, the anticipated rise in oil prices presents an opportunity, although it poses challenges for global consumers. Higher oil prices could lead to inflation and increased costs, potentially impacting economic growth in both developing and developed countries.

Two major companies - ExxonMobil and Shell - with two differing viewpoints on the future of oil and gas and its impact on consumers, but one constant fact is that oil will continue to be a crucial part of our daily lives well beyond 2050. It is not something we can easily replace or eliminate.

The need for increased oil exploration is pressing. OPEC+ cannot be solely responsible for boosting production without appropriate compensation for their investments. For years, OPEC+ has called for greater exploration and investment in oil and gas, emphasizing that the global community must contribute. As production declines in some oil-producing countries, new discoveries are essential to complement the efforts of OPEC+ efforts and bring additional barrels on stream.

Despite the differing approaches of ExxonMobil and Shell, one fact remains clear: without further investment in upstream oil and gas, the industry could face a crisis. The message is crystal clear.

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Al-Harami



Warba Bank rings opening bell for sustainable sukuk.

Warba Bank lists \$500 mln sustainable sukuk on the London Stock Exchange

'Kuwait's first sustainable sukuk issued by Warba Bank'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Warba Bank announced the listing of USD 500 million sustainable sukuk on the London Stock Exchange, as part of the Bank's USD two billion sukuk issuance program. This listing represents the first sustainable sukuk in Kuwait, and comes as part of Warba Bank's sustainable financing.

The Bank stated that these sukuk, which have a maturity of five years, are dedicated to supporting environmental, social and institutional projects and initiatives that are in line with global sustainability goals.

The issuance witnessed a positive



Warba Bank champions sustainability with new sukuk listing.

response from investors with a subscription volume of USD 1.8 billion, equivalent to three and a half times the size of the issuance, which con-

firms the growing interest in sustainable investment opportunities in the region, as these sukuk balance profitability with social and environmen-

tal responsibility.

During the listing ceremony, Mr. Abdullah Mahmoud Al-Lanqawi, Chief Treasury Officer at Warba Bank, rang the opening bell at the London Stock Exchange in the presence of prominent figures from the Kuwaiti Embassy and the Investment Office, and representatives of the banks and international institutions that partnered in the issuance.

He commented: "We are proud to announce this successful listing of Warba Bank's sustainable sukuk, which reflects the Bank's commitment to sustainability as part of our core strategy. These sukuk not only enhance our financial strength by providing sustainable liquidity, but also support the diversification of funding sources and compliance with international regulatory standards, including Basel Liquidity Management Standards."

UAE remains Japan's top oil supplier

Kuwait's crude oil exports to Japan drop 34.3% in July

TOKYO, Aug 31, (KUNA): Kuwait's crude oil exports to Japan fell 34.3 percent in July from a year earlier to 4.90 million barrels, or 158,000 barrels per day (bpd), down for the 10th consecutive month, government data showed Friday.

As Japan's third-biggest oil provider, Kuwait supplied 7.9 percent of the Asian nation's total crude imports, compared with 10.5 percent in the same month of last year, the Japanese Natural Resources and Energy Agency said in a preliminary report.

Japan's overall imports of crude oil in July declined 12.8 percent

year-on-year to 2.04 million bpd, down for the eighth month in a row. Shipments from the Middle East accounted for 97.6 percent of the total, up 2.4 percentage points from the year before.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) remained Japan's No.1 oil supplier, with imports from the country increasing 3.4 percent from a year earlier to 1.00 million bpd, followed by Saudi Arabia with 727,000 bpd, down 11.2 percent. Qatar ranked fourth with 72,000 bpd and Ecuador fifth with 19,000 bpd, respectively. Japan is the world's-third biggest oil consumer after China and the US.

Turkey, Iraq, Qatar & UAE meet in Istanbul for \$20b transport project

ISTANBUL, Aug 31, (AP): Transport ministers from Turkey, Iraq, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates are meeting in Istanbul on Thursday to discuss a multibillion-dollar regional transportation project designed to ease the movement of goods from Asia to Europe through Iraq.

The proposed \$20 billion Development Road Project is designed to facilitate the transport of goods from the Gulf to Europe via the Grand Faw Port in Basra in southern Iraq. The port would be linked to Turkey and subsequently to Europe through an extensive network of railways and highways.

The initiative, which was unveiled last year, would turn Iraq into a pivotal transportation hub, enhancing the country's economic resurgence and boosting cooperation with its neighbors.

"We will talk about the stage we are at and how we can move faster from now on," Turkish Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Abdulkadir Uraloglu told HaberTurk television in an interview. "There are

many issues on the table, from the project's financing to its construction and management model."

Thursday's meeting comes during efforts by Iraq and Turkey to improve ties that have been strained by a series of issues, including the presence of Kurdish militants in northern Iraq and Turkish military actions against the militants on Iraqi territory.

In April, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made his first official visit to Baghdad in over a decade, seeking cooperation from Iraq in the battle against the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which has been engaged in an insurgency against Turkey since the 1980s. The group is labeled a terrorist organization by the United States and the European Union.

Erdogan's visit resulted in the signing of numerous agreements in the areas of energy, trade and water sharing.

Last month, the Iraqi government announced an official ban on the PKK, which has maintained bases in northern Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region.

National fund supports 1,084 Kuwaiti entrepreneurs with 220 mln dinars

SMEs crucial to Kuwait's economic growth & diversification

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are crucial to the economic growth and diversification of Kuwait. These enterprises are not only instrumental in generating job opportunities but also play a significant role in revenue generation and reducing the nation's dependence on oil, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Despite the numerous challenges they face, especially in their early stages, SMEs remain a cornerstone of the national economy.

The SMEs in Kuwait are essential for job creation, providing employment opportunities for citizens within the private sector. They contribute approximately 3 percent to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a testament to their economic significance.

As of 2020, SMEs represented about 90 percent of all companies in Kuwait, with around 30,000 active businesses. These enterprises are diversified across various sectors, with 40% in wholesale, retail trade, hotels, and restaurants, and 33 percent in construction and industry.

One of the most notable contributions of SMEs is their role in diversifying the economy beyond the oil sector.

By engaging in industries such as manufacturing and services, SMEs help reduce Kuwait's reliance on oil, thereby increasing the economy's flexibility and resilience to global economic shifts. This diversification not only enhances economic stability but also fosters innovation and the development of new opportunities.

The SMEs are pivotal in developing the skills of both entrepreneurs and their employees. They promote a culture of entrepreneurship, encouraging individuals to explore new business ventures and innovate.

This is reflected in global trends where SMEs are seen as key drivers of innovation and economic development due to their ability to quickly adapt to market changes and seize new opportunities.

Despite their importance, SMEs face various challenges, particularly in their formative years. These include financial constraints, administrative hurdles, and market competition.

To address these issues, the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development in Kuwait has provided substantial support. From February 2016 to 2024, the Fund financed about 1,084 entrepreneurs, resulting in 760 active pro-

jects. The total financing amounted to approximately 220 million dinars, with a default rate of 10 percent.

Business incubators play a pivotal role in supporting SMEs through their early stages. These institutions offer a range of services, including office space, technical and administrative support, and access to financing.

They also facilitate networking opportunities, connect businesses with investors, and provide training and advisory services. Despite their benefits, many incubators focus primarily on offering office space, often neglecting other crucial services.

The role of SMEs and business incubators in Kuwait's economy is crucial for fostering growth, innovation, and diversification.

Supporting these enterprises through financial, technical, and logistical assistance is essential for their success and the overall development of the national economy.

Strengthening business incubators, simplifying regulatory procedures, and forging partnerships with educational institutions are key steps toward enhancing the effectiveness of SME support systems in Kuwait.

Bitcoin might outperform gold during crises

Cryptocurrency market faces decline amid investor sell-off

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The Cryptocurrencies experienced notable losses in yesterday's trading session as a wave of selling pressure, coupled with leveraged positions being liquidated, hit the market, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Bitcoin fell by 4.44 percent, trading at \$59,288.49, while Ethereum dropped 4.32 percent to \$2,474.16. Ripple also saw a decrease of 3.61 percent, with its value settling at \$6.97 cents.

Stephen Lupka, head of the private client and family offices unit at Swan Bitcoin, commented on the market turbulence, attributing the decline primarily to Ethereum's substantial losses against Bitcoin this year.

Lupka noted that the downturn in the cryptocurrency market led to a significant liquidation of leveraged investment positions. However, he suggested that this could present a buying opportunity as prices have decreased.

According to a recent report by Henley & Partners, the number of mil-

lionaires holding Bitcoin has surged by 111 percent since the start of 2024, reaching over 85,000 individuals.

Additionally, the number of millionaires owning cryptocurrencies has increased by 95 percent, surpassing 172,000. This surge has contributed to a 89 percent rise in the market value of cryptocurrencies, now valued at \$2.3 trillion.

Furthermore, the report highlighted

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New portfolio offers diversified income, enhanced liquidity options to qualified and professional investors

Markaz introduces Private Credit Portfolio with annual expected returns of 8 pct to 12 pct, distributed monthly

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Kuwait Financial Centre 'Markaz' has announced the launch of its Private Credit Portfolio, designed to offer diversified income solutions to its professional and qualified clients. Markaz's new portfolio, built on a 50-year legacy as a key partner in wealth creation and expertise in the private credit sector, now offers expected annual returns of 8% to 12%, with an intended monthly distribution.

This new portfolio features flexible exit options, providing the investors with both adaptability and liquidity in their investment portfolio. Its launch affirms Markaz's leadership in creating unique investment solutions over five decades and demonstrates its expertise in the financial and private credit sectors, in line with its vision to serve as an ideal partner in wealth creation.

Sheikh Humoud S. Al Sabah, Vice President of Investment Advisory at Markaz, emphasized the portfolio's strengths, stating: "The new Private Credit Portfolio has been launched following rigorous due diligence in its international partners selection process. This meticulous approach ensures diversified investments across key economic sectors such as Technology, Healthcare and Consumer Goods, amidst other sectors, providing a potential cushion against market volatility. By focusing on quality and diversification with select partners and sectors, as well as investing globally in large and medium-sized companies with a sustainable cash flows and revenues, we aim to build a resilient, potentially high-performance oriented portfolio that aims to withstand market uncertainties and capitalize on growth opportunities, especially in the United States."

Abdullatif Al-Nusif, Managing Director of Wealth Management and Business Development at Markaz, highlighted the portfolio's alignment with investor needs, stating: "Since its inception, Markaz has consistently engaged with investors and devised unique investment solutions that meet their



Sheikh Humoud Al Sabah

objectives. Given the opportunities available in the private credit sector, as well as interest from both professional and qualified investors, the Private Credit Portfolio addresses their aspirations and provides them with flexible liquidity options. Our new portfolio is designed to offer enhanced risk-adjusted returns within well-structured and potentially flexible investment terms, giving our professional investors access to a diversity of opportunities in the private credit market."

The portfolio utilizes Markaz's extensive experience and deep market insights to select the international partners in the top quartile of past risk adjusted returns. A meticulous evaluation and screening process aims for optimal risk management and consistent returns, with the structure aiming for diversification across various industries and company sizes



Abdullatif Al-Nusif

to enhance its stability and potential for better returns.

Continuing its tradition of innovation and leadership within the investment community, Markaz is actively expanding its portfolio offerings to better meet the evolving needs of its clients. For investors and market watchers alike, the introduction of this portfolio represents a strategic response to the demand for more sophisticated, reliable, and accessible investment options in the private credit space. As Markaz continues to set benchmarks in the financial sector, its focus remains firmly on delivering exceptional value and innovation, aiming to remain a trusted advisor and preferred investment partner in the region and beyond.

Disclaimer:

This press release has been prepared for promotional purposes and has been approved by "Markaz", and no necessary data about the investment in question has been omitted. Pri-

private credit portfolio investments may be subject to the risks, investment returns and performance are difficult to predict and are not guaranteed. Therefore, prospective investors are required to review the offering documents and should conduct their own analysis and research, as well as consult with their financial, legal, and other advisors specialized in making investment decisions regarding any strategy covered in this content, and understand that such an investment carries a high degree of risk of loss of the investment, and the amount of potential returns cannot be predicted or guaranteed.

The private credit portfolio is only intended and suitable for Qualified Professional Client/Professional Client by Nature as defined by the Kuwait Capital Markets Authority, and willing to accept the risks, known and unknown, associated with private credit portfolio investing.

Lines of cars headed to airports

Travelers getting a 'head start' on long US Labor Day weekend

WASHINGTON, Aug 31, (AP): Airports, highways, beaches and theme parks are expected to be packed across the U.S. this Labor Day weekend as a lot of Americans mark the unofficial end of summer the same way they celebrated the season's unofficial start: by traveling.

After what's already been a record-breaking summer for air travel, the Transportation Security Administration predicted its agents would screen more than 17 million people during a holiday period that started Thursday and runs through next Wednesday, about 8% more than last year.

The TSA anticipates Friday being the busiest day. In a sign the summer travel season really is winding down, however, the agency said that fewer than 2 million passengers passed through airport security checkpoints one day this week - the first time that has happened since early March.

If you plan to be part of the crowds heading out of town to enjoy one last blast of summer, here is a rundown of what you need to know.

Busy, as expected, and flight delays were common.

Airlines had canceled more than 200 U.S. flights as of late afternoon on the East Coast, a modest number by current standards. However, more than 4,500 other flights were delayed, led by Southwest and American, according to tracking service FlightAware.

Plenty of people appeared to have heeded experts' advice to get away as early as possible on Friday.

Lines of cars and passengers appeared at Los Angeles International Airport before the sun was up. Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport was buzzing early but slowed by mid-morning, and parking spaces were still available.

Boston resident Dani Fleming flew across the country to visit her son,

daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. She got to the airport at 4:30 a.m. for her departing flight and was pleasantly surprised by how quickly the lines moved both there and at San Francisco International Airport.

"The flight was easy. (I) napped for a little bit, watched movies," Fleming said. "This was a breeze."

Benjamin Schmeiser and his wife and 16-year-old daughter planned to fly from Chicago to San Diego to attend a concert of 1970s rock bands. It was the family's first flight together since COVID-19 hit.

"We have been looking forward to this trip for quite some time, and I'm happy that we can get the whole family in on the trip," Schmeiser said while waiting at O'Hare International Airport. "A lot of us are huge live music fans, and we love sports. Now that travel is open, it's much more affordable, we're able to travel a lot more."

Weather is the leading cause of flight delays. Forecasts call for rain and maybe scattered thunderstorms from Texas to New England plus parts of Florida over the weekend, spreading over more of the Southeast on Monday.

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport was still working to restore all services after what airport officials described as a possible cyberattack last weekend. Flights have been running normally all week, but the airport told passengers to arrive extra early and to avoid checking bags, especially on smaller airlines, because of problems with the bag-sorting system.

Michael Novick got to SeaTac 30 minutes earlier than usual and checked three bags for his American Airlines flight to Dallas on Friday. "I was a little concerned about what things might look like, but it was absolutely seamless," he said. "It was a normal day."

The only thing out of the ordinary: gate agents checked boarding passes

US growth for last quarter revised up to a solid 3 pct

Performance partly fuelled by strong consumer spending

WASHINGTON, Aug 31, (AP): The U.S. economy grew last annual at a healthy 3% annual pace, fueled by strong consumer spending and business investment, the government said Thursday in an upgrade of its initial assessment.

The Commerce Department had previously estimated that the nation's gross domestic product - the total output of goods and services - expanded at a 2.8% rate from April through June.

The second-quarter growth marked a sharp acceleration from a sluggish 1.4% growth rate in the first three months of 2024.

Consumer spending, which accounts for about 70% of U.S. economic activity, rose at a 2.9% annual rate last quarter. That was up from 2.3% in the government's initial estimate. Business investment expanded at a 7.5% rate, led by a 10.8% jump in investment in equipment.

Thursday's report reflected an economy that remains resilient despite the pressure of continued high interest rates. The state of the economy is weighing heavily on voters ahead of the November presidential election. Many Americans remain exasperated by high prices even though inflation has plummeted since peaking at a four-decade high in mid-2022.

But measures of consumers' spirits - by the Conference Board and the University of Michigan have shown a recent uptick in confidence in the economy.

"The GDP revisions show the U.S. economy was in good shape in mid-2024," said Bill Adams, chief economist at Comerica Bank. "Solid growth of consumer spending propelled the economy forward in the second quarter, and the increase of consumer confidence in July suggests it will propel growth in the second half of the year as well."

The latest GDP estimate for the April-June quarter included figures that showed that inflation continues to ease while remaining just above the Federal Reserve's 2% target. The central bank's favored inflation gauge - the personal consumption expenditures index, or PCE - rose at a 2.5% annual rate last quarter, down from 3.4% in the first quarter of the year. And excluding volatile food and energy prices, so-called core PCE inflation grew at a 2.7% pace, down from 3.2% from January through March.

Both the PCE inflation numbers issued Thursday marked a slight improvement on the government's first estimate.

A GDP category that measures the



Construction worker works outside of commercial building site during a hot weather in Mount Prospect, Ill., Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2024. (AP)

Fed's favored inflation gauge indicates price pressures easing as rate cuts near

WASHINGTON, Aug 31, (AP): An inflation measure closely tracked by the Federal Reserve remained low last month, extending a trend of cooling price increases that clears the way for the Fed to start cutting its key interest rate next month for the first time in 4 1/2 years.

Prices rose just 0.2% from June to July, the Commerce Department said Friday, up a tick from the previous month's 0.1% increase. Compared with a year earlier, inflation was unchanged at 2.5%.

The slowdown in inflation could upend former President Donald Trump's efforts to saddle Vice President Kamala Harris with blame for rising prices. Still, despite the near-end of high inflation, many Americans remain unhappy with today's sharply higher average prices for such necessities as gas, food and housing compared with their pre-pandemic levels.

Excluding volatile food and energy costs, so-called core inflation rose 0.2% from June to July, the same as in the previous month. Measured from a year earlier, core prices increased 2.6%, also unchanged from the pre-

vious year. Economists closely watch core prices, which typically provide a better read of future inflation trends.

Friday's figures underscore that inflation is steadily fading in the United States after three painful years of surging prices hammered many families' finances. According to the measure reported Friday, inflation peaked at 7.1% in June 2022, the highest in four decades.

The Fed tends to favor the inflation gauge that the government issued Friday - the personal consumption expenditures price index - over the better-known consumer price index. The PCE index tries to account for changes in how people shop when inflation jumps. It can capture, for example, when consumers switch from pricier national brands to cheaper store brands.

In general, the PCE index tends to show a lower inflation rate than CPI. In part, that's because rents, which have been high, carry double the weight in the CPI that they do in the index released Friday.

In a high-profile speech last week, Fed Chair Jerome Powell attributed the inflation surge that erupted in 2021 to

a "collision" of reduced supply stemming from the pandemic's disruptions with a jump in demand as consumers ramped up spending, drawing on savings juiced by federal stimulus checks.

With price increases now cooling, Powell also said last week that "the time has come" to begin lowering the Fed's key interest rate. Economists expect a cut of at least a quarter-point cut in the rate, now at 5.3%, at the Fed's next meeting Sept. 17-18. With inflation coming under control, Powell indicated that the central bank is now increasingly focused on preventing any worsening of the job market. The unemployment rate has risen for four straight months.

Reductions in the Fed's benchmark interest rate should, over time, reduce borrowing costs for a range of consumer and business loans, including mortgages, auto loans and credit cards.

Consumers are still willing to boost their spending, fueling steady growth in the economy. On Thursday, the government revised its estimate of growth in the April-June quarter to a healthy annual rate of 3%, up from 2.8%.

economy's underlying strength rose to a healthy 2.9% annual rate, up from 2.6% in the first quarter. This category includes consumer spending and private investment but excludes volatile items such as exports, inventories and

government spending.

To fight spiking prices, the Fed raised its benchmark interest rate 11 times in 2022 and 2023, lifting it to a 23-year high and helping shrink annual inflation from a peak of 9.1% to 2.9%

as of last month. The much higher borrowing costs for consumers and businesses that resulted had been widely expected to cause a recession. Yet the economy has kept growing and employers have kept hiring.

Brazil blocks Elon Musk's X

SAO PAULO, Aug 31, (AP): Brazil started blocking Elon Musk's social media platform X early Saturday, making it largely inaccessible on both the web and through its mobile app after the company refused to comply with a judge's order.

X missed a deadline imposed by Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes to name a legal representative in Brazil, triggering the suspension. It marks an escalation in the months-long feud between Musk and de Moraes over free speech, far-right accounts and misinformation.

To block X, Brazil's telecommunications regulator, Anatel, told internet service providers to suspend users' access to the social media platform. As of Saturday at midnight local time, major operators began doing so.

De Moraes had warned Musk on Wednesday night that X could be blocked in Brazil if he failed to comply with his order to name a representative, and established a 24-hour deadline. The company hasn't had a representative in the country since earlier this month.

"Elon Musk showed his total disrespect for Brazilian sovereignty and,

in particular, for the judiciary, setting himself up as a true supranational entity and immune to the laws of each country," de Moraes wrote in his decision on Friday.

The justice said the platform will stay suspended until it complies with his orders, and also set a daily fine of 50,000 reais (\$8,900) for people or companies using VPNs to access it.

In a later ruling, he backtracked on his initial decision to establish a 5-day deadline for internet service providers themselves - and not just the telecommunications regulator - to block access to X, as well as his directive for app stores to remove virtual private networks, or VPNs.

The dispute also led to the freezing this week of the bank accounts in Brazil of Musk's satellite internet provider Starlink.

Brazil is one of the biggest markets for X, which has struggled with the loss of advertisers since Musk purchased the former Twitter in 2022. Market research group Emarketer says some 40 million Brazilians, roughly one-fifth of the population, access X at least once per month.

The sale comes during a tide of

renewed political support for rebuilding America's manufacturing sector, a presidential campaign in which Pennsylvania is a prime battleground, and a long stretch of protectionist U.S. tariffs that analysts say has helped reinvigorate domestic steel.

In its statement, Nippon Steel said it will spend at least \$1 billion to upgrade the hot strip mill at the Pittsburgh-area

Irvin Plant, along with other facilities in Pennsylvania's Mon Valley Works, and about \$300 million to improve one of the blast furnaces at Gary Works in Gary, Indiana.

The commitments "far exceed" what Pittsburgh-based U.S. Steel would pledge on its own and will help make the company and the American industry stronger and more competi-

tive, Burritt said.

"The bottom line is these are investments in the future of integrated American steelmaking and the employees, families and communities that rely on it," Burritt said in a statement.

Such improvements will extend the life of the facilities and boost productivity, Nippon Steel said. It reiterated that it expects the transaction

to close in the second half of 2024, despite ongoing political and labor opposition.

The United Steelworkers is against the deal after it backed a bid by U.S.-based Cleveland Cliffs. The union filed a grievance, which was completed Aug. 15, and the case is now in the hands of the three members of the arbitration board, the union said.

Announcement lauded

Nippon Steel boosts capital commitment to US Steel plants

HARRISBURG, Pa., Aug 31, (AP): Nippon Steel Corp. raised its capital commitment Thursday by more than \$1 billion to spend on U.S. Steel's plants amid entrenched political and labor opposition to the Japanese company's nearly \$15 billion acquisition of the iconic American steelmaker.

Nippon Steel's \$1.3 billion commitment to upgrade facilities in Pennsylv-

What's On



Group picture from the program.

Bank emphasizes gender equality and leadership development

Gulf Bank celebrates International Women's Equality Day with Melody Mitchell

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: In celebration of International Women's Equality Day on August 26, Gulf Bank's Women of Wisdom (WOW) program welcomed Melody Mitchell, the renowned American speaker and trainer and founder of the Lean In Network in Kuwait, as a guest during its monthly meeting.

In 2017, Gulf Bank introduced the Women of Wisdom (WOW) program as an internal initiative designed to support women both within the bank and in the community. The program focuses on helping women advance their careers and reach leadership roles, providing networking opportunities through monthly gatherings that cover various work-life balance topics.

Inspired by Sheryl Sandberg's book, the Lean In gatherings aim to establish small support groups where women can regularly meet to share experiences, learn together, and support each other's personal and professional growth. These gatherings foster a nurturing environment for skill development and professional networking.

Addressing a large audience of Gulf Bank employees, Melody Mitchell spoke about empowering women, emphasizing that equality begins with empowering women and highlighting the crucial role private sector institutions play in this regard.

Ms. Salma Al-Hajjaj, Gulf Bank's General Manager of Human Resources, emphasized that Gulf Bank is dedicated to empowering women both within

Salma Al-Hajjaj: Gender equality fosters a healthy work environment, which directly impacts productivity and enhances customer service.

the bank and in the community. This commitment encompasses everything from recruitment and training, to advanced development opportunities, with the goal of supporting women in reaching leadership roles.

She highlighted the bank's efforts in creating a fair and equitable work environment, noting that Gulf Bank was one of the first signatories to the United Nations Women's Empowerment Principles in Kuwait. Additionally, it was the first Kuwaiti bank to eliminate all forms of gender discrimination among its employees, ensuring equal benefits and opportunities in alignment with UN principles, the bank's 2025 strategy, and Kuwait Vision 2035.

Al-Hajjaj emphasized that gender equality fosters a healthy work environment, which directly impacts productivity and enhances customer service. She pointed out that studies have shown companies that adhere to gender equality principles experience higher profits and productivity.

She added, "We believe that promoting a culture of diversity and inclusion not only enhances the bank's positive image, but also improves performance, sup-

ports development, fosters innovation, and strengthens employee connections. Empowering women, youth, and individuals with special needs is crucial for societal advancement."

Al-Hajjaj also highlighted the need for continuous efforts to close the gender gap, which enhances institutional productivity, supports the national economy, and boosts GDP. She concluded, "We are committed to women's empowerment as a key driver of economic development and sustainability, in line with the bank's strategy and Kuwait's vision."

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

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



KIB and Alghanim Motors partner for special Chevrolet financing.

Flexible car financing options

KIB launches exclusive financing offer on latest Chevrolet models

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) has announced an exclusive financing offer on the latest Chevrolet models. The offer includes profit-free Musawama financing with a five-year repayment period, and a three-year or 100,000 km warranty, subject to the terms and conditions of the offer. This initiative reflects the Bank's commitment to meeting the needs and aspirations of its customers and complements KIB's efforts to provide top-level financing offers that ensure customer comfort and well-being. It also underscores KIB's continuous effort to enhance its partnership with the local Chevrolet dealer, Alghanim Motors Company.

Commenting on the new offer, Head of the Central Sales Unit - Retail at KIB, Abdulaziz Al-Shammari, said: "This fruitful collaboration with Alghanim Motors is part of our ongoing success in offering car financing deals that cover a wide range of modern vehicles. This enables both our customers and non-customers to choose what suits their needs and aspirations when deciding to take advantage of KIB's best financing offers, especially for cars that are highly popular in the local market due to their high quality and competitive prices."

It is worth noting that KIB offers its customers a more efficient and flexible shopping experience by enabling them to request and track financing easily and comfortably. The Bank provides



Abdulaziz Al-Shammari

flexible financing ranging from KD 300 to KD 25,000, payable over three to 60 months, without the need for salary transfer. This makes KIB the ideal choice for a wide range of customers and non-customers, both citizens and residents alike.

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



Group picture from the program.

140 kids participate in KFH's program

KFH launches Arabic Language Initiative with 'Sama Academy'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has continued the events of its Arabic Language Initiative in a fruitful collaboration with Sama Academy. The initiative, which is the first of its kind in the banking sector, is geared towards teaching employees' kids the Arabic language by Kuwaiti talents using the Scandinavian method.

This initiative reaffirms KFH's commitment to its employees and their families, emphasizing the importance of organizing activities that contribute to nurturing an educated and successful generation. The second edition encompassed three events: "Writing Story Contest", "Start Early" and "Reading Marathon".

The summer program has witnessed a great turnout and interaction from participating kids, confirming its success and benefit. With the participation of around 140 kids, the first event focused on improving the participants' productivity by enhancing their speaking skills through strategies of storytelling and personification in the Arabic language. It also enhanced partici-

pants' writing skill by applying intensive creative writing techniques in the Arabic language while adopting AI technology in creating their story characters."

The Reading Marathon has significantly contributed to increasing the cognitive functions of the participants. These include listening skill by understanding the readable texts through applied reading strategies and motivational tools that have proven successful in raising the level of understanding. Reading is another cognitive skill that is improved during the program by applying interactive learning strategies that raise the learning outcomes by 25%.

The reading level of participants was measured using a precise criterion that encompasses 75 levels. The levels are categorized into 5 stages based on the age group and school level.

As for the Start Early event, it is the first of its kind that supports Content and Language Integrated Learning approach (CLIL) in everyday experiences using the mother tongue. Through this approach, language learning is ap-

plied to all school subjects as well as daily living activities according to the Scandinavian system with the aim to improve the mother tongue of the child. It offers a range of benefits grounded in scientific facts and detailed studies, highlighting the importance of establishing a strong foundation in the mother tongue. Research indicates that children who learn in their mother tongue exhibit better educational performance, which also facilitates learning additional languages. This approach boosts children's self-esteem, enhances their interactions with parents and their environment, and fosters greater linguistic proficiency and comprehensive skills.

Meanwhile, parents of participating kids commended this initiative saying that it encouraged their children to enhance their listening skills, and sentence drafting and boosted their determination mindset, making the learning experience both enjoyable and valuable. They also lauded KFH's efforts in strengthening the role of the Arabic language and demonstrating its commitment towards its employees and their families.

KTMCC Talent Test 2024 scheduled for September 15th

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The Kuwait Town Malayalee Christian Congregation (KTMCC) plans to conduct "Talent Test 2024" on the 15th of September 2024. Various congregations from Mar Thoma, CSI, Evangelical, Brethren and Pentacostal churches - from both NECK, Kuwait City and St. Paul's, Ahmadi will take part in the Talent Test. The test showcases different competitions which will start at the NECK premises from 8 am. Around 500 contestants from over 35 congregations are gearing up for the grand event.

The various events of the Talent Test are Solo Song, Group Song, Elocution, Short Story, Instru-

mental Music, Essay Writing, Quiz, Drawing and Photography.

A video News Bulletin Contest, based on the day of the program will also be there. The categories of the program have been divided into three, on the basis of age. The program will also be telecasted live on the Harvest Television.

The Talent Test 2024 will be inaugurated by NECK Chairman, Rev. Emmanuel Ghareeb. The closing ceremony, which will begin at 1.00 in the afternoon, will be graced by the presence of various dignitaries from social, spiritual and cultural fields.

The winners of each item will be congratulated and awarded as well.

A 100-member committee under the leadership of Mr. Ajosh Mathew (General Convener), Mr. Shibu V. Sam (Program Coordinator), Mr. Vinod Kurien (KTMCC President), Mr. Shijo Thomas (KTMCC Secretary), Mr. Jeess George Cherian (KTMCC Treasurer), Mr. Jerald Joseph (KTMCC Joint Secretary), Mr. Roy K. Yohannan (NECK Secretary), Mr. Sajju Vazhayil Thomas, Mr. Deepak Philip Thomas and Mr. Reju Daniel John are working for the success of the Talent Test 2024.



KTMCC Talent Test 2024 flyer

Film

Trump film 'Apprentice' to hit screens before election

NEW YORK, Aug 31, (AP): After struggling to drum up interest following its Cannes Film Festival premiere, "The Apprentice," starring Sebastian Stan as a young Donald Trump, has found a distributor that plans to release the film shortly before the election in November. Briarcliff Entertainment will release "The Apprentice" on Oct. 11 in US and Canadian theaters, just weeks before Americans cast their ballots on Nov. 5.

Director Ali Abbasi, the Danish Iranian filmmaker, had prioritized getting "The Apprentice" into theaters before voters head to the polls. After larger studios and film distributors opted not to bid on the film, Abbasi complained in early June on X that "for some reason certain power people in your country don't want you to see it!!!"

Steven Cheung, communications director for the Trump campaign, in a statement Friday called the film's release "election interference by Hollywood elites right before November."

"This 'film' is pure malicious defamation, should never see the light of day, and doesn't even deserve a place in the straight-to-DVD section of a bargain bin at a soon-to-be-closed discount movie store, it belongs in a dumpster fire," Cheung said.

Part of what dampened interest in "The Apprentice" was the potential threat of legal action. After its Cannes premiere in May, Cheung called the movie "pure fiction" and said the Trump team would file a lawsuit "to address the blatantly false assertions from these pretend

filmmakers."

"The Apprentice" chronicles Trump's rise to power in New York real estate under the tutelage of defense attorney Roy Cohn (played by Jeremy Strong). Late in the movie, Trump is depicted raping his wife, Ivana Trump (played by Maria Bakalova). In Ivana Trump's 1990 divorce deposition, she stated that Trump raped her. Trump denied the allegation and Ivana Trump later said she didn't mean it literally, but rather that she had felt violated.

Abbasi has argued Trump might not dislike the movie. "I would offer to go and meet him wherever he wants and talk about the context of the movie, have a screening and have a chat afterwards, if that's interesting to anyone at the Trump campaign," Abbasi said in May.

Briarcliff Entertainment has released films including the 2022 documentary "Gabby Giffords Won't Back Down" and the Liam Neeson thriller "Memory." The indie distributor is run by Tom Ortenberg, who at Lionsgate helped release Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" and as chief executive of Open Road backed the best picture Oscar winner "Spotlight."

Also: NEW YORK: Swedish supergroup ABBA has asked Donald Trump to stop using their music at campaign rallies, but the Republican presiden-

tial nominee's campaign says it has permission.

"ABBA has recently discovered the unauthorized use of their music and videos at a Trump event through videos that appeared online," said a statement to The Associated Press from the band, whose hits include "Waterloo," "The Winner Takes It All" and "Money, Money, Money."

"As a result, ABBA and its representative has promptly requested the removal and deletion of such content. No request has been received; therefore, no permission or license has been granted."

A spokesman for the Trump campaign said it had obtained a license. "The campaign had a license to play ABBA music through our agreement with BMI and ASCAP," the spokesperson told the AP.

ABBA joins a long list of performers who've objected to Trump using their songs. Ahead of the 2020 election, that included Bruce Springsteen, Rihanna, Phil Collins, Pharrell, John Fogerty, Neil Young, Eddy Grant, Panic! at the Disco, R.E.M. and Guns N' Roses.

This cycle, Celine Dion has asked the candidate to stop using "My Heart Will Go On" and Beyoncé blocked Trump from using her song "Freedom" in a campaign video. In 2016, Adele asked Trump to quit playing her songs at political rallies.

Campaigns don't need an artist's express permission to play their songs at rallies as long as the political organization or the venue has gotten what's known as a blanket license from the performing rights organizations ASCAP and BMI.

Variety



Nicole Kidman poses for photographers upon arrival for the premiere of the film 'Babygirl' during the 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Friday, Aug. 30. (AP)

Film

Film explores passion and power

Kidman returns to Venice with 'Babygirl'

VENICE, Italy, Aug 31, (AP): "Babygirl," a thriller about a female CEO who begins an affair with a younger, male intern, is about certainly. But that's just part of the story.

It's also about desire, secrets, marriage, truth, power and consent, star Nicole Kidman said Friday at the Venice Film Festival. And it's bound to inspire conversations for months to come.

From filmmaker Halina Reijn, "Babygirl" had its world premiere Friday evening on the Lido, where it's playing in competition before A24 releases it in theaters in December.

Antonio Banderas plays the husband of Kidman's character and Harris Dickinson is the intern. Both her personal life and career are jeopardized through the ripples of the affair.

"I hope it's a very liberating story," Kidman said. "It was told by a woman through her gaze... that's what made it so unique."

Arriving at the festival by water taxi, Kidman posed for photographers on the dock in the blazing sun before making her way to a news conference. She wore a black Bottega Veneta midi dress with short sleeves and a deep V-neck.

Kidman came to Venice 25 years ago with another risqué film: Stanley Kubrick's "Eyes Wide Shut." But even with a resume full of boundary-pushing, sexy and challenging work, she still has some anxiety about this one. During a news conference, she said she was nervous.

"I hope my hands aren't shaking," Kidman said. She said that as an actor she's always interested in examining human beings - especially women - on screen and exploring questions about what it means to be human and the "labyrinth of that."

"This definitely leaves me exposed and frightened and vulnerable when it's given to the world," she said.

Reijn, who previously made the youthful, anarchic slasher "Bodies Bodies Bodies," was excited to explore the idea of female desire, but also about a woman in an existential crisis. With that in mind, she said it was important for the husband, who does not satisfy Kidman's character, to be both handsome and masculine. This, she said, is why she wanted Banderas.

"It's a cautionary tale about what happens when you suppress your own desires," Reijn said.

The director was inspired to make "Babygirl" out of a love for the thrillers of the 1980s and 90s from the likes of Paul Verhoeven and Adrian Lyne, but unlike in some of those stories, she didn't want to "punish" the woman.

"I don't want any of my characters to be punished," Reijn said. "I just want them to be."

Kidman and Dickinson got to know one another prior to filming through rehearsals in New York, knowing that the shoot would be quick. They also utilized an intimacy coordinator to help guide them through the steamier scenes.

"Babygirl" also looks at generational differences when it comes to topics like sex and intimacy, juxtaposing Kidman and Banderas with Dickinson and actor Sophie Wilde.

"It was four of us together on a journey and it was really, really intimate," Kidman said. "Enormous care taken by all of us, we were all very gentle with each other and helped each other."

Story

Dickinson liked the specificity in which the story and script addressed the "confusion within a young man of now."

On the red carpet before the premiere, Antonio Banderas signed autographs for fans, while Nicole Kidman stopped to talk to a man on a hospital bed. In the theater, the crowd gave her a standing ovation as the lights went down.

Meanwhile, for Angelina Jolie, portraying the famed opera singer Maria Callas meant more to her than she can put into words.

"I felt such a privilege to feel like I got to know this woman and got to be inside her skin a moment. I really care for her deeply," Jolie told The Associated Press a few hours the film's world premiere at the Venice International Film Festival Thursday. "I think I'll carry that like a friend."

Jolie looked every part the movie star on the red carpet Thursday evening in a champagne-colored gown custom made by Tamara Ralph with a fur stole.

Chilean filmmaker Pablo Larraín called on Jolie to take on the role as the legendary soprano in "Maria," which was recently acquired by Netflix for distribution. The film focuses on the final week of her life in 1977, in Paris. She is deeply isolated, with only her butler (Pierfrancesco Favino) and housemaid (Alba Rohrwacher) looking after her - concerned about her health, the drugs and the devastating ripple effects of her diminished voice.

Larraín, a Venice regular, continues 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, the singer 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.

She died in Paris at age 53 after a heart attack.

"When I put her big glasses on and her Greek hair and I sat in my little robe as an older lady, I felt a (Maria) that felt like the private (Maria) that the world didn't know," Jolie said. "And I connected to her first and, and kind of loved her."

Jolie made a grand entrance on the docks of the Hotel Excelsior, on the Lido, posing for photographers in a golden acid-colored Tom Ford jersey kaftan dress with hair long and loose. For the press conference, she'd changed into a slim black maxi dress.

YOUNTVILLE, Calif.: "Dancing With the Stars" pro **Arten Chigvintsev** was arrested Thursday and booked on a domestic violence charge in northern California, according to the local sheriff's office.

When **Napa County Sheriff's** deputies responded to a domestic violence call in Yountville, it was apparent that there was potential abuse and Chigvintsev was arrested, according to sheriff's office spokesperson **Henry Wofford**.

Chigvintsev cooperated with deputies and was charged with felony domestic violence, an offense that they don't charge people with unless there is a very credible witness or apparent markings that suggest abuse, he said. The investigation is ongoing. Wofford could not release any information about the alleged victim or their relationship to Chigvintsev, he said. (AP)

WASHINGTON: A judge rejected a push for a new trial in a multi-million-dollar political conspiracy case against rapper **Prakazrel "Pras" Michel** of the Fugees on Friday.

US District Judge **Colleen Kollar-Kotelly** found his defense attorney's use of a generative AI program during closing arguments and other errors during the Washington D.C. trial didn't amount to a serious miscarriage of justice.

Michel was found guilty of 10 counts after a jury heard testimony from witnesses ranging from actor **Leonardo DiCaprio** to former US Attorney General **Jeff Sessions**. He faces up to 20 years in prison on the top charges. He is free ahead of sentencing, which has not yet been set.

The Grammy-winning rapper was accused of funneling money from a now-fugitive Malaysian financier through straw donors to **Barack Obama's** 2012 reelection campaign, then trying to squelch a Justice Department investigation and influence an extradition case on behalf of **China** under the **Trump** administration.

The defense argued Michel got simply bad advice as he tried to support himself while reinventing himself in the world of politics.

His defense attorney **David Kenner**, well known for his previous representation of rappers like

Suge Knight and **Snoop Dogg**, later pleaded guilty to leaking grand jury information to reporters.

Michel got a new attorney who argued Kenner had made a series of mistakes, including using an "experimental" generative AI program that bungled closing arguments by misattributing a lyric



Chigvintsev Michel

from his client's influential 1990s group.

Michel failed to show, though, that Kenner's handling of the case prejudiced the jury, Judge **Kollar-Kotelly** said. (AP)

PUEBLO, Colo.: Criminal charges were being considered

for a man suspected of hitting a woman during a concert at the Colorado State Fair, authorities said Thursday, in an incident that prompted country music star **Scotty McCreery** to abruptly stop his show and call out the alleged assailant from the stage.

"Right here, right here," McCreery says in video from the event,

as he points into the crowd and the band stops playing. "That's a lady you just hit sir. Absolutely not. Who just hit the lady?"

The singer from **North Carolina** - who gained fame as a teenager appearing on the television show "American Idol" - called for police and security and asked if the woman was OK. (AP)

People & Places

Music

Eurovision host

Oasis reunion ticket sales hit by glitches

LONDON, Aug 31, (AP) — The sale of tickets for Oasis' reunion tour got off to a creaky start on Saturday as online platforms strained under demand from hundreds of thousands of fans.

The Britpop-era behemoth led by brothers Noel and Liam Gallagher is scheduled to play 17 gigs - its first shows for 15 years - in Cardiff, Manchester, London, Edinburgh and Dublin starting July 4.

More than 1 million tickets are up for sale, at prices starting at about 74 pounds (just under \$100).

Some people attempting to get onto the handful of authorized sales sites, including Ticketmaster and Gigs and Tours, received error messages, while many others were informed they were in a lengthy queue.

Some managed to buy tickets through a presale lottery on Friday. Within hours, tickets began to be offered on resale websites for as much as 6,000 pounds (\$7,800).

Oasis issued a warning, saying tickets could only be resold at face value through authorized sites.

"Tickets appearing on other secondary ticketing sites are either counterfeit or will be cancelled by the promoters," it said in a statement.

Formed in Manchester in 1991, Oasis was one of the dominant British acts of the 1990s, 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 singer sibling Liam.

Oasis split in 2009, with Noel Gallagher quitting the band after a backstage dustup with his brother at a festival near Paris. While the Gallagher brothers, now aged 57 and 51, 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, the band said fans would experience "the spark and intensity" that occurs only when they appear on stage together.



Noel

Concerts

The tour will begin July 4 and 5 at the Principality Stadium. Oasis will also perform at Heaton Park in Manchester, on July 11, 12, 16, 19 and 20; London's Wembley Stadium on July 25, 26 and 30 and Aug. 2 and 3; Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh on Aug. 8, 9 and 12; and Croke Park in Dublin on Aug. 16 and 17.

Prices for the London, Cardiff and Edinburgh concerts range from about 74 pounds (\$97) to just over 200 pounds (\$260) for seats, and about 150 pounds (about \$200) to stand. In Manchester, the cheapest tickets are 148 pounds (\$195) to stand, with no seated option.

The costliest option is a 506-pound (\$666) package for the London gigs that includes a pre-show party, admission to an Oasis exhibition, souvenirs and a "premium collectible item."

Tickets for the Dublin shows start at 86.50 euros (\$96) plus booking fee.

Alice Enders, head of research at media consultancy Enders Analysis, said the band could expect a big payday, though the tour, limited for now to the UK and Ireland, pales in comparison to global juggernauts like Taylor Swift's Eras tour.

"The streaming business doesn't really pay," she said. "Most artists nowadays, the only way they can earn money is being live."

She said Oasis is playing catch-up in a live music market that has seen "a relentless climb in expenditure, consumer expenditure, demand for festivals."

"It's been 15 years of a mega-trend that they missed out on, basically," Enders said. "So it's a good thing they're jumping on now. ... If they wait too long, then they are just a bunch of old geezers."

The host cities anticipate an economic boost to hotels, bars, restaurants and shops - especially Manchester, the band's hometown and a city renowned for its musical heritage.

Sacha Lord, Manchester's official nighttime economy adviser, said "there's a big buzz" in the city about the reunion. "This is a homecoming gig," he said. "When they set foot on that stage for the first time, it's going to be a really special moment."

Also:

GENEVA: The Swiss city of Basel will host next year's Eurovision Song Contest from May 13 to 17, organizers announced Friday.

The mostly German-speaking city on the Rhine River bordering both France and Germany was selected over Geneva in a faceoff that generated buzz and anticipation across Switzerland.

Basel's city council said in a statement that it was "delighted with the decision and sees hosting the world's largest music competition as a great opportunity."

"Basel will do everything in its power to be a good host," it said.

The Alpine country won the right to host the annual glitzy song-and-dance extravaganza, which draws hundreds of millions of viewers worldwide, after Swiss singer Nemo won the contest's 68th edition in May in Sweden.

Nemo's winning song, "The Code," is an operatic pop-rap ode to the singer's journey toward embracing a nongender identity. Nemo is the first nonbinary winner of the contest that has long been embraced by the LGBTQ+ community.

Conradin Cramer, president of the Basel regional council, said the 2025 contest would reflect "the spirit of Basel, which is an open-minded spirit, a diverse spirit." He said that as a double border city, "we are used to having guests from all around the world and we will offer those guests an unbelievable experience."

Swiss public broadcaster SSR-SRG said the selection of Basel and the St. Jakobshalle indoor arena was made based on criteria including the hall's suitability to host the event, sustainability and safety issues, funds made available and "creative ideas for the side events."

The song contest is organized each year by the European Broadcasting Union, which is based in Geneva, with dozens of participating broadcasters.

Basel's city council cited an EBU study that found this year's contest in the Swedish city of Malmö reached more than 160 million TV viewers and over 80 million YouTube users around the world. It said the advertising value of the event was estimated to be 805 million euros (\$892 million).

Switzerland hosted and won the first edition in the southern city of Lugano in 1956. Nemo is the first Swiss winner since 1988, when Canada's Celine Dion competed under the Swiss flag.



Jury member Zhang Ziyi poses for photographers upon arrival for the premiere of the film 'Babygirl' during the 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Friday, Aug. 30. (AP)

Film

Cuarón adds cinematic twist to TV series

Blanchett leads thriller 'Disclaimer'

VENICE, Italy, Aug 31, (AP) — Alfonso Cuarón is the first to admit that he does not know how to make a television series. He might even be too old to learn how, he said.

The Oscar-winning filmmaker has technically now made a series, the seven-part AppleTV+ show "Disclaimer," four episodes of which premiered Thursday at the Venice Film Festival. But he did it his way: Like a film.

Based on Renée Knight's 2015 book of the same name, "Disclaimer" is a psychological thriller about a documentarian and journalist, Catherine Ravenscroft (Cate Blanchett), who discovers she's a character in a novel that reveals her darkest secret.

Cuarón, Blanchett and Kevin Kline all made the journey to the Italian film festival to debut and speak about the show before it begins streaming on Oct. 11.

Inspired

"I read the book and immediately in my mind I saw a film, but I didn't know how to make that film," Cuarón, the director of films including "Gravity" and "Roma," said in a news conference Thursday. "It was way too long. I could not shape it as such."

It was only later, he said, that he thought it might work in longer form, inspired by predecessors like Rainer Werner Fassbinder, David Lynch and Krzysztof Kieślowski.

"I was intrigued and that was the point of departure," Cuarón said.

He started writing with one name in mind for Catherine: Blanchett, terrified that she might say no. Not only did she not say no, she also was the one who suggested Kline for a British character. Sacha Baron Cohen plays her husband in the show and Kodi Smit-McPhee plays her son.

All soon realized that approaching it as a film, and shooting it as a film, would take much longer than a normal series. He even enlisted two cinematographers, Emmanuel Lubezki and Bruno Delbonnel, to add a distinct visual language to the different perspectives in the story. All told, it took about a year.

next month.

Emails sent to the LA County Public Defender's Office seeking comment from the men's attorneys were not immediately returned.

Wactor was shot and killed when he interrupted three thieves stealing the catalytic converter from his car on May 25. Police and prosecutors said the 37-year-old had left work at a downtown LA rooftop bar with a coworker when he saw three men

who had hoisted his car. One of them fired at him without provocation and killed him, authorities said. (AP)

MISSION, Kan.: An inmate whose escape from a Kansas prison hidden in a dog crate became the subject of a book and TV movie has died behind bars.

John Manard, who was 45, died Sunday at the La Palma Correctional Facility, a

horror," Morris said. "There has to be a better way."

The film was intended to be both an exploration of the "terrible misdeeds of our recent past" and a "cautionary tale for the future," he wrote in a director's statement.

Soboroff, a correspondent with NBC News, said that as a journalist he's not "here to advocate for one particular policy decision or another." Their hope, though, is for it to not happen again.

"Separated" includes a dramatic recreation of a family separation, brought to life by actors Gabriela Cartol and Diego Armando Lara Lagunes, as well as interviews with Elaine Duke, the former acting head of the Department of Homeland Security, an employee of the Office of Refugee Resettlement and whistleblower Jonathan White.

"We want people to be able to remember what happened and internalize the truth," Soboroff said.

On his first day in office in 2021, President Joe Biden issued an executive order to reunite families that were split up. Two years later, the task force had reconnected nearly 700 children with their families; nearly 1,000 remained separated from their families. The film, which runs only 93 minutes, does not yet have a distributor. The moderator asked if they hoped that it might be acquired, and seen, before November's U.S. presidential election.

"To me it's essential that this comes out before the election," Morris said. "I want this to come out before the election with the hope that it could make a difference."

"It was a really long process," Cuarón said. "And I really feel for the actors because they were stuck with the characters for way too long."

Blanchett laughed that they were "still recovering."

The final three episodes screened Friday at the festival. Though the fes-

tival is most known for its feature film premieres, it does play host to select series as well. This year those also include Joe Wright's Mussolini biopic "M: Son of the Century," Rodrigo Sorogoyen's "The New Years" and Thomas Vinterberg's "Families Like Ours."

private prison in Eloy, Arizona, according to the Kansas Department of Corrections. His cause of death is pending the result of an autopsy, department spokesperson Jennifer King said.

Manard was serving a life sentence for a suburban Kansas City killing at a prison in Lansing, Kansas, when he met Toby Young, a married mother of two who worked helping prisoners train animals for adoption. They struck up a romantic relationship.

On Feb. 12, 2006, Young, then 47, hid Manard, then 27, in a crate and helped him escape. (AP)

NEW YORK: Tom Brady's pending bid to become a part owner of the Las Vegas Raiders has triggered restrictions on his access to teams around the NFL as part of his role as a Fox Sports broadcaster, a league spokesperson said Thursday.

Brady is not permitted to attend in-person or online broadcast production meetings and may not have access to team facilities, players or coaches. Fox staff is not subject to these limitations.

He also must abide by the league constitution and bylaws that prohibit public criticism of officials and other clubs, but is allowed to broadcast Raiders games.

Brady, a seven-time Super Bowl-winning quarterback, is working with play-by-play announcer Kevin Burkhardt on Fox's top NFL broadcasting team. He signed a 10-year deal with the network in 2022, but this is Brady's first season announcing games. (AP)



Kevin Kline, (from left), Cate Blanchett, and series director Alfonso Cuarón pose for photographers at the photo call for the television series 'Disclaimer' during the 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Thursday, Aug. 29. (AP)



Wactor



Perry

Variety

LOS ANGELES: One of two doctors charged in connection with Matthew Perry's death made his first appearance in a federal court in Los Angeles on Friday after reaching a deal to plead guilty and cooperate with prosecutors.

Dr. Mark Chavez, 54, of San Diego, stood in court with his lawyer and told a judge he understood his rights. US Magistrate Judge **Jean P. Rosenbluth** told him he could remain free on bond with several restrictions, including turning over his passport and not working as a doctor. He has agreed to turn over his medical license.

Chavez signed an agreement with prosecutors earlier this month to plead guilty to conspiring to distribute the surgical anesthetic ketamine. He did not enter his guilty plea or speak about the case, which he will do with another judge at a date to be determined.

"He's incredibly remorseful, not just because it happened to Matthew Perry, but because it happened to a patient," Chavez's lawyer Matthew Binninger said outside court with the doctor standing at his side. "He's trying to do everything in his power to right the wrong that happened here. He didn't accept responsibility today, but only because it wasn't on the calendar."

Binninger added, "He's doing everything in his power to cooperate and help with this situation."

Asked what he and Chavez would say to Perry's family, Binninger said, "I'm afraid I can't answer that question other than to say that we're incredibly sorry that someone lost their life. It doesn't matter that he was a famous celebrity, and I know that he was incredibly universally loved by all. It's a shame at what happened." (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Two men charged with murder in the killing of former "General Hospital" actor **Johnny Wactor** pleaded not guilty Thursday in a Los Angeles court.

Robert Barceau and **Sergio Estrada**, both 18, entered the pleas through attorneys to charges of murder, grand theft and attempted robbery.

A third defendant, **Frank Olano**, 22, charged with being an accessory after the fact, also pleaded not guilty. A fourth, **Leonel Gutierrez**, charged with grand theft and attempted robbery but not with killing Wactor, is expected to enter a plea



Puerto Rico's singer Ricky Martin performs in concert at his 'Sinfonico' tour in Panama city, Thursday, Aug. 29. (AP)

Other Voices

Middle East faces smoking challenges

Smokeless nicotine regulation key to reducing tobacco harm

By Marwan Hamade

Head of Legal for BAT Middle East Cluster covering the following countries: KSA, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, UAE, Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan



Marwan Hamade

In the Middle East, on average, 20% of the adult population are smokers, which makes smoking one of the most persistent cultural staples and a notable challenge to public health. This means that tobacco harm reduction (THR) – a public health strategy that advocates for providing adult smokers, who choose not to quit, with reduced-risk* sources of nicotine – is particularly relevant for the region.

A study that encompasses the 390 million people living in the region, as well as Egypt and Pakistan, found that about 61 million adults use tobacco products, of which some 15% could be affected by a range of morbidities and other serious health issues by 2060.

Governments and policymakers are essentially the gatekeepers that aim to reduce the health risks associated with

smoking, and they can often make all the difference in the adoption and effective regulation of scientifically substantiated, reduced-risk* smokeless alternatives.

Regulations based on the risk associated with smokeless product categories like vaping, heated products, and nicotine pouches, as compared to conventional cigarettes, can play a fundamental role in mitigating the health risks associated with smoking and lightening the burden on healthcare systems worldwide.

One of the authors of the 2024 'Effective Anti-Smoking Policies Global Index', a wide-ranging analysis and ranking of public anti-smoking policies covering 69 countries and four regions, highlighted that in a regulatory context, "prohibitionist policies used to be the only way to deal with smoking." He, however, resoundingly declares that this approach "is not the efficient way to punish people for what they enjoy and what they cannot give up on that easily".

Cessation

WHO has also highlighted the ineffectiveness of the conventional approach to smoking cessation, predicting that, without THR, the Middle East will experience only a nominal

decrease in smoking, from 33.3% in 2020 to 31% in 2025.

In fact, studies have confirmed that THR strategy implementation and use of smokeless alternatives "increases with financial incentives" Canada, for instance, has gone as far as "reimbursing [non-combustible] products use through provincial drug insurance plans".

But a more common regulatory approach to accelerating the switch for adult smokers, who would otherwise continue to smoke, and reducing smoking rates entails an evidence-based, risk proportionate taxation of reduced-risk* alternatives. The taxation of reduced risk* alternatives according to the level of risk associated with the category, in comparison to cigarettes, presents a pragmatic approach to tobacco control that prioritizes harm reduction and positive public health outcomes.

By recognizing the adoption of smokeless alternatives through sensible, risk-appropriate regulations, policymakers can enable adult smokers to make informed choices while reducing

the overall incidence of smoking and the likelihood of lapsing back to conventional tobacco use.

Indeed, countries across the globe that have opted for regulations that secure the mass availability of reduced-risk* alternatives have produced noteworthy success stories. Japan was estimated to represent 85% of global heat-not-burn (HNB) sales by 2018, resulting in the decline of cigarette sales from 197.5 billion units in 2011 to 93.7 billion in 2021. Modern Oral products such as nicotine pouches also play a key role, the success of which is illustrated by Sweden's experience in transitioning to smokeless tobacco consumption. Since 2012, the country has seen an increase in snus and nicotine pouches consumption, resulting in a steady decline in smoking rates, and currently has "the lowest male smoking prevalence in Europe... of just 5% among Swedish men compared with the EU average of over 25%". Sweden is on track to declare themselves smokefree this year – defined as having fewer than 5% of daily smokers

in the population – 16 years ahead of the 2040 EU target. This success, significantly ahead of the EU's smoke-free goal, lies not only in the availability of smokeless nicotine alternatives but also in a regulatory environment that supports their use.

The Middle East stands at a crossroads in its longstanding relationship with conventional tobacco. Traditional control measures are inadequate on their own, so legislation enabling acceptability, accessibility and affordability of smokeless nicotine alternatives and risk proportionate regulations is a critical component of a comprehensive tobacco harm reduction strategy. By adopting such measures, countries in the Middle East can reduce the health burden of conventional tobacco and pave the way for a better, smokeless tomorrow.

*Based on the weight of evidence and assuming a complete switch from cigarette smoking. These products are not risk free and are addictive.

Outdoor smoking ban

Saudi Arabia achieves first gene therapy success for thalassemia

RIYADH, Aug 31, (Agencies): The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made a medical breakthrough, with King Abdulaziz Medical City in Riyadh (KAMC-RD) of the Ministry of National Guard - Health Affairs (MNG-HA) successfully utilizing Casgevy gene editing technology to treat a 13-year-old patient with thalassemia major.

The achievement is the first of its kind outside clinical trials and research, the Saudi Press Agency reported on Thursday.

The patient, who had been reliant on blood transfusions every three weeks since birth, left the medical city after the successful transplantation of gene cells, making a complete recovery, according to the SPA report.

The Kingdom is preparing to soon implement more of these advanced gene therapies for several patients with sickle cell anemia and thalassemia, further solidifying its position in the field of gene therapy on a global scale.

Smoking: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer confirmed Thursday that his government is looking at introducing tougher anti-smoking measures, which could potentially see a ban on smoking in outdoor spaces, including at pubs and restaurants.

His confirmation came after the Sun newspaper said a ban on smoking outside in pub gardens, outdoors in pubs and restaurants, and outside facilities such as hospitals, universities and sports grounds, was under discussion.

The prospect was widely criticized by hospitality bosses, who said it would be an overreach of the state and another potential blow to their finances.

Smoking in the U.K. has been banned inside pubs, restaurants and most workplaces since 2007. Still, smoking-related illnesses remain a drain on the National Health Service, costing it over 2.5 billion pounds a year in England alone, according to figures from the NHS.

"My starting point on this is to remind everybody that over 80,000 people lose their lives every year because of smoking," Starmer said in Paris while visiting French President Emmanuel Macron. "So, yes, we are going

Vaccines soon

Africa's mpox can end in six months

GENEVA, Aug 31, (AP): The head of the World Health Organization believes the ongoing mpox outbreaks in Africa might be stopped in the next six months, and said Friday that the agency's first shipment of vaccines should arrive in Congo within days.

To date, Africa has received just a tiny fraction of the vaccines needed to slow the spread of the virus, especially in Congo, which has the most cases - more than 18,000 suspected cases and 629 deaths.

"With the governments' leadership and close cooperation between partners, we believe we can stop these outbreaks in the next six months," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a press briefing.

He said that while mpox infections have been rising quickly in the last few weeks, there have been relatively few deaths. Tedros also noted there were 258 cases of the newest version of mpox, with patients identified in Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, Sweden and Thailand.

Earlier this month, WHO declared the ongoing mpox outbreaks in Africa a global emergency, hoping to spur a robust global response to the disease on a continent where cases were spreading largely unnoticed for years, including in Nigeria. In May, scientists detected a new version of the disease in Congo that they think could be spreading more easily.

Mpox, also known as monkeypox, is related to smallpox but typically causes milder symptoms, including fever, headache and body aches.

to take decisions in this space, more details will be revealed, but this is a preventable series of deaths and we've got to take action to reduce the burden on the NHS and the taxpayer."

LONDON, Aug 31, (AP): The baby in Gaza who was recently paralyzed by polio was infected with a mutated strain of the virus that vaccinated people shed in their waste, according to scientists who say the case is the result of "an unqualified failure" of public health policy.

The infection, which marked the first detection of polio in the war-torn Palestinian territory in more than 25 years, paralyzed the lower part of one leg in the unvaccinated 10-month-old child. The baby boy was one of hundreds of thousands of children who missed vaccinations because of the fighting between Israel and Hamas.

Scientists who have been monitoring polio outbreaks said the baby's illness showed the failures of a global effort by the World Health Organization and its partners to fix serious problems in their otherwise largely successful eradication campaign, which has nearly wiped out the highly infectious disease. Separately, a draft report by experts deemed the WHO effort a failure and "a severe setback."

The polio strain in question evolved from a weakened virus that was originally part of an oral vaccine credited with preventing millions of children worldwide from being paralyzed. But that virus was removed from the vaccine in 2016 in hopes of preventing vaccine-derived outbreaks.

Public health authorities knew that decision would leave people unprotected against that particular strain, but they thought they had a plan to ward off and quickly contain any outbreaks. Instead, the move resulted in a surge of thousands of cases.

Strategy

"It was a really horrible strategy," said Columbia University virologist Vincent Racaniello, who was not involved with the report or the WHO. "The decision to switch vaccines was based on an incorrect assumption, and the result is now we have more polio

'Limited ceasefires for polio vaccinations'

Polio strain in Gaza baby tied to eradication campaign mistakes



Displaced infant Abdel-Rahman Abu El-Jedjan, who suffers from polio, sleeps at a makeshift tent camp in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, Tuesday, Aug 27. (AP)

and more paralyzed children."

A draft copy of the report commissioned by the WHO and independent experts said the plan underestimated the amount of the strain in the environment and overestimated how well officials would be able to squash outbreaks.

The plan led to vaccine-linked polio outbreaks in 43 countries that paralyzed more than 3,300 children, the report concluded.

Even before the Gaza case was detected, officials reviewing the initiative to tinker with the vaccine concluded that "the worst-case scenario has materialized," the report said.

The report has not yet been published, and some changes will likely be made before the final version is released next month, the WHO said.

The strain that infected the baby in Gaza had lingered in the environment and mutated into a version capable of starting outbreaks. It was traced to polio viruses spreading last year in Egypt, according to genetic sequencing, the WHO said.

The report's authors faulted leaders at the WHO and its partners, saying they were unable or unwilling "to recognize the seriousness of the evolving problem and take corrective action."

WHO spokesman Oliver Rosenbauer acknowledged that the vaccine strategy "exacerbated" the risk of epidemics linked to the vaccine.

He said in an email that immunization "was not implemented in such a way to rapidly stop outbreaks or to prevent new strains from emerging." Rosenbauer said not hitting vaccination targets was the biggest risk for allowing vaccine-linked viruses to emerge.

"You need to reach the children with the vaccines ... regardless of which vaccines are used," he said.

The WHO estimates that 95% of the population needs to be immunized against polio to stop outbreaks. The U.N. health agency said only about 90% of Gaza's population was vaccinated earlier this year.

Also:

UNITED NATIONS: The UN World Health Organization announced Thursday that there will be limited pauses in fighting in Gaza to allow for polio vaccinations for hundreds of thousands of children after a baby contracted the first confirmed case in 25 years in the Palestinian territory.

Described as "humanitarian pauses" that will last three days in different areas of the war-ravaged territory, the vaccination campaign will start Sunday in central Gaza, said Rik Peepkorn, World Health Organization representative in the Palestinian territories.

That will be followed by another three-day pause in southern Gaza and then another in northern Gaza. He thinks they might need additional days to complete the vaccinations.

Peepkorn says they aim to vaccinate 640,000 children under 10 and that the campaign has been coordinated with Israeli authorities.

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Mehidy bags 5-wicket haul

Sloppy B'desh fielding allows Pakistan to score 274 in 2nd test

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Aug 31, (AP) — Off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz grabbed 5-61 and helped Bangladesh bowl out Pakistan for 274 on Day 2 of the second and final test on Saturday.

Mehidy's 10th five-wicket haul in test matches was well supported by Taskin Ahmed's 3-57 in his comeback test match from a shoulder injury, but the tourists were sloppy in the field and dropped at least four catches which allowed Pakistan to recover.

Bangladesh reached a nervy 10-0 in the two overs before stumps and trails by 264 runs as Saud Shakeel couldn't hold onto a regulation catch of Shadman Islam in the slips cordon off Mir Hamza's first ball.

"It's great to be back in red-ball cricket after 1-1/2 years, I really enjoyed," Ahmed said. "I struggled a bit as well, but it will be fine in the second innings."

Bangladesh is chasing a rare away win in a bilateral test series and leads the two-match series 1-0 after it notched a historic 10-wicket win at the same venue last week.

CRICKET

Bangladesh had an injury scare when Mushfiqur Rahim, who scored 191 in the first test, left the field in the second session as he dived to stop the ball in the outfield and injured his shoulder.

After the opening day's play in the second test was washed out due to persistent rain, Bangladesh had Pakistan in early trouble when Ahmed exploited the early moisture on a green-top wicket and hit the top of Abdullah Shafique's stumps in the first over off a delivery that swung back into the right-hander.

"That (wicket) was really enjoyable for me because I had set him up," Ahmed said. "They have very good bowling side as well and my advice to our batters is 'make the new ball old and then you will benefit.'"

Captain Shan Masood made 57 off 69 balls and Saim Ayub scored 58, but both left-handers got dismissed by Mehidy in quick succession af-

ter lunch after sharing 107-run stand that saw Bangladesh picking up four wickets in the session.

Shakeel was undone by Ahmed's short ball and chopped the ball back onto his stumps and Babar Azam's barren run in test matches continued despite the former all-format captain spending nearly two hours at the wicket. Babar, who hasn't scored a half century in his last 15 test innings, looked scratchy in his 31-run knock before he was trapped leg before wicket on the back foot by Shakib Al Hasan.

Mohammad Rizwan (29) looped an easy catch in the first slip to captain Najmul Hossain Shanto when he got deceived by an awkward bounce of tall fast bowler Nahid Rana as

Pakistan slipped to 211-6. Spin all-rounder Salman Ali Agha frustrated Bangladesh by compiling 54 off 95 balls as he capitalized on a dropped catch before he had scored.

"Unlike the first test, this wicket has a lively grass and I believe we have enough runs on board," said Salman, who raised his half-century with a pulled six off Ahmed with the second new ball before he holed out at fine leg while going for a similar shot.

"There's a lot for fast bowlers on this surface and I think I have a role to play with Abrar as there's some deviation for spinners too."

Mehidy completed his five-wicket haul when he had No. 10 Abrar Ahmed stumped as the off-spinner

shared the second new ball with Ahmed and wrapped up Pakistan's innings.

Pakistan made two bowling changes and brought in specialist spinner Abrar in place of struggling Shaheen Shah Afridi. In a surprise move Pakistan rested new-ball bowler Naseem Shah and included left-arm fast bowler Hamza on another green-top wicket.

Bangladesh brought in Ahmed after Shoriful Islam was ruled out due to groin injury he sustained during the first test.

Both teams are languishing in the bottom half of World Test Championship standings with Bangladesh at No. 7 and Pakistan at No. 8, just ahead of last-place West Indies.

Inter thrashes Atalanta as Torino maintains strong start in Serie A



Atalanta's Berat Djimsiti, left, and Inter Milan's Marcus Thuram vie for the ball during the Serie A soccer match between Inter Milan and Atalanta at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy. (AP)

Thuram plays a starring role

MILAN, Aug 31, (AP) — Marcus Thuram scored twice and played a starring role as reigning champion Inter Milan went to the top of Serie A after a 4-0 win over Atalanta.

The result extended Inter's unbeaten start to the season and tied it at the top with Torino, which beat Venezia 1-0 earlier in the day. Both teams have seven points from three games.

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Inter started the match in devastating style with two goals in the first 10 minutes.

The opener was a disaster for Atalanta defender Berat Djimsiti. He stretched to stop Thuram's cross but succeeded only in deflecting the ball past his own goalkeeper.

There was no luck about the second seven minutes later. Nicolò Barella volleyed home a cracker from the edge of the box to give In-

Lyon 'off' the mark as Orban double caps thrilling comeback in win over Strasbourg

LYON, France, Aug 31, (AP) — Nigerian striker Gift Orban scored a second-half double to give Lyon a thrilling 4-3 come-from-behind win over Strasbourg in the French league.

The victory was Lyon's first points of the season after two consecutive defeats and a particular triumph for substitute Orban.

He struggled during his first six months at Lyon, scoring just once in 17 league appearances. But he

took a commanding early lead.

Thuram hit the woodwork before halftime but he deservedly got his name on the scoresheet two minutes into the second half when he seized on a loose ball in the box and poked it home.

Nine minutes later, he got his

doubled that tally in a dramatic second-half comeback in front of his own fans at Groupama Stadium.

Lyon had already come back from behind after losing a goal

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to sluggish defending in the third minute.

Corentin Tolisso equalized seconds before halftime but the

second with another opportunist goal inside the penalty area.

Earlier, Saul Coco scored with five minutes remaining to give Torino a 1-0 win at Venezia and extended its unbeaten start to the season.

Coco's glancing header came at the end of a tepid game in which

host was behind again early in the second half when first Andrey Santos and then Emanuel Emegha struck within 10 minutes of the restart.

English defender Ashley Maitland-Niles gave Lyon a lifeline when he made it 3-2 after an hour and then Orban appeared with two goals in nine minutes, his second a perfectly placed header.

The result lifted Lyon to 11th place, four behind Strasbourg.

neither side created many clear-cut chances.

It was the central defender's first Serie A goal since joining Torino from Las Palmas this summer.

Venezia has one point from its first three matches and is second to last on the table. Atalanta is eighth.

Ever-increasing game schedule

Sidelining of top players fuels burnout concerns

MONACO, Aug 31, (AP) — Jude Bellingham and Rodri have key starring roles for title-winning soccer clubs and their national teams. Neither is currently playing matches.

Both are being carefully managed early in another congested season that shapes to keep both busy well into July. Again.

Bellingham's Real Madrid and Rodri's Manchester City have more games in a deeper Champions League schedule through January, and both teams qualified for a new month-long FIFA club tournament in the United States to end the season.

SOCCER

The relentless two-games-per-week schedule - almost routine in top-level European soccer since the pandemic-delayed 2019-20 season - is fueling concern about burning out the best players with expanded international events.

Bellingham was sidelined 10 days into Madrid's competitive season which started just one month after he was on the losing England team against Spain in the European Championship final.

Announcing his muscle injury on Aug. 23, the 21-year-old star acknowledged "maybe my body is telling me it needs a bit more rest after a busy year."

Rodri was essential last season, the Euro 2024 player of the tournament who never lost a game with Spain, nor in the Premier League to help Man City win a fourth straight title.

"I do need a rest," Rodri famously said in April after a 3-3 draw at Madrid in the Champions League quarterfinals. Man City's title defense ended in a penalty shootout after the second leg also was drawn.

Now Rodri is resting in Manchester, missing the first two rounds in the English Premier League. His club said he is being eased back after on a personal training program after a 63-game season.

Man City's intense August-to-July schedule was highlighted by Portugal defender Ruben Dias in a social media post with a laughter emoji.

"It's impossible to maintain an optimal level of performance," Dani Carvajal, the Madrid and Spain defender, said this month. "I think that should be analyzed by the people in charge of football."

As European champion, Madrid also must play a FIFA Intercontinental Cup game in December, possibly in Qatar.

European soccer body UEFA agreed to a new and bigger Champions League format that starts Sept. 17 after being pressured for years by storied and wealthy clubs like Madrid.

"The need to play regular matches in Europe is a need from the clubs, it's not a need for UEFA," one of its senior officials, Giorgio Marchetti, said Wednesday in Monaco ahead of the Champions League draw.

The influential European Club Association, now led by Paris Saint-Germain president Nasser al-Khelaifi, pushed hard for more high-



In this file photo, Spain's Rodri holds the player of the tournament trophy after the final match between Spain and England at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Berlin, Germany. (AP)

profile games to drive up revenue. That typically pays for higher transfer fees and player salaries.

"It's amazing also for the players," Al-Khelaifi told reporters in Monaco. "They prefer to play matches than to train."

PSG, Madrid and Man City are among the 12 European clubs that qualified for the 32-team Club World Cup that FIFA will relaunch in June.

European clubs once did not want the Club World Cup, also seeing a risk to the status of the Champions League though FIFA scheduled it only in 2025 and 2029.

The clubs have long expected to earn tens of millions of dollars in FIFA prize money from playing up to seven games, though the tournament's commercial strategy is still unclear even with Saudi Arabian backing.

The Club World Cup has become a legal dispute. The global player union FIFPRO's European division joined national leagues to file a complaint against FIFA with the European Commission in Brussels.

"Players are being pushed beyond their limits, with significant injury risks and impacts on their welfare and fundamental rights," FIFPRO warned FIFA in May.

The union targeted the FIFA event though not UEFA's expanded club events which will steer hundreds of millions of euros (dollars) more to the 108 European clubs playing in the three annual club competitions.

For clubs, the need to be in high-profile, lucrative international events is pressing.

Manchester United is taking a nine-figure revenue hit this season by not playing in the Champions League or Club World Cup. It still has a packed domestic program and the second-tier Europa League.

"The intensity of the Premier League and the two domestic cup competitions that we have does add a little bit more," Man United sporting director Dan Ashworth said Friday in Monaco. "But we will be well-equipped, we are pleased with the squad."

United is not in the Club World Cup because it did not win the Champions League in the past four years. Man City and Chelsea did to earn England's two entries.

Palou and Power take IndyCar champ'ship fight into Milwaukee Mile doubleheader

WEST ALLIS, Aug 31, (AP) — IndyCar returns to the Milwaukee Mile after an eight-year absence with a championship on the line between a pair of drivers each seeking a third series championship.

In one corner stands points leader Alex Palou, a calculating Chip Ganassi Racing driver seeking his second consecutive IndyCar title and third in four years.

In the other is Will Power, one of IndyCar's greatest drivers and a Team Penske stalwart who won the 2022 championship sandwiched between Palou's two titles.

Palou carries a 54-point lead into this weekend's doubleheader - one race Saturday night, the other Sunday - and theoretically could put Power away with a race to spare.

But here's where things get interesting: Power is one of five drivers in the IndyCar field who has raced before on the 1-mile oval located on the grounds of the Wisconsin State Fair. The Australian has seven career starts, including a victory.

Palou? He has tested once at Milwaukee. Power, winner last week on the road course at Portland to tighten the title race, has 10 career wins on ovals. Palou has never won an oval.

Asked if that makes a difference, Power teammate Josef Newgarden tried to rattle the Spaniard about his lack of experience on ovals.

"It means a lot. It's very indicative I think to how Alex is going to perform. He should be nervous about that," Newgarden said. "It's tough for a guy like him.

You should be very concerned. It's not good for you history-wise. Alarming. Alarm bells are going off, let me tell you that."

"If I show up to Milwaukee," Palou responded. "I'm so nervous."

"It's so bleak, you might as well not go," Newgarden replied.

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Alas, when the paddock opened Friday, Palou was front and center and underlined by Newgarden's attempt at mind games.

"Yeah, yeah, I showed up. I like my way of doing things," Palou said.

It has worked quite well since Palou's move in 2021 to Ganassi, the rival to Penske as the top two teams in IndyCar. He has won 11

races - all on road and street courses - and given the team two IndyCar titles despite continual distractions from a contract dispute with McLaren Racing that has Palou facing a lawsuit that seeks more than \$30 million in damages.

He has been unflappable since he took over the No. 10 and has a reputation for almost never making mistakes. But Palou had both a spin and a stall on the oval at Iowa, evidence that he can err on track.

Power knows that Palou's points lead is ample enough that Power has to be the aggressor and is aiming to sweep both races at Milwaukee. Palou, though, has no intention of being conservative to maintain his hold on the championship leading into the Sept. 15 finale at Nashville Super-

speedway.

"I think we need to try and go for it, like, we need to try to go for wins," Palou said. "In terms of going into the race and what strategies we do, I don't think we need to play conservative, to be quiet, because that's when the (stuff) starts happening, changing the game."

"We need to be more conservative on moves and last couple of stints, but not in the way we race. I think I can allow myself to be aggressive."

Shy of a pair of wins, Power knows he must finish ahead of Palou both Saturday and Sunday to still be in the title picture at Nashville. Team Penske tested earlier this summer at Milwaukee - as did Palou, in a separate test - and the trio of Penske drivers were decidedly superior

to the rest of the field.

It created talk of team orders come this weekend and if there's any chance Newgarden or Scott McLaughlin might assist Power in closing the gap on Palou. Team Penske has traditionally shied away from using team orders to manufacturer a win.

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Kuwait junior team departs for Amman

Kuwait Club heads to Croatia for training camp ahead of Arab Handball Championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/ArabTimes Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The Kuwait Club delegation has departed for Croatia to hold an external training camp that will run until the 13th of this month. This camp is part of the team's preparations for the 39th Arab Club Handball Championship for League and Cup Champions, which "Kuwait will host from September 15-26. During the camp, the team will participate in several friendly matches to hone its skills."

The delegation is led by Sameh Al-Hajri, Handball Director of Kuwait Club, and includes the technical and administrative staff, along with 20 players.

During the draw the defending champion was placed in Group One alongside Al-Ahly of Qatar, Al-Karkh of Iraq, Al-Qoton of Yemen, Mudhar of Saudi Arabia, and Al-Salmiya of Kuwait. Group Two includes Al-Bank Al-Ahly of Egypt, Al-Gharafa of Qatar, Maliha of the UAE, Al-Qadisiya of Kuwait, and Al-Hashd of Iraq.

Meanwhile, the Al-Salmiya handball team has begun daily training at its camp in Doha. The delegation, headed by Tariq Al-Aidan, includes the technical staff led by coach Yaqoub Al-

Moussawi and the administrative staff led by team manager Ali Al-Moussa, along with 18 players, including professional players Valentin Spohn from Germany and Mohamed Al-Soussi from Tunisia.

The team is scheduled to play four matches in Doha: against Al-Sadd tomorrow, Al-Rayyan on the 6th, Al-Duhail on the 9th, and finally Al-Arabi on the 12th, before returning home on the 13th.

In another development, the junior handball team will depart for Amman, Jordan, today to participate in the 10th Asian Championship, which also serves as a qualifier for the 2025 World Cup. The team will compete in Group Four of the preliminary round alongside China, Iran, and Chinese Taipei, with its first match against Taipei scheduled for the day after tomorrow.

The delegation is headed by the Vice President of the Federation, Shabib Al-Hajri, and includes the Director of National Teams, Faisal Saywan, as well as the technical staff led by coach Marko Martinovic and assistant coach Hussein Habib, along with the players.



President of Kuwait Handball Federation honors South Korean ambassador.

'Kuwait to secure new facility for aquatics training, development'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr, Chairman of the Kuwait Aquatics Federation, announced that the Federation's Board of Directors will be intensifying efforts to collaborate with relevant authorities to secure dedicated sports facility. This facility will

support the implementation of training programs and preparation for various sports events, including Gulf, Arab, continental, and international competitions.

Sheikh Al-Badr also extended his congratulations to the Kuwaiti athletes who participated in the Arab Youth Aquatics Championship in Egypt, where 17 countries competed. The Kuwaiti team achieved remarkable success, winning 26 medals and setting new Arab records. This accomplishment, Sheikh Al-Badr emphasized, underscores the positive trajectory of water sports in Kuwait, thanks to the collective efforts of the Federation's Board, players, technical and administrative staff, and supportive families.

Looking ahead, Sheikh Al-Badr highlighted the Federation's commitment to advancing a clear roadmap focused on developing age groups and the junior base, which he believes is crucial for the future of water sports in Kuwait.



Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr

Kazma taps Al-Shaabi to lead team



Lassad Al-Shaabi

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Kazma has signed Tunisian coach Lassad Al-Shaabi to lead the team for the current season, replacing Mohamed Dahillis, who resigned immediately after the conclusion of the third round of the Zain Premier League.

Kazma secured only 3 points from 3 matches, dropping to sixth

SOCCER

place in the league standings.

Coach Al-Shaabi arrived yesterday morning and began his duties in the evening, ahead of his official debut in upcoming matches. Kazma is set to face Al-Tadamon on September 14, Al-Qadisiyah on the 21st, and Al-Fahaheel on the 28th in the league.

Al-Shaabi brings a wealth of experience, having previously

coached Ried, Ratchaburi in Thailand, Al-Ittihad Monastir in Tunisia, Raja Casablanca in Morocco, Etoile du Sahel in Tunisia, Difaai Hassani in Morocco, and Al-Suwaihli in Libya.

His achievements include winning the Tunisian Cup with Al-Ittihad Monastir, the African Confederation Cup with Raja Casablanca, and the Arab Club Champions Cup.

Kazma has completed its foreign player signings by bringing in Nigerian Kingsley Sokari, who becomes the fifth international player on the team.

Sokari joins the ranks of foreign players Reda Bencha (Algeria), Rafael Guimaraes "Dodo" (Brazil), Ahmed Arsan (Jordan), and Hansel Zapata (Colombia).

In a related development, Kazma recently drew 1-1 with Al-Salmiya in a friendly match held at Thamer Stadium. Hansel Zapata scored for Kazma, while Abdulaziz Marwi netted the equalizer for Al-Salmiya.

Back-to-back 'surprises', Djokovic and Alcaraz fall

Sabalenka wins latest-starting match in US Open history

NEW YORK, Aug 31, (AP): Novak Djokovic did not go easy on himself when assessing the listless way he performed from the start of the U.S. Open, pointing to his sloppy serving as the main reason the defense of his 2023 title surprisingly ended in the third round.

With 14 double-faults, raising his tournament total to 32, Djokovic bowed out with a 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 loss to 28th-seeded Alexei Popyrin of Australia, another shocking result at Flushing Meadows one night after 2022 champion Carlos Alcaraz exited.

It's only the third time in the Open era that two of the top three men's seeds at the U.S. Open are gone before the fourth round; the other instances were in 1973 and 2000.

After all, Djokovic was trying to become the first player in tennis history with 25 Grand Slam singles titles. Instead, after knee surgery in June, he finishes a year without claiming at least one major championship for the first time since 2017. Before that, it hadn't happened since 2010.

TENNIS

Also of note: 2024 now becomes the first season since 2002 in which none of the Big Three of men's tennis - Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer - earned a Slam trophy.

The third-round exit equals Djokovic's worst showing at Flushing Meadows; the only other occasions he was beaten that early at the U.S. Open came in 2005 and 2006. The man who defeated Djokovic 18 years ago, International Tennis Hall of Fame member Lleyton Hewitt, is now Australia's Davis Cup captain and was sitting in Popyrin's guest box in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Djokovic, Popyrin said, "wasn't playing his best tennis; I was waiting for him to kind of step up."

Djokovic, who is 37, has reached the final in Ashe 10 times, leaving with the title in 2011, 2015, 2018 and 2023.

The No. 3-seeded Alcaraz entered the U.S. Open as the tournament favorite having won the French Open and Wimbledon, and acknowledged his energy was lower than he realized after getting eliminated by 74th-ranked Botić van de Zandschulp 6-1, 7-5, 6-4. Now Popyrin will try to reach his first Grand Slam quarterfinal by getting past No. 20 Frances Tiafoe, who advanced with a 4-6, 7-5, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-3 win over No. 13 Ben Shelton in a matchup between two Americans.

Coco Gauff was not aware that she'd lost five consecutive matches against opponents ranked in the top 50. She was not sure exactly how many points in a row she'd dropped - 11, it turns out - to give away the first set against Elina Svitolina in the U.S. Open's third round.

Here, then, is what was entirely

McLaren locks out the front row at Monza

Norris secures pole for Italian GP

MONZA, Italy, Aug 31, (AP): Lando Norris surged into pole position in qualifying for Sunday's Italian Grand Prix as he tries to cut further into Max Verstappen's championship lead.

McLaren locked out the front of the grid for the race at Monza as Norris finished 0.109 ahead of teammate Oscar Piastri on Saturday.

Moreover, Verstappen will start back in seventh on a circuit where overtaking is tricky. The three-time defending champion has already seen his lead in the drivers' standings cut to 70 points by Norris, with nine races left.

The top six in qualifying on Saturday were separated by less than two tenths of a second.

Mercedes driver George Russell will start third, just ahead of the Ferrari duo of Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz.

Lewis Hamilton will be sixth on the grid in his last time racing at Monza as a Mercedes driver before his move to Ferrari at the end of the season. Teenager Kimi Antonelli has been named as Lewis Hamilton's replacement next year at Mercedes, a day after his Formula One debut ended in the 18-year-old Italian driver hitting the wall.

Team principal Toto Wolff had said the crash in first practice for Sunday's Italian Grand Prix would have no impact on Antonelli's F1 chances, and confirmation of his elevation to partner with George Russell was announced ahead of Saturday's final practice at his home event. Speculation has been rampant on who would replace Hamilton at Mercedes, since the seven-time F1 champion announced he was departing for Ferrari at the end of the season.

There were even attempts to woo three-time defending champion Max Verstappen from Red Bull but Wolff said he always wanted to go with Antonelli, who has

been with Mercedes since he joined its junior program when he was 12.

"I made up my mind five minutes after Lewis Hamilton told me that he's going to Ferrari," Wolff told reporters at Monza. "Obviously, we were discussing with other options and also kept the Max idea, didn't discount it completely with looking at what happened at Red Bull. "But instinctively, that is the lineup with these two that I always wanted."

However, the door does not appear to be completely closed to Verstappen signing the following year, with Mercedes saying that at this stage the Russell-Antonelli lineup was only for 2025.

Wolff remained coy when pressed on the matter. He said he believes "100% that they are the best choice" for

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the team but acknowledged it was "most important is to see how George and Kimi settle in" at the "pressure cooker" that is Mercedes.

"I don't flirt outside, I've always said it," Wolff continued. "All of our focus in the team is on George and Kimi. There's no discussion, there's no second thoughts about what we're doing in 2026, because now it's about 2024 and 2025."

"And if flirting outside happens, then they will know it at the same time when we have those discussions, I always mean that."

After titles in Karting and Formula 4, Antonelli only made the step up to F2 this year, winning two races.

Antonelli, who turned 18 just last Sunday, has big boots to fill with Hamilton having broken a slew of records with Mercedes as he developed into one of the greatest racing drivers of all time.

clear to Gauff at that moment: "I needed a reset." So before the second set, the 20-year-old from Florida went to the bathroom, changed part of her outfit and splashed water on her face. Then Gauff went back on court and extended the defense of her first Grand Slam title by turning things around to beat the 27th-seeded Svitolina 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

On Sunday, Gauff will face No. 13 Emma Navarro, one of her teammates at the Paris Olympics, for a

berth in the quarterfinals. Navarro eliminated Gauff in the fourth round at Wimbledon. Navarro advanced with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 victory over No. 19 Marta Kostyuk.

Aryna Sabalenka finally got rolling after a bad beginning to the latest-starting match in U.S. Open history, regrouping to beat No. 29 Ekaterina Alexandrova early Saturday to reach the fourth round.

The No. 2 seed didn't hit the first shot of the match until after midnight

and had dropped the first set barely a half-hour later. But she seized control early in the second set, winning 10 straight games to open a 5-0 lead in the third.

The runner-up last year in Flushing Meadows advanced to face No. 33 seed Elise Mertens on Sunday.

The previous latest start to a match at the U.S. Open was exactly at midnight on Sept. 2, 1987, with Gabriela Sabatini going on to beat Beverly Bowes 6-3, 6-3.



Casper Ruud, of Norway returns a shot to Juncheng Shang during a third round match of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)



Gladbach's Ko Itakura, left, and Bochum's Moritz Broschinski fight for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between VfL Bochum and Borussia Mönchengladbach in Bochum, Germany. (AP)

Sports

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Kuwait's Dubai camp 'key' to success against Jordan in World Cup qualifier

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/ArabTimes Staff

DUBAI, Aug 31: Kuwait is intensifying its training at a preparatory camp in Dubai ahead of their crucial match against Jordan on September 5 in the Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup.

Acting head of the Kuwait Football Association Haif along with Kuwait's Consul General in Dubai and the Northern Emirates, Ambassador Ali Al-Dhaidi, have been actively supporting the team, ensuring the camp proceeds smoothly and effectively.

SOCCER

National team's director Saud Al-Mejmid told KUNA that the camp is a vital part of Kuwait's serious preparations for the 2026 World Cup qualifiers against Jordan. "Our goal is to improve player performance and strengthen team spirit ahead of this important match," Al-Mejmid stated.

He emphasized the importance of focusing on both physical and tactical training, as well as psychological preparation, noting that the technical staff is working diligently to develop strategies that will lead to positive results.

Ambassador Al-Zaidi expressed his hopes that the Kuwait team will deliver a performance that honors the country's football legacy. He urged the players to give their best efforts to meet the expectations of Kuwaiti fans and secure a place in the final rounds.

Al-Zaidi also highlighted the Consulate General's commitment to supporting the team and providing all necessary facilities to ensure the success of their camp in Dubai.

Jordan's coach, Jamal Salami, has announced a 26-player squad for the upcoming matches against Kuwait and Palestine. The list includes:

Yazid Abu Laila, Nour Bani Attia, Abdullah Al-Fakhouri, Ihsan Haddad, Yousef Abu Al-Jazar, Mohammed Abu Hashesh, Muhammad Abu Taha, Abdullah Naseeb, Saad Al-Rawsan, Yazan Al-Arab, Mohammed Abu Al-Nadi, Salem Al-Ajaleen, Hussam Abu Dhahab, Ibrahim Saada, Nour Al-Din Al-Rawabdeh, Nizar Al-Rashdan, Rajai Ayed, Mahmoud Shawkat, Yousef Abu Jalboush, Mahmoud Mardi, Mohammed Abu Zureiq, Ali Alwan, Musa Al-Taamari, Abdullah Al-Attar, Rizq Bani Hani, and Yazan Al-Naimat.

Notably, eight players who participated in the recent internal camp, which included two matches against North Korea, were excluded from the squad. The first match ended in a goalless draw, while Jordan won the second match 2-1, with goals from Ali Alwan.

Coach Salami commented on the upcoming qualifiers, stating, "There are no longer small teams; any team can pose a threat. South Korea and Iraq are strong contenders in the group stage, and Palestine could be a dark horse. However, I am confident in our team's ability, as we have talented players eager to build on the momentum from the Asian Cup final."



Kuwaiti players hold training session for the qualifier against Jordan.

Brighton holds 10-man Arsenal to 1-1 draw



Aston Villa's Pau Torres, left, and Leicester City's Oliver Skipp battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Leicester City and Aston Villa at the King Power Stadium, Leicester, England. (AP)

Toney to Saudi Arabia

EPL leads spending as transfer window closes

LONDON, Aug 31, (AP) - English Premier League clubs again flexed their financial muscles by spending about \$2.6 billion in the summer transfer window that closed Friday for Europe's five big domestic leagues.

And once again Chelsea was first in line with an outlay of \$290 million as owners Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital continue to look for a winning combination at Stamford Bridge.

The Saudi Pro League's window remains open for a few more days - enough time for more deals like the one announced early Saturday that saw striker Ivan Toney join Al-Ahli. The Saudi club agreed to pay Brentford a transfer fee reported to be \$52 million.

Also, Arsenal announced it has agreed to take Chelsea forward Raheem Sterling on loan for the rest of the season.

Other big names in European soccer that were the subject of late talks included Jadon Sancho (Manchester United) and Victor Osimhen (Napoli). No deals had been announced for them early Saturday after the deadline.

United signed Uruguay defensive midfielder Manuel Ugarte from Paris Saint-Germain for an initial 50 million euros (\$55.7 million). It takes the club's summer spending on new players to around \$240 million. United had earlier signed striker Joshua Zirkzee, center backs Leny Yoro and Matthijs de Ligt, and full back Noussair Mazraoui. The 23-year-old Ugarte looks set to be the long-term replacement for Casemiro.

Crystal Palace had a busy Friday spending that Michael Olise money. The club added striker Eddie Nketiah for Arsenal for a fee reported to be \$39 million. Nketiah is in search of playing time and grew up in south London. Arsenal might be clearing some space for a late

signing. Earlier, Palace signed center back Maxence Lacroix from Wolfsburg for a reported fee of 21 million euros

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(\$23 million). The move reunites the 24-year-old French player with Palace manager Oliver Glasner, who coached the German club for two seasons.

Italy is back over the \$1 billion mark again in overall spending - the second highest in Europe.

A pair of Scotland midfielders - Scott McTominay and Billy Gilmour - are headed to Napoli. McTominay joined on a fee of \$33 million from Man United, where the midfielder had been since he was five. United manager Erik ten Hag lamented the pressure that clubs are under to sell "homegrown" players - be-



In this file photo, Brentford's Ivan Toney applauds fans after the English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Brentford at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London. (AP)

cause of the good profit margin - amid the league's financial regulations. Gilmour arrives from Brighton for a fee of about \$20 million.

Romelu Lukaku joined Napoli, reuniting with manager Antonio Conte, who had coached Belgium's all-time record scorer at Inter Milan.

There could still be some surprises in store beyond Europe. That's because the Saudi Pro League has until Monday to lure more players, after Toney's agreement.

Entering this week, the Saudis had spent just \$240 million in this transfer window - a huge decrease from the roughly \$1 billion spent in the same period a year ago.

One reason might be the lack of squad spots, though the league has put in place a plan to add more foreign players. Changes that took effect this season increased the limit on the number of foreign players per team from eight to 10. There's no age limit for eight foreigners but in a bid to get younger stars - not just the 30-something crowd - two spots are restricted to "non-Saudi players born in 2003 or after."

On Tuesday, Saudi champion Al Hilal paid \$28 million to Manchester City for full back João Cancelo. Mohamed Salah was No. 1 on Al-Ittihad's wish list last year, when Liverpool reportedly rejected a bid worth \$188 million. The 32-year-old Salah is in the final year of his contract on Merseyside.

Bayern Munich signaled early Friday that it was done spending. The Bavarian powerhouse spent about 100 million euros (\$110 million) combined for Portugal midfielder João Palhinha and forward Michael Olise as it aims to recapture the German title it lost to Bayer Leverkusen last season.

Dortmund drops points at Bremen

BREMEN, Germany, Aug 31, (AP) - Borussia Dortmund defender Nico Schlotterbeck was sent off as his team held on for a 0-0 draw against Werder Bremen in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

Schlotterbeck picked up his second yellow card for a clumsy tackle on Justin Njinmah in the 73rd minute as Champions League runner-up Dortmund lacked the cutting edge from its 2-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt last week.

Shortly before that, Schlotterbeck had a header saved, one of Dortmund's best chances in a game lacking clear-cut opportunities to score.

Stuttgart was denied a first league win of the season in dramatic style as Maxim Leitsch's diving header salvaged a 3-3 draw for Mainz.

Leitsch scored deep into stoppage time when Stuttgart was on the verge of winning, having taken a 3-2 lead when Fabian Rieder's 88th-minute free kick bounced off the post, off goalkeeper Robin Zentner's back and in. Stuttgart had led 2-0 before an earlier Mainz comeback.

Stuttgart, which finished a surprise second in the Bundesliga last season, has a tendency to give up leads this season. Stuttgart led Freiburg in its league opener last week but lost 3-1, and the team conceded a late goal before losing to Bayer Leverkusen on penalties in the German Super Cup.

Promoted Holstein Kiel's coach Marcel Rapp was sent off as his team's first-ever home game in the Bundesliga ended in a 2-0 loss to Wolfsburg. New signing Tim Kleindienst scored one goal and set up another as Borussia Mönchengladbach won 2-0 at Bochum. Frankfurt beat Hoffenheim 3-1.

Union Berlin went to the top of the Bundesliga after beating St Pauli 1-0.

The goal came after 34 minutes when Benedict Hollerbach fired home from the edge of the penalty area after St Pauli failed to properly clear a corner kick.

Union had never lost in the Bundesliga after leading at the break and it kept that record safe in a game that failed to spark into life.

The win lifted Union to the top of the table with four points from its first two games.

The newly promoted St Pauli remained pointless and bottom of the league.

It was the first ever meeting between the sides in the Bundesliga top tier and the 961st different matchup in league history.

Arteta slams 'inconsistent' refereeing

LONDON, Aug 31, (AP) - Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta was left fuming at what he called inconsistent refereeing after Declan Rice's sending off led to Arsenal dropping its first points of the English Premier League in a 1-1 draw with Brighton on Saturday.

Last-placed Everton could only lament its own inconsistencies - and inability to defend crosses - after giving up a 2-0 lead in the final minutes to lose 3-2 at home against Bournemouth, while Brentford showed again that it can cope just fine without Ivan Toney by beating Southampton 3-1.

Everton and Southampton were without a point at the bottom of the table, while Arsenal and Brighton saw their perfect starts to the league come to an end.

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At Emirates Stadium, Arsenal was 1-0 up and looked in control when Rice was shown a second yellow card in the 49th minute, apparently for nudging the ball to the side as Joel Veltman tried to take a quick free kick near the sideline deep in Brighton's half.

Veltman kicked Rice from behind in the process and the home crowd was screaming for the Brighton player to get sanctioned, only for referee Chris Kavanagh to show Rice a red card instead.

"I was amazed. Amazed, amazed, amazed, because of how inconsistent decisions can be," Arteta said, arguing that similar offenses went unpunished earlier in the game. "By law he (Kavanagh) can make the call. But by law then he needs to make the next call, which is red card (for Veltman). So we play 10 against 10."

That decision turned the game completely and Joao Pedro equalized from a rebound in the 58th after David Raya saved a shot from Yankuba Minteh.

Kai Havertz put Arsenal ahead in the 38th with a lob over goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen and had a chance to restore Arsenal's lead when he ran through on goal again in the 74th but his low shot was saved that time.

Arsenal winger Bukayo Saka also pointed to Pedro escaping without a booking for kicking the ball away much more forcefully in the first half to prevent Arsenal taking a quick throw-in.

"We just want some consistency," Saka said. "Joao Pedro booted the ball halfway across the pitch in the first half and got nothing for it and Dec got the slightest touch and was sent off."

Saka also had a late chance for a winner after meeting a cross from Havertz, but his lunging effort didn't cause much of a problem for Verbruggen.

Brighton and Arsenal were two of

four teams to win their opening two league games. The draw gives defending champion Manchester City a chance to go top of the standings if it beats West Ham away in Saturday's late kickoff.

Liverpool also has six points from two games and plays at Manchester United on Sunday.

A bad start to Everton's last season at Goodison Park got worse on Saturday, with frustrated home fans flooding out of the stadium at the final whistle.

Everton looked set to earn its first points of the season after Michael Keane and Dominic Calvert-Lewin gave it a 2-0 lead that stood until the 87th minute. But as soon as Antoine Semenyo pulled one back, nerves seemed to set in among the Everton players and home fans, and Lewis Cook took advantage by heading home an equalizer in the second minute of injury time.

With Goodison Park shell-shocked, Bournemouth kept pouring forward and found a winner in similar fashion, as Luis Sinisterra was left unmarked to head home another cross at the far post three minutes later.

Bournemouth moved to five points after opening the season with two draws.

Toney was on hand to watch Brentford from the stands after completing a deadline-day move to Saudi Arabian club Al-Ahli on Friday, and watched as Bryan Mbuemo took up his role as goalscorer instead.

Mbuemo netted the first two goals and Youssef Wissa added the third to make it a frustrating Southampton debut for goalkeeper Aaron Ramsey, who joined from Arsenal this week. Southampton did score its first goal of the season, though, as Yukinari Sugawara netted a late consolation in injury time.

Also, Aston Villa hung on for a 2-1 win at Leicester, promoted Ipswich earned its first point with a 1-1 draw against Fulham, and Nottingham Forest also drew at home against Wolves 1-1.



Arsenal's Oleksandr Zinchenko, left, jumps for the ball with Brighton's Georginio Rutter during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Brighton, at Emirates Stadium in London. (AP)