



BID TO REVITALIZE TOURISM AS PART OF CROWN PRINCE'S DEVELOPMENT DRIVE

Open the country to everyone

Leadership committed to revive Kuwait's 'Pearl of the Gulf' status

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7: The integrated development plan under the supervision of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad aims to bring about a quantum leap that will restore Kuwait to its pioneering position.

Earlier, the newspaper reported that His Highness' visit to China signals the launching of major development projects according to the principles set by His Highness; including infrastructure, economy, tourism and artificial intelligence.

In terms of infrastructure and new cities, sources confirmed that the Silk City, which will be built in Sabiya as part of the northern economic zone, on an area measuring 250 square kilometers. They said it will take 25 years to build at a cost of

about \$86 billion."

Sources revealed "His Highness the Crown Prince believes that infrastructure is a source of untapped national wealth, which requires work to exploit it optimally for the advancement of the country. The absence of tourist attractions prompted Kuwaitis and expatriates to spend their money abroad. In addition, there is no attractions for tourists to visit Kuwait."

Sources said the leadership is considering "opening the country to everyone and reducing citizens' spending on tourism abroad by stimulating domestic tourism for Kuwait to be like neighboring countries in terms of tourist attractions, especially those in the Gulf."

Sources disclosed His Highness' development initiative includes mega projects like the construction of the metro and a railway linking Kuwait with neighboring countries, particularly the Gulf. They said "projects will be implemented and funded by

foreign companies through the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) system. The State shall give guarantees regarding the collection of revenues within a specified period.

"The contracts in the prospective plan will oblige companies to train Kuwaitis to manage the project and to secure job opportunities for them, away from the prevailing bureaucracy. This will guarantee the elimination of disguised unemployment.

"The maintenance of projects will be entrusted to local companies, which have skilled workers and attract Kuwaitis at the same time.

"The plan of His Highness includes authorizing foreign companies to participate in the construction of residential cities, according to the conditions in force in neighboring countries.

"The granting of residential plots will be on the condition that they will neither be sold nor exchanged. The data available to the leadership revealed that plots were sold immediately after allocation; thereby, raising real estate prices.

"Also, some plots were granted to the undeserving due to social, parliamentary, sectarian or tribal influence. All of these are tackled in His Highness' plan.

"The residential cities will be self-sufficient, particularly in administration and services, including garbage recycling. The features of the expected development path will unfold clearly during the four years of implementation and completion.

"The crisis that the country witnessed after the passing of HH the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad; as well as the political clamor and other incidents, during which the leadership was following up on matters in all aspects and identified the imbalances and causes of tug of war between the four successive governments and the elected parliaments during that period, and began to remedy issues in the proper manner.

"The remedying process started with the reform of the political and administrative track related to ministries and institutions, and it did not lose sight of the advancement of Kuwait for the country to return to its previous status as 'Pearl of the Gulf,'" sources concluded.

■ Infrastructure is one of the sources of national wealth that must be exploited optimally

■ Absence of tourist attractions prompted citizens and expatriates to spend their money abroad

■ Residential plots should be granted on the condition that they will neither be sold nor exchanged

NewsWatch

TOKYO: Japan expressed concern on Monday over Iran's advancing uranium enrichment program and the Middle East country's suspected supplying of combat drones to Moscow for Russia's war on Ukraine.

Japan's Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi raised the two issues during talks with his visiting Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amirabdollahian, the foreign ministry in Tokyo said. A statement from the ministry said Hayashi appealed for Iran to act constructively in the matter but did not elaborate.

Iranian drones have been a key element of Russia's continued war on Ukraine. Tehran has offered conflicting accounts about the drones - first denying Iran has supplied them to Russia and later claiming the unmanned aircraft were only sold before the Russian invasion.

However, the number of Iranian-made drones used in the conflict shows a steady supply of the bomb-carrying weapons. In June, the White House said Iran was providing Russia with materials to build a drone manufacturing plant east of Moscow as the Kremlin looks to lock in a consistent stream of weapons.

As U.S. ally and a member of the Group of Seven advanced nations, Japan has joined sanctions against Moscow while providing Ukraine with humanitarian support and non-lethal defense equipment, largely because of fear that Russia's invasion could embolden an already assertive China in Asia. (AP)

DUBAI: Iran on Monday began registering candidates for parliamentary elections in March, which will be the first since nationwide protests rocked the country last year.

Iran has held regular presidential and parliamentary elections since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. But a clerical body vets candidates - disqualifying any seen as disloyal to the Islamic Republic - and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has the final say on all major policies.

Iran saw months of nationwide protests sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman who was being held by the morality police for allegedly violating the country's strict dress code. The protests escalated into calls for the overthrow of the ruling clerics, marking one of the biggest challenges to their four-decade rule.

The protests largely died down after authorities launched a fierce crackdown in which more than 500 protesters were killed and nearly 20,000 were detained. Last month, the morality police returned to the streets in a renewed campaign to force women to wear the mandatory headscarf, known as the hijab.

Candidates for the 290-seat parliament have a week to pre-register online, the first step in a months-long process. But each will eventually have to be approved by the Guardian Council, a 12-member clerical body, half of whom are directly appointed by the supreme leader. (AP)

JERUSALEM: Israeli troops on

Sunday killed three alleged Palestinian militants in the northern West Bank, further escalating a wave of violence in which two other people, including a young Palestinian man believed to have been gunned down by extremist Jewish settlers, were killed over the weekend.

The Israeli army said it shot the three men near the Jenin refugee camp - the site of a large-scale military operation last month. It said the three men had just exited the camp and were on their way to carry out an attack and that an M-16 rifle was recovered from their vehicle.

The Hamas and Islamic Jihad militant groups condemned the killings, though it was not immediately known if the three men belonged to either organization. Israel identified the leader of the group as Naif Abu Tsuik, 26, saying he was a "leading military operative" from the camp.

The Jenin camp is known as a militant stronghold. Last month, the army carried out a two-day offensive in the camp, killing 12 Palestinians, including at least eight militants, and causing widespread damage to the densely populated area. An Israeli soldier also was killed in the fighting. (AP)

BEIRUT: Israeli airstrikes hit areas around Damascus early Monday, killing at least four Syrian soldiers, Syrian state media reported.

Syrian state television, citing a military source, said four other soldiers were also wounded while the strikes caused "some material damage."

Israeli authorities did not immediately comment.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition-linked war monitor, said the strikes targeted weapons and munitions warehouses and positions of Iran-backed militias around Damascus. They say at least six were killed and seven others wounded.

The Observatory said the strikes mark 22nd time Israel has struck Syria this year.

Israel, which has vowed to stop Iranian entrenchment next door, has carried out hundreds of strikes on targets in government-controlled parts of neighboring Syria in recent years, but it rarely acknowledges them. (AP)

CAIRO: One of Libya's top governing bodies elected a new head on Sunday, in a development that could further fracture the country already split between two rival administrations.

Members of the Supreme Council of State, which is separate from both of the governments and is based in the capital of Tripoli, voted for Mohamed Takala to be the body's new leader.

Takala would take over from former head Khaled el-Meshri, a powerful figure who had been key in negotiations over the country's election laws.

Both the voting and count were live-streamed on local Libyan news channels. The final count was announced in favor of Takala, 67-62. The council did not immediately issue any statements on the outcome of the election. (AP)



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

24 perish

Kuwait condoles Morocco 'crash'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7, (Agencies): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Sunday sent a cable of condolences to King Mohammed VI of Morocco over the victims of a minibus that overturned in Azilal province, and resulted in multiple casualties.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir prayed to Almighty Allah to bestow mercy on the victims' souls, wishing speedy recovery to the injured. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Sunday sent a cable of condolences to King Mohammed VI of Morocco over the victims of a minibus that overturned in Azilal province, and resulted in multiple casualties.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince prayed to Allah Almighty to have mercy on the souls of victims, as well as wishing speedy recovery for the injured.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Sunday sent a similar cable of condolences to King Mohammed VI of Morocco over the victims of a minibus that overturned in Azilal province.

Meanwhile, the Speaker of the National Assembly Ahmad Al-Saadoun sent on Sunday two cables of condolences to President of Morocco's House of Representatives Rachid Talbi Alam and President of the House of Councilors Enaam Mayara over the victims of a minibus that overturned in the central Azilal province.

At least 24 people died in a bus crash Sunday in the province of Azilal in central Morocco, marking one of the deadliest such accidents in recent years in the country.

Settle the dispute: Altamimi

Graduation stalled as lecturers fail to grade

LONDON, Aug 7, (AP): Hafsa Yusuf was supposed to graduate last week. The 21-year-old English literature major had spent 200 pounds (\$255) on graduation gown rental, photography and tickets for her family to attend the ceremony.

But just two weeks before the big day, Queen Mary University of London sent her an email saying she couldn't graduate because of industrial action taken by academic staff across the U.K.

Lecturers at some 140 universities have refused to mark exam papers and coursework, in an escalation of a simmering dispute over pay and working conditions.

"Because of the marking boycott, they didn't have enough grades to confirm that I was able to graduate," Yusuf said. "We all paid as normal, just to get an email two weeks beforehand saying you can't come."

She said that while most of her family live in the U.K., other students are international and have paid for flights for their families to come from abroad. "It's really devastating," she said.

Yusuf and the class of 2023 had already endured severe disruptions to their college experience. They entered university in 2020, at the height of COVID-19 lockdowns. Then came university staff strikes, part of a huge and ongoing wave of industrial action by hundreds of thousands of U.K. workers to demand better pay amid a cost-of-living crisis.

Now thousands of students from Cambridge to Edinburgh are unable to graduate or face indefinite delays in receiving their final marks because of the latest labor dispute, which began in April and shows no sign of resolution.

It's not clear exactly how many students are affected, but the University and College Union, which represents academics and lecturers, estimated that "easily tens of thousands" will not graduate this summer as disruptions look likely to drag on into the next academic year.

Yusuf said at least 130 students from her faculty, the school of English and Drama, have been affected, with many left in limbo because they have no idea when they can get the grades they need for pending job offers and postgraduate study opportunities.

The uncertainties have been particularly worrying for international students, who face additional complications and costs to remain in the U.K. Those hoping to stay in the country to look for work can only apply for a graduate visa after they get their degree.

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US reaffirms commitment

Force buildup tied to threats, intimidation

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7: Commenting on the announcement of the US Central Command (CENTCOM) a few days ago that it increased the number of its forces in the region "in response to Iran's recent attempts to seize commercial ships in the US Central Command's area of operations", the US Chargé d'Affaires to Kuwait, James Holtsnider said, "The United States remains committed to the security of Kuwait and the security of our Gulf partners throughout the Middle East region", reports Aljazeera daily.

In a press statement, Holtsnider said, "Our permanent presence, regardless of shape or size, represents a visible symbol of this commitment. The US considers any threat or intimidation to regional stability as a threat to the interests of our allies, and also a threat to the United States."

In a statement, CENTCOM revealed that the US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin ordered the deployment of an amphibious deterrent force / marine unit in the area of operation of the Central Command, in addition to the forces stationed there, consisting of F35 and F16 aircraft and the guided missile destroyer USS Thomas Hudner, in response to Iran's recent attempts to seize merchant ships in CENTCOM's area of operations.

The marine infantry unit also

provides more air and sea capabilities, which ensures greater flexibility and maritime capabilities in the region.

During the past two years, Iran has made attempts to attack or seize about 20 commercial vessels carrying international flags in the area of operations of the US Central Command."

In the context, the commander of the US Central Command, General Mike Korella said, "The Central Command is committed to ensuring freedom of navigation within the area of responsibility, which includes one of the most important waterways in the world.

These additional forces provide distinctive capabilities, which work alongside our partners in the region to protect the free flow of international trade, maintain order based on international rules, and deter destabilizing Iranian activities in the region."

Meanwhile, the US Army Support Unit in Kuwait (AS-GKU) welcomed the 40th ID Infantry Unit - their new partner within the United States Central Command.

Holtsnider and Acting Public Relations Adviser Saira Saed, in addition to a group of Kuwaiti officers, attended the TFSparran command transfer ceremony from the 28th Infantry Unit to the 40th Unit.

Nod to more muscle for CBK to regulate liquidity

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7: The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation have sought permission to increase the ceiling of their General Reserve Fund balances, aiming to enhance their financial capabilities and achieve greater independence in pursuing their supervisory and development objectives, reports Al-Rai daily.

Traditionally, the CBK has transferred its annual net profits to the reserve fund. However, to bolster its capacity and intervention tools for regulating the liquidity of the banking sector, the CBK has requested approval to retain its net profits until the fund reaches a higher ceiling. This move has been approved after extensive discussions with the Ministry of Finance.

The CBK's proposal entails stopping the transfer of net profits to the general reserve until the new reserves reach a maximum amount of 5 billion dinars, which is four times higher than the previous ceiling of 1 billion dinars.

This measure would enable the CBK to closely monitor interest rates in both local and foreign markets and effectively adjust its monetary and credit policy. Moreover, it would increase reserves of hard currency, enhancing the central bank's ability to address economic challenges effectively.

However, implementing this strategy may pose challenges to public finances, as the 2023-2024 budget is expected to result in a record deficit of 6.8 billion dinars.



OPINION OTHER VOICES



Surgeons amputate the leg of a wounded Ukrainian serviceman at Mechnikov Hospital in Dnipro, Ukraine, Friday, July 14, 2023. A surge of wounded soldiers has coincided with the major counteroffensive Ukraine launched last month to try to recapture its land from Russian forces. Surgeons at Mechnikov Hospital, one of the country's biggest, are busier now than perhaps at any other time since Russia began its invasion 17 months ago. (AP)

'Twenty-four hours a day, constant shooting ... it doesn't stop'

Saints ... and sutures

The horrors of war arrive through the night at a hospital in eastern Ukraine, a procession of stretchers bearing limp bodies whisked from the front line.

The soldiers come with bandaged limbs soaked in blood, faces blackened with shrapnel fragments and stunned eyes fixed on the ceiling, frozen in shock. Lately, they've been coming with ever-greater frequency. "Pain!" shrieks a serviceman with a gaping thigh wound as medical workers move him to a surgical gurney.

Evacuated from trenches in the east, forests in the north and the open fields of the south, wounded soldiers begin showing up at the Mechnikov Hospital in late afternoon, and dozens more in desperate need of surgery are wheeled in before the sun rises the next day.

The surge of wounded soldiers coincides with the major counteroffensive Ukraine launched in June to try to recapture its land, nearly one-fifth of which is now under Russian control. Surgeons at Mechnikov are busier now than perhaps at any other time since Russia began its full-scale invasion 17 months ago, according to doctors at the hospital, who declined to be more specific.

In a war where casualty counts are treated as state secrets, the hospital - one of Ukraine's biggest - serves as a measurement of distant battles. When they intensify, so does the doctors' workload, which these days consists of 50 to 100 surgeries per night.

"Here, we see the worst of the front line," Dr. Serhii Ryzhenko, the hospital's 59-year-old chief doctor, says with a weary smile. "We have 50 operating rooms, and it's not enough."

The Associated Press was given rare access to the hospital, a 12-hour visit to witness doctors and nurses care for soldiers rushed from the battlefield to the operating room.

During the day, Mechnikov functions as a normal hospital, treating patients with cancer and other chronic diseases. But every night ushers in the same macabre routine: Wounded soldiers arrive - many unconscious - and surgeons operate. The soldiers are then sent off to recover elsewhere to create space for the next nightly deluge.

"We hold our own front line here, we understand that we must do this, we must hold on," said Dr. Tetyana Teshyna, a soft-spoken anesthesiologist wearing pink scrubs.

"It's very hard," said Teshyna, who remains calm amid the bustle in this clean, orderly hospital. She wants to say more but is summoned by a nurse. Another urgent surgery is about to start.

Ukrainian soldiers are fighting in multiple combat zones along the 1,500-kilometer (932-mile) front line, but the counteroffensive - focused in the Russian-occupied east and south of the country - has been slow going. Small units are being deployed to probe a Russian army that is deeply dug in, and minefields must be cleared before Ukrainian soldiers can attempt to root them out.

Any initial momentum from the opening phase of the counteroffensive has given way to sluggish advances. Territorial gains have been minimal, despite highly publicized Western donations of military hardware that heightened expectations of a quick Ukrainian breakthrough.

For its part, Russia has stepped up operations in the north of Ukraine, near Lyman, in the forests of Kreminna, in a possible attempt to corner Ukrainian troops there.

Ukrainian soldiers fighting along the front say the ferocity of Moscow's artillery barrages has surprised them the most, especially in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, where mine-clearing operations leave

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"They are our heroes."

them badly exposed to enemy fire.

Oleh Halah, 22, was hit by artillery from a Russian tank near Lyman

Discordant voices of doctors and other hospital staff echo in the halls, describing blood loss and case histories.

Diagnoses are called out.

Shrapnel in the brain.

A burned respiratory tract

Shrapnel in the legs

A bullet in the arm

And, again, shrapnel in the brain

this month, injuring his stomach and legs. Straining to speak in the hospital's intensive care unit, Halah said his platoon saw the tank coming, but the artillery hit them before they could reach their grenade launcher.

"Twenty-four hours a day, constant shooting, all the time ... if not (Russian) infantry, then artillery," he said. "It doesn't stop."

Other soldiers being cared for by Mechnikov's doctors were injured while clearing mines from Russian trenches. A Belarusian fighting alongside Ukrainian soldiers who uses the call sign "Gold" was injured this way. He had been walking slowly with his unit, 5 meters (yards) per minute, when he was ambushed by a Russian soldier hiding behind a dugout.

As evening comes, the pace of activity in the trauma room picks up, with new soldiers arriving nearly every 15 minutes.

Discordant voices of doctors and other hospital staff echo in the halls, describing blood loss and case histories. Diagnoses are called out: shrapnel in the brain, a burned respiratory tract, shrapnel in the legs, a bullet in the arm; and, again, shrapnel in the brain.

Shrapnel accounts for the majority of injuries treated at Mechnikov, doctors said. Bullet wounds, less so. Wounded soldiers are typically cared for in hospitals closer to the front line and then, once stabilized, they are brought to Mechnikov, a journey that can sometimes take half a day.

Dr. Simon Sechen brings in a soldier with a wide gash in his shin. A tourniquet was applied for roughly half a day, he explained, because the soldier was trapped in a faraway trench, and it took hours to evacuate him. Sechen had tried to encourage blood flow, but it may be too late. "We did all we could to fight for his leg," he says.

The soldier is taken to the operating room, where Dr. Yakov Albayuk takes one look and determines that the leg must be amputated to save the soldier's life. "After 12 hours without blood circulation, the limb will die," Albayuk said, explaining that a tourniquet must be taken off after two hours and, if necessary, reapplied. "Because of tiny mistakes we're losing people's limbs."

For Albayuk, every wound inspected on the operating table is a raw and unvarnished account of the brutality of the fight Ukrainian soldiers face in combat: constant bombardment, hidden mines, and cunning snipers.

In this soldier's case, his wounds tell a story of bravery; he was advancing toward fire, not running away.

The amputation takes 20 minutes. Albayuk uses a surgical saw to cut through the bone. A nurse wraps up the severed limb, and it is taken away.

Nearby, a soldier lying on a stretcher in the hallway calls out for his girlfriend, Anna. He has been brought to Mechnikov so that doctors can treat complications from a leg that was amputated a few days ago at a hospital closer to the front line.

Anna rushes to his side and tells him to be strong. When he's gone, she collapses into tears.

Later, a soldier named Maksym, who was injured while fighting in the Donetsk region, awakens in the intensive care unit to the sight of his wife, and then a relieved kiss from her. She traveled with his sister when they learned Maksym had been admitted for surgery.

"I am so happy I got to see them one more time," Maksym said.

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editor's choice



Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:44	Asr	15:29
Sunrise ..	05:11	Maghrib ..	18:36
Zohr	11:54	Isha	20:00

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 10-38 km/h.

By Night: Hot to rather hot and relatively humid over coastal ar-

Weather

reas with light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 10-32 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	47	36
Kuwait Airport	47	32

Abdaly	48	30
Jahra	49	33
Salmiyah	41	36
Ahmadi	40	37
Nuwaisib	45	33
Wafra	47	34

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

Saints ...

Continued from Page 2

Like Ukraine itself, the Mechnikov Hospital - which is more than 200 years old - has been transformed by war over the past decade.

The hospital did not begin treating wounded soldiers until Russia's invasion in 2014, when it was not prepared for the task, said Ryzhenko. Soldiers would be admitted with guts spilling out and massive amounts of blood loss. Back then, Ryzhenko saw cases he had only read about in textbooks. Today, Mechnikov is lauded for its state-of-the-art facilities and expertise - roughly 400 doctors spread across six buildings.

On Dr. Mykita Lombrozov's operating table is a soldier who sustained a shrapnel injury on the left part of the brain. The 28-year-old neurosurgeon's elegant hands work methodically. Crushed skull pieces are removed, one by one, until he can extract the small metal fragments lodged in the soldier's brain.

It's a complicated surgery that would normally take up to four hours. The war has taught Lombrozov to finish it in 55 minutes. He does it every day, he says, sometimes up to eight times in a single 24-hour shift.

"It is very important to me, that's why I am here. That's why we all work here," Lombrozov said as he looked down at the soldier. "He is our hero." (AP)

MoE names vacancies

Bid to get ban on 'foreigners' lifted

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7: The Ministry of Education has reportedly allocated 3,000 job grades for non-Kuwaitis in the administrative sector for fiscal 2022-2023 -- 2,000 job grades for educational staff and 1,000 are for cleaners, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily added, that the ministry is collaborating with the Civil Service Bureau to lift the ban on these job grades and include them in the current fiscal year's budget before the new academic year kicks in.

The recruitment of non-Kuwaiti staff will primarily focus on rare disciplines, with special emphasis on mathematics, physics, and music education for female teachers. Additionally, other disciplines such as chemistry, biology, and geology will also be considered for hiring foreign teachers. The Ministry has already initiated the process of fulfilling the required numbers through local channels, but if there is a shortage, foreign contracting from Jordan and Palestine will be explored.

Those who are seeking employment in the education sector must meet certain criteria with minimum 'good' general grade and the maximum age for applicants, except for female physical education teachers, is 45 years. Female physical education teacher applicants should be under 32 years of age. Moreover, non-Kuwaiti teachers can only be employed if there are no registered Kuwaiti candidates in the central employment system at the Civil Service Commission.

Experience is a crucial factor for all applicants, except for female physical education teachers. Those with non-educational qualifications must have three years of experience, while those with educational qualifications should have at least two years of experience.

For appointment, applicants must present a government or private experience certificate, and it should not be obtained through the quota and wage system. All certificates must be officially documented.

New teachers to join duty from August 13

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7: The Ministry of Education announced the start date for handing over work to teachers who were appointed for the 2023/2024 academic year, reports Aljarida daily.

The Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Sector Osama Al-Sultan stated that the starting day of work for the new teachers will be August 13.

In a bulletin he issued, Al-Sultan said, "Within the framework of the preparations for the new year, it was decided to approve the dates for organizing the process of handing over work directives to educational cadres for the academic year. The start date for handing over work directives to Kuwaiti members of the educational staff will be Sunday, August 13. The handing over of work to non-Kuwaiti teachers will begin in early September."

Meanwhile, educational sources explained that the Department of Coordination and Follow-up of Public Education is working in coordination with the administrative sector to complete the procedures for teachers whose appointment has been accepted from local contracts from Gulf nationals and children of Kuwaiti women and Bedouins. They will be handed over work at the beginning of the first semester of the new 2023/2024 academic year. The vast majority of them have received medical test papers and fingerprints, and are awaiting the completion of contracting procedures.

'Deportees treated humanely, bearing food, healthcare cost'

784 men, women in deportation center

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7: The Deportation Prison Department of the Ministry of Interior has been exerting distinguished efforts to treat the deported expatriates in a humane manner by providing them with all the necessary services, which are not limited to just living and health care but sometimes extends to even providing flight tickets for them and their children, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to security sources, the number of detainees in the deportation prison is about 784. The men's section includes 334 detainees while the women's

section has 450 detainees and 15 children, the majority of who are from Asian and Arab communities.

The average cost incurred by the Ministry of Interior per day for a prisoner is KD 10, which includes meals, drinks and health care.

As for each child, it costs about KD 15 per day, for milk and other special needs for children such as toys and clothes.

The sources affirmed the keenness of the deportation prison administration to provide health care facilities for the inmates by establishing a clinic for men and another for women, in addition to a dental clinic.

They also affirmed the keenness of the Ministry of Interior to keep all those who are in the deportation prison.

The sources explained that the delay in deportation is sometimes due to reasons beyond the control of the ministry such as the travel dates and high ticket prices, in addition to the

dilemma facing some women who do not want to leave their children, and their insistence on traveling with them to their country, despite the existence of valid residence permits for them, especially since some of them do not have a breadwinner other than their mother in Kuwait.

Accordingly, the deportation prison department exerts humanitarian efforts to provide flight tickets through charity committees or donors so that the children can be deported along with their families.

About 150 expatriates are deported every day, amid strict police security measures, and with the support of the women police.

It is noteworthy that the maximum capacity of the deportation prison is about 1,200 inmates, divided between 700 male inmates and 500 female inmates.

The deportation prison administration receives a deportee, provided that he has a valid flight ticket and passport or a valid travel document issued by his country's embassy.



KUNA photo
First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah while chairing a security meeting with senior ministry officials.

Mol firm on security plan

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, has reaffirmed the commitment to implementing security plans that target violators and wanted individuals, ensuring that the law applies to everyone equally.

During a security meeting chaired by Sheikh Talal at the Ministry of Interior's headquarters on Sunday, they reviewed the current security situation, the established plans, and the future strategies.

The emphasis was on activating measures to address any negative phenomena with firmness and decisiveness.

In the meeting attended by the Undersecretary, Lieutenant General Anwar Al-Barjas, and several assistant undersecretaries, Sheikh Talal emphasized the importance of finding urgent solutions to all pending issues. He also highlighted the need for increased efforts, dedication, vigilance, and caution in the upcoming phase. (KUNA)

Other Voices

Western morals and 'Notohara'

By Ahmad alsarraf

"Morality is doing what is right regardless of what you are told. Obedience is doing what is told regardless of what is right." - Henry L. Mencken

When talking about morals in the West, we must differentiate between peoples and their governments, and between one government and another, with no colonial or hostile legacy.

With every cultural clash between Arabs and Muslims with the West, the saying of the "collapse" of morals in Western countries emerges, and its latest manifestation is what we see of the degeneration represented in the behavior of homosexuals on various occasions, with false praise for the morals of our virtuous societies!

The problem lies in the fact that our concept of morality is fundamentally wrong and is confined to the sexual aspect, and to women in particular, bearing in mind that the general meaning of morality is more comprehensive and complex than being confined to the genitals.

Therefore, we tend to be blind to all the "virtues" of the West, and we only see what we think is a moral "deviance", which is often represented in the emancipation of women to a degree that our minds, which are traditionally programmed, find it difficult to accept easily, and therefore we do not see the radiant human side in the West, which led the march of sexual emancipation.

Through hundreds of actions, resolutions, charters and international organizations, humanity would have been in an unbearable situation without others, such as the establishment of the United Nations, the dozens of organizations that branched out from it, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the most important humanitarian document in human history.

Ethics in the West is represented in a group of things that we often do not pay much attention to, such as respect for personal freedom, respect for time, preserving public property, keenness to participate in elections, a high percentage of those obligated to pay their taxes, and other civilized behaviors that are purely morally motivated.

Also, the margin of freedom in West-

ern countries makes its members less hypocritical, due to the flexibility of their positions on beliefs, and the refusal to interfere with others in them, unlike what is prevalent in our countries, in which some believe that his role lies in guiding others and driving them to heaven, even by force.

No foreigner exposed our societies' relationship to morals, as did the Japanese Nobuaki Notohara, professor of Arabic literature at the University of Tokyo, and author of the book "The Arabs, A Japanese Point of View."

Notohara lived in the Arab world for a long time, moving between Egypt and Syria, and lived in cities, villages, and deserts; studied Arab culture, focusing on the personality of the Arab within the family and society, and its relationship to systems, customs, and laws.

Forty years later, in 2003, he wrote a book in which he summarized his observations and evaluation of our societies, focusing on the negative aspects of the Arab social experience compared to the Japanese experience, focusing on the relationship of the Arab citizen to political systems and laws, and the way he deals with the idea of the state and the political system, and its association with the way he deals with public property, referring to the state of political dictatorship, the killing of freedoms, and the state of repression experienced by most of the crisis Arab societies, whose crises control all aspects of life in them, and are reflected in the creative and talented people who are subjected to attempts to fail and marginalize, so they emigrate from it to others, where the field of creativity is greater.

From Nobuaki's personal impressions, about the various issues experienced by Arab societies, especially the deprivation and confiscation of personal freedom, and the feeling of suffocation and tension, being general features of Arab societies, with aggressive looks filling the streets, and the Arabs' belief that religion has given them all knowledge.

He said that when an Arab destroys public property, he believes that he is dishonoring the government. He also insists on maximizing his value in the home and imposing his control, but outside of it he becomes another person, and this contradiction often results in hypocrisy and so on.

The book is small, but it is intense and worth studying, and even teaching in our schools. We will not change for the better unless we know our truth.

□ □ □

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KUNA photo
National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun receives Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Jassem Al-Budaiwi.

Speaker meets GCC Secretary-General

National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun received Monday Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi.



KUNA photo
The state-of-the-art recently built hospital in Jahra area.

Govt allocates huge budget for MoH

Healthcare in Kuwait ...Ever-evolving sector focusing on welfare, services

By Mervat Abduldajem

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7, (KUNA): The healthcare sector in Kuwait has always focused on providing proper and updated treatments to members of society through comprehensive services, which were founded prior to the country's independence and it continued in the modern era with ever-evolving plans to boost services in all medical fields.

The government of Kuwait has allocated a considerable amount of the state's budget to the Ministry of Health to help bolster health services in the country in accordance with international standards and medical practices.

The main plan of the ministry is to train and develop the skills of national health service cadres and staff to further build and solidify the foundation of this vital sector.

In regards to the history of Kuwait's health service, the first health clinic in the country was founded in 1904, while the inaugural hospital in Kuwait was opened in 1912.

As Kuwait continued to take significant strides in all sectors, healthcare become more developed through by bringing competent medical experts from far and wide.

The State of Kuwait made sure that its health strategy was in line with international practices namely of the World Health Organization (WHO) with the Gulf country pushing for hosting regional centers of the renowned organization and other entities in the country.

Kuwait also made sure to implement policies touted by WHO when came to combating the spread of disease, promoting healthy lifestyles, and following proper procedures when it came to providing adequate health services and medicine.

While the infrastructure of health clinics, hospitals, and specialized centers continues to be developed and upgraded, the Healthy Ministry had made it its mission to use current digital technologies to proliferate its services via using applications to reach wider tech-savvy audiences and clients.

In line with the digitization of services, the "Q8Seha" application, launched by the Ministry in 2021, came as a step to elevate healthcare services in Kuwait.

In other achievements, the Health Ministry achieved 80 percent of its 2013-launched national survey to detect and prevent diseases causing loss of hearing and ear infections.

Genetic ailments and their treatments were also on the radar of the Health Ministry, which founded an advanced laboratory for genetic assessment at the Kuwait Medical Genetic Center (KMGC).

In another important step, an Amiri decree was signed to establish the Dhaman Health Assurance Hospitals, a public and private sector venture at a capital of KD 230 million (around USD 16.97 million).

Around 24 percent of the Dhaman company's shares is owned by the state, the private sector has around 26 percent, and 50 percent is given to Kuwaiti citizens shareholders.

While the State of Kuwait continues to implement its plans for overall development, the future for the healthcare sectors seems to be on the upbeat as the public and private sectors, exemplified in the Dhaman venture, aim to become the top medical provider in the Middle East region.



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LOCAL

EPA teams identify five serious violations at Umm Al-Maradim

Campaign held in coordination with Coast Guard, Mol

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7: The inspection teams affiliated to the Environment Public Authority recently launched a large-scale campaign on Umm Al-Maradim Island to ensure compliance with environmental regulations, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The campaign that was organized in coordination with the Coast Guard of the Ministry of Interior also targeted the island to monitor adherence to specific environmental laws, including Article 33 related to waste disposal in designated areas, and Article 100, which prohibits the discarding of hooks and fishing nets at coral reefs.

During the campaign, the environmental judicial officers identified five serious violations that damaged the coral reef. According to Eng Aisha Al-Hammadi, the EPA officer, these violations are subject to penalties, as per the authority's regulations. The punishment ranges from a fine of 500 to 5,000 dinars, and imprisonment for a maximum period

of one year.

In another operation, the EPA documented four violations in a desert area in the Farwaniya Governorate, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and Kuwait Municipality, based on Articles 40 and 41 of the Environmental Protection Law 42/2014.



Al-Hammadi

In the preceding July, the EPA judicial enforcement teams recorded a total of 74 violations, the majority of which were serious offenses, as specified in the articles of the Environmental Law.

The Violations Monitoring Report indicated that the Capital Governorate was guilty of committing the highest number of violations during that period, with 28 offenses observed. The report further disclosed that out of the total violations, 43 were committed by individuals, while the remaining violations were recorded in industrial and commercial facilities.

Notably, some of the violations in

the Capital Governorate were committed along the Kuwait Bay, which, according to Article 108 of the Environmental Protection Law, is a protected area where any environmentally harmful activity is strictly prohibited.

Inspection

The inspection teams of the Environment Public Authority launched a large-scale inspection campaign on Umm Al-Maradim Island, which resulted in the registration of 5 serious violations by a number of boats that threw their teeth at the coral and harmed it.

The environmental judicial officer in the "environment" M. Aisha Al-Hammadi said that the campaign was carried out in coordination with the Coast Guard at the Ministry of Interior, and targeted Umm Al-Maradim Island, to ensure the extent of adherence to the application of Article 33 for throwing waste in designated places, and Article 100 for throwing a tooth (hook) at coral.

Al-Hammadi revealed that the judicial officers issued 5 violations according to Article 100 regarding throwing a tooth at coral, whose punishment, according to the authority's regulations, reaches a fine between 500 dinars and 5 thousand dinars as a maximum, and imprison-

ment for a period not exceeding one year.

In the context, the Authority recorded 4 violations in one of the wild areas of the Farwaniya Governorate, according to Articles 40 and 41 of the Environmental Protection Law 42/2014, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and Kuwait Municipality.

In addition, the judicial enforcement teams at the Environment Public Authority recorded 74 violations last July, the majority of which were serious violations, according to the provisions of the Environmental Law articles.

According to the Violations Monitoring Report, the Capital Governorate is the highest with 28 violations of the total observed in the aforementioned period, and the report showed that the share of individuals in the total violations amounted to 43 violations, while the rest of the violations were recorded on industrial and commercial facilities.

The violators in the Capital Governorate assaulted Kuwait Bay, which Article 108 of the Environmental Protection Law considers an area of a special nature, and prohibited the practice of any environmentally harmful activity in it.

Minister of justice denies resignation rumor

DGCA affirms continuous development of customs systems

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7: Director of General Customs Administration Abdullah Al-Sharhan has affirmed the continuous development of the customs system to ensure the smooth flow of work, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Sharhan made the statement when he visited the Abdally Customs

Center recently to personally look into the work procedures and determine the needs of employees.

He was briefed on the readiness level of the center, inspection mechanism for outgoing and incoming travelers or shipment, and functions of various departments. He also lis-

tened to the employees' complaints and needs. He thanked the customs employees for their efforts and urged them to cooperate with other agencies to ease work procedures.

Resignation denied: Minister of Justice and Minister of State for

Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Raqaba has denied the rumor that he resigned from the government, reports Al-Rai daily. Al-Raqaba confirmed to the daily that he has no intention to resign, stressing he will remain in his position and carry out all the tasks entrusted to him.

HH the Amir 'congratulates' Cote d'Ivoire on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable to President of Cote d'Ivoire, Alassane Ouattara, congratulating him on the country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir also wished the president good health and progress and prosperity.

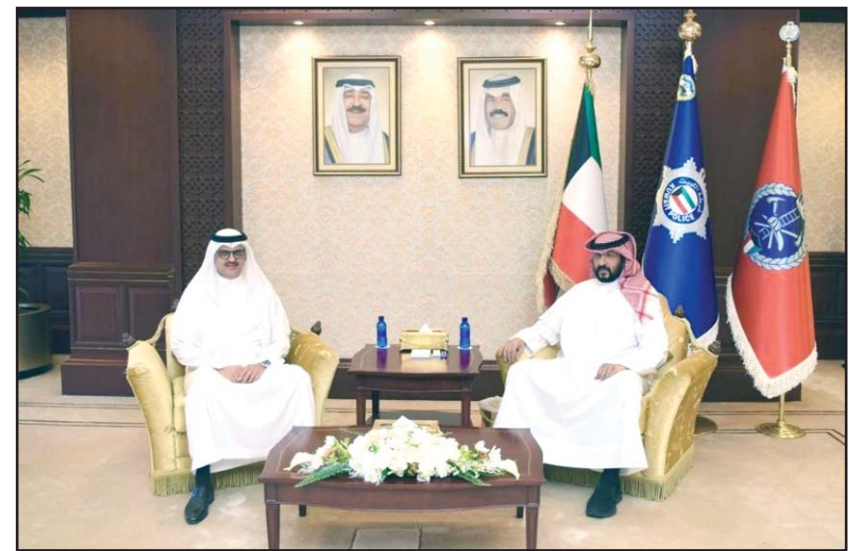
Meanwhile, His Highness the

Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President Alassane Ouattara, on the country's National Day, and wished the president good health.

Also, His Highness the Premier Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President Alassane Ouattara, on the occasion of the country's National Day.



First Deputy PM and Minister of Interior receives the Qatari ambassador to Kuwait.



KUNA photos
First Deputy PM and Minister of Interior receives the ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

Sheikh Talal receives Saudi envoy

Interior Minister receives written letter from his Qatari counterpart

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7, (KUNA): Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, has received a written communication from Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Qatari Minister of Interior and Commander of the Lekhwiya Force. In this communication, Sheikh Khalifa has extended an invitation to visit Qatar, the sister country, to engage in discussions and consultations concerning various security matters.

According to a press release from the Ministry of Interior, the meeting took place on Monday at Seif Palace, where Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled welcomed Ali bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud, the Qatari Ambassador to the country. During their meeting, the written message was presented and both sides exchanged views on several shared concerns.

The statement further included remarks

from the Qatari ambassador, who expressed appreciation for the raised topics that contribute to reinforcing the fraternal relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Talal Khaled, engaged in discussions with Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khalid Al Saud, the Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to the country, regarding various matters of mutual interest, particularly those concerning security.

As per a press release from the Ministry of Interior, Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid welcomed Prince Sultan bin Saad Al Saud to his office at Seif Palace on Monday. During the meeting, he emphasized the profound nature of the fraternal ties between the two countries. In the statement, Prince Sultan bin Saad expressed his commendation for the topics raised, which contribute to the reinforcement of the brotherly relations between the two nations.

Services in new Amiri Hospital

MoH finally gets 'approval' from regulatory authorities for tender

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7: The Ministry of Health said the regulatory authorities have finally approved the ministry's request to award a tender for operation, maintenance and repair of engineering services in the new Amiri Hospital to one of the companies that provided the lowest prices conforming to the technical conditions and specifications, for 1.7 million dinars, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The sources added that the Ministry of Health has obtained other approvals related to direct contracting for the purchase of materials for the cardiac physiology department at the Amiri Hospital, "Sabah Al-Ahmad Heart Center", at a cost of 717,000 dinars, in addition to the supply of materials used as sensors for the blood glucose meter, and sugar and insulin pumps at public hospitals whose value is 5.3 million dinars.

The health sources indicated the

approval of the purchase of medicines used for cancer patients at the Hussein Maki Al-Juma'a Center for Specialized Surgery, at approximately 560,000 dinars, stressing the Ministry's keenness to provide all types of medicines, supplies and medical equipment throughout its facilities, to ensure that patients obtain their rights to receive treatment in an integrated manner.

The same sources pointed out the Ministry of Health's keenness to tighten the procedures for requesting medicines, devices, equipment and medical consumables in all health facilities, to ensure the preservation of public money, avoid observations of the Audit Bureau, and save on the annual budget of the Ministry in this aspect, noting its keenness also to eliminate the long documentary cycle and the necessary approvals for the supply of medicines and supplies from abroad.

Graduation stalled

Continued from Page 1

Yusuf, who wants to pursue a career in teaching, has got a place on a training program starting in September. She has obtained a results transcript from her university, but she's worried that's not enough to compensate for the fact that she hasn't yet got her degree.

Her fellow classmate, Saja Altamimi, said she did attend her graduation ceremony - though she doesn't have her final results, either.

While the professor in charge of her dissertation wasn't involved in the marking boycott, she's still waiting for grades from some course modules.

Like many other students, Altamimi stressed that her anger and frustration isn't directed at her teachers, but rather at senior university leaders. They argue that college

leadership has the power to stop the disruptions, but chose not to negotiate to end the dispute or address the reasons behind the industrial action.

Altamimi said she wore a bright pink sash that read "Settle the dispute" - the striking academics' slogan - at her graduation ceremony in protest.

"I decided to show off my sash, to get that message out there," she said. "I'm not in any way upset at my teachers, I value and respect their decision. We just wanted to show solidarity in any way we can."

Elsewhere, graduating students have refused to shake university leaders' hands on stage, or disrupted graduation ceremonies by chanting "Pay your workers!"

The University and College Union blames college bosses for "throwing students under the bus." It argues that universities have enough surplus income to raise staff wages by 10%, but are refusing to offer staff anything on pay increases.

August

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Enemies of women fail to Islamize laws'

"THE attempts by anti-women elements representatives to Islamize the laws have been unsuccessful. Our nation grapples with internal crises caused by rampant corruption, jeopardizing the future of our children. Additionally, external regional tensions, like the dispute in the Durra field with Iran, further aggravates the situation," columnist **Bader Khaled Al-Bahr** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"Add to this Iran's influence over Lebanese and Iraqi political decisions which strengthens the instability. Despite these pressing issues, some deputies propose trivial laws, such as a ban on tattoos, as a supposed solution to more significant problems."

"These deputies even went further by suggesting a dangerous law punishing magicians severely, showing their lack of understanding of Islamic principles."



Bader Al-Bahr

"They attempt to distort and exploit Sharia for their political gains rather than genuinely adhering to its values. One disturbing example is their urgency in requesting a fatwa committee to prevent the division of common inherited money in a manner inconsistent with Islamic law."

"It is disheartening to see these religious-political groups targeting laws that are already in line with Sharia, rather than focusing on rectifying those that are not."

"They even demand gender equality in inheritance, misinterpreting Quranic verses, and impose restrictions on mosques, deviating from the true teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)."

"To deceive their voters, they incorporate vague clauses, like 'commitment to Islamic law,' in election laws without specifying their true intentions."

"However, these actions merely reflect their fear of confronting real issues. We must not fear such deputies, as their endeavors to Islamize laws that are not compatible with Sharia have failed."

"In contrast, there have been genuine efforts to Islamize Kuwaiti laws by esteemed scholars like Prof. Dr. Muhammad Al-Tabtabai, whose project aimed to ensure compatibility with Sharia while preparing society for these changes through various preliminary projects."

"Despite the challenges posed by some religious deputies, the true Islamization of laws has not been achieved, and they have fallen short in their responsibilities to uphold Islamic principles."

Also:

"In the past few days, Kuwait Airways Corporation has faced significant criticism on social media due to the cancellation of reservations, flight delays, and schedule changes. Such actions can undoubtedly be frustrating for travelers and may lead to financial losses and dissatisfaction, columnist **Tariq Al-Derbas** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily."

"However, it is essential to be fair and considerate towards the Board of Directors and the current executive management of Kuwait Airways. Flight disruptions, cancellations, and diversions are not uncommon in the airline industry, given the unforeseen circumstances that can arise."

"Despite facing challenges such as government bureaucracy, budget constraints, and other obstacles, Kuwait Airways has shown commendable progress. In just two years, it has climbed from the 176th to the 42nd rank in the global 'Skytrax' airline classification, an impressive achievement."

"Moreover, the airline has made significant advancements, including acquiring state-of-the-art aircraft for 2023, a 33% increase in flights, a 45% rise in passenger numbers, and the addition of four new aircraft to its fleet. Additionally, five new services have been introduced for passengers, and six new destinations have been opened, bringing the total number of international destinations to 58."

"It's important to note that these statistics are based on the performance during the first six months of 2023. The vision for Kuwait Airways is

even greater, with the aspiration to be among the top 10 airlines in the world in the future."

"In light of the substantial progress and efforts made to improve the airline, it is crucial to support and reward the hard work rather than attacking and frustrating it. While it is reasonable to express dissatisfaction over flight delays and suggest areas for improvement, the demand for a complete overhaul of the board of directors and executive management should be reconsidered."

"It is essential to support those who strive and work diligently, even if mistakes are made. Focus should be on correcting any imbalances and addressing challenges rather than entirely dismantling the organization."

"Let us recognize and appreciate the efforts of the team working tirelessly to overcome obstacles and raise Kuwait Airways to higher international standards. Support and encouragement should be extended to the board of directors, the executive management, and all Kuwait Airways staff in the days to come. Together, they can achieve their ambitious goals and secure a successful future for the airline."

"Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Al-Jaber Al-Sabah did well in dealing with the Lebanese Economy Minister whose government was dissatisfied with Kuwaiti aid. If some Lebanese officials — current or former (during the war in July 2006) — swallowed Kuwaiti and Gulf aid estimated at billions of dollars and put the money in their foreign accounts, then that is not our problem," columnist **Jalil Al-Tabakh** wrote for **Annahar** daily.

"Kuwait is a generous country. It is not necessary to ask or pressure Kuwait, as it naturally helps all countries whose economy is collapsing due to wars, natural disasters or political and economic crises!"

"The Lebanese Economy Minister has gone too far with his request for a loan from Kuwait to build silos at Beirut port!"

"You want me to guide you to the country that committed the crime!! You know which country it is! The European country whose president visited Lebanon 48 hours after the explosion — even before the fires at the port were extinguished"

"The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait did well. It is the State of constitution, law freedoms, Arabism and Islam. It is a State that does not succumb to pressure. Yes to the State, Al-Sabah family, Constitution and the law."

"Kuwait is protected by Divine Justice, the law and international justice, because it is a generous and dignified country."

"Inside...have we planned like the rest of the Gulf countries to be a financial, tourism, commercial and investment center that provides alternative financial sources to oil revenues in light of the expected drop in oil prices?! Or, the prevailing and applicable approach is 'spend whatever is in the pocket and do not care about the unseen', because unlike others, we believe in the principles 'live your day' and 'the provisional State'," columnist **Sami Al-Nisf** wrote for **Annahar** daily.

"Abroad... What about the harassment and threats we are witnessing?! Do we know the real causes in order to deal with them? Do we have the ability to respond to them through the media, because silence over such issues could turn them from falsehood into facts that make us the aggressors and perpetrators in front of the whole world, instead of the victims?"

"These are worthy questions... Are our relations with the allies in the best condition to join us in responding to potential enemies?! After the bitter experience in the summer of 1990, did we make Kuwait a bright spot on the world map, so that no official would pass through the region without visiting it? Or, did we turn off the lights and close our doors to ourselves due to the extremism legislation? We did not find anyone to politically and socially ally with in the whole world except the Taliban, and North Korea economically... Yes, they are allies and role models!"

— Compiled by **Mai Elsoukary**

Securitymen bust 7-man gang involved in several theft cases

72 facilities shut

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7: Personnel from the Farwaniya Governorate Research and Investigation Department have closed about 10 theft cases committed against expatriates by a seven-man Arab gang who have, after their arrest, confessed to the charges filed against them, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, the CID men have also taken in custody an Arab man who allegedly bought the stolen goods from the suspects. Most of the thefts were committed by the gang in the Farwaniya region.

A security source said after an investigation was opened into the incident, two men were caught red-handed and during interrogation they implicated five other men and admitted to sharing the money from the sale of the goods among them.

The person who bought the phones from the suspect allegedly did not explain the reasons that prompted him to send the purchased phones to his home country to resell them, which leads to the belief that he was involved and aware that the phones sold to him were stolen.

72 facilities shut: The statistics issued by the Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department show the department's prevention sector has administratively closed 72 establishments last July, reports Al-Anba daily.

Headed by Major General Khaled Abdullah Fahd, the DGFDD said the Hawalli and Jahra governorates accounted for 20 administrative closures each, and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate 11 facilities were closed, and 9 facilities were closed in the capital governorate.

As for Al-Ahmadi Governorate, the number of closed facilities reached 7, and Farwaniya 5 facilities.

As for violations the Farwaniya Governorate came in first place with 115 violations issued to facilities, while the capital came in next with 103 violations.

Correction

At the end of the article titled 'Local start-up preps Kuwaiti youth for global stage' dated August 7, 2023 on Page 5, the following sentence published was "To learn more about Edvantage's programs or register for the next IELTS mock exam, connect with the company at @edvantage.m". The correct address is "@edvantage.me"

Expedite tender measures: CAPT

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7: The Central Agency for Public Tenders called on the Ministry of Public Works to expedite the completion of tender procedures for the construction, completion, development and maintenance of roads and intersections to serve the new passenger terminal of Kuwait International Airport T2 on Al-Maqwa Road, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The agency also called on the ministry to hasten to float the tender for the implementation of infrastructure improvement works for the areas of Yarmouk, Phase 11, Qurtoba, and Surra.

The agency requested amending the amount of the second extension of the supervision services agreement for the construction, completion and maintenance of the northern regional road from the Sixth Ring Road to intersection No. 82, to 323,468 dinars for 151 days duration.

On the other hand, CAPT has approved the awarding of a tender for the supply and installation of 300 kV insulated ground cables and communication cables with their accessories in Ahmadi Governorate to feed Abu Halifa Station "W" to the third lowest bidder company that meet the conditions and specifications. The contract is worth 29.99 million dinars.

In a related context, the agency decided to refer a request to the Fatwa and Legislation Department to reconsider approval of the tender for the supply, installation, operation and maintenance of gas turbine units operating in the combined cycle system to increase the electric power at the site of the Subbiya power plant and water distillation by 900 megawatts (phase four). The contract is worth 204.17 million dinars.

2 held for smoking in restricted area

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7: Under the supervision of an investigator at the East Police Station, two individuals born in 1991 and 1997 have been arrested under unusual circumstances for disrespecting a first lieutenant working for the Environment Police, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, a report was received from a security checkpoint in the capital, indicating the presence of two individuals exhibiting

abnormal behavior.

Consequently, the police force was dispatched to the location, where they encountered a first lieutenant born in 1989, an employee of the Ministry of the Interior working in the Environment Police Department.

The first lieutenant confronted the two young men for smoking inside a restricted area and noticed their unusual behavior.



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Bid to encourage creativity, talent of students

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7, (KUNA): Salah Al-Awfan, the Assistant Undersecretary at the Amiri Diwan and Director of the Martyr's Office for Honoring Martyrs and their Families, has announced the launch of the 20th Martyr Cultural Competition for Giftedness and Creativity in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

During a press conference held last Tuesday, coinciding with the anniversary of the brutal Iraqi invasion, Al-Awfan emphasized the significance of instilling values of loyalty and belonging in the hearts of students.

He noted that these values lie at the core of their mission to honor the memory of martyrs and, as per their annual

tradition, the competition will be carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

The competition aims to target and encourage creativity and talent among students, as they deserve support and recognition for their exceptional abilities.

Scheduled to begin at the start of the upcoming academic year and extend until February 2024, the competition will encompass various fields, including poetry, drawing, music, calligraphy and theatre.

Al-Awfan emphasized the importance of supporting and nurturing the youth, acknowledging their role as present and future leaders with significant responsibilities in contributing to the country's progress and continued prosperity.



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CMA, CPA sign MoU

Effort aims to strengthen bonds among gov't entities

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7, (KUNA): The Capital Markets Authority (CMA) and the Competition Protection Authority (CPA) have jointly announced the formalization of a memorandum of understanding, aimed at fostering collaboration and sharing expertise in the domains of regulatory oversight and governance, encompassing their respective purviews.

In a press release issued on Monday, both authorities highlighted that the primary objective of this memorandum is to elevate operational efficiency in alignment with industry best practices. The Capital Markets Authority, with its integral role in supervising and regulating securities activities, plays a pivotal part in this endeavor. Additionally, the authority assumes the vital responsibility of safeguarding the market against activities that could undermine fair competition, particularly concerning the enforcement of laws relating to approvals for economic concentration operations. This involves adhering to prescribed limitations, conditions, and procedures relevant to entities holding dominant market positions and exerting significant control.



Dr. Ahmed Al-Melhem, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Capital Markets Authority, and Rashid Al-Ajmi, Chairman of the Competition Protection Authority.

The memorandum signifies a concerted effort to strengthen the collaborative bonds among government entities, recognizing the significance of bilateral cooperation in shaping and adhering to competition-related laws and policies. This collaboration is crucial to ensure compliance with existing regulations and to foster effective partnerships that keep pace with the ever-evolving dynamics of both the local and global economies.

Cooperation

Notably, the memorandum encompasses multiple spheres of cooperation. A key aspect involves the exchange of pertinent information and data between the two entities, adhering to legal and regulatory provisions.

The signing of this memorandum was attended by prominent figures from both entities, including Dr. Ahmed Al-Melhem, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Capital Markets Authority, Othman Al-Issa, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Rashid Al-Ajmi, Chairman of the Competition Protection Authority, and Al-Anoud Al-Fahd, Executive Director-designate.

The establishment of the Capital Markets Authority in Kuwait, as per Law No. 7 of 2010, was endorsed by the National Assembly in February 2010. The Authority's role encompasses regulating and supervising securities activities, promoting principles of transparency, equity, and efficiency, and enforcing corporate governance standards within listed companies.

National strategy for digital transformation

Minister Al-Shula issues ministerial decision

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7, (KUNA): Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs, Fahd Al-Shula, has issued a ministerial decision to establish a supreme committee responsible for overseeing the development of the national strategy for digital transformation. This initiative is part of the government's efforts to implement its action program and support projects related to digital transformation across the state.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Sunday, Minister Al-Shula highlighted that this committee builds upon the country's commitment to achieving digital transformation. The authorities under the Ministry of State for Communications Affairs have been actively working on enhancing the digital system for government services, businesses, and operations in various ministries, public authorities, and institutions.

The national strategy for digital transformation aims to enhance collaboration and integration among government agencies and institutions. It seeks to accelerate and maximize the impact of comprehensive digital transformation within a national framework and strategic plan. This strategy is a crucial step towards fulfilling the country's development vision and sustainable development goals.

Minister Al-Shula emphasized that digital transformation involves radi-

Kuwait ranks 75th in Global Real Estate Investment Return Index

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7: Nomad Capitalist, a company specializing in advisory services for investors and entrepreneurs, recently published the Global Real Estate Investment Return Index, ranking the Kuwaiti real estate market 75th globally, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to the index, the rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Kuwait's city center or main suburbs is \$930, while the price per square meter for buying an apartment in the city center is \$7087.

This makes Kuwait's real estate market the most expensive among Gulf countries. In comparison, the price per square meter in the Emirates is \$3924, Qatar \$4730, Saudi Arabia \$1692, and Oman \$2081.

However, when it comes to the return on real estate investment,

Kuwait lags behind its Gulf counterparts. The United Arab Emirates secured the top position globally in the Nomad Index, followed by Saudi Arabia at 9th, Qatar at 11th, and Oman also at 11th.

The Nomad Return on Real Estate Index evaluates real estate markets in 103 countries, encompassing both developed and developing markets, to gauge the true value of international real estate. It utilizes a percentage-based approach to measure the performance of each market based on five key factors: price-to-income ratio (25%), net rental income (37.5%), ability to afford loans (12.5%), purchase cost, real estate and subsequent sale (12.5%), and tax on rental income (12.5%).



Al-Shula

cal changes in how government institutions operate, including their culture, services, operations, and outputs. It presents an excellent opportunity to improve performance, enhance user experience, increase government efficiency, and reduce costs.

Furthermore, he emphasized that digital transformation is an ongoing process, and government institutions should be prepared to invest in it for the long term to reap its benefits. Developing a national strategy for digital transformation is vital to improve the government's digital system, services, flexibility, readiness, and harmoniza-

tion between projects and digital systems across the country. It will also boost competitiveness and optimize the utilization of infrastructure and digital assets.

The committee, as per the ministerial decision, will be responsible for overseeing the preparation of the strategy, coordinating the necessary actions, and proposing suitable mechanisms for implementing the strategy once it is approved.

The committee will also collaborate with relevant authorities to ensure all necessary procedures are followed in the preparation of the strategy.



Dia Mirza with Vidyun Hebbur



Dia Mirza with Pranav Mahendru



Dhritiman Mukherjee with Karthik Mohanlyer



Sanjay Shukla with Amit Vyas



Swaminathan with Aakash Selvan



Sudhir Shivaram with Srikanth Manneperi



Dia Mirza with Arnav Deshpande



Saurabh Desai with Sriram Murali

Wildlife conservationist Manneperi bags prestigious Photographer Of The Year – Portfolio title

Kuwait's Alatiqi wins at Nature inFocus Photography Awards

BANGALORE, Aug 7: The results of the Nature inFocus Photography Awards were announced at the Nature inFocus Festival 2023 held at Jayamah Palace, Bangalore.

On Saturday, July 29, the winners were presented during a grand awards ceremony graced by chief guest Dia Mirza, Actor, Producer & UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador.

The winning images this year include:

■ A portrait of a Bonobo as she looks after a mongoose pup like a pet

■ A gorgeous wildscape of two male Nubian ibexes battling for the right to mate in Zin Desert, Israel

■ The magic of Ranthambhore captured in a single frame—its historic architecture, iconic species and stunning landscape

■ Gorgeous action shot of a rarely-seen natural history moment where a tiger fishes out a softshell turtle for lunch

■ Yet another phenomenal documentation of a rare natural history moment where a tiger feasts on a leopard

■ A cetacean avalanche in the beautifully lit waters of the Pacific Ocean as a large pod of Spinner Dolphins dive back into the ocean

■ TOI photojournalist captured a conflict scenario where the forest department attempts to remove a wild tusker that had entered a village near Nagarhole

■ Dragonflies or inflorescence? In the animal world, mimicry is the best defence mechanism

■ One of the rarest cats in the world, the Amur Leopard, caught on camera trap!

■ Photostory on the mangroves of Godavari shows the magnitude and scale of mangrove destruction everywhere in the world

Nature inFocus Photography Awards 2023—The Winners

Submissions for this year's awards closed on June 15th and received 24,000 images from more than 1,500 competing photographers.

■ Srikanth Manneperi, wildlife conservationist, photographer and filmmaker won the Photographer Of The Year – Portfolio title. Sri Lankan photographer Lalith Ekanayake won a Special Mention prize.

■ In the Animal Behaviour cat-



Photo shows a winning image by Suliman Alatiqi. Alatiqi from Kuwait won in the Animal Portraits category at the Nature inFocus Photography Awards during the Nature inFocus Festival 2023 held recently at Jayamah Palace, Bangalore.

egory, Afroj Sheikh, Avinash PC and Sankhesh Dedhia were the winners.

■ For Animal Portraits, Christian Ziegler, Morup Namgail and Suliman Alatiqi took away the accolades.

■ For Conservation Focus it was Hiren Pagi, Jo Anne McArthur and Lalith Ekanayake who shared the best images.

■ Arkaprava Ghosh, Anirban Dutta and Kai Kolodziej won the Creative Nature Photography category

■ Amit Eshel, Dileep SS and Navin Kumar won the Wildscape & Animals in Their Habitat category.

■ Arnav Deshpande, Jomtup Charoenlapnumchai and Pranav Mahendru won the Young Photographer category.

Over the years, the contest has seen an increase in participation not just from wildlife and nature photographers across India but also from various parts of the world. "The Nature inFocus Photography Awards has

grown to become a meeting place for national and international photographers," says Rohit Varma, one of the

founders of Nature inFocus.

"Every year, we see images that reveal new facets of our natural world

while shining a light on pertinent global conservation issues. We are thrilled to see the growth in the number of participants and the geographical locations. It truly has become an international platform for wildlife photographers!"

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KOTC awarded ISO for integrated, comprehensive risk management

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7, (KUNA): Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) announced Sunday being awarded three ISO certificates.

In a press release, KOTC said it was awarded ISO in quality management, environmental management, and risk management, adding that these certificates comply with

its 2040 strategic plan, which stipulates high efficiency in performing duties and commitment to high standards in safety and environment.

It affirmed the importance of a comprehensive administrative system in improving the work environment, thus enhance Company production.

Sankhesh Dedhia's winning photo in Animal Behaviour category.

KOTC awarded ISO

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Saudi, Turkish companies sign deal

Saudi Arabia announced on Monday that it had signed a localization deal with several Turkish companies to develop, manufacture and produce drones within the Kingdom.

According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), the deal -- inked between Saudi and Turkish companies -- came as an extension of an agreement signed two weeks prior between the Saudi Defense Ministry and Turkiye's Baykar company.

The current deal between Saudi Arabian Military Industries and Baykar also includes a clause providing training and support services. Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) were also signed between the National Company for Mechanical Systems (NCMS) with several Turkish companies to develop visual systems from the drones and manufacture that within Saudi borders. (KUNA)

Iraq blocks Telegram messaging app

Iraq on Sunday said it has blocked the Telegram messaging application in relation to breaches of personal data, citing the measure as an effort to protect national security.

The telecommunication ministry has asked Telegram to stop "platforms that leak the data of the official state institutions and the personal data of citizens," read a ministry statement, saying

the request went unanswered. "It went on to underline respect for citizens' rights to freedom of expression and communication, without prejudice to the security of the state and its institutions." Telegram has risen in popularity across Iraq, with many users using the app not only as a messaging platform, but a source of news and information as well. (KUNA)

Market Movements

07-08-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
JAPAN	- Nikkei	+0.19	32,254.56	UAE	- DFM	-0.09	4,079.42
PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	+0.88	6,507.78	PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	-0.57	48,310.21
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+0.80	17,839.48	SAUDI	- Tadawul	-0.70	11,271.94

Business

Figure down nearly 40% from last year

Saudi Arabian oil giant Aramco reports \$30b in Q2 profits

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Aug 7, (AP): Saudi state-run oil giant Aramco said Monday that it made \$30 billion in profit in the second quarter, a nearly 40% decline from the same period the previous year that it attributed to lower oil prices.

Total sales stood at just over 400 billion riyals (about \$106 billion), down from 562 billion riyals (\$150 billion in the second quarter of 2022. In an earnings report filed with the Saudi stock exchange, Aramco said the decrease "mainly reflected the impact of lower crude oil prices and weakening refining and chemicals margins."

The company reported net income of 112.8 billion Saudi riyals (\$30 billion) compared to 181.6 billion riyals (\$48 billion) in the second quarter of 2022, a decline of 37.8%.

Aramco nevertheless raised its dividend paid out to investors to 110.18 billion riyals (\$29.38 billion), compared to \$18.8 billion in the second quarter of 2022. The performance-based dividend is partly based on the company's record earnings last year, it said.

"Our strong results reflect our resilience and ability to adapt through market cycles," Aramco CEO Amin Nasser said in a statement accompanying the report.

Last week, Fortune magazine ranked Aramco, officially known as the

Saudi Arabian Oil Co., the second biggest company in the world by revenue, behind only Walmart and ahead of Amazon and Apple. The ranking came after the oil company reported a profit of over \$160 billion in 2022, the largest ever recorded by a publicly traded firm.

Those kinds of earnings will come under heightened scrutiny later this year when the United Arab Emirates, another major oil producer, hosts annual U.N. climate talks aimed at getting the world to slash emissions and reduce its reliance on fossil fuels.

Aramco benefited from a spike in oil prices last year caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Internationally traded oil peaked at over \$120 a barrel in June 2022 before settling in a range of \$75 to \$85 for much of the past year.

Saudi Arabia has repeatedly cut its oil production in recent months and pressed fellow OPEC members to do the same in an attempt to push up prices in the face of weaker demand from China and rising interest rates aimed at combatting inflation.

The kingdom needs high oil prices to fund Vision 2030, a costly and wide-ranging plan to overhaul its economy and transform itself into a regional hub for business and tourism. The plans include several so-called "gigaprojects," including the construction of a futuristic \$500 billion city

on the Red Sea coast.

Saudi Arabia is also investing billions of dollars in tourism, entertainment and sports, including on a controversial merger with the PGA Tour and the recruitment of some of soccer's biggest stars to play for local clubs.

Activists accuse the country of trying to "sportswash" a human rights record marred by its involvement in the war in neighboring Yemen, a heavy crackdown on dissent and the 2018 killing of Jamal Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist and government critic.

The International Monetary Fund estimates that Saudi Arabia needs an oil price of around \$80 a barrel to avoid running a deficit. Benchmark U.S. crude oil for September delivery rose \$1.27 to \$82.82 a barrel Friday. Brent crude for October delivery rose \$1.10 to \$86.24 a barrel.

Aramco raised a record \$29.4 billion through an initial 2019 public offering in which it sold a tiny sliver of less than 2% of the company to investors.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's day-to-day ruler and the architect of Vision 2030, has transferred 8% of Aramco to the kingdom's \$700 billion sovereign wealth fund over the past two years to help shore it up as it funds the massive infrastructure projects.

ABK offers exclusive discount on 'Porsche Cayenne' 2023

As part of its commitment to provide value-added offerings to its customers, and in recognition of the growing demand in the Kuwait automotive industry, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently launched an exclusive discount in collaboration with Porsche Centre Kuwait – Behbehani Motors Company, on the purchase of the Cayenne 2023.

Porsche Centre Kuwait offers customers a unique and unparalleled driving experience. Known for their exceptional performance, precision engineering, and timeless design, the vehicles are synonymous with luxury and sportiness where each model is meticulously crafted to deliver thrilling driving dynamics.

The tailored brand experience is mirrored in ABK's goal of ensuring customer needs are met by providing customized promotions and discounts. Available for the Bank's Private Banking, Elite, and Prestige customer segments, the promotion conveniently delivers their sought-after luxurious lifestyle.

On this occasion, Johair Marafi, Acting General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, said, "The purchase of luxury cars holds great importance for our customers. As a result, we decided to collaborate with Porsche Centre Kuwait to cater to their aspirations and offer the opportunity to own the Cayenne 2023."

Marafi added, "We continuously study customer needs and strive to design promotions, services, and products in alignment with them." She noted that ABK has recently launched several promotional campaigns aiming to offer exclusive benefits, thus making ABK a distinct choice in the Kuwaiti banking sector.

Marafi concluded, "I would like to thank Porsche Centre Kuwait for their collaboration with ABK, contributing to achieving common goals, gaining customer trust, and meeting their needs at all levels."



Johair Marafi Acting General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK

ABK is committed to its vision and maintaining its position as a top-tier financial institution which consistently exceeds customer expectations. By forging strategic partnerships and offering exclusive privileges, ABK continues to provide its customers with exceptional value and a personalized banking experience.

Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region that is today known for offering a simpler banking experience.

The Bank offers personal, corporate, and private banking of which includes a wide array of products and services.

ABK also provides a broad range of local, regional, and global investment solutions and services through its subsidiary, ABK Capital. Enjoying equal stability and strength, the Bank also offers the convenience of banking across the region, servicing other markets in Egypt and the UAE.

For more information about ABK, please follow the Bank's Instagram account @abk_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches across Kuwait.

Wall Street rises to regain some momentum after last week's lull

Asian benchmarks mostly slip

NEW YORK, Aug 7, (AP): Stocks are mostly rising Monday as Wall Street regains some momentum following a pause in its big rally for the year so far.

The S&P 500 was 0.4% higher in midday trading, coming off its first losing week in the last four. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 307 points, or 0.9%, at 35,373, as of 11 a.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was virtually unchanged.

Berkshire Hathaway rose 2.8% after the company run by famed investor Warren Buffett reported stronger profit and revenue for the spring than analysts expected. Pharmaceutical company Viatris also rose after its results topped forecasts. It climbed 6.9%.

The stronger-than-expected reports helped offset a 7.1% drop for Tyson. The company's results for the latest quarter fell far short of analysts' expectations, and Tyson said it would close four chicken facilities as it tries to cut costs.

Tesla also weighed on the market with a 2.9% drop. The electric vehicle maker said its chief financial officer, Zachary Kirkhorn, stepped down last week after four years in the position.

Corporate profits have been mostly beating forecasts as the season for reporting results from April through June enters its tail end. Nearly four out of five companies in the S&P 500 have topped expectations so far, according to FactSet. But they're still on track to report their sharpest drop in profit from year-earlier levels since the summer of 2020, when the pandemic was pummeling the global economy.

Besides profit reports from some media giants like The Walt Disney Co. and Fox, this upcoming week also features highly anticipated reports on inflation.

Inflation has been the key to Wall Street's big moves in recent years after soaring to its worst level in generation. Since hitting a peak last summer, inflation has been cooling steadily. That has raised hopes that the Federal Reserve may be done with its drastic hikes to interest rates.

Higher rates try to smother inflation by bluntly slowing the entire economy and hurting prices for investments. The Fed has quickly pulled its federal funds rate to the highest level in more than two decades, up from virtually zero early last year.

Inflation has come down from more than 9% last summer to 3% in June. But many economists and professional investors say the toughest part may still be ahead as the Fed tries to get inflation down toward its 2% target.

Sticky inflation could mean Wall Street too quickly coalesced around the growing hope that rate hikes are over and the economy will have a soft landing. If that's the case, the S&P 500's rally of 19.5% through the year's first seven months could also be overdone, as critics suggest.

Oil prices have perked up recently. The price of a barrel of U.S. crude added roughly \$10 through July to top \$80, though it slipped 1.4% to \$81.70 Monday.

A remarkably resilient job market may also be putting a floor under inflation by giving households fuel to keep spending and keep inflationary forces



Photos taken during the meeting



Promoting business ties: Malawi Ambassador's meeting with Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait Director

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7: In a significant move to strengthen bilateral trade and economic ties between Malawi and Kuwait, His Excellency Younos Abdul Karim, the esteemed Ambassador of Malawi to Kuwait, paid a momentous visit to the regional office of Lulu Hypermarket in Farwaniya, Kuwait. During the visit on August 7, 2023, Ambassador Younos Abdul Karim held a productive meeting with Mr. Mohamed Haris, the Director of Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait, and other prominent members of the top management team.

The visit marked a pivotal milestone in exploring various business possibilities, particularly focusing on the import of Malawi's high-quality products into the Kuwaiti market. Both sides expressed their eagerness to forge a long-lasting partnership that will not only boost

trade relations but also foster cultural exchange between the two nations.

Ambassador Younos Abdul Karim commended Lulu Hypermarket's reputable presence in Kuwait and its pivotal role in the retail sector. He conveyed his appreciation for Lulu Hypermarket's commitment to offering a diverse range of quality products to Kuwaiti consumers and tourists alike.

During the meeting, Mr. Mohamed Haris, extended a warm welcome to Ambassador Younos Abdul Karim and his delegation. He expressed keen interest in exploring the untapped potential of Malawi's unique and rich offerings, he acknowledged that Kuwaiti consumers have a growing demand for distinctive products from across the globe and ex-

pressed Lulu Hypermarket's commitment to providing an avenue for Malawian products to reach Kuwaiti consumers.

Both parties discussed various strategies to facilitate the smooth importation of Malawian products into Kuwait, overcoming any potential hurdles and ensuring compliance with regulations. Additionally, they explored possibilities for joint marketing initiatives to raise awareness of Malawi's products and culture within Kuwait.

In his remarks, Ambassador expressed his optimism and confidence in the prospects of this partnership. He highlighted that the collaboration between Malawi and Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait would not only enhance economic prospects but also create meaningful connections between the peoples of both nations.

alive. A report last week showed that wages for workers rose more in July than expected, though hiring was cooler than forecast.

On Thursday, the U.S. government will release the latest monthly update on inflation that consumers are feeling, and economists are forecasting it will show a 3.3% rise in prices from year-ago levels. That would be an acceleration from June's inflation rate.

The Fed pays particularly close attention to what prices are doing for services outside of rent and housing. Much of the improvement there during June came from falling airfares. Now that they're back to where they were before the pandemic, they may not move much more, economists at Deutsche Bank say.

Europe

France's CAC 40 slid 0.2% in early trading to 7,298.28, while Germany's DAX lost 0.3% to 15,909.75. Britain's FTSE 100 was down 0.5% at 7,526.42. U.S. shares were set to drift higher with Dow futures up 0.2% at 35,217.00. S&P 500 futures rose nearly 0.3% to 4,509.25.

Asia

Asian shares were trading mostly lower on Monday after U.S. employment data had Wall Street close out a losing week.

Investors are also closely watching

earnings reports due later this week, including from Disney in the U.S., Alibaba Group in China and Sony and SoftBank in Japan.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 recouped losses earlier in the day and was down less than 0.1% at 32,190.31 in morning trading.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 shed 0.4% to 7,298.60. South Korea's Kospi inched down less than 0.1% to 2,602.49. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 0.3% to 19,488.09, while the Shanghai Composite dropped 0.6% to 3,267.44.

"Local Stocks appear to be latching onto the U.S. downswing from Friday as investors are still absorbing a down week for most markets," Stephen Innes at SPI Asset Management said of Asian trading.

On Friday last week, the S&P 500 sank 23.86, or 0.5%, to 4,478.03. It was the fourth straight drop for Wall Street's main measure of health after it set a 16-month high at the start of the week.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average also drifted between gains and losses through the day before ending with a loss. It dropped 150.27 points, or 0.4%, to 35,063.62, and the Nasdaq composite gave up 50.48, or 0.4%, to 13,909.24.

A highly anticipated U.S. jobs report said hiring was a touch weaker last month than economists expected, though wages for workers rose more

than forecast.

Although a strong job market is generally a positive sign for the economy, if wage growth is particularly strong, the U.S. Federal Reserve could see it as putting upward pressure on inflation.

If the job market keeps moderating, it could allow inflation to continue to cool from its peak reached last summer.

Big Tech Stocks have led Wall Street's charge this year. Like Amazon and Apple, which reported earnings last week, most companies in the S&P 500 have been reporting stronger profits for the spring than analysts expected.

Oil

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude lost 4 cents to \$82.78 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, slipped 4 cents to \$86.20 a barrel.

Currencies

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar inched up to 141.97 Japanese yen from 141.71 yen. The euro cost \$1.1000, down from \$1.1012.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury dropped Friday to 4.04% from 4.18% late Thursday. It helps set rates for mortgages and other important loans.

The two-year Treasury yield, which moves more on expectations for the Fed, fell to 4.77% from 4.89%.

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Porsche Collaboration Campaign Visual

Arab diplomats, officials explore Chinese modernization practices

Tamer M.A. Shehab, an official from the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, experienced being a "pilot" during his recent trip to Shanghai.

At a local exhibition center of the G60 Science & Technology Innovation Valley (G60 valley), Shehab sat in a flight simulator of a passenger aircraft. He saw the vast blue sky through the windows on each side of the simulator.

The simulator was made by a Shanghai-based tech company, which also produces flight simulator equipment for China's self-developed large passenger aircraft C919. After exiting the simulator, Shehab asked the exhibition center for information on the latest scientific and technological achievements of the G60 valley in the field of aerospace.

"They [the achievements] are the future," he said.

The G60 valley in East China, containing Shanghai and its eight surrounding cities, is one of the country's most urbanized economic belts and home to tens of thousands of innovative high-tech entities.

The valley's exhibition center in a Shanghai suburb that Shehab visited is a must-see destination for many foreign officials and scholars who try to explore the experiences of the Chinese path to modernization in Shanghai.

The G60 valley showcases the latest technological developments in China, and supports sustainable economic development, said Iyad Zoukar, professor and deputy director of the Syrian Diplomatic Institute at Syria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates.

"The innovative spirit and cutting-edge technologies showcased at the G60 valley were truly impressive," Zoukar told the Global Times.

"It was fascinating to witness firsthand advancements in various fields there, such as in renewable energy, electric technology, and silicon chip manufacturing," he recalled.

Zoukar and Shehab are among the delegation of officials who visited Shanghai early this summer under the "Seminar for Arab Officials by the China-

Arab Research Center on Reform and Development (CARC)" or the "Seminar for Arab Diplomats in China by the CARC" programs. Zoukar attended the 13th Seminar for Arab Officials held in early June, traveling over 4,000 miles from Syria to Shanghai.

Apart from G60 valley, the visit to Xiaotaoyuan Mosque was also a memorable experience to Zoukar.

"The Xiaotaoyuan Mosque served as a testament to the importance of promoting mutual understanding and respect among diverse communities," said Zoukar. "It was inspiring to witness the peaceful coexistence of different religions in the city and learn about China's policies on nationalities and religions." (PRNewswire)

Both Chairman and Amal Bank Chairman in Dubai.



My Hany Ramadan, ITS product director, Mohamed Issa Chairman Amal Bank and both Amal Bank and ITS teams



Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem Chairman ITS, Mohamed Issa Chairman Amal Bank



Data ctr site visit.

ITS team thrilled to welcome Amal Bank Chairman and CEO

The ITS team has been thrilled to welcome AL Amal Bank Chairman and CEO on their latest two-day visit which included a stop at the ITS headquarters office and Data Center in Kuwait, as well as meeting with the chairman of ITS in Dubai the next day. The visit comes as a celebration of the successful completion of the AMAL Bank Project, one of the first ITS projects to bring to life the newly launched next-generation core banking EHTIX-NG solution.

With this state-of-art implementation of ETHIX-NG, ITS has pledged to be a key part of the development of the core banking industry and the Amal bank Chairman Mr. Mohamed Issa has stated: "Our organization has selected ITS technology to discover new heights and growth prospects to further serve Amal bank customers and their communities around the world." Indeed, Mr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem ITS chairman has emphasized the continuity of the seamless support ITS has provided to Amal bank on their journey to reach their technology and business goals.

The completed project is the first of its kind to be fully hosted in their data centre in Kuwait and fully operated and managed by ITS managed services department. ITS Products director, Mr. Hany Ramadan, has stated that the scope of implementation

has encompassed the Core Banking System with Islamic Banking operations, complete digital modules of Internet Banking and Mobile Applications, DMS, API gateways, in addition to complete onboard integrations for ATMs, Mastercard worldwide network access, and integrations to Mobile money wallet. The project has also provided Amal bank with hosting services for the banking whole applications at the ITS tier 3 data center, which is one of a kind in Kuwait and an outstanding ITS investment.

This all was made possible through a complex managed services architecture for ensuring that the system is secure, reliable, and resilient in case of failure through

high availability and flexible APIs. Most importantly, the ITS team has worked hand in hand with AMAL Bank team to fine tune the solutions to the unique requirements of their local market operations. Indeed, Amal Bank CEO, Mr. Said Shire, has expressed that ITS has been a perfect business partner to the bank and that the ITS solution selected by Amal bank is highly reliable and robust and has exceeded expectations in many positive ways.

ITS is delighted to see the project in full fruition today and looks forward to future steps in accompanying their clients in their innovation and digital transformation journey.

Menzies Aviation and Bangalore Int'l Airport Ltd enter into a 'partnership'

Bid to expand air cargo services at one of India's busiest airports

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7: Menzies Aviation, the leading service partner to the world's airports and airlines, and an Agility company, has affirmed its commitment to India with a new joint venture with Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), the operator of Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru (BLR Airport).



Menzies Aviation and Bangalore International Airport Limited

Operating as Menzies Aviation (Bangaluru) Private Limited (MABPL), the new partnership will be the sole provider of domestic cargo operations at BLR Airport while also providing international cargo services for a period of 15 years, which commenced at the end of May 2023.

Serving multiple airlines and playing a critical role in the development of India's aviation sector, BLR Airport is strategically located in India and has received industry recognition for its highly efficient cargo operations, emerging as the preferred cargo airport in South India.

ward to deploying our operational expertise and developing BLR Airport's cargo infrastructure as we, together with BIAL, strategically enhance the airport's position as a thriving centre of cargo excellence. Thank you to everyone involved in ensuring a seamless transition."

As part of the agreement, MABPL is responsible for handling international exports/imports at an existing on-site cargo facility that has the capacity to handle 210,000 tonnes. MABPL will increase the capacity by 40,000 tonnes in a phased manner by the end of this decade and the cargo terminal will continue to benefit from Menzies' operational expertise and industry-leading excellence in safety, efficiency and sustainability.

Hassan El Houry, Chairman - Menzies Aviation, said: "This long-term agreement with BIAL significantly expands our cargo operations at this strategically important transport hub, which represents the gateway to South and Central India. This partnership comes at an exciting time for the development of the Indian aviation market and BIAL continues to invest in its state-of-the-art facilities. We look forward to deploying our operational expertise and developing BLR Airport's cargo infrastructure as we, together with BIAL, strategically enhance the airport's position as a thriving centre of cargo excellence. Thank you to everyone involved in ensuring a seamless transition."

About Menzies Aviation
Menzies Aviation is the leading service partner to the world's airports and airlines, with operations on six continents, at more than 250 airports in 60-plus countries, serving more than 4 million flights a year and handling over 2 million tonnes of cargo.

MABPL will also become the sole operator at a new domestic cargo facility once completed, handling an initial 250,000 tonnes of cargo, with scope to increase to 400,000 tonnes.

This significant development of domestic cargo operations will support BIAL's ambitions to cater for up to 1.6 million tonnes of cargo annually across its facilities.

cluding passenger, lounge and ramp services; air cargo services, including handling, warehousing and wholesale freight forwarding; and fuel services, including fuel farm management and into-plane fuelling.

Menzies Aviation is recognised across the industry for delivering the safest, most secure and sustainable services tailored to customers' needs and is essential to keeping passengers, aircraft and cargo moving, round the clock, every minute of every day.

Menzies Aviation is headquartered in London, and since its founding in 1833, has become the largest aviation services group in the world by number of countries.

Delayed passengers growl after a bear escapes from crate in cargo hold of Iraqi plane in Dubai

BAGHDAD, Aug 7, (AP): Iraq's prime minister has ordered an investigation into how a bear escaped from its crate in the cargo hold of an Iraqi aircraft as it was due to depart from Dubai airport, leaving passengers disgruntled over the delay and causing a stir on social media.

A video clip circulating on social media showed the plane's captain apologizing to passengers for Friday's takeoff delay because of the bear's escape from its crate in the cargo hold.

The video clip making the social media rounds suggested otherwise, saying the aircraft was an hour late for its trip to Baghdad and that passengers were being asked to disembark until the issue was resolved.

Iraqi Airways said Saturday that procedures to transport the bear were carried out in accordance with the law and with procedures and standards approved by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

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Dubai International Airport, the world's busiest for international travel, declined to comment.

An Iraqi Airways official confirmed to The Associated Press on Sunday that the bear was, in fact, being transported to the Iraqi capital. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he's

not authorized to speak about the matter publicly, declined to name the animal's owner.

Keeping predatory animals as pets in Iraq - especially in Baghdad - has become popular among the wealthy.

'A seasoned veteran' Burgan Bank 'appoints' Al-Mattar as GM for Information Technology

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7: Burgan Bank has announced the appointment of Mr. Barrak Al-Mattar as General Manager of Information Technology. With over 22 years of experience in the tech industry, Mr. Al-Mattar, a seasoned veteran, will lead the Bank's efforts to strengthen its digital transformation while keeping up with the latest technological advancements that offer reliability and security. His primary responsibilities include modernizing IT operations, implementing robust security controls, and aligning IT objectives with the Bank's strategies and goals, especially ensuring a seamless banking experience for customers.



Barrak Al-Mattar

The Bank's decision to appoint Mr. Al-Mattar aligns with its commitment to nurturing local talent and attracting top professionals for senior leadership positions. This dedication reflects the Bank's role in shaping the future of Kuwait and its sustainable development. Mr. Fadhel Mahmoud Abdullah, Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Burgan Bank in Kuwait, emphasized the importance of a solid and capable IT department in the Bank's digital transformation journey. He believes that Mr. Al-Mattar's experience and forward-looking approach make him an ideal fit to lead the IT department and support the Bank's overall growth.

Mr. Al-Mattar has an impressive track record of achievements and notable leadership qualities, enabling him to oversee major transformational projects throughout his career successfully.

Before joining Burgan Bank, Mr. Al-Mattar was the General Manager of IT at Kuwait International Bank (KIB). During his time there, he developed the Bank's IT transformation roadmap and implemented new strategies to transition the Bank into the digital era. Earlier in his career, he spent nearly 20 years at EQUATE Petrochemical Company, primarily serving as an IT Group Leader in different areas in IT dept.

Mr. Al-Mattar holds a Bachelor of

Science in Management Information Systems (MIS) from Kuwait University. He is an SAP-certified consultant and has been a Board Member of SAP User Group MENA. Throughout his extensive career, he has earned various certifications, including Six Sigma (green belt). He has actively participated in programs such as the KFAS Innovation Challenge and the Thukhur leadership program in Kuwait.

About Burgan Bank
Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is currently the third-largest bank by assets in Kuwait. From its earliest days, the Bank has significantly focused on the corporate and financial institution sectors, in addition to diversifying its offering to cater to its growing retail and private banking customer base.

Burgan Bank has majority-owned subsidiaries, collectively known as the "Burgan Bank Group", in the MENAT region. This Group is supported by one of the largest branch networks across the region and includes: Gulf Bank Algeria - AGB (Algeria), Tunis International Bank - TIB (Tunisia), and the fully owned Burgan Bank Turkey. Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a presence in the UAE through its corporate office, Burgan Financial Services Limited.

Warba Bank wins the Elite Quality Recognition Award from JPMorgan

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 7: Warba Bank announced obtaining the Elite Award for Quality Recognition in Sustainable Direct Payment Practices from J.P. Morgan for the third year in a row. J.P. Morgan is considered one of the largest banks in the world in terms of market capitalization, and it operates in more than 100 countries around the world.



Layali Al-Fahad

This award is a result of Warba Bank's success in maintaining the distinguished level of services and operations it provided throughout the year in the field of money transfers, which reflects the Bank's commitment to high standards of quality. Warba Bank reached this level as a result of achieving the single direct payment processing rate of 99.62%, the commercial payment processing rate of 99.99% in the US dollar, and the Quality Appreciation Award for achieving the single direct payment processing rate of 92.11% in the Euro currency for the second year in a row.

Warba Bank became one of the few banks in the Middle East and North Africa region that won the prestigious award for client transfers and transfers between banks.

On this occasion, Layali Al-Fahad, Chief Operations Officer at Warba Bank, said, "The JP Morgan award is the greatest evidence of Warba Bank's commitment to providing the highest quality standards in financial services to its clients, and we are proud of achieving the best ratios in direct

operations (STP) for money transfers. What we have achieved proves the hard work and dedication of our operations team to achieve the best results and provide solutions to meet customers' financial needs, explaining that this came due to the great focus on outstanding quality in direct processing and the adoption of integrated payment processes.

She emphasized Warba Bank's firm commitment to the principles of environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) practices, as the Bank's sustainable initiatives contribute to reducing paper use, simplifying operations and enhancing transparency, in line with the United Nations goals for sustainable development and the Kuwait National Development Plan 2035.

'Action was illegal'

Conservatives sue to block Biden plan canceling \$39b in student loans

LOS ANGELES, Aug 7: Two conservative groups are asking a federal court to block the Biden administration's plan to cancel \$39 billion in student loans for more than 800,000 borrowers.

In a lawsuit filed Friday in Michigan, the groups argue that the administration overstepped its power when it announced the forgiveness in July, just weeks after the Supreme Court struck down a broader cancellation plan pushed by President Joe Biden.

It asks a judge to rule the cancellation illegal and stop the Education Department from carrying it out while the case is decided. The suit was filed by the New Civil Liberties Alliance on behalf of the Mackinnac Center for Public Policy and the Cato Institute.

The Education Department called the suit "a desperate attempt from right wing special interests to keep hundreds of thousands of borrowers in debt."

Moved

"We are not going to back down or give an inch when it comes to defending working families," the department said in a statement.

It's part of a wave of legal challenges Republicans have leveled at the Biden administration's efforts to reduce or eliminate student debt for millions of Americans. Biden has said he will pursue a different cancellation plan after the Supreme Court decision, and his administration is separately unrolling a more generous repayment plan that opponents call a "backdoor attempt" at cancellation.

The Biden administration announced July 14 that it would soon forgive loans for 804,000 borrowers enrolled in income-driven repayment plans. The plans have long offered cancellation after borrowers made 20 or 25 years of payments, but "past administrative failures" resulted in inaccurate payments counts that set borrowers back on their progress toward forgiveness, the department said.

The new action was announced as a

Gen Z rewriting college selection rules for brighter future

BOSTON, Aug 7: New data from Fidelity Investments' 2023 College Savings and Student Debt Study reveals the next wave of college students are breaking the mold when it comes to their college choices and are prioritizing the path leading to maximum career impact and the brightest financial future. The study, which analyzes the attitudes, behaviors, and expectations about higher education amongst current high school students and recent college graduates, found 7-in-10 recent college graduates claim they would reconsider what they studied in college to secure a better return on their investment.

"The next generation of students are applying to college at a time when they're consumed by conversations about the student debt crisis, inflation, and even job security," says Tony Durkan, vice president, head of 529 college savings at Fidelity Investments. "Hope is not part of their strategy, so it's no wonder we are seeing them breaking stereotypes and using their college choices to secure a more purpose-driven college journey."

Despite recent declines in college

"one-time adjustment" that would count certain periods of past nonpayment as if borrowers had been making payments during that time. It moved 804,000 borrowers across the 20- or 25-year mark needed for cancellation, and it moved millions of others closer to that threshold.

It's meant to address a practice known as forbearance steering, in which student loan servicers hired by the government wrongly pushed bor-

rowers to go into forbearance - a temporary pause on payments because of hardship - even if they would have been better served by enrolling in one of the income-driven repayment plans.

Under the one-time fix, past periods in forbearance were also counted as progress toward Public Service Loan Forgiveness, a program that offers cancellation after 10 years of payments while working in a government or non-

profit job. Biden's action was illegal, the lawsuit says, because it wasn't authorized by Congress and didn't go through a federal rulemaking process that invites public feedback.

"No authority allows the Department to count non-payments as payments," the lawsuit says. It adds that the action came in "a press release that neither identified the policy's legal authority

nor considered its exorbitant price tag."

The conservative groups say Biden's plan undercuts Public Service Loan Forgiveness. The Mackinnac Center and Cato Institute say they employ borrowers who are working toward student loan cancellation through the program. They say Biden's action illegally accelerates progress toward relief, diminishing the benefit for nonprofit employers.

"This unlawful reduction in the

enrollment1, 2-in-3 respondents feel the value of a college education is worth the cost. While 59% of recent college graduates think they would have FOMO (fear of missing out) if they didn't go to college, the next wave of college students embraces thoughtful decision making as they narrow down their college choices with FOLO (fear of losing out) on their investment top of mind.

The next wave of college students believes their major or field of study will impact whether they get a good job, and with career success a priority, more than 7-in-10 high school students say their desired job will determine whether they need to attend a four-year university. When it comes to pay, three quarters of respondents believe those with college degrees have higher-paying jobs, aligning with Pew Research2 data that shows a growing earnings gap between young college graduates and their counterparts without degrees.

While Gen Z is sensibly employing a strategic approach to their college choices to minimize cost and maximize career impact, opportunities exist

for growth and development when it comes to financial knowledge:

■ A quarter of high school students think one year of college or higher education costs \$5,000 or less. When asked how they got this answer, more than 7-in-10 say they used "their own best guess."

■ Most high school students (63%) feel better prepared to pay for college than their parents at their age, but more than half have no idea how much of their education they're expected to pay for themselves.

■ Six-in-10 high school students say they won't be able to afford college without the help of student loans, but more than one-third (36%) of them don't know how long it will take to pay them back.

■ Fidelity Offers Guidance to Jump Start College Conversations and Career Exploration

■ To help families strengthen and secure their financial well-being, Fidelity offers several 529 savings solutions that provide families with smart ways to save for college and make the most of the available tax-advantages.

To learn more about the basics of 529s and to determine if you're on track estimating your family's higher education costs, visit College Planning on Fidelity.com for a variety of strategies and tips to help you prepare.

■ 2-in-3 recent college graduates who are currently taking advantage of the Federal student loan repayment pause say they have no idea how they're going to start repaying their student loans once the emergency pause is lifted. Additionally, two-thirds (67%) of recent college graduates with student

loans say they're going to start repaying their student loans once the emergency pause is lifted. Additionally, two-thirds (67%) of recent college graduates with student

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'Agency's rule unrealistic'

EPA plan to reduce auto emissions faces distrust

DETROIT, Aug 7, (AP): The US government's most ambitious plan ever to slash planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles faces skepticism both about how realistic it is and whether it goes far enough.

The Environmental Protection Agency in April announced new strict emissions limits that the agency says are vital to slowing climate change as people around the globe endure record-high temperatures, raging wildfires and intense storms.

The EPA says the industry could meet the limits if 67% of new-vehicle sales are electric by 2032, a pace the auto industry calls unrealistic. However, the new rule would not require automakers to boost electric vehicle sales directly. Instead, it sets emissions limits and allows automakers to choose how to meet them.

Even if the industry boosts EV sales to the level the EPA recommends, any reduction in pollution could prove more modest than the agency expects. The Associated Press has estimated that nearly 80% of vehicles being driven in the US - more than 200 million - would still run on gasoline or diesel fuel.

Rising

Pointing to surging temperatures and smoke from Canadian wildfires that fouled the air over parts of the US this summer, Dan Becker, director of the safe climate transport campaign at the Center for Biological Diversity, said: "We need to do a hell of a lot more."

He wants the EPA to slash emissions even further.

Carbon dioxide and methane levels in the atmosphere keep rising. Scientists say July will end up being the hottest month on record and likely the warmest human civilization has seen. The Earth is only a few tenths of a de-

gree from the goal set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times.

Though a panel of United Nations scientists said in March that there was still time to prevent the worst harm from climate change, the scientists said the world would need to quickly cut nearly two-thirds of carbon emissions by 2035 to avoid weather that is even more extreme.

Harm

Peter Slowik, a senior EV researcher with the nonprofit International Council on Clean Transportation, has calculated that to cut emissions enough to reach Paris Agreement goals, the proportion of new electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles sold would have to reach 67% by 2030. The EPA has projected 60% by then.

"The EPA proposal is a really great start to putting us on a Paris-compatible path," said Slowik, whose group provides research and analysis to environmental regulators. "But no, it isn't enough to comply with the Paris accord."

The council has calculated that carbon dioxide pollution from passenger vehicles would have to drop to 57 grams per mile by 2030 to reach the Paris goals. The EPA's preferred regulation would cut those emissions to 102 grams per mile by 2030 and to 82 by 2032.

In addition, Slowik cautioned, carbon emissions from new gasoline vehicles would have to drop 3.5% each year from 2027 to 2032. The EPA's preferred regulation doesn't set reductions for gas vehicles. But fuel economy standards recently proposed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration could.

'Severely damaging'

DeSantis' retaliation against Disney hurts Florida: ex-govs

ORLANDO, Fla., Aug 7, (AP): Saying Gov Ron DeSantis has followed the autocratic examples of governments in Russia and China, a group of mostly Republican former high-level government officials has called the Florida governor's takeover of Disney World's governing district "severely damaging to the political, social, and economic fabric of the State."

The group of former governors, US House members and presidential administration officials filed a "friend of the court" brief on Wednesday in Disney's federal lawsuit against DeSantis and his appointees to the board of Disney World's governing district. Disney's lawsuit says the Republican governor violated the company's free speech rights by taking over the district after Disney publicly opposed Florida's so-called "Don't Say Gay" law, which banned classroom lessons on sexual orientation and gender identity in early grades.

The group's goal in filing the brief last week is to demonstrate "how the path the Governor has chosen is corrosive to the form of democracy envisioned by the Constitution, and to re-emphasize this Court's critical constitutional role in curbing the excesses

of governance by retaliation," they said in a court filing.

Specifically, the group says that DeSantis' actions harm Florida economically because firms are being dissuaded from doing business in Florida since they could be subject to the governor's retaliatory whims if they ever voice disapproval over his policies. The group noted that Disney scrapped plans for a \$1 billion campus in Orlando that would have relocated 2,000 employees from Southern California, following a year of attacks by DeSantis.

The group is made up of two former GOP governors, Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey and Arne Carlson of Minnesota; three former Republican U.S. House members, Tom Coleman of Missouri, Claudine Schneider of Rhode Island and Christopher Shays of Connecticut; and a host of attorneys, commissioners, chiefs of staff and other officials from previous Democratic and Republican presidential administrations.

DeSantis' actions were retribution with a goal of discouraging Disney and others from opposing his policies in the future, said the officials who compared the takeover to autocratic actions taken in Russia and China.

Troubled electronics giant to go private

Toshiba announces a buyout offer led by Japan businesses

TOKYO, Aug 7, (AP): Toshiba announced a 2 trillion yen (\$14 billion) tender offer on Monday in a move that would take it private, as the scandal-tarnished Japanese elec-

tronics and energy giant seeks to turn itself around.

The tender offer led by a buyout fund of major Japanese banks and companies called Japan Industrial Partners starts Tuesday and is priced at 4,620 yen (\$32) a share.

Chairperson Akihiro Watanabe asked shareholders to back the proposal, saying it is the only option for Toshiba Corp. to return to its former strength.

"This move for Toshiba is great not only for Japan but also for the world," he said. "I have faith in the revival of Toshiba."

Tokyo-based Toshiba also reported a 25 billion yen (\$176 million) loss for the April-June quarter on 704 billion yen (\$5 billion) in sales, down nearly 5% from the previous year.

It did not give a full fiscal year profit projection, citing uncertainties in its computer chip business.

If the proposal succeeds, it will be a major step in Toshiba's yearslong turnaround effort, allowing it to delist from the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Investors

At least two-thirds of shareholders must offer their stakes for the bid to succeed. Overseas activist investors own a significant number of Toshiba's shares, and some have expressed dissatisfaction about the bid.

The Toshiba board accepted the deal in March.

Toshiba closed at 4,584 yen (\$32) a share Monday.

The buyout would keep Toshiba in an alliance with Japanese partners. Japan Industrial Partners, set up in 2002 to restructure Japanese companies, has also invested in other Japanese brands like Sony, Hitachi and Olympus.

Toshiba, a major manufacturer in Japan's nuclear industry, was hit by the March 2011 tsunami that sent three reactors into meltdowns at Fukushima in northeastern Japan.

Toshiba is involved in the decommissioning effort at Fukushima Dai-ichi, which is expected to take decades. Its U.S. nuclear arm Westinghouse filed for bankruptcy in 2017 after years of deep losses as safety costs soared.

The Toshiba brand, once prized for household appliances, laptops, batteries and computer chips, became the target of overseas activist shareholders.

Its image was also badly tarnished by a sprawling accounting scandal in 2015 involving books that were doctored for years.

Toshiba stressed the latest offer was "fair and reasonable" and made management sense, with companies that had longtime deep business relations with Toshiba offering to invest.

Chief Executive Taro Shimada said it would bring stability to Toshiba, which he noted will mark its 150th anniversary in a couple of years.

He pleaded with stakeholders to support the offer.

"The value at our company comes from creating what didn't exist in the world before," he told reporters.



The logo of Toshiba Corp. is seen at a company's building in Kawasaki near Tokyo, on Feb 19, 2022. Toshiba announced a 2 trillion yen (\$14 billion) tender offer on Aug. 7, in a move that will take it private, as the scandal-tarnished Japanese electronics and energy giant seeks to turn itself around. (AP)

Poor management, strategic decisions blamed

Yellow Corp declares bankruptcy after years of financial struggles

NEW YORK, Aug 7, (AP): Trucking company Yellow Corp has declared bankruptcy after years of financial struggles and growing debt, marking a significant shift for the US transportation industry and shippers nationwide.

The Chapter 11 bankruptcy, which was filed Sunday, comes just three years after Yellow received \$700 million in pandemic-era loans from the federal government. While a Chapter 11 filing is used to restructure debt while operations continue, Yellow, like other trucking companies in recent years, will liquidate and the US will join other creditors unlikely to recover funds extended to the company.

Yellow fell into severe financial stress after a long stretch of poor management and strategic decisions dating back decades.

In 2019 two trucking companies, Celdal and New England Motor Freight, filed for bankruptcy protection and liquidated.

Former Yellow customers and shippers may face higher prices as they take their business to competitors, including FedEx or ABF Freight, experts say - noting Yellow historically offered the cheapest price points in the industry.

"It is with profound disappointment that Yellow announces that it

is closing after nearly 100 years in business," CEO Daren Hawkins said in a news release late Sunday. "For generations, Yellow provided hundreds of thousands of Americans with solid, good-paying jobs and fulfilling careers."

Yellow, formerly known as YRC Worldwide Inc., is one of the nation's largest less-than-truckload carriers. The Nashville, Tennessee-based company had 30,000 employees across the country.

The Teamsters, which represented Yellow's 22,000 unionized workers, said last week that the company gave legal notice for a bankruptcy filing and shut down operations in late July following layoffs of hundreds of non-union employees.

Unfortunate

Teamsters general president Sean O'Brien called the news "unfortunate but not surprising" in a July 31 statement - pointing to the financial chaos at Yellow. "This is a sad day for workers and the American freight industry," he said.

The Wall Street Journal and Freight-Waves reported in late July that the bankruptcy was coming - noting that customers had already started to leave the carrier in large numbers and that the

Henrietta Lacks' family settles lawsuit

Donesta offers solution for treating symptoms of menopause

LIEGE, Belgium/MONTREAL, Québec, Aug 7: Mithra (Euronext Brussels: MITRA), a company dedicated to Women's Health and Searchlight Pharma Inc. ("Searchlight"), a private Canadian-specialty pharmaceutical company, has announced the signing of a binding term sheet for a licensing agreement for the Canadian rights to Donesta®, an investigational medicine for the treatment of the symptoms of menopause.

Under the binding terms, Searchlight will have the exclusive sales and marketing rights for Donesta® in Canada. Mithra will receive up to Euro 17.05 million in licensing fees and regulatory and sales-related milestone payments, plus tiered double-digit royalties on total Canadian annual net sales. Searchlight will be responsible for obtaining and maintaining any regulatory approvals required to market and sell Donesta® in Canada.

Donesta® is the next generation orally administered Estrogen ("E4")-based hormone therapy product candidate. Estrogen is a unique natural estrogen produced only during fetal development; E4 displays differentiated biological mechanism compared to other estrogens suggesting that E4 may offer women an improved benefit/risk profile for the treatment of the symptoms of menopause.

David Horn Solomon, Chief Executive Officer of Mithra, commented: "We are very pleased to reach this agreement with Searchlight Pharma for the licensing of Donesta® in Canada. As a Canadian company with extensive experience in women's health, Searchlight is ideally positioned to ensure optimized launch to provide rapid access to this differentiated-therapeutic candidate and generate maximum value for our shareholders. We continue to have active discussions with multiple parties, as we seek an optimal partner for US marketing rights for Donesta®."

Searchlight has repeatedly ranked among the top-growth companies in Canada, with one of the largest portfolios of women's health products and associated sales team in the Canadian market. Mithra and Searchlight have a continuing partnership for NESTSTELLIS®, a combined oral contraceptive product based on Estetrol, and HALOETTE®, a vaginal contraceptive ring in Canada. NESTSTELLIS® was launched in Canada in Q3 2021, while HALOETTE® was launched in Q1 2022.

Developed

"Donesta® is the third licensing arrangement we have completed with Mithra," said Mark Nawacki, Searchlight's President and Chief Executive Officer. "We are very proud of the relationship that we have developed with Mithra, but also what this says about partnering with Searchlight more broadly. Strong relationships built on trust and backed by results are integral to our strategic focus of bringing innovative products, such as this novel Estetrol-based hormone therapy, to the Canadian market. As a leader in women's health in Canada, we're excited to be able to deliver another option to help Canadian women address their unmet needs in managing the symptoms of menopause."

In 2022, Mithra announced topline efficacy results of the Donesta® Phase 3 clinical program, which demonstrated a meaningful reduction in vasomotor symptoms from baseline and compared to placebo, with all co-primary efficacy endpoints met with statistical significance. The two ongoing trials are being carried out in 2,550 postmenopausal women (40-65 years); one in North America ("C302") and a second at centers in 14 countries in Europe and Latin America ("C301"). Both trials are randomized, multicenter and double-blind.

In March 2023, Mithra announced promising topline safety results from the Donesta® Phase 3 trial in North

America (C302). The results will support marketing authorization filings scheduled in the U.S. in H2 2023 and in Canada in 2024. Primary safety data are anticipated for Europe in H1 2024.

Mithra Pharmaceuticals SA (Euronext: MITRA) is a Belgian biopharmaceutical company dedicated to transforming Women's Health by offering new choices through innovation, with a particular focus on contraception and menopause. Mithra's goal is to develop products offering better efficacy, safety and convenience, meeting women's needs throughout their life span. Mithra explores the potential of the unique native estrogen estetrol in a wide range of applications in women health and beyond. After having successfully launched the first estetrol-based product in 2021, the contraceptive pill Estelle®, Mithra is now focusing on its second product Donesta®, the next-generation hormone therapy.

More than 70 years after doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital took Henrietta Lacks' cervical cells without her knowledge, a lawyer for her descendants said they have reached a settlement with a biotechnology company that they accused of reaping billions of dollars from a racist medical system.

Tissue taken from the Black woman's tumor before she died of cervical cancer became the first human cells to continuously grow and reproduce in lab dishes. HeLa cells went on to become a cornerstone of modern medicine, enabling countless scientific and medical innovations, including the development of the polio vaccine, genetic mapping and even COVID-19 vaccines.

Saved

Despite that incalculable impact, the Lacks family had never been compensated.

Lacks' cells were harvested in 1951, when it was not illegal to do so without a patient's permission. But lawyers for her family argued that Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., of Waltham, Massachusetts, continued to commercialize the results long after the origins of the HeLa cell line became well known. The company unjustly enriched itself off Lacks' cells, the family argued in their lawsuit, filed in 2021.

The settlement came after closed-door negotiations that lasted all day inside the federal courthouse in Baltimore. Some of Lacks' grandchildren were among the family members who attended the talks.

Attorney Ben Crump, who represents the family, announced the settlement and said the terms are confidential.

In a joint statement, Thermo Fisher representatives and attorneys for the Lacks family said they were pleased to resolve the matter and declined to comment further on the agreement.

A poor tobacco farmer from southern Virginia, Lacks got married and moved with her husband to Turner Station, a historically Black community outside Baltimore. They were raising five children when doctors discovered a tumor in Lacks' cervix and saved a sample of her cancer cells collected during a biopsy.

Lacks died at age 31 in the "colored ward" of Johns Hopkins Hospital. She was buried in an unmarked grave.

While most cell samples died shortly after being removed from the body, her cells survived and thrived in laboratories. They became known as the first immortalized human cell line because scientists could cultivate them indefinitely, meaning researchers anywhere could reproduce studies using identical cells.

The remarkable science involved - and the impact on the Lacks family, some of whom had chronic illnesses and no health insurance - were documented in a bestselling book by Rebecca Skloot, "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks," which was published in 2010. Oprah Winfrey portrayed her daughter in an HBO movie about the story.

TGF-beta key driver of fibrogenesis

'REVTx300' a potential therapy for treatment of chronic kidney disease

SAN DIEGO, Aug 7: Revelation Biosciences Inc. (NASDAQ: REVB) (the "Company" or "Revelation") has announced statistically significant results in a validated preclinical model of acute and chronic kidney disease. This mechanistic biomarker data further supports the potential clinical utility of REVTx-300 previously announced on November 18, 2022.

In this validated preclinical model, administration of REVTx-300 caused significant reduction in circulating transforming growth factor-beta (TGF-beta) in a dose dependent manner relative to the positive control group. In addition, REVTx-300 significantly increased circulating anti-inflammatory interleukin-10 (IL-10), hepcidin, and neutrophil gelatinase-associated lipocalin (NGAL) in all groups in a dose dependent manner, relative to the positive control group.

TGF-beta is a key driver of fibrogenesis and contributes directly to the deposition of collagen through excessive production of extracellular matrix. IL-10 is characterized as an anti-inflammatory cytokine, due to its capability to reduce the generation of pro-inflammatory mediators. Hepcidin and NGAL sequester iron to prevent iron-mediated reactive oxygen tissue damage.

There were no significant increases in markers of inflammation. These results provide mechanistic evidence for the reduction in fibrosis observed in the UUO model in response to treatment with REVTx-300. Revelation plans to seek publication of the full results during 2023.

Revelation originally released positive results (October 25, 2022) from the preclinical model of acute kidney injury (AKI) and chronic kidney disease (CKD). Additional analysis announced on November 18, 2022 found that treatment with REVTx-300 significantly reduced new collagen deposition (fibrosis) in the renal cortex in a dose dependent manner in the medium and high dose groups (42.1% reduction (p 0.05) and 56.7% (p 0.05), respectively). The reduction in new collagen formation was calculated for each treatment group vs the UUO control group after correction for the normal collagen levels observed in the sham control.

Treat

"Redirection of the inflammatory response has tremendous potential to treat a wide variety of diseases associated with fibrosis," said James Rolke, Chief Executive Officer of Revelation. "We look forward to further investigation of the role PHAD plays in TLR4 biology as a treatment of inflammatory disease and infection."

Fibrosis, or the formation of scar tissue, is the final, common pathway of many diseases which can have devastating effects, including acute kidney injury, chronic kidney injury, nonalcoholic steatohepatitis, myocarditis, and cancer. Revelation intends to further investigate the potential anti-inflammatory and anti-fibrotic benefit of PHAD, including its effect on NLRP3-mediated inflammasome activation in animal models of AKI, CKD, nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), and cancer.

The unilateral ureteral obstruction (UUO) model is appropriate for studying the anti-inflammatory and anti-fibrotic effects of potential new therapies for acute and chronic kidney disease as complete ureteral obstruction of one kidney results in significant inflammation and subsequent fibrosis of the affected kidney

Fexuprazan partners with Cooper

Hevolution announces 'contribution' to Impetus to advance aging science

RİYADH, Saudi Arabia, Aug 7: Hevolution Foundation, a global non-profit organization that provides grants and early-stage investments to incentive research and entrepreneurship in healthspan science, announces that it is providing \$5 Million in matching funding to Impetus Grants, a non-profit science funding organization focused on longevity research. The Rosenkranz Foundation, founded by Robert Rosenkranz, chairman of Delphi Capital Management, has also pledged \$5 Million, for a total contribution of \$10 Million.

"Following our matching funding for Impetus Grants last summer, we are pleased to partner with the organization once again," commented Dr. Mahmood Khan, Chief Executive Officer of Hevolution Foundation. "We are confident that this program will help advance the boundaries of aging science and pave the way for transformative discoveries."

Treatable

The initiative aims to contribute to the acceleration of scientific breakthroughs in the aging research space and to help extend human healthspan. This pledge builds on Hevolution's \$2 Million in matching funds for Impetus Grants, to support 14 research projects, announced in August 2022.

Founded in the belief that every person has the right to live a longer, healthier life, Hevolution Foundation is a global catalyst, partner, and convener, on a mission to drive efforts to extend healthy human lifespan and understand the processes of aging.

With a focus on aging as a treatable process, Hevolution Foundation aims to increase the number of aging-related treatments on the market, compress the timeline of drug development, and in-

over a 7-day period.

The present study consisted of 6 groups with the following outcomes on renal cortical fibrosis as measured by detection of collagen deposition using picosirius red stained histology sections assessed at three different sampling depths.

- Group 1 animals had surgery with no UUO (Sham) and received vehicle only (collagen deposition: 2.36 ± 0.44%).
- Group 2 animals had UUO surgery and received vehicle only (collagen deposition: 4.88 ± 0.51%).
- Group 3 animals had UUO surgery and received SB-525334, a known TGF-beta inhibitor of fibrosis (new collagen deposition: 3.02 ± 0.37%, 75% reduction vs Group 2 - Sham, p 0.05).
- Group 4 animals had UUO surgery and received 0.1 mg/kg REVTx-300 (new collagen deposition: 4.96 ± 0.95%, 1% reduction vs Group 2 - Sham).
- Group 5 animals had UUO surgery and received 0.3 mg/kg REVTx-300 (new collagen deposition: 3.82 ± 0.91%, 42% reduction vs Group 2 - Sham, p 0.05).
- Group 6 animals had UUO surgery

and received 0.9 mg/kg REVTx-300 (new collagen deposition: 3.45 ± 0.54%, 57% reduction vs Group 2 - Sham, p 0.05).

REVTx-300 is a proprietary formulation for systemic administration of PHAD and is being developed as a potential therapy for the treatment of acute and chronic organ disease including chronic kidney disease (CKD), acute kidney injury (AKI), myocarditis, and nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH). Chronic disease of an organ, due to chronic inflammation and subsequent fibrosis, follows a pattern of perpetual and ongoing destruction of living functional cells and subsequent replacement by the non-functional protein, collagen, resulting in fibrosis (scar tissue) (Wilson). The establishment of fibrosis and subsequent death of the organ is driven by ongoing inflammatory processes and reactive oxygen species associated with the innate immune response. Revelation believes that redirection of the innate immune response with REVTx-300 from a pro-inflammatory state to an anti-inflammatory (protective) state may rebalance the innate immune response to slow down or halt the progressive

destruction and scarring of organ tissue, allowing the healing process to take place. Revelation plans to initiate clinical studies in 2023.

Revelation Biosciences, Inc is a life sciences company focused on the development of immunologic-based therapies for the prevention and treatment of disease. Revelation has multiple product candidates in development that are based on the well-established biology of phosphorylated hexaacyl disaccharide (PHAD) and its effect on the innate immune system. REVTx 100 is being developed as a prevention and treatment of infection. REVTx 200 is being developed as an intranasal immunomodulator adjunct to be used in combination with an intramuscular vaccination for more complete immunity. REVTx 300 is being developed as a potential therapy for the treatment of acute and chronic organ disease including CKD, AKI, myocarditis, and NASH.

REVTx 99b is being developed as a treatment for food allergies. REVDx 501 is being developed as a rapid diagnostic that can be used to detect IP-10 as a surrogate biomarker for any type of respiratory infection, eliminating the need for specialized instrumentation.

increase accessibility to therapeutics that extend healthy lifespan, also known as healthspan. A non-profit organization headquartered in Riyadh, with an annual budget of up to \$1 Billion, Hevolution Foundation plans to open hubs in North America and other global locations to support a cutting-edge, global ecosystem of talent to propel aging and geroscience research forward and achieve medical breakthroughs to help humanity live healthier, longer.

Established in 2021, Impetus Grants is dedicated to supporting innovative ideas in the aging space that might otherwise be overlooked by traditional funders. The organization has successfully deployed over \$24 million into scientific research projects, including aging-related clinical trials, biomarker research, and the development of novel tools and model organisms related to the aging process.

The Rosenkranz Foundation was established by Robert Rosenkranz in 1985. Its focus is on public policy research, higher education, arts and sciences. Robert Rosenkranz is Chairman of Delphi Capital Management and the founder of a group of investment and private equity partnerships. From 1987 until 2018 he served as the Chief Executive Officer of Delphi Financial Group, an insurance company with some \$20 billion in assets. Delphi grew from one of his acquisitions and increased its value 100-fold under his leadership.

Also:

SEOUL, South Korea: Daewoong Pharmaceutical (CEO Jeon Seng-ho, Lee Chang-jae) announced on the 19th of June the signing of an Agreement for license and distribution of potassium-competitive acid blocker (P-CAB) type drug Fexuprazan to

Morocco, which is the second largest pharmaceutical market in the North Africa. The partnering company is Cooper Pharma, a leading Moroccan pharmaceutical company with presence in Africa and Middle East.

The Agreement is worth about USD20.32 million (equivalent to KRW27 billion) and the local release of Fexuprazan in Morocco is scheduled for 2025. Cooper Pharma will carry out active marketing campaigns for the sale of Fexuprazan for a term of 10 years in the Moroccan market.

Cooper Pharma, founded in 1933, has rapidly expanded its businesses in the pharmaceutical industry, keeping its number one ranking position in Morocco's PPI market, which was estimated to be around KRW75.5 billion in revenue last year. Daewoong intends to propose a new innovative solution to GERD drugs building on Cooper Pharma's significant market dominance and network.

By entering into this Agreement, Daewoong Pharmaceutical plans to expand its presence of P-CAB drug Fexuprazan in the African pharmaceutical market for gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). Fexuprazan, in particular, features fast and stable suppression of gastric acid regardless of food intake and the longest half-life of 9 hours among P-CABs, meaning that the treatment has a longer duration action than other drugs.

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D&D tells illustrators to stop using AI to generate artwork

NEW YORK, Aug. 7, (AP) — The Dungeons & Dragons role-playing game franchise says it won't allow artists to use artificial intelligence technology to draw its cast of sorcerers, druids and other characters and scenery.

D&D art is supposed to be fanciful. But at least one ax-wielding giant seemed too weird for some fans, leading them to take to social media to question if it was human-made.

Hasbro-owned D&D Beyond, which makes online tools and other companion content for the franchise, said it didn't know until Saturday that an illustrator it has worked with for nearly a decade used AI to create commissioned artwork for an upcoming book. The franchise, run by the Hasbro subsidiary Wizards of the Coast, said in a statement that it has talked to that artist and is clarifying its rules.

"He will not use AI for Wizards' work moving forward," said a post from D&D Beyond's account on X, formerly Twitter. "We are revising our process and updating our artist guidelines to make clear that artists must refrain from using AI art generation as part of their art creation process for developing D&D."

Today's AI-generated art often shows telltale glitches, such as distorted limbs, which is what caught the eye of skeptical D&D fans.

Hasbro and Wizards of the Coast didn't respond to requests for further comment Sunday. Hasbro bought D&D Beyond for \$146.3 million last year. The Rhode Island-based toy giant has owned Wizards of the Coast for more than two decades.

The art in question is in a soon-to-be-released hardcover book of

monster descriptions and lore called "Bigby Presents: Glory of the Giants." The digital and physical version of the package is selling for \$59.95 on the D&D website and due for an Aug. 15 release.

The use of AI tools to assist in creative work has raised copyright and labor concerns in a number of industries, helping to fuel the Hollywood strike, causing the music industry's Recording Academy to revise its Grammy Awards protocols and leading some visual artists to sue AI companies for ingesting their work without their consent to build image-generators that anyone can use.

Hasbro rival Mattel used AI-generated images to help come up with ideas for new Hot Wheels toy cars, though it hasn't said if that was more than an experiment.

Agreement

Meanwhile, Hasbro is selling its eOne television and movie business to Lionsgate in an approximately \$500 million deal, after having paid \$4 billion for the company four years ago.

Hasbro said Thursday that the agreement with Lionsgate includes \$375 million in cash and the assumption of production financing loans.

The acquisition will give Lionsgate access to eOne's library of almost 6,500 titles, including "Grey's Anatomy," "Yellowjackets" and "The Woman King." Lionsgate will also receive film development rights to Hasbro's Monopoly, based on the popular board game.

The deal allows the Santa Monica, California-based company to continue to scale its operations in the U.K. and Canada, where it

has recently launched production partnerships with BBC Studios, Channel Four, the CBC, Rogers' CityTV and Bell Media.

Hasbro purchased Entertainment One Ltd. in 2019 in an all-cash deal valued at about \$4 billion. At the time, Hasbro was interested in eOne's preschool brands, which included Peppa Pig and PJ Masks. Hasbro will still have access to Peppa Pig and PJ Masks, as it will keep ownership of the family brands division.

While Hasbro had high hopes for the deal, in November it announced that it was looking to sell the part of eOne's television and film business not directly supporting its branded entertainment strategy.

The boards of Hasbro and Lionsgate have approved the transaction, which is targeted to close by the end of the year.

Hasbro said it will use proceeds from the deal to retire a minimum of \$400 million of floating rate debt by year's end.

The toy company also reported its financial results for the second quarter on Thursday. Hasbro lost \$235 million, or \$1.69 per share, in the period, reversing a year-earlier profit.

Earnings, adjusted for asset impairment costs and amortization costs, came to 49 cents per share. That was below the 58 cents per share analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research expected.

Revenue for the Pawtucket, Rhode Island-based company fell 10% to \$1.21 billion, beating Wall Street's estimate of \$1.11 billion.

A year ago, Hasbro reported an adjusted profit of \$1.15 per share on revenue of \$1.34 billion.

Shares of Hasbro rose slightly in midday trading.

Media

Music



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Ryan Gosling, (left), and Margot Robbie in a scene from 'Barbie.' In just three weeks in theaters, 'Barbie' is set to sail past \$1 billion in global ticket sales, breaking a record for female directors that was previously held by Patty Jenkins, who helmed 'Wonder Woman.' (AP)

Film

Hip-hop celebrates 50 years of life

First rap song resonates with stars

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates: The United Arab Emirates has approved the release of the "Barbie" movie after a three-week delay over possible content issues.

UAE officials didn't explain the screening delay, which has also occurred in other Arab nations. The film is now set to screen on Aug. 10, according to a tweet by Vox Cinemas, a regional cinema company.

"The UAE Media Council has granted the Barbie movie the approval to be screened in the UAE's licensed cinemas after completing the necessary procedures in line with the standards of media content and the UAE age classification," the council announced late Thursday.

The movie's inclusion of a transgender actress in one of the Barbie roles and other messaging on LGBTQ+ issues could be an issue in Arab countries with Muslim majorities that consider homosexuality and transgender identity to be contrary to Islamic religious beliefs.

The movie about the world-famous doll stars **Margot Robbie** in the titular role and **Ryan Gosling** as Ken. It also features several other actors as "Barbies" and "Kens," including **Hari Nef**, a transgender actress from **Philadelphia**, who plays one of the Barbies.

Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. declined a request for comment. **Majid Al Futtaim**, the distributor of Warner Bros. movies in the **Middle East**, could not be reached for comment. (AP)

□ □ □

LOS ANGELES: Greta Gerwig should be feeling closer to five these days. In just three weeks in theaters, "Barbie" is set to sail past \$1 billion in global ticket sales, breaking a record for female directors that was previously held by **Patty Jenkins**, who helmed "Wonder Woman."

"Barbie," which Gerwig directed and co-wrote, added another \$53 million from 4,178 North American locations this weekend and \$74 million internationally, bringing its global total to \$1.03 billion, according to studio estimates on Sunday. The **Margot Robbie**-led and produced film has been comfortably seated in first place for three weeks and it's hardly finished yet. It crossed \$400 million domestic and \$500 million internationally faster than any other movie at the studio, including the Harry Potter films.

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 7, (AP) — Remember the first rap song you heard? Some of your favorite rappers and DJs do. While hip-hop celebrates 50 years of life, The Associated Press asked some of the genre's most popular artists - including Killer Mike, JT of City Girls, King Combs and Fat Joe - to recall their first memory of hearing a rap song and how it resonated with them.

The AP highlights the stars who connected with rap music through a song other than "Rapper's Delight," the 1979 hit that was the entry point for Chuck D, DJ Jazzy Jeff and many other artists. For some, the rap song that hooked them was the work of Run D.M.C., Tupac Shakur, the performance of a close family member and even (pre-Oscars) Will Smith.

Here are the stories of some hip-hop legends and young stars talking about how they initially got hooked on rap.

Fat Joe remembers the first time Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five's song "The Message" went viral. He'll never forget the moment when the rap song was being played throughout the housing projects in the Bronx borough of New York City.

"I remember coming down the projects one day in every apartment. Everywhere was playing it. I was like 'Yo, this is crazy,'" the rapper recalled before he recited some of the song's lyrics. "It's like a jungle sometimes. It makes me wonder how we'll keep from going under."

Fat Joe, who is of Puerto Rican and Cuban descent, said hip-hop became a way of life for many in his neighborhood.

"I used to look out my window, 7 years old, looking at the parties in the block and the jams, staring out my window, seeing the older guys playing hip-hop on a boombox in front of the building," he said.

Fat Joe said his first introduction to hip-hop came through his brother, who used to be a crate boy for Grandmaster Flash.

"Back in the day, there were no computers, there were no Serato. It was vinyl," he said. "The biggest honor you can have in life is being a crate boy carrying milk crates full of vinyl. He was a crate boy for Grandmaster Flash. Any party Grandmaster Flash

gave, my brother was a crate boy. They wouldn't pay him in money. They would pay him with flyers to the next party and he would give them out for free. But he was down.

"When you talk about Afrika Bambaataa, Kool Haec, Grandmaster Flash, these are the three founding fathers of the whole culture. I'm there. You know, it's right here."

Growing up, Killer Mike witnessed the drug epidemic rampant in his neighborhood in Atlanta. But it was Ice T's lyrics on "6 'N the Mornin'" that helped him conceptualize his plight.

"Crack had come into our community and had started to turn our community upside down," he said. "When Ice dropped '6 'N the Mornin', it was the first confirmation for me as a little kid that I wasn't going crazy.... The crack epidemic had broke them down. They became victims of their addiction."

Poetic

"'6 'N the Mornin'" acknowledged it in a beautifully poetic adult and street way. It confirmed all of my youthful suspicions that the world had changed and was never going to be the same again."

It's hard for 2 Chainz to pin down the first rap song he ever heard. He could only remember the artists who made an influential mark on him.

While hip-hop saw West Coast usurp its Eastern counterpart as the dominant rap force in the 1990s, 2 Chainz found rap music for the first time - thanks to his older cousins - through the lenses of Luther Campbell aka Uncle Luke and his group 2 Live Crew.

With Campbell in the lead, the group was best known for their raunchy rap albums including "As Nasty as They Wanna Be" that were among the first to boast parental advisory stickers, as well as R- and X-rated videos.

2 Live Crew's song "Me So Horny" was particularly controversial. But for 2 Chainz, his introduction to their music served as an enlightening moment for him.

"It obviously was a lot of profanity, but I enjoyed that music," 2 Chainz said. "Shortly after that, I was introduced to Too Short and N.W.A. My life has been changed ever since."

Before French Montana moved to the United States, hip-hop touched his soul while living in Morocco. At age 9, his ear was caught by two songs including Tupac Shakur's "Ambitionz Az a Ridah" and "Gangsta's Paradise" by the late Coolio.

"I didn't even understand what they were saying," Montana said. "That's why I probably get more overseas love than here, because I know what it feels like to be a kid over there listening to things and not understanding. So I had a chance to be on both sides of the world."

Montana said he was compelled by the way of life described in those two songs.

"It was more of a lifestyle," he said. "It was more of something new. It was all in your face. It's a feeling. Certain records you hear sometimes from a new artist, you don't even know who they are. You might hear it on the radio, you turn around and be like 'Yo, who is that? What is that?'... There's no type of information. Just sonically being hooked to something like it's a drug. It grabs you. It grabs your ear. Your body just twists. I felt like that was the moment when I heard Tupac on 'Ambitionz Az a Ridah' and Coolio."

When Soulja Boy's mother played music around the house, she would often listen to a variety of Tupac records.

But it was Shakur's song "Dear Mama" that stuck with him the most.

"It was one of them ones," Soulja Boy said. "My mom used to play Tupac a lot when I was a little kid. I heard it growing up. Once I got older, I could understand it more. It's one of them ones that made me fall in love with hip-hop for sure."

Flo Milli's playlist is nearly endless. But the one song that jumpstarted her hip-hop infatuation was Tupac's "Hit 'Em Up."

"It was just like his energy," said Flo Milli, the Alabama-born rapper whose rose to fame through her

Continued on Page 12

In modern box office history, just 53 movies have made over \$1 billion, not accounting for inflation, and "Barbie" is now the biggest to be directed by one woman, supplanting "Wonder Woman's" \$821.8 million global total. Three movies that were co-directed by women are still ahead of "Barbie," including "Frozen"



Nolan



Gerwig

(\$1.3 billion) and "Frozen 2" (\$1.45 billion) both co-directed by Jennifer Lee and "Captain Marvel" (\$1.1 billion), co-directed by Anna Boden. But, "Barbie" has passed "Captain Marvel" domestically with \$459.4 million (versus \$426.8 million), thereby claiming the North American record for live-action movies directed by

women.

Warner Bros. co-chairs and CEOs **Michael De Luca** and **Pam Abdy** also praised Gerwig in a statement and said the milestone, "is testament to her brilliance and to her commitment to deliver a movie that Barbie fans of every age want to see on the big screen."

New competition came this weekend in the form of the animated, PG-rated "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem" and the **Jason Statham** shark sequel, "Meg 2: The Trench," both of which were neck-in-neck with **Christopher Nolan's** "Oppenheimer," also in its third weekend, for the second-place spot. (AP)

People & Places

Music

'It grabs you'

Hip-hop 'legends' inspire new stars

Continued from Page 11

songs "Beef FloMix" and "In the Party" on TikTok. "Just the way he carried himself and how lyrical he was and making his staple in the game. I felt like that was really cool. I love that song."

As a Miami native, rapper JT remembered listening to a popular song that represented her home city the most.

She'll never forget hearing **Will Smith's** 1998 song "Miami," a record from his debut solo album "Big Willie Style."



Smith

"Y'all would say I'm playing, but it was Will Smith. I was a big Will Smith fan growing up with my cassettes," said JT of the rap duo City Girls. "It'll be like 'Welcome to Miami...'"

Doechii is a rising rap star drawing inspiration from several well-known artists such as Nicki Minaj, Lauryn Hill, Kanye West and Beyoncé.

But for the Tampa, Florida-based rapper, hip-hop touched Doechii's heart after she heard "Pull Over" by Miami artist Trina.

"That's top tier hoochie," said Doechii, whose song "What it Is (Block Boy)" featuring Kodak Black reached No. 1 on Billboard's rhythmic airplay chart.

Throughout King Combs' life, he's heard a countless amount of songs from his father, Sean "Diddy" Combs.

But it was Diddy's "Can't Nobody Hold Me Down" with rapper Mase that made a tremendous impact on his son, who said the hip-hop collective A\$AP Mob were a major influence, too.

"My pops got a song called 'Can't Nobody Hold Me Down' that's hard. That resonated with me for sure," said King Combs, whose song "Can't Stop Won't Stop" with Kodak Black topped Billboard's Mainstream R&B Hip-Hop last year. He drew inspiration from "Crush on You" by Lil Kim and Lil Cease.

"But then when I saw A\$AP Rocky and his whole crew and all his friends having fun doing it, that also inspired me, too," he said. "You can tell it was something they loved. When I make music, I just really want to have fun."

Collaborations

Diplo is one of the most popular EDM producers and DJs today, but he's made his own mark within hip-hop through collaborations with rap stars like Drake, Lil Wayne, Busta Rhymes, Mac Miller, Snoop Dogg and Wale.

Hip-hop has always been with Diplo ever since his days as a youth in Miami. That's when he heard "Planet Rock."

"It was a huge record growing up in Florida," said Diplo, who is of German and English descent. "I'm a huge Miami bass fan and loved 2 Live Crew. Probably the first thing I've ever bought was a cassette single of Digable Planets 'Rebirth of Slick (Cool Like Dat).' I loved that record. The Pharcyde's first album. That's when I started to get into it - when I was like 11 or 12 years old. As a music aficionado, I think hip-hop production has always been an inspiration to me."

Like father, like son. Hip-hop first ventured into 6lack's life through his dad, who had his own rap career under the stage name, Ricardo FLO.

In the mid-90s, 6lack remembers watching his father lay down tracks before his dad eventually asked him to hit the booth to record some songs at a very young age.

"I grew up watching him in the studio when I was in Baltimore," he recalled of his moment with his dad whose stage name meant For Lord Only. "The very first thing that I ever recorded in my life I did at 4 years old. It was like watching him do his thing."

6lack added: "Then there was a moment where he was like 'I got a little opening here. Say this. Say that.' It's crazy because I don't remember that many things from like being 4, 5 or 6 years old. But I remember being like 'When I grow up, I'm going to be somebody, believe in God and believe in me.' But I did that on wax on his song. That was probably the first time I internalized that I'm on a song. I'm on a rap song."

Introduced

For Bia, rap was introduced to her with some R&B flavor through Aaliyah's 2000 song "Try Again," produced by Timbaland. The song might've had Aaliyah singing on the track, but it was influenced by hip-hop and dance.

"I remember during childhood that the song really stuck out to me," said the rapper about the Grammy-nominated song from the "Romeo Must Die" soundtrack. "I knew every dance move. I emulated that song.... I was like 'This is me.'"

Shaquille O'Neal is one of the most dominant forces in NBA history, winning four championships during his backboard-shattering 19-year career. But he also had a short but successful rap career releasing two albums including his 1993 debut "Shaq Diesel," which sold more than a million copies, and he's dabbled into deejaying as DJ Diesel.

The NBA Hall of Famer said his first rap song experience came while he watched the 1984 film "Beat Street" before his parents bought him the movie's soundtrack on vinyl. The film followed two brothers and their friends who inserted themselves into the hip-hop culture through breakdancing, DJing and graffiti.

"It was awesome," O'Neal said. "Then I got the two turntables, and I got the record for Christmas. But I got in trouble for scratching it. I was trying to be like the DJs."

While growing up in Philadelphia, DJ Drama fell in love with hip-hop through Rock Master Scott & the Dynamic Three's "The Roof is on Fire," released in 1984.

"You know, I have early, early memories of the older kids in my neighborhood getting up to sing as young kids 'The roof, the roof, the roof is on fire. We don't need water. Let it burn. Let it burn,'" he said.



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Jason Statham in a scene from 'Meg 2: The Trench.' 'Meg 2: The Trench' is currently showing Kuwait cinemas. (AP)

Film

Some indie films, TV productions granted waivers

Actors still making movies during strike

NEW YORK, Aug. 7, (AP)—The actors and writers strikes have resulted in most Hollywood film and television productions being shut down, from the "Gladiator" sequel to the live action "Lilo & Stitch." But some independent films and television productions are being granted waivers by the union that will allow them to continue, with Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists actors, amid the strike.

It's a move that the union leadership says is an essential negotiating tactic, but that's also proved divisive and confusing to many sweating it out on the picket lines while movie stars like Anne Hathaway and Matthew McConaughey continue to work.

Here's what to know about the "interim agreements" that are keeping some Hollywood productions filming.

What falls under the interim agreements?

Actors are striking against studios and streaming services that bargain as the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers. The group's ranks include the major film studios (Disney, Paramount, Sony, Universal and Warner Bros.), television networks (ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC) and streaming services like Netflix, Apple TV+ and Amazon.

There are numerous independent production companies that aren't affiliated with the AMPTP, and they are allowed to film with SAG-AFTRA actors during the strike. They must agree to terms that the union proposed during negotiations on July 12, which includes a new minimum wage rate that's 11% higher than before, guarantees about revenue sharing and AI protections.

Those terms were rejected by the studios and streaming services, but SAG-AFTRA realized that some independent producers and smaller film studios (like Neon and A24) were willing to agree to the terms if it meant they could keep filming.

What are some of the productions allowed to continue?

As of Tuesday, over 120 productions have been approved including a Rebel Wilson comedy "Bride Hard," an untitled Guy Ritchie project, a film with Jenna Ortega and Paul Rudd called "Death of a Unicorn," the Matthew McConaughey thriller "The Rivals of the Amziah King" and David Lowery's pop star movie "Mother Mary," starring Anne Hathaway and Michaela Coel.

The list is being constantly updated on SAG-AFTRA's website, but even some productions that have been granted waivers are still pausing for optics

and solidarity. Viola Davis decided to step away from her film "G20," in which she plays the US president at a G20 Summit overtaken by terrorists, despite it being granted a waiver.

"I love this movie but I do not feel that it would be appropriate for this production to move forward during the strike," Davis said in a statement. "G20" though independently financed, was set to be distributed by Amazon Studios, which is an AMPTP member.

What is SAG-AFTRA's strategy? According to the union's chief negotiator, Duncan Crabtree-Ireland, there are several benefits of the interim agreement to SAG-AFTRA members.

It provides absolute empirical proof that the terms that we are seeking in the negotiation are reasonable," he told The Associated Press this week. "There was a CEO of one of the companies who said that what we were asking for was unrealistic. And yet we have hundreds of independent producers who say we'll be happy to produce under those terms."

Opportunities

It also provides opportunities for crews and actors to work, relieving some of the financial pressures of the strike. And, he added, it might be getting the attention of studios.

"I've heard from studio sources that they are unhappy with us doing this," he said. "That sort of confirms to me that the strategy is in the right place, because when the people you're on strike against aren't happy that you're doing something, that probably means that it's a tactic that's having an impact."

Emmy-winning "Abbott Elementary" actor Sheryl Lee Ralph agrees with the strategy.

"As the first vice president of the L.A. Local, I have to honestly say interim agreements are smart agreements. What that does is keep little conversations going with producers who are not the big major producers," she told AP Thursday. "So now the big folks can look and say, 'Well, wait a minute, if they can do it, why aren't we doing it?'"

Why is it controversial?

To some members sweating it out on the picket lines and pinching pennies, it doesn't feel like a united work stoppage when major celebrities like Hathaway and McConaughey get to still make movies.

Comedian Sarah Silverman was one who was especially irked about the loophole and posted her thoughts in an Instagram video. After meeting with SAG-AFTRA president Fran Drescher and Crabtree-Ireland, she walked back

her outrage and said both sides better understood the waivers could be a positive and a negative.

"I do understand that some members feel like it creates a confusing message or that it makes it not as clear of a line," Crabtree-Ireland conceded. "(But) we're all very clear on the fact that AMPTP companies are the companies we're on strike against, and we're not going to be engaging in production with them until they accept these very same terms or come to the table and make a fair deal with us."

What happens if an AMPTP company buys the film for distribution?

Some of the productions from smaller studios, like A24 and Neon, have their own distribution arms that can get films out into the world. But others don't. They often sell to AMPTP companies who ultimately put them into theaters or on their streaming services. "G20" is a prime example of this, having already had a deal in place with Amazon to distribute.

Crabtree-Ireland said it's "a concern" but also a "reality we accept as a possibility" that one of these independent films will sell to, say, Netflix. He sees a possible upside if this happens though, as the interim agreement includes a streaming revenue share proposal.

"If an AMPTP-owned streaming company decides to acquire one of these projects that are created under the interim agreement, then they'll be acquiring a project that has a revenue share attached to it," he said. "We'll be very pleased for them to start cooperating with that proposal."

What about actors promoting completed projects?

SAG-AFTRA is reviewing applications that would allow talent to promote independent films at upcoming fall festivals like Venice, Telluride and Toronto, which are going forward with many high-profile world premieres regardless of actor availability.

Luc Besson's "DogMan," debuting at Venice, was recently granted an interim agreement allowing its stars, like Caleb Landry Jones, to help promote the film through red carpet appearances and interviews. Other independent films headed to Venice include Sofia Coppola's "Priscilla," with Cailie Spaeny and Jacob Elordi, Michael Mann's "Ferrari," with Adam Driver and Penelope Cruz, Ava DuVernay's "Origin," Michel Franco's "Memory," with Jessica Chastain and Richard Linklater's "Hit Man," with Glen Powell, all of which could, theoretically be granted waivers too.



Actor Gerald Webb appears outside Universal Studios during the actors strike on Friday, Aug. 4, in Universal City, Calif. The actors strike comes more than two months after screenwriters began striking in their bid to get better pay and working conditions. (AP)



Megan



Lanez

Variety

LOS ANGELES: Rapper **Tory Lanez** could get a long prison term at his expected sentencing Monday after felony convictions for shooting and wounding hip-hop star **Megan Thee Stallion** in the feet.

Los Angeles prosecutors are asking a judge to hand down a 13-year sentence to the 31-year-old Lanez, whose legal name is **Daystar Peterson**.

They wrote in a sentencing memorandum that along with the crimes for which he was convicted, Lanez has re-traumatized Megan with social media posts about the case that emboldened many among his more than 2 million followers to attack her.

Megan may appear in court Monday to give a victim impact statement, or may have one read for her in her absence.

Lawyers for Lanez said in their own sentencing memo that he should get only probation and be released from jail to enter a residential substance abuse program.

They say the evidence that led to his conviction was "questionable at best" and that his lack of remorse should therefore not be a factor in his sentencing. The memo says if the allegations were true, then alcohol abuse and childhood trauma would be factors.

Lanez has been jailed since a Los Angeles jury in December found him guilty of three felonies: assault with a semiautomatic firearm, having a loaded, unregistered firearm in a vehicle and discharging a firearm with gross negligence.

The reading of the verdict turned into a dramatic and chaotic scene when Lanez's father leapt up in the gallery and denounced the "wicked system" that convicted his son. Deputies dragged him from the courtroom as other Lanez supporters shouted about the unfairness of the case. The sentencing will be held on a higher security floor than the trial. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Georgia's Big Peanut is back.

The roadside landmark along Interstate 75 in south Georgia was rededicated, nearly five years after an earlier version was felled by the winds of Hurricane Michael.

This time, the giant goober is made of sheet metal, not fiberglass.

The Ashburn-Turner County Chamber of Commerce raised nearly \$80,000 to replace the giant groundnut, which had saluted motorists since 1975 until it was blown down on Oct. 10, 2018. The majority of the money came from the Georgia Department of Agriculture, although Turner County residents also raised thousands.

The peanut, atop a brick pedestal, has



Zac Brown, (center), performs with members of the Zac Brown Band during a concert Saturday Aug. 5, at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. (AP)

come to symbolize the county of 9,000 people, which is halfway between Macon and the Florida state line.

"I think it represents home," said Ashley Miller, the chamber's executive director. "I know it's a small town, but when you say, 'Have you seen the peanut?' That's me."

She said it's also a fitting tribute to peanut farmers in a county where almost everyone is touched by agriculture.

Community leaders spent about \$70,000 to replace the peanut, holding the remaining money for maintenance. They hired Cole Sercer, of Sercer Machine & Fabrication in nearby Rebecca, to make the new peanut.

Sercer said he and employees modeled the new nut after the remains of the one destroyed by the hurricane. But it's made differently, with a metal pole and frame inside and dozens of custom-worked sheet metal panels forming the curvy shell of the nut. Below is a golden crown with an aluminum frame and yellow plastic panels. The peanut is painted in brown and beige architectural paint, and in a modern touch, is now illuminated by LED lights at night.

Health

Toxic exposure claims

Veterans see historic expansion of benefits

WASHINGTON, Aug 7. (AP): Nicole Leger always thought of the burn pits at military bases in Afghanistan as more like campfires than health hazards. Ordered to dispose of sensitive documents, she would toss the paperwork into the flames while catching up with fellow soldiers, moments of quiet bonding that provided a respite from her riskier work as a hastily trained medic for the US Army.

"We really didn't see that it was dangerous at the time," she said. "It was just part of the mission. So we had to get it done."

But then her sinus problems began, only worsening after she returned home, where she sometimes found herself gasping for breath at night. She remembered thinking, "This wasn't who I was before I got in."

Although Leger already received disability benefits for post-traumatic stress, migraines and a hip fracture, it wasn't until President Joe Biden signed legislation known as the PACT Act last year that her monthly payments expanded to take into account the impact of the burn pits. Now 34 years old, Leger and her fiancé have moved out of a cramped townhouse and into a larger home in a suburb of Tampa, Florida, where their four children can each have a bedroom.

"I still wake up pinching myself," she said.

Leger is one beneficiary of the largest expansion of veterans assistance in decades, and the administration is racing to sign up as many people as possible as the first anniversary of the law approaches. Although there's no deadline to apply, anyone who files a claim or simply signals the intent to do so by Wednesday could collect payments retroactive to last year if the claim is approved.

Under the law, certain cancers and ailments are presumed to be connected to the burn pits that were used to dispose of trash and potentially toxic materials. For veterans who served during the Vietnam War, hypertension and other conditions were added to the list of problems presumed to be caused by exposure to Agent Orange, which was used by the US military to clear vegetation.

Disability

Biden will mark the law's anniversary at a Veterans Affairs hospital in Salt Lake City on Thursday. According to administration statistics, the Department of Veterans Affairs has received nearly 786,000 disability claims under the PACT Act, processed almost 435,000 and approved more than 348,000.

About 111,000 veterans who are believed to have toxic exposure have enrolled in VA health care since the law was enacted. In addition, more than 4.1 million veterans have completed toxic screenings, which are questionnaires to analyze their potential exposure and determine whether additional tests are required.

Implementing the legislation has proved challenging for the VA despite hiring new staff to accommodate a historic influx of claims. The backlog is about 266,000, meaning waits of at least four months for claims to be processed, and the list is expected to grow to 450,000 in October and 730,000 in April. During a recent oversight hearing, Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., expressed concern about "bad trends."

Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough said his agency is doing better than expected based on internal projections and is using new technology to process claims faster.

"Am I satisfied? I'm not," he said in an Associated Press interview. "Until every veteran in this country knows what is available to him or her, and has come in and filed a claim, and then we've awarded that claim for him or to her, I won't be satisfied."

Despite the growing backlog, the VA has kept up its outreach efforts. It has spent \$7.5 million on advertising, including a billboard in New York's Times Square, and hosted events around the country. Comedian Jon Stewart, who played a leading role in pushing for the PACT Act, has chipped in by posting videos on social media.

"The VA could have slow rolled it to make their job easier," said Allison Jaslow, a former Army captain who leads the advocacy organization Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. "But to their credit, they didn't."

Jaslow said the department is "doing a pretty incredible job given the influx of claims that came in."

The outreach is paying off. Eli Feret, a 36-year-old former Army captain who lives outside of Denver, said he did not apply until a few days ago. After expecting a more archaic process, Feret said he was "pleasantly surprised" that he could complete his claim on his smartphone in a half-hour.

Cole Lyle, a 33-year-old former Marine corporal in Alexandria, Virginia, who leads the advocacy organization Mission Roll Call, made a similar decision. "I was getting barraged by Jon Stewart on Twitter and a couple other folks, and I thought, I really ought to file," he said.

"I see the growing backlog not as a good thing," he added, "but I think it's a good thing that veterans are, in fact, applying."

For a moment last year, it looked like the PACT Act might not get approved. The legislation unexpectedly stalled when Republicans balked, leading some advocates to start camping outside the Capitol. Biden had contracted the coronavirus and could not visit in person, so he sent McDonough with pizza and he talked to the veterans over FaceTime.

Campaign

The pressure campaign worked, and Congress passed the measure. It was a bipartisan success but also a personal victory for Biden, who has long believed that his eldest son, Beau, developed fatal brain cancer from serving near burn pits in Iraq as a captain in the Delaware Army National Guard.

McDonough sees the PACT Act as a turning point for the VA, making the nation's largest health care system more agile, robust and competitive.

"The president has been very clear to us that this new law can be the largest expansion of VA benefits and care in the history of the VA," he said.

The legislation authorized the VA to expand its facilities through 31 leases, and it is pursuing them in 19 states. VA employees can now receive higher bonuses and more help with student loans than before. There are additional incentives for recruitment, retention and relocation.

In the past year, the VA has expanded by more than 21,000 health care workers and 4,300 employees for processing benefits.

But officials said the process remains too slow. Bringing on a new health care worker can take several months as the VA checks backgrounds and certifications, a delay that can lead candidates to find jobs elsewhere.

McDonough said the agency is not "where we need to be," adding that "we'll keep working on that."

When former Army National Guard Sgt. Iona Bussiere turned 40 last year, she had her first mammogram and discovered breast cancer - stage 3 on one side, stage 2 on the other.

Since then it has been a blur of treatments, including months of grueling chemotherapy - "for the last three weeks I was like a zombie," she said - and a recent mastectomy. Bussiere, who lives in Providence, Rhode Island, is starting radiation and expects to be taking pills for years to come.



In this Aug. 4, 1977, photo provided by NASA, the 'Sounds of Earth' record is mounted on the Voyager 2 spacecraft in the Safe-1 Building at the Kennedy Space Center, Fla. On Wednesday, Aug. 2, NASA's Deep Space Network sent a command to correct a problem with its antenna. It took more than 18 hours for the signal to reach Voyager 2 — more than 12 billion miles away — and another 18 hours to hear back. On Friday, Aug. 4, the spacecraft started returning data again. (AP)

NASA restores contact with Voyager 2 spacecraft

NASA's Voyager 2 spacecraft was back chatting it up Friday after flight controllers corrected a mistake that had led to weeks of silence. Hurting ever deeper into interstellar space billions of miles away, Voyager 2 stopped communicating two weeks ago. Controllers sent the wrong command to the 46-year-old spacecraft and tilted its antenna away from Earth.

On Wednesday, NASA's Deep Space Network sent a new command in hopes of repositioning the antenna, using the highest powered transmitter at the

huge radio dish antenna in Australia. Voyager 2's antenna needed to be shifted a mere 2 degrees.

It took more than 18 hours for the command to reach Voyager 2 - more than 12 billion miles (19 billion kilometers) away - and another 18 hours to hear back. The long shot paid off. On Friday, the spacecraft started returning data again, according to officials at California's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "I just sort of sighed. I melted in the chair," project manager Suzanne Dodd told The Associated Press.

"Voyager's back," project scientist Linda Spilker chimed in.

Voyager 2 has been hurtling through space since its launch in 1977 to explore the outer solar system. Launched two weeks later, its twin, Voyager 1, is now the most distant spacecraft - 15 billion miles (24 billion kilometers) away - and still in contact.

The two-week outage was believed to be the longest NASA had gone without hearing from Voyager 2, Dodd said. (AP)

Health

Attacks at US medical centers on the rise

Healthcare one of most violent fields

NEW YORK, Aug 7. (AP): Word spread through an Oregon hospital last month that a visitor was causing trouble in the maternity ward, and nurses were warned the man might try to abduct his partner's newborn.

Hours later, the visitor opened fire, killing a security guard and sending patients, nurses and doctors scrambling for cover.

The shooting at Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center in Portland was part of a wave of gun violence sweeping through US hospitals and medical centers, which have struggled to adapt to the growing threats.

Such attacks have helped make health care one of the nation's most violent fields. Data shows American health care workers now suffer more nonfatal injuries from workplace violence than workers in any other profession, including law enforcement.

"Health care workers don't even think about that when they decide they want to be a nurse or a doctor. But as far as actual violence goes, statistically, health care is four or five times more dangerous than any other profession," said Michael D'Angelo, a former police officer who focuses on health care and workplace violence as a security consultant in Florida.

Other industries outpace health care for overall danger, including deaths.

Similar shootings have played out in hospitals across the country.

Last year, a man killed two workers at a Dallas hospital while there to watch his child's birth. In May, a man opened fire in a medical center waiting room in Atlanta, killing one woman and wounding four. Late last month, a man shot and wounded a doctor at a health center in Dallas. In June 2022, a gunman killed his surgeon and three other people at a Tulsa, Oklahoma, medical office because he blamed the doctor for his continuing pain after an operation.

It's not just deadly shootings: Health care workers racked up 73% of

all nonfatal workplace violence injuries in 2018, the most recent year for which figures are available, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

One day before the July 22 shooting in Portland, employees throughout the hospital were warned during meetings to be prepared for a possible "code amber" announcement in case the visitor attempted to kidnap the child, according to a nurse with direct knowledge of the briefing who spoke to The Associated Press. She spoke on condition of anonymity because she feared retaliation at work.

Fifteen minutes before the shooting, someone at the hospital called 911 to report the visitor was threatening staffers, according to a timeline provided by Portland police.

Cracks

"He kind of fell through the cracks," the nurse said. "I don't know how many chances he received. It kind of got to the point where staff did not know what to do, or what they could or couldn't do with him."

Police arrived at the maternity ward within minutes, but it was too late. Bobby Smallwood, a security guard who had been called in from another Legacy hospital to cover shifts for Good Samaritan's understaffed security team, had been fatally shot. Another hospital employee was wounded by shrapnel. The suspect fled and was later killed by police in a nearby community.

The hospital declined to respond to the nurse's comments because the case is still under investigation.

"Events like these are unpredictable, but our team exhibited professionalism and a great deal of courage in the face of extraordinarily challenging circumstances that day," Legacy Health said in a statement to the AP.

Legacy Health in Portland plans to install additional metal detectors, require bag searches at every hospital and send patients and visitors to con-

trolled entrances. More security officers will be provided with stun guns, the hospital said, and bullet-slowing film is being applied to some interior glass and at main entrances.

Around 40 states have passed laws creating or increasing penalties for violence against health care workers, according to the American Nurses Association. Hospitals have armed security officers with batons, stun guns or handguns, while some states, including Indiana, Ohio and Georgia, allow hospitals to create their own police forces.

Critics say private hospital police can exacerbate the health care and policing inequities already experienced by Black people. They also say private police forces often don't have to disclose information such as how often they use force or whether they disproportionately detain members of minority groups.

Security teams cannot address all of the factors leading to violence because many of them are caused by a dysfunctional health care system, said Deborah Burger, a registered nurse and the president of National Nurses United.

Patients and families are often bounced between emergency rooms and home, and are frustrated over high costs, limited treatment options or long wait times, Burger said.

"Hospitals don't really have a complaints department, so the only real target they have is the nurse or staff that are standing right in front of them," she said.

Understaffing forces nurses to care for more patients and affords less time to assess each one for behavior problems. Efforts to de-escalate aggression aren't as effective if nurses haven't had time to bond with patients, Burger said. Growing nurse-to-patient ratios are an "absolutely catastrophic formula for workplace violence increasing," D'Angelo said. "Now you don't even have the good old buddy system of two co-workers keeping an eye out for each other."



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from Cape Canaveral, Fla., Sunday, Aug. 6. The rocket carried 22 Starlink satellites. (AP)



Molloy



Nickas

Discovery

Baby walrus gets cuddling: A 200-pound (90 kilogram) walrus calf found alone and miles from the ocean on Alaska's North Slope is being bottle fed and receiving round-the-clock "cuddling" from dotting animal welfare workers who are trying to keep the 1-month-old baby alive.

The male Pacific walrus - who, so far, doesn't have a name - was found and flown a day later from the North Slope to Seward, where the Alaska SeaLife Center is based, a journey of at least 700 miles (1,126 kilometers). Staff with the nonprofit research facility and public aquarium are caring for the gigantic, brown, wrinkly-skinned baby, which was dehydrated and possibly fighting an infection.

In an effort to mimic the near-constant care a calf would get from its mom, the walrus is receiving "round the clock 'cuddling'" to keep him calm and aid in his development and is being fed every three hours, the center said. It described the cuddling as trained staff giving the walrus "the option to have a warm body to lean up against, which he has been taking advantage of almost constantly."

The calf was found by oil field workers about 4 miles (6.4 kilometers) inland from the Beaufort Sea, in Alaska's extreme north. A "walrus trail," or track, was seen on the tundra near a road where the walrus was found. But it's unclear how, exactly, he got there, the center said.

While calves rely on their mothers for their first two years of life, no adults were seen nearby, which raised concerns about the infant's ability to survive without intervention. (AP)

Judge blocks water pipeline: A US judge blocked a proposed water pipeline through a wilderness area in southwest Montana that was intended to help a rare fish species that's in sharp decline due to habitat loss, warming temperatures and other pressures.

The mile-long pipeline was intended to move oxygenated water that's beneficial for fish from a creek to a lake in the Red Rock Lakes Wilderness - winter home for one of the last few populations of Arctic grayling in the Lower 48 states. The fish are prized by many anglers and known for their sail-

like dorsal fins. US District Judge Donald Molloy said in a ruling that environmentalists who sued to stop the pipeline raised

valid concerns that its construction would disturb the wilderness area, where motor vehicles, roads or structures are largely prohibited under federal law.



A police officer tapes off a crime scene on July 22, 2023, after a shooting at Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center in Portland, Ore. Shootings and other attacks are increasing at hospitals across the US, helping to make health care one of the nation's most violent fields. (AP)

The number of grayling in Montana's Centennial Valley, which includes the Red Rock Lakes area, plummeted from 1,131 fish in 2015 to 73 fish last year. Federal wildlife officials in 2020 decided protections for Montana grayling were not needed because of ongoing conservation efforts.

Among those efforts was the pipeline project that was scheduled to begin construction as soon as this month. By piping in creek water - which becomes more oxygenated as it splashes downstream - officials hoped to offset a drop in oxygen in the lake, caused when it freezes over and aquatic plants die, sucking oxygen from the water as they decompose.

Molloy said other attempts to increase oxygen levels for grayling were unsuccessful. Those have included equipment to stir lake water so it would not fully freeze.

"The US Fish and Wildlife Service chose a course of action it knew would violate the Wilderness Act, rather than address the root causes of grayling decline," Wilderness Watch Executive Director George Nickas said in a statement.

US Fish and Wildlife Service representatives did not immediately respond to questions about the ruling. (AP)

New Zealand name largely surprise-free squad

Slade, Dombardt left out of England squad for Rugby WC

LONDON, Aug 7. (AP): Center Henry Slade and No. 8 Alex Dombardt were left out of England's squad for the Rugby World Cup on Monday.

Slade has been an automatic pick in the midfield for much of the last six years, appearing in 30 of the last 37 tests since the 2019 World Cup, but has missed out on the 33-man squad.

He lost out to Joe Marchant, who covers the wing as well as outside center and played his way into the squad after emerging from Saturday's loss to Wales with his reputation enhanced.

The exclusion of Dombardt means Billy Vunipola is the only specialist No. 8 heading to the tournament in France starting next month.

Dombardt started every match in this year's Six Nations but didn't impress and had an unimpressive display in Cardiff on Saturday, too.

Vunipola was chosen despite not having played since April because of two knee operations. He missed the entire Six Nations after being left out by coach Steve Borthwick because of his form.

Lewis Ludlam, Ben Earl and Tom Curry can cover No. 8 and are among versatile forwards that also include rookie pair Ollie Chessum and George Martin.

Other big names to miss out are wingers Jonny May, England's second-highest try-scorer, and Joe Cokanasiga, who played in the Rugby World Cup in 2019.

Hooker Theo Dan made his England debut only last Saturday in the tame loss to Wales.

Courtney Lawes, Dan Cole and Ben Youngs will be appearing at their fourth World Cup in a squad that contains more than 1,400 caps and is comprised of 19 forwards and 14 backs.

Owen Farrell is captain, as he was in Japan four years ago.

RUGBY

England Squad:

Forwards: Ollie Chessum, Dan Cole, Tom Curry, Theo Dan, Ben Earl, Ellis Genge, Jamie George, Maro Itoje, Courtney Lawes, Lewis Ludlam, Joe Marler, George Martin, David Ribbans, Bevan Rodd, Kyle Sinckler, Will Sturt

Lock Sam Whitehead is the most experienced player in the squad with 145 tests and is one of four test centurions. Winger Emoni Narawa is the most inexperienced player with only one test.

The squad will be captained by Sam Cane. Head coach Ian Foster revealed his squad Monday in front of a live audience of around 1,500 in the North Island city of Napier.

The only minor surprises were the inclusion of center David Havili, who hasn't yet played a test this year, and the omission of back-rower Samipeni Finau, who made a strong test debut against Australia last weekend.

Hooker Codie Taylor and lock Whitehead have been named to play in their fourth World Cups.

The balance of the squad is slightly surprising: Six props and only five back-rowers and five outside backs including the wingers Leicester Fainga'anuku and Narawa. Foster has chosen three playmakers in Richie Mo'unga, Beauden Barrett and Damian McKenzie.

Veteran lock Brodie Retallick has been named for his third World Cup after suffering a knee injury on Saturday and he may be out for six weeks.

New Zealand Squad:

Forwards: Codie Taylor, Dane Coles, Samisoni Taukei'aho, Ethan de Groot, Fletcher Newell, Nepo Lualaba, Ofa Tu'ungafasi, Tamaïti Williams, Tyrel Lomax, Brodie Retallick, Sam Whitehead, Scott Barrett, Tupou Vaa'i, Ardie Savea, Dalton Papali'i, Luke Jacobson, Sam Cane (captain), Shannon Frizzell, Backs: Aaron Smith, Finlay Christie, Cam Roigard, Beauden Barrett, Damian McKenzie, Richie Mo'unga, Jordie Barrett, David Havili, Rieko Ioane, Anton Lienert-Brown, Caleb Clarke, Leicester Fainga'anuku, Will Jordan, Emoni Narawa, Mark Telea.

Cubs claim 6th straight series win

CHICAGO, Aug 7, (AP): Cody Bellinger had his third straight multi-hit game, scored twice and drove in a run as the Chicago Cubs beat the MLB-leading Atlanta Braves 6-4 on Sunday for their sixth straight series win.

Dansby Swanson added a double and two RBIs against his former team, and Ian Happ drove in a pair of runs, helping the Cubs win for the 15th time in 19 games.

All-Star Justin Steele suffled at times through 5 1/3 innings, and won his fourth straight start on a misty day at Wrigley Field. Mike Tauchman had two hits, scored two runs and threw out Ronald Acuña Jr. at the plate from right field in the fifth to limit an Atlanta rally.

Atlanta's Matt Olson hit his NL-leading 39th home run, a monster 453-foot blast to the top of Wrigley's right-center bleachers, and finished with three RBIs.

BASEBALL

Ozzie Albies had three hits, including a double. Olson and Acuña and each had two hits.

Steele (13-3) allowed four runs, three earned, and eight hits while striking out seven and walking four.

Charlie Morton (10-10) lost his fourth straight start, allowing five runs and four hits with four walks and hit batter in 4 1/3 innings.

Astros 9, Yankees 7

In New York, Jake Meyers hit two long three-run homers and Houston beat New York after struggling Yankees starter Carlos Rodón exited early with another injury.

Yordan Alvarez and Martín Maldonado also went deep to help Houston split the four-game series, the first meeting between the teams since the Astros swept the ALCS last October.

Houston, which holds an AL wild-card spot, remained 2 1/2 games behind first-place Texas in the AL West.

Gleyber Torres homered and reached base five times. Harrison Bader also had three hits and two RBIs for the fourth-place Yankees, who fell 4 1/2 games behind Toronto for the final AL wild card.

Rodón was removed in the third inning with left hamstring tightness. Signed to a \$162 million, six-year contract in the offseason, he missed the first three-plus months of the season with a forearm strain and a bad back.

Nationals complete three-game sweep of Reds



New York Mets second baseman Danny Mendick fields a groundout by the Baltimore Orioles during the fourth inning of a baseball game in Baltimore. (AP)

In Baltimore, Kyle Bradish and four relievers combined on a four-hitter as Baltimore completed a three-game sweep of New York.

Adley Rutschman and Ryan O'Hearn each drove in a run for American League-leading Baltimore, which won for the eighth time in 10 games. Cionel Pérez (4-1) relieved an erratic Bradish and earned the win. Félix Bautista earned his 30th save in 35 chances.

Bryan Abreu got four outs for his fourth save. Giancarlo Stanton flied out with two on to end it.

White Sox 5, Guardians 3

In Cleveland, Elvis Andrus hit a two-run single after Chicago tied it in the ninth inning on consecutive throwing errors by Cleveland rookie Bryan Rocchio, one day after a nasty benches-clearing brawl between the AL Central rivals.

There was no carryover from Saturday night's melee, triggered by a fight at second base between Chicago's Tim Anderson and Cleveland's José Ramírez. There were six total ejections. Major League Baseball is still reviewing the Anderson-Ramírez altercation, along with subsequent flareups, before handing out discipline.

The White Sox were down to their final strike in the series finale before rallying against All-Star closer Emmanuel Clase (1-6). Sammy Peralta (1-0) got the win, and Jimmy Lambert worked the ninth for his first career save.

Nationals 6, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Washington's CJ Abrams and Lane Thomas hit Lyon Richardson's first two major league pitches for home runs and the last-place Nationals finished a three-game sweep of Cincinnati.

Over the last 50 seasons, the 23-year-old Richardson (0-1) is the only pitcher to allow a home run on the first two pitches of his major league career, according to Optastats.

Jake Au added a two-run single to Washington's four-run first. Abrams finished with four hits as Washington (49-63) pieced together a four-game win streak for the first time this season.

Joey Votto and TJ Friedl homered for the sliding Reds (59-55), who have lost six straight for the second time in a month and the third time this season.

Andrés Machado (3-0) got the win. Richardson allowed four hits and four runs with three walks and two strikeouts in three innings.

Phillies 8, Royals 4

In Philadelphia, Bryson Stott, Kyle Schwarber and Nick Castellanos homered, as Philadelphia beat Kansas City for its fifth win in seven games.

Taijuan Walker (13-4) recovered from a shaky first inning to become the first NL pitcher to reach 13 victories. Bryce Harper had two hits and drove in a run for the Phillies.

Zack Greinke (1-12) took the loss, allowing five runs and seven hits in four innings. MJ Melendez homered for

Kansas City.

Orioles 2, Mets 0

In Baltimore, Kyle Bradish and four relievers combined on a four-hitter as Baltimore completed a three-game sweep of New York.

Adley Rutschman and Ryan O'Hearn each drove in a run for American League-leading Baltimore, which won for the eighth time in 10 games. Cionel Pérez (4-1) relieved an erratic Bradish and earned the win. Félix Bautista earned his 30th save in 35 chances.

José Quintana (0-3) allowed two runs and six hits in six-plus innings. He walked two and struck out six. New York has lost six straight since trading star pitcher Justin Verlander and two others on Tuesday to cap a deadline sell-off.

The plummeting Mets (50-61) were shut out for the 11th time and fell a season-worst 11 games below .500.

Blue Jays 13, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Davis Schneider went 4 for 5 with a homer and four RBIs, and Toronto completed a weekend sweep of Boston.

Matt Chapman had a two-run double after Red Sox center fielder Jarren Duran misplayed a fly ball that would have been the final out of a four-run third inning.

Toronto moved five games ahead of the last-place Red Sox in the AL East for the third and final American League wild-card spot.

Triston Casas homered for Boston, which has dropped seven of eight.

Chris Bassitt (11-6) went seven innings, giving up a run on seven hits. He struck out six and walked three. Chris Murphy (1-1) took the loss.

Rays 10, Tigers 6

In Detroit, Yandy Díaz homered and scored three runs as Tampa Bay scored five runs in the first two innings and took two of three from Detroit in the weekend series.

Diaz and Wander Franco each had three hits and drove in two runs and Brandon Lowe homered. Colin Poche (9-3) got the win with 1 2/3 scoreless in-

nings of relief. Tigers starter Matt Manning (3-4) allowed eight runs in 5 2/3 innings, giving him 19 runs in his last three starts.

Twins 5, Diamondbacks 3

In Minneapolis, Matt Walner hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Minnesota a rain-delayed victory and a three-game sweep of Arizona.

Christian Walker put the Diamondbacks ahead 3-2 with a solo home run off Caleb Thielbar (2-1) in the top of the ninth.

Max Kepler led off the bottom half by hitting his third homer in three games. Jorge Polanco walked and Walner connected off new Arizona closer Paul Sewald (3-2), acquired from Seattle in a trade Monday.

Minnesota opened a 4 1/2-game lead in the AL Central over Cleveland.

Pirates 4, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Endy Rodríguez and Connor Joe homered to spoil the return of Milwaukee starter Brandon Woodruff after four months, leading Pittsburgh past the NL Central-leading Brewers.

Woodruff (1-1) was activated off the 60-day injured list (right shoulder inflammation) on Sunday and was making his first start for the Brewers since April 7. He retired the first six hitters, striking out the first five, before Rodríguez opened the third inning with his second homer. Joe opened the fourth with his eighth homer of the season to make it 2-0.

Bryan Reynolds had a pinch-hit, two-run homer, his 14th of the season, off Abner Uribe in the eighth to make it 4-0.

Rockies 1, Cardinals 0

In St. Louis, Austin Gombert pitched out of trouble for six innings against his former team and Ezequiel Tovar had a sacrifice fly to lift Colorado over St. Louis.

In a matchup of last-place clubs, the Rockies took two of three games and won a series in St. Louis for the first time since sweeping the Cardinals in June 2009.

St. Louis went 0 for 9 with runners in

scoring position and stranded 15 overall. The Cardinals have lost four of six.

Gombert (9-8) gave up six hits and struck out two.

Cardinals starter Zack Thompson (2-4) allowed two hits in four innings. He struck out eight.

Rangers 6, Marlins 0

In Arlington, Texas slugged four homers and swept a six-game homestand with a win over Miami in a game in which they lost standout rookie third baseman Josh Jung with a fractured thumb.

Nathaniel Lowe, Marcus Semien, Ezequiel Duran and Adolis García homered, and while Andrew Heaney allowed four singles in 5 2/3 shutout innings.

Heaney (9-6) gave up two hits in the second inning, then retired 10 consecutive batters before leaving with two runners on in the sixth. He has a career-best scoreless streak of 15 2/3 innings.

Mariners 3, Angels 2, 10 innings

In Anaheim, Eugenio Suárez delivered an RBI single in the 10th inning, and Seattle completed a four-game sweep of Los Angeles.

J.P. Crawford homered on the first pitch of the game and Teoscar Hernández hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh for the Mariners (60-52), who have won five straight and 13 of 17 to move 4 1/2 games ahead of their AL West rival Angels (56-57) in the wild-card standings.

Seattle's Tayler Saucedo (3-1) pitched two scoreless innings of relief for the win. Jaime Barria (2-6) took the loss.

Seattle won it a few innings after Los Angeles' Chase Silseth and Seattle's Bryce Miller became the first pair of rookie starters to record at least 10 strikeouts apiece in the same game since 1906, according to MLB research.

Athletics 8, Giants 6

Limited to eight runs over their previous eight games, the last-place A's outlasted Giants All-Star Alex Cobb and then broke through with three runs in the sixth. Oakland earned its second consecutive victory in the annual Bay Bridge series after losing the first two matchups in San Francisco this year.

Seth Brown doubled twice and had his first triple of the season for Oakland. Zack Gelof added the first three-hit game of his career.

Dodgers 8, Padres 2

In San Diego, Freddie Freeman hit a three-run homer and Amed Rosario and Mookie Betts also connected for NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers to spoil Rich Hill's debut with San Diego.

Lance Lynn (8-9) had an impressive second start for the Dodgers as they defeated the Padres for the seventh time in nine games this season.

Lynn allowed a home run to Gary Sánchez in the third inning. The 36-year-old Lynn, acquired from the Chicago White Sox on July 28, held the Padres to one run and four hits while striking out six and walking two in six innings.

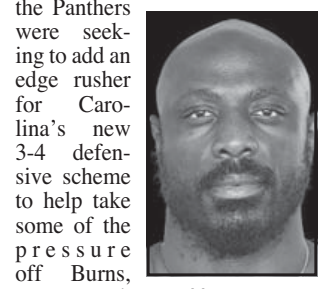
Pacs release Etling

Houston agrees to 1-yr contract

WASHINGTON, Aug 7, (AP): The Carolina Panthers agreed to terms with four-time Pro Bowl outside linebacker Justin Houston on a one-year contract on Sunday.

Houston, a 12-year NFL veteran, gives the Panthers the veteran edge rusher they sought to play opposite Brian Burns. Houston has 111 1/2 sacks during his career, including 9 1/2 last season for the Baltimore Ravens.

Panthers general manager Scott Fitterer had previously said the Panthers were seeking to add an edge rusher for Carolina's new 3-4 defensive scheme to help take some of the pressure off Burns, a Pro Bowl player last season.



Houston

Houston's best season came in 2014 when he was selected as an All-Pro, finishing with 22 sacks while playing for the Kansas City Chiefs.

The 34-year-old Houston was a third-round pick by the Chiefs in 2011 and spent eight seasons in Kansas City. He played two years in Indianapolis before spending the past two with the Ravens.

The Panthers finished 7-10 last season and have not been to the playoffs in the past five seasons.

The Green Bay Packers narrowed their backup quarterback competition Sunday by releasing Danny Eting.

Eting's release leaves starter Jordan Love, rookie Sean Clifford and reigning USFL MVP Alex McCough as the only three quarterbacks on the roster. Love, a 2020 first-round pick from Utah State, is entering his first season as the Packers' starting quarterback following the trade of four-time MVP Aaron Rodgers to the New York Jets.

The Packers selected Clifford out of Penn State in the fifth round of this year's draft. McCough signed with the Packers the week before the start of training camp.

Eting was on Green Bay's practice squad for all of the 2022 season and part of the 2021 season. He played collegiately for Purdue from 2013-14 and for LSU from 2016-17.

Shaquille Leonard finally looks and sounds like his old self.

The Indianapolis Colts star linebacker is running around, making plays at training camp, injecting energy with his customary nonstop voice.

On Saturday, after missing most of last season with an impinged nerve that required season-ending surgery, the three-time All-Pro took another major step in his long road back by returning to full contact in team drills. One of the most-watched players at camp also knows there's one last hurdle to overcome.

It was evident each time Leonard lined up at Grand Park in Westfield, Indiana, about 30 minutes from the team headquarters. And it was noticeable in his typically candid post-practice assessment, too.

Since entering the league in 2018, the South Carolina State alum has never shied away from giving opinions. He's emerged as a major proponent of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), a prominent spokesperson in the Colts' mental health awareness campaign "Kicking The Stigma" and frequently explains how he uses perceived slights as motivation.

This time, though, Leonard finds himself describing his own struggles.

After being severely hindered in 2021 by what doctors initially diagnosed as a back injury, Leonard missed six of the first seven games last season before undergoing a second surgery to alleviate the nerve pain in his lower left leg.

MLB Results/Standings

Table with columns for W, L, Pct, GB and rows for various MLB teams in American League and National League divisions.

Ganna holds off Bigham in men's individual pursuit final



Netherlands' Mathieu van der Poel celebrates after winning on day four of the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships in Glasgow, Scotland. (AP)

Mathieu gets up from crash, goes on to win title

GLASGOW, Aug. 7, (AP) — Mathieu van der Poel crashed while leading the road race at the world championships, breaking his shoe and tearing his jersey, yet the Dutch cyclist maintained his poise, quickly remounted and pulled away for a remarkable victory.

Van der Poel had been riding with two-time Tour de France winner Tadej Pogacar, one-day specialist Wout van Aert and Mads Pedersen, a former world champion. They pulled back Alberto Bettiol's solo breakaway, then van der Poel headed off on his own, flying through the rain and over the wet roads to victory in downtown Glasgow, Scotland.

"It was one of the biggest goals I had left, and to win it today is amaz-

ing," he said. "I almost completed my career, in my opinion, so for me it's maybe the biggest victory on the road. I cannot imagine yet riding in the rainbow (jersey) for the next year."

That includes the Paris Olympics, where van der Poel will be among the favorites next summer.

Not even a mistake Sunday, when Van der Poel slid his bike into a barrier on a tight right-hand turn, could stop him. By the time he reached the finish line, the grandson of Raymond Poulidor had accomplished what the French icon never did - he finished on the podium four times at the world championships but never on the top step.

Van Aert, one of the pre-race favorites, pulled away down the final

stretch to take the silver medal for Belgium, and Pogacar beat Pedersen in a head-to-head sprint by less than the length of his front tire to claim bronze for Slovenia.

A select group of 16 riders, which included Neilson Powless of the U.S. and defending champion Remco Evenepoel of Belgium, began to fracture with about 30 kilometers to go. Ultimately, a quartet of the world's best riders decided it was up to them to pull Bettiol back, and van der Poel joined Pedersen, Pogacar and van Aert on the attack.

The five-time cyclocross world champion was about 30 seconds ahead of the star-studded trio when he tried to navigate one of the 90-degree turns in the rain. Van der Poel's bike slid out from under him, and the 28-year-old Tour de France and Giro d'Italia stage winner ended up against a metal barrier, his jersey torn and the buckle on his right shoe broken.

In other world championships: -Italian endurance star Filippo Ganna narrowly defeated Daniel Bigham of Britain for the men's individual pursuit title, and fellow Italian Jonathan Milan beat Ivo Oliveira in the bronze medal race.

-Henrique Avancini of Brazil won his second men's mountain bike marathon title ahead of Martin Stosek of the Czech Republic and Lukas Baum of Germany, and Mona Mitterwallner of



Latvia's Ernests Zebolds competes in Heat 2 of the Men's Elite BMX Freestyle Final on day five of the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships at the Glasgow Green, Glasgow, Scotland. (AP)

Austria regained her women's title by holding off Candice Lill of South Africa and Adelheid Morath of Germany.

-Lotte Kopecky of Belgium won her second straight elimination race title ahead of silver medalist Valentine Fortin of France and bronze medalist Jennifer Valente, the new scratch race world champion from the U.S.

-Ellesse Andrews of New Zealand held off fast-finishing Martha Bayona of Colombia to win the keirin title while

defending champion Lea Friedrich of Germany took the bronze medal.

-Lúri Leitão of Portugal won the multidiscipline omnium thanks to victories in the scratch and tempo races and a second-place finish in the elimination race, while France's Benjamin Thomas won the final sprint of the points race to take silver and Shunsuke Imamura of Japan edged Denmark's Niklas Larsen by two points for bronze.

Bryson shoots 58 to capture first LIV title

Glover wins Wyndham Championship

GREENSBORO, N.C., Aug. 7, (AP) — Lucas Glover did more than extend his PGA Tour season Sunday. He won the Wyndham Championship with a 2-under 68 that sends him into the FedEx Cup playoffs with more big opportunities in front of him.

Glover managed a two-hour rain delay and took advantage of a faltering Russell Henley to win for the first time in more than two years and earn an unlikely spot in the lucrative postseason.

Justin Thomas ended his season with a shot he won't soon forget. Needing a birdie on the 18th hole, his pitch from 100 feet short of the hole smacked off the base

of the pin and settled inches away as Thomas fell to the ground in disbelief. Now he has to wait three weeks to see if his worst season - this is the first time Thomas has failed to make the playoffs - will cost him a pick for the U.S. Ryder Cup team.

The Wyndham Championship is the final tournament before the top 70 qualify for the FedEx Cup playoffs that start next week in Memphis, Tennessee. Glover was at No. 112, a long shot who needed nothing short of a runner-up finish.



Boutier



Lucas Glover poses with the trophy after winning the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C. (AP)

Scott settles for 2nd

Kyle earns 2nd 'career' victory

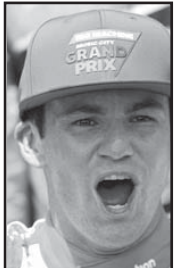
NASHVILLE, Tenn., Aug. 7, (AP) — Kyle Kirkwood easily held off Scott McLaughlin over a final four-lap shootout and won the Music City Grand Prix on Sunday for his second career victory.

The 24-year-old from Jupiter, Florida, started eighth and led a race-high 34 laps. He took the lead for good on lap 54 and appeared poised to race to the finish for Andretti Autosports after a caution with 10 laps remaining ensured he had enough fuel in his Honda.

A four-car crash off the re-start forced a red flag stoppage.

On the green flag, Kirkwood managed to drive through the rubber debris on the 2.1-mile, 11-turn course around the streets of Nashville to add his second victory in his second IndyCar Series season to his first at Long Beach in April.

McLaughlin finished second in a similar final shootout here a year ago. He won his second straight pole on this course in his Chevrolet for Team Penske, led the first 24 laps before his first pit stop. But he couldn't chase down Kirkwood.



Kirkwood

AUTO RACING

Alex Palou, the series points leader, finished third. Josef Newgarden had his best finish yet in his hometown race at fourth. Scott Dixon, who won here a year ago, was fifth.

For a race already being called "Crashville" after 17 combined cautions over the past two years, the first yellow came out on lap 13 when a piece of a rear wing came off David Malukas' Honda a couple of laps after a pit stop, ending his race after 11 laps.

With only four cautions and eight laps under yellow, that left the streets filled with rubber chunks.

Dixon started 12th, and the man who won his 53rd career race here a year ago tied Tony Kanaan's IndyCar record with his 318th consecutive start. The 43-year-old New Zealander can break the tie Saturday in Indianapolis.

Will Power had to scramble before the race started to grab some communication equipment. He had to run to grab the gear, then put the piece on before climbing into his car. He started seventh and finished 10th.

Linus Lundqvist the reigning Indy Lights champ, made his IndyCar debut driving Meyer Shank Racing's No. 60 for Simon Pagenaud who hasn't raced since a July 1 crash in practice at Mid-Ohio. Lundqvist was the highest qualifying rookie and started 11th.

He crashed the right front of the car into the wall after having run in the top 10 much of the race. That brought out the final caution with 10 laps remaining. He finished 25th.

The Gallagher Grand Prix on Saturday on the road course at Indianapolis Motor Speedway as part of an IndyCar and NASCAR crossover.

Liberty hand Aces rare loss

Chicago sweeps regular season series against Dallas

ARLINGTON, Texas, Aug. 7, (AP) — Marina Mabrey scored 32 points, including making 13 of 14 free throws, and Kahleah Copper added 23 points to help the Chicago Sky beat the Dallas Wings 104-96 on Sunday.

Chicago (12-15), which swept its three-game regular season series with the Wings, has scored 104 points in each of its last three games and has topped the 100-point plateau four times this season.

Chicago's Ruthy Hebard and Arike Ogunbowale of the Wings were both ejected. Hebard left the bench during a dust-up between teammate Dana Evans and Dallas' Odyssey Sims (who were each charged with a technical foul) midway through the third quarter. Ogunbowale, who finished with 14 points, was charged with a technical foul and ejected for unnecessary contact with an official with 52 seconds to play. That could lead to a suspension.

The teams combined for 54 personal fouls and shot 35 free throws apiece.

Evans, who made 9 of 9 from the foul line, scored 14 points for the Sky and Morgan Bertch added 11. Chicago made 31 of 64 (48.4%) from the field, 12 of 26 (46.2%) from 3-point range and hit a season-high 30 free throws on 35 attempts

(85.7%).

Satou Sabally led Dallas (15-13) with 25 points and eight assists. Natasha Howard added 24 points and Kalani Brown scored 13.

Sabally made a short jumper to give Dallas a one-point lead with 4:45 left in the first half. Copper answered with a jumper, Mabrey hit a pull-up jumper and a 3-pointer and Courtney Williams made a stepback to cap a 9-0 run that made it 42-34 and the Wings never again led. Dallas tied the score twice in the third quarter on jumpers by Howard and Ogunbowale but Evans hit a 3-pointer to make it 59-56 with 4:32 left in the period and Chicago led the rest of the way.

Liberty 99, Aces 61

In New York, Sabrina Ionescu and the New York Liberty turned a close game against the Las Vegas Aces into a rout with a dominant third quarter.

Ionescu scored 31 points, hitting six of New York's 17 3-pointers and the Liberty held the Aces to nine points in the third quarter en route to a 99-61 win in a matchup of the top two teams in the WNBA.

"I think the statement we made was we're a team that plays hard and when we lock in and are all on the same page defensively and offensively it's hard to stop," said Bre-

anna Stewart, who added 18 of her 23 points in the second half.

The Liberty have won four straight and snapped the Aces' eight-game winning streak, handing Las Vegas (24-3) only its third loss of the season in front of a raucous sellout crowd of 11,418.

The Aces were bidding to match the 1998 Houston Comets for most wins before suffering a third defeat. These two squads will play three more times this month, including for the Commissioner's Cup championship on Aug. 15 in Las Vegas.

Sparks 91, Mystics 83

In Washington, Nneka Ogumwike had 20 points, 10 rebounds and five assists, Azura Stevens

least 275 collegiate and 150 professional wins.

Brittney Sykes hit a jumper to give Washington an eight-point lead with 6 minutes to play and she made 1-of-2 free throws to make it 78-75 with 3 minutes remaining. Samuelson answered with two foul shots and Ogumwike followed with a short jumper that gave the Sparks the lead for good with 2:14 left and Samuelson added a 3-pointer about a minute later to make it 83-78.

Dream 82, Fever 73

In College Park, Rhyne Howard scored 24 points, Allisha Gray added 21 on 6-of-10 shooting, 3 of 4 from 3-point range, and the Atlanta Dream beat the Indiana Fever 82-73.

Cheyenne Parker added 16 points for Atlanta (15-13).

Gray made a driving layup and Nia Coffey followed with a 3-pointer early in the first quarter to spark an 11-1 run and give the Dream the lead for good.

Grace Berger made a floater to close the scoring in the third quarter and assisted on a layup by Kelsey Mitchell to open the fourth before Mitchell made back-to-back 3-pointers to cap a 14-5 spurt that trimmed the Fever's deficit to five points and Mitchell's layup with about 5 minutes left made it 70-67. Gray answered with a jumper.

BASKETBALL

made 7 of 11 from the field and finished with 17 points and the Los Angeles Sparks beat the Washington Mystics 91-83 to snap a four-game losing streak.

Jordin Canada, who made 9 of 10 from the free-throw line, had 15 points for Los Angeles (10-18).

Los Angeles coach Curt Miller became the fifth-fastest in WNBA history to reach 150 career wins and became one of three coaches (Van Chancellor and Lin Dunn) with at

played five seasons.

Kevin Dougherty, who had the 54-hole lead, closed with a 70 and tied for third with Roberto Diaz. Dougherty moved to No. 11 on the points list.

The Korn Ferry Tour has two reg-

ular-season events left before three tournaments with elevated money and points to close the season.

Two weeks after Alex Fitzpatrick tied for 17th in the British Open, the younger brother of U.S. Open cham-



Captain Bryson DeChambeau, of Crushers GC, reacts after winning on the 18th hole during the final round of LIV Golf Greenbrier at The Old White at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va. (AP)

15-under 273 and win for the third time in 2023, having also captured the title at the LPGA Drive On Championship in March.

Kim was second while Ruoning Yin of China (66) was a shot further behind in third.

Roger Sloan of Canada birdied his last two holes and closed with a 5-under 66 for a one-shot victory in the Utah Championship, moving him inside the top 30 of Korn Ferry Tour players who advance to the PGA Tour next year.

Sloan finished his front nine with an eagle and two birdies, only to fall back with a pair of bogeys early on the back nine. Christopher Petefish played bogey-free, and his eagle on the par-5 15th hole sent him to a 66 and the clubhouse lead.

Sloan birdied the 17th to catch him, and then hit wedge from 107 yards to 2 feet for the clincher. Sloan, who finished at 24-under 260, moved to No. 27 in the points list. He is trying to get back to the PGA Tour, where he

GOLF

He did one better, pulling away after the rain delay with plenty of help from Henley.

It was the second time in three years that Henley let one get away at Sedgefield Country Club. When play resumed, he took the lead with a two-putt birdie on the par-5 15th, and then everything went wrong in a bogey-bogey-bogey finish. He tied for second with Byeong Hun An.

Bryson DeChambeau became the fourth player on a top-level tour to shoot 58 on Sunday, making birdie on his last four holes to finally capture his first LIV Golf title at the rain-softened Greenbrier.

DeChambeau holed a 35-foot putt on the par-3 18th and leapt in the air with both arms extended to celebrate his lowest score ever and first LIV victory.

Jim Furyk had a 58 in the Travelers Championship on the PGA Tour in 2016, while Ryo Ishikawa at The Crowns in 2010 and S.H. Kim at the 2021 Golf Partner Pro-Am each shot 58 on the Japan Golf Tour.

What made DeChambeau's round stand out was he shot 58 with a bogey. DeChambeau finished at 23-under 187 for a six-shot victory over Mito Pereira, earning the \$4 million payoff for the individual competition.

DeChambeau took only 119 shots over the weekend at the 54-hole LIV Golf event. He shot a 61 on Saturday to get within one shot of Matthew Wolff, and then blew everyone away. Wolff shot 66 and tied for third with Richard Bland (65) and David Puig (66).

Torque won the team competition by three shots over the Crushers team led by DeChambeau.

Celine Boutier won the Women's Scottish Open by two strokes on Sunday to back up her first major last week in the Evian Championship.

The No. 4-ranked French player shot 2-under 70 on Sunday to clinch back-to-back wins and will head into the upcoming Women's British Open at Walton Heath in southern England with plenty of confidence.

Boutier led by three shots after the third round and also had that advantage heading down the stretch before making bogeys at Nos. 14 and 16. When Hyo Joo Kim of South Korea birdied the last to post 65 and set a target at 13 under overall, Boutier's lead was down to one stroke.

However, Boutier curled in a long right-to-left putt on No. 17 and was able to walk down the par-5 18th at Dundonald Links in some comfort. She tapped in for par to finish on



Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi (right), takes control of the ball against FC Dallas forward Alan Velasco during the first half of a Leagues Cup in Frisco, Texas. Messi scored on another mesmerizing free kick in his third consecutive two-goal game for Inter Miami, a tying tally that led to a 5-4 victory over Dallas on penalty kicks in a Leagues Cup elimination game. (AP)

Sports

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James sent off, England scrape into last 8

Australia advance

BRISBANE, Australia, Aug 7, (AP): Down a player after star forward Lauren James was ejected, England was facing the prospect of an upset against Nigeria and a round-of-16 exit at the Women's World Cup.

The European champion Lionesses remained calm enough to get through regulation and extra time at 0-0 and won a penalty shootout 4-2 to scrape into the quarterfinals on Monday.

England became the title favorite after the two-time reigning champion U.S. was eliminated on Sunday in a penalty shootout loss to Sweden. No. 2-ranked Germany, Olympic champion Canada and Brazil didn't even reach the knockout stage.

But the Lionesses struggled to create opportunities against Nigeria and, with five minutes remaining in regulation, an upset loomed when James received a red card after a VAR review.

She initially was given a yellow card by referee Melissa Borjas after falling on top of Michelle Alozie and then stepping on the Nigeria defender. The crowd groaned as slow-motion replays on the stadium screens showed the incident, and, after a delay of several minutes, the yellow card was upgraded to red.

SOCCER

British media instantly reacted by comparing it with David Beckham's red card for kicking out at Argentina's Diego Simeone at the 1998 World Cup in France. The red card means James will miss at least the quarterfinal and a potential semifinal.

But after a run of injuries to senior players and the loss of James, England coach Sarina Wiegman praised her team for adapting to every challenge.

"I've never experienced so many problems," Wiegman said. "It's my job to think of things that can happen in a game or a tournament. You try to turn every stone and try to already think of a solution if things happen. Today, we got totally tested on those turned stones."

The Lionesses immediately had to change formation in the 10-on-11 scenario, bringing on Chloe Kelly to play a solo role up front. She kicked the final penalty to clinch the shootout win.

Alozie was clear eight minutes into stoppage time but skewed her left-foot shot from seven yards wide of the post.

Veteran forward Asisat Oshoala forced a save from England goalkeeper Mary Earps deep in extra time.

After narrowly escaping with a win, England will meet Colombia or Jamaica in Sydney next Saturday in the quarterfinals.

"It's amazing. Anything that's thrown at us. We've shown what we're capable of," Kelly said. "We dig deep as a group and we believe in our ability. This team is special ... there's more to come."

Nigeria coach Randy Waldrum praised his team for going wire-to-wire with one of the best teams in the world.

Uchenna Kanu threatened with two headers in the second half, one just after the break that went just over the crossbar and another in the 72nd when she leaped to meet a corner kick but nudged it back past the near post.

Rachel Daly's powerful header as she ran into the box to meet a corner in the 75th was blocked by Chiamaka Nnadozie, who made two tremendous saves in the first half.

Nigeria had eight shots in the first half and created the better chances, including Ashleigh Plumpre's running left-foot strike into the crossbar in the 17th minute and her right-foot shot moments later that forced a diving save from England keeper Mary Earps.

A half-hour in, England was awarded a penalty when Daly appeared to be bumped to the ground in the area by blue-haired defender Rasheedat Ajibade, but it was overturned on VAR and brought a booming roar from the 49,461-strong crowd.

Oshoala went on as a substitute as the hour approached, with Nigeria aiming to reproduce the surge in attack her entry generated in the upset of Australia in the group stage. It generated more intensity but no goals.

Nigeria troubled the higher-ranked teams throughout the tournament after opening with a 0-0 draw against Olympic champion Canada and the win over Australia.

England advanced atop Group D, after struggling to a 1-0 opener against Haiti and edging Denmark by the same margin, the Lionesses unloaded with



Arsenal players celebrate after winning the English FA Community Shield final soccer match between Arsenal and Manchester City at Wembley Stadium in London. (AP)

Arsenal beat City in shootout to win Community Shield

Arsenal has started the English season how the team hopes to end it - by getting the better of Manchester City.

Arsenal beat City 4-1 in a penalty shootout, after equalizing in the 101st minute in regulation time to draw 1-1, to win the Community Shield at Wembley Stadium.

The match serves as a traditional curtain-raiser to the season and is typically played between the winners of last season's Premier League and FA Cup. Because City won both as part of the title treble also containing the Champions League for the first time, Arsenal took part as the runner-up in the

league and might have gained a psychological edge heading into the new campaign that starts on Friday.

"For us, it's a statement," Arsenal goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale said. "It's a marker to know we can go and beat Man City in a big game when it matters."

Cole Palmer curled in a 78th-minute goal after coming off the bench to give City the lead, only for Leandro Trossard to score with a deflected shot in the 11th minute of second-half stoppage time, taking the game to penalties.

Games in English soccer are set to have more minutes added on in the upcoming season - like at the men's

World Cup in Qatar last year - after statistics showed the ball was only in play on average around 55 minutes during Premier League matches last season. Sunday's finish was a demonstration of the impact that more stoppage time could have.

In the shootout, Kevin De Bruyne hit the crossbar for City and Rodri had an effort saved by Ramsdale, giving Fabio Vieira the opportunity to win it for Arsenal. The Portuguese playmaker curled it high into the corner. Martin Odegaard, Trossard and Bukayo Saka earlier scored penalties for Arsenal.

In 2005, another Vieira - Patrick - scored the winning penalty in the

FA Cup final at Wembley Stadium.

Arsenal, which has won the Community Shield in five of the last 10 seasons, had the better of the chances in the 90 minutes, with offseason signing Kai Havertz - leading the line with Gabriel Jesus injured - having two close-range efforts saved in the first half and Saka shooting wide.

John Stones had a header from a corner tipped over from Ramsdale before Palmer's goal.

City has now lost the Community Shield in three straight years, having been defeated by Leicester in 2021 and Liverpool in 2022.

Aside from the painful finish

to the match, City manager Pep Guardiola might also be slightly concerned that star striker Erling Haaland was quiet again, having ended last season with one goal in eight games in all competitions.

One positive for City, however, was the sight of De Bruyne coming on for the final half hour for his first minutes since the Champions League final in June, when he came off with a hamstring injury.

Another was Palmer, a 21-year-old winger who is expected to have more game time in the coming season following the departure of Riyad Mahrez to Saudi Arabia last month. (AP)



Nigeria's goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie (left), and England's Jessica Carter compete for the ball during the Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match between England and Nigeria in Brisbane, Australia. (AP)

James scoring twice in a 6-1 win over China in a pool finale that drew a TV audience exceeding 53 million in China.

Losing James to suspension will be another test of England's depth.

Beth Mead, who won the Golden Boot at the 2022 Euros, injured an ACL when playing for Arsenal in December. Leah Williamson, also playing for Arsenal, tore an ACL in April, and Fran Kirby is also missing from the Women's World Cup roster because of an injured knee.

Australia advanced to the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup by beating Denmark 2-0 in Sydney.

Goals from Caitlin Foord and Hayley Raso ensured the Matildas weren't the latest big name to crash out following the eliminations of holder the United States, Germany and Brazil.

The tournament co-host will face France or Morocco in Brisbane on Saturday.

Australian fans will start to believe their team could go on to be crowned world champion after star striker Sam Kerr returned from a calf injury to make her first appearance at the tournament.

In front of a crowd of 75,784 at Stadium Australia, the Matildas already put themselves on course for the last eight by the time Kerr made her entrance in the 80th minute.

Foord fired Australia in front in the 29th after running on to a pass from Mary Fowler.

Raso drilled home a second in the 70th after Emily van Egmond's lay off.

The Sydney Opera House was lit up in the yellow and green colors of the Matildas as excitement grew ahead of kickoff.

Australian fans feared their team wouldn't even get out of their group after losing to Nigeria. But a 4-0 win against Canada in its final Group B match secured top spot.

Back in Stadium Australia where it began its campaign on July 20, the Matildas were still without Kerr from the kickoff.

The striker injured her left calf on the eve of that opening game and did not play in the group stage. Despite recovering from the injury, she was named as a substitute against Denmark.

While she sat on the bench, Australia was still too strong for Denmark.

'France approach every game the same way'

History will be made at WCup as Colombia, Jamaica & Morocco seek quarterfinal spots

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Aug 7, (AP): History will be made Tuesday in at least one of the Women's World Cup knockout games, where three teams try to advance to the quarterfinals for the first time in their history.

Colombia, led by 18-year-old sensation Linda Caicedo, is trying to advance for the first time, four years after missing the tournament field. The Colombians made it to the round of 16 in 2015, were eliminated in group play in 2011, and failed to qualify in the 1999, 2003 and 2007 World Cups.

Standing in the way of Colombia, ranked 25th in the world, is Jamaica. The Reggae Grlz are playing in their second consecutive World Cup - they were eliminated in group play in 2019 - and needed a GoFundMe campaign to afford the trip to this year's tournament.

Colombia won its group, Jamaica beat Panama and eliminated powerhouse Brazil with a scoreless draw to advance, and the winner of Tuesday's match in Melbourne will advance to the quarterfinals for the first time in team history.

In Tuesday's second knockout game, World Cup debutante Morocco will attempt to continue its historic first tournament with a win over France. Coincidentally, the two nations played to a 2-0 France victory in the semifinals of the men's World Cup last December in Qatar.

Morocco's women's team advanced as runner-up in Group H after back-to-back 1-0 wins against South Korea and Colombia. Morocco was the first Arab or North African nation to qualify for the Women's World Cup, then became the first to advance beyond the group stage. Morocco was one of eight teams to make its tournament debut this year and the only one to advance.

Morocco, ranked 72nd in the world,

will have a tough time making it to the quarterfinals when the Atlas Lions play France in Adelaide, South Australia. France is ranked fifth in the world and advanced to at least the quarterfinals in the last three World Cups, and finished fourth in 2011.

SOCCER

France was eliminated by the United States in the quarterfinals in 2019 as the tournament co-host in a match played in Paris.

Colombia vs Jamaica

Two of the most dynamic scorers in the game meet Tuesday when Jamaica plays Colombia.

Khadija "Bunny" Shaw was an at-



Australia's Katrina Gorry and Denmark's Kathrine Kuhl challenge for the ball during the Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Australia and Denmark at Stadium Australia in Sydney, Australia. (AP)

tacking force with Manchester United last season, scoring 20 goals in 22 league games and has now taken Jamaica into the knockout round. Colombia has emerging star Caicedo, who has two goals in the tournament amid questions about her fitness.

Shaw hasn't managed to find the goal yet in this tournament, as Jamaica has just one goal in the group stage. Shaw sat out of the match because of a red card in the opener against France.

Jamaica has played surprisingly well despite very little preparation.

France vs Morocco

France, which reached the semifinals of last year's European Championship, is trying to reach the quarterfinals for the fourth consecutive Women's World Cup.

Les Blues has lost just one of their last 11 internationals.

France rested several players for its final group game, including captain Wendie Renard and Eugenie Le Sommer, the country's all-time leading scorer. Sakina Karchaoui, Sandie Toletti and Kenza Dali were also on the bench, as all three players are one yellow card away from a suspension.

Maelle Lakrar has played every minute of the tournament but the defender is a doubt against Morocco because of a thigh injury.

And now the French will try to play as the more dominant of the two teams.

"We are favorites and we won't hide from it, we came here with a lot of ambition, and that won't change because we play Morocco," Le Sommer said. "We approach every game the same way, we want to win. We have more experience than Morocco in this kind of tournament, it is their first World Cup, their first round of 16. So it is up to us to bring the best from ourselves to win this match."