



Article 19 condition in trade partnership

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has mandated that any resident or expatriate, whether a partner or manager, must hold a residence permit under Article 19 for registration in the commercial register, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This requirement, outlined in the PAM vide letter No. 2802 dated January 3, 2023, is essential for renewing licenses or establishing companies.

Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued Decision No. 11 of 2024, temporarily suspending the establishment, renewal, and amendment of all companies and institutions.

The existing licenses where one of the partners or managers does not hold an Article 19 permit will also be suspended due to partner incompatibility.

Under Article 19, residents can be granted a residence permit as their own sponsor, allowing them to have regular residency as an investor or foreign partner in a commercial or industrial activity. Conditions include having a share in the company of no less than 100,000 dinars and submitting the last two budgets certified by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Commerce.

Informed sources attributed the decision to the Public Authority for Manpower, emphasizing the need to distinguish between workers and employers in terms of residency status. Residents under Article 19 are treated as investors, while Article 18 applies to employees or workers.

Resident partners will be given time to adjust their status by transferring their residency to Article 19 or relinquishing their ownership.

Article 18 allows for regular residency for private sector work with a government-issued work permit and outlines procedures for transferring residency and employer responsibilities upon contract termination.

Article 19 states: "Regular residency may be granted to a foreign investor or partner in a commercial or industrial activity, based on a request submitted by the interested party, accompanied by a license to carry out the activity issued by the competent government agency. The aforementioned license must be submitted when requesting to renew the residency."

Enough medicine supply available

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Al-Humaidi Al-Mutairi, the Acting Director General of the Public Authority for People with Disabilities, announced that the Authority has implemented several precautionary measures in response to the accelerating political events, prioritizing the safety of children with disabilities.

Al-Mutairi stated that an extraordinary meeting was convened with the authority's senior officials including, directors, supervisors, and technicians to review the measures taken by various departments.

He emphasized that the Rehabilitation Medical Center is prepared for any emergency, with an adequate stock of medicines and all technical staff, including doctors and nursing staff, on standby.

The primary goal of these measures is to protect children with disabilities from potential dangers until the regional situation stabilizes.

Al-Mutairi also mentioned the continuous provision of services to residents of social care homes. Companies contracted with the Authority have been asked to maintain a stock of supplies sufficient for three to six months to ensure uninterrupted service for the residents.



Al-Mutairi

Mideast at critical juncture, take steps towards de-escalation: US

Gaza ceasefire holds key to averting broader conflict



Food is distributed to the displaced Palestinians in Gaza.

KUNA photo

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6, (Agencies): Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army, Lieutenant General (Pilot) Bandar Al-Muzain, met on Tuesday with Brigadier General Dr. Rashid Al-Marri, Head of the GCC Emergency Management Center at the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), to discuss ways to enhance joint cooperation.

According to a statement from the Chief of Staff, the meeting involved cordial discussions on key topics of mutual interest. Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Major General (Pilot) Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, also attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, the United States warned on Monday that the Middle East is at a critical juncture, with a heightened risk of "expansion and spread of conflict" across the region. The U.S. emphasized the urgent need for all parties to take steps toward de-escalation.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller stated during a press briefing that Secretary of State Antony Blinken is actively engaging in diplomatic efforts with regional counterparts to address the growing tensions in the Middle East. Blinken has held discussions with leaders, including Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani and Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdel Aty, as well as ongoing communications with G7 foreign ministers and Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani.

Miller highlighted that Blinken has consistently urged all parties to take immediate actions to reduce tensions, emphasizing that escalation is not in the interest of any nation or the millions of civilians who desire to live free from violence.

Blinken's talks also emphasized the importance of a ceasefire in Gaza as a key step toward broader de-escalation, securing the release of prisoners, and alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people. He urged all parties to seek agreement rather than delay or reject negotiations.

Addressing the Pentagon's recent adjustments to U.S. military positioning in the Middle East, Miller explained that deterrence is crucial to enhancing de-escalation prospects, and the U.S. will continue to take necessary measures in this regard. He reiterated that while the U.S. is preparing for potential conflict, it remains committed to preventing escalation.

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One million people benefit from relief projects

Kuwait spent \$18m on food, medicines for Gazans

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6, (KUNA): The Kuwait Relief Society announced that the total Kuwaiti aid to help those affected by the Israeli occupation attacks on the Gaza Strip since October 7th exceeded USD 18 million.

In remarks to KUNA, the General Manager of the Association, Abdulaziz Al-Obaid said that the USD 18 million was collected through various campaigns over 300 days with the participation of more than 30 charitable societies.

He added that the association sought to spend this amount in some rapid response sectors, especially disasters, crises and wars, including responding to urgent distress calls from our Palestinian brothers, most notably the food, medicine and shelter sectors.

Al-Obaid also noted that the total support provided through air flights, land convoys, sea ships, and medical relief flights that have been sent to the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the current aggression until now has exceeded 5 and a half tons of urgent and necessary humanitarian relief materials that the residents of the Strip need.

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Kuwait marks academic scholarships centenary ... glorious past, shiny future

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6, (KUNA): As Kuwait marks the centenary of academic scholarship programs, which saw its sons and daughters head abroad to gain knowledge and skills, the state continues to invest in such scheme to meet challenges and build a better future.

In 1924, Kuwait sent its very first scholarship delegation to Baghdad, Iraq, which included seven students; Sheikh Fahad Salem Al-Sabah, Mohammad Al-Dousari, Khaled Al-Adsani, Ahmad Al-Ali, Abdulkareem Al-Ali, Abdullah Al-Abduljaleel, and Salman Al-Enezi.

The state is currently reworking measures to overhaul the negatives aspects of the scholarship program and further develop them to avoid wasting of finances and elevate the level of academia and knowledge seeking.

Tasked with the tremendous responsibility, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Adel Al-Adwani had assigned a com-

mittee to look into the matter to achieve the national development goals for education especially within scholarship programs.

The minister said that the task was daunting; however, it should not stand in the way of finding serious and fundamental solutions for scholarship programs, which caused undeniable waste of financial resources.

Creating solutions for scholarship problems would help develop Kuwait's youths foundation, achieving the goals set by the Kuwait Vision 2035 in meeting demands of the job market and establishing a strong foundation for education.

According to a 2023 annual report by the State Audit Bureau, some 4,432 students academically faltered between 2020 and 2022, a number overshadowing similar statistics in 2013-14 and 2017-18 with only 2,634.

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Al-Kandari named PACI's new head

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef, has issued a decision appointing Deputy Director General of Civil Registration, Jaber Al-Kandari, as the acting Director-General of the Public Authority for Civil Information, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Kandari succeeds the former Director-General, Mansour Al-Madhen.



Al-Kandari

News watch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait Airways has announced the safe return of flight No. KU 674 from Dubai which was a subject of technical malfunction, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The airline also stated that investigations will be conducted to determine the causes of the technical failure, following the company's standard procedures.

WASHINGTON: The US Central Command (CENTCOM) reported that its forces destroyed multiple anti-ship drones and one anti-ship ballistic missile launched by the Houthis over the Red Sea during the past 24 hours.

In a statement late Monday, CENTCOM said that its forces destroyed three Iranian-backed Houthi Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) launched from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen over the Gulf of Aden.

It added that its forces have successfully destroyed one Iranian-backed Houthi UAS in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen, one Houthi uncrewed surface vessel (USV), one Houthi UAV and one Houthi Anti-Ship Ballistic Missile (ASBM) in the Red Sea. (KUNA)

TRIPOLI: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) said on Monday that 897 migrants were intercepted and returned to Libya during the week that ended on Saturday.

The humanitarian agency reported that among those intercepted were 54 women and 29 children. It also said five bodies were recovered off the Libyan coast. (Xinhua)

LONDON: British government announced Tuesday it will repeal the Strikes Act 2023 to get public services back on track and strengthen the rights of working people.

Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds wrote to government departments with sectors most impacted by strikes: Education, Health, Transport, the Home Office, Energy, as well as Welsh and Scottish governments, to give a clear message that this government does not support Minimum Service Levels and intends to repeal the legislation. (KUNA)

Minister sets up team to monitor co-ops inventory

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: According to informed sources, the Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah has issued a decision to form a strategic inventory follow-up team headed by the

Acting Assistant Undersecretary for the Cooperative Sector Ahmad Fareej Al-Enezi with a representative of the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies and a number of officials and supervisors in the ministry as members.

They explained that the main tasks of the team include monitoring the strategic inventory in

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The Air Defense Force commander discusses joint military issues with the commander of the support group in the region.

KUNA photo

Military concerns shared

Air Defense Force Commander Major General Khaled Saad met with US Colonel Pily Restrepo, Commander of the Area Support Group, on Tuesday to discuss shared military concerns.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Defense, the meeting featured cordial discussions on key issues of mutual interest, particularly those related to military matters. (KUNA)

Money laundering and bribery cases rife despite gov't efforts

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Experts have estimated that real estate exhibition cases involving money laundering amount to two billion dinars. Despite the government's proactive measures to combat this issue and its efforts to dismantle many corruption networks, significant challenges remain.

The ongoing reform campaign and strict enforcement of laws have led to the exposure of many individuals and groups exploiting legal loopholes for financial crimes.

The government is committed to uncovering the remaining corrupt entities and their associates, who often disguise their activities under various legal and political facades.

Experts and legal analysts have highlighted the severe impact of money laundering on public funds and private sector victims. They have called for tighter control over both suspicious and non-suspicious companies to curb this rampant corruption.

The role of Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah has been praised for effectively implementing the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled in addressing corruption, theft of public funds, and money laundering in Kuwait.

Ali Al-Attar, a lawyer specializing in money laundering cases, highlighted ongoing challenges in enforcing judicial rulings related to tracking and recovering funds.

He pointed to significant cases like the insurance fraud involving

laundering money to the relatives of the accused and the Malaysian Fund case, along with recent issues such as fraud in Iraqi taxes by individuals with dual nationality.

Al-Attar emphasized that major thefts, including those of Kuwaiti oil tankers, occurred even before the enactment of the Money Laundering Law, raising questions about the effectiveness of legal measures in preventing and addressing such crimes.

Al-Attar highlighted that while the Ministry of Commerce and Industry permits Kuwaiti citizens to establish private companies, some individuals with malicious intentions have exploited this opportunity.

They have turned these companies into tools for embezzling funds through fictitious entities, which serve as fronts for money laundering in Kuwait. Many of those convicted in money laundering cases were involved with such fictitious companies, which facilitated their evasion of accountability.

Al-Attar noted a concerning trend where fraudsters use legal loopholes to defraud citizens in real estate deals. Kuwaiti laws require that citizens own at least 51% of a company at its inception, with a non-Kuwaiti often appointed as the company's manager.

When these companies open bank accounts, they are managed by the actual beneficiaries, who later exploit the funds. Once fraud is discovered, the non-Kuwaiti managers flee the country, leaving the Kuwaiti owner to face the consequences.

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Third fingerprint rollout 'delayed'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Despite being published in the Official Kuwait Gazette and set to take effect two days ago, the rollout of the Civil Service Commission's (CSC) new third fingerprint attendance system in government agencies has been postponed due to technical issues, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Government sources disclosed that the current systems in many ministries misinterpret the third fingerprint, mistakenly recording it as a departure rather than an attendance record. This misinterpretation could lead to employees being unjustly marked as absent and facing salary deductions.

To address this, the ministries and government agencies under the CSC are working with relevant authorities to amend the current system, which only tracks two fingerprints (morning and evening), requires adjustments to incorporate the new three-fingerprint requirement effectively.

The proposed changes aim to streamline the attendance process by potentially using smartphone applications, allowing employees to record their presence without leaving their work sites.

However, the existing system's configuration causes the third fingerprint to be recorded as a departure, necessitating a revision of the CSC's fingerprint protocols to prevent erroneous absence records.

The CSC issued a statement via the X website, indicating that it is committed to completing the implementation of the third fingerprint decision.

This includes finalizing the actual start date and developing a mechanism for its execution, which will involve appropriate technologies such as smartphone applications for convenience.

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Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:43 Asr 15:30
 Sunrise .. 05:11 Maghrib .. 18:37
 Zohr 11:54 Isha 20:02

Local

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

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Very hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 08-35 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

Weather

By Night: Hot to rather hot 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	30
Abdaly	47	30
Jahra	48	32
Salmiyah	44	36
Jal Aliyah	46	30
Nuwaisib	45	32
Wafra	47	29

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister send similar greetings

HH the Amir congratulates Bolivia and Jamaica on national days

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Tuesday to the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Luis Alberto Arce Catacora, on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished him good health and well-being, extending wishes of progress and prosperity to Bolivia and its people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Luis Alberto Arce Catacora, on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the

Crown Prince wished him good health and well-being.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Luis Alberto Arce Catacora, on his country's National Day.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, Tuesday, a cable to Governor-General of Jamaica Patrick Linton Allen, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the Jamaican leader good health and wellness, and Jamaica and its people further progress and prosperity.

HH Amir offers condolences to Pakistan on victims of heavy rains

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Tuesday a cable of condolences to President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari on the tragic loss of life and widespread damage to property caused by heavy rains.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled sent a congratulatory cable to Governor-General Pat-

rick Linton Allen on the occasion of his country's National Day, wishing him good health and wellness.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled

Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to President Asif Ali Zardari on the tragic loss of life and widespread damage to property caused by heavy rains.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince expressed his condolences over the victims and wished

speedy recovery for the injured.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent Tuesday a cable of condolences to President Asif Ali Zardari on the tragic loss of life due to heavy rains in several provinces of the country.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah sent a cable to Governor-General Patrick Linton

Allen, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day.



Al-Anba photo
 Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber during his meeting with the Head of the UN-Habitat Mission to Kuwait, Dr. Amira Al-Hassan, and the Deputy Head of the Mission, Qusai Al-Duaj.

Sheikh Hamoud receives UN-Habitat chief

Afforestation initiatives enhance environmental situation, achieve sustainable dev – Ahmadi gov

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad expressed appreciation for the efforts exerted by the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) mission in Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf for collaborating with relevant authorities to achieve sustainable development and improve environmental conditions through initiatives that focus on afforestation, greenery, and planting native plants in desert areas to combat desertification, reports Al-Anba daily.

He said this during his meeting with the Head of the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) mission in Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf Dr. Amira Al-Hassan, and Deputy Head of the mission Qusai Al-Duaj.

The meeting took place on Monday at the governor's office in the General Diwan of the Ahmadi Governorate, during which they reviewed several projects implemented through collaboration between UN-Habitat and various governmental and civil society bodies and institutions in the past.

They discussed the need to preserve the heritage identity of Ahmadi City by rehabilitating

and developing several historical buildings, such as the old Ahmadi Market and Ahmadi Cinema. This effort involves collaboration between the governorate, the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), and the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC).

The governor emphasized the importance of combining efforts with relevant authorities to achieve this goal.

Meanwhile, Dr. Amira Al-Hassan affirmed that the program aims to assist the governorates in achieving sustainable development goals by offering scientific and practical expertise. This includes implementing diverse initiatives, activities, and specific projects that align with local strategies and plans.

She said the UN-Habitat programs are prepared to collaborate with the Ahmadi Governorate on multiple fronts. This includes expanding the "Kuwait Plants" campaign at the environmental level and organizing community activities to foster sustainable green cities. Additionally, support is extended to Ahmadi City in its aspiration to become a healthy city.

Authorities report surge in food poisoning cases, 5 eateries shut

PAFN team collects food, water samples for testing

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: According to informed sources, health authorities have reported a recent increase in complaints and cases of food poisoning.

The Ministry of Health's Preventive Health Department and the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) received reports about poisoning cases in five different food establishments. Consequently, these establishments were closed, and necessary legal and precautionary measures were taken against their owners.

Upon receiving the reports, food inspection teams from PAFN and the Preventive Health Department immediately conducted raids on the establishments. They collected food and water samples for testing. The establishments will remain closed until the test results confirm the safety of the food.

The sources explained that when complaints are received via the Hotline No. 1807770 or on PAFN website, or through the Preventive Health Department, specialized teams from both authorities immediately visit the facility. They inspect the facility's documents, focusing on compliance with Ministerial Resolutions No. 20/2017 and 25/2017 regarding licenses and food control regulations.

If violations are found, such as non-compliance in terms of licenses, health certificates, or other regulations, citations are issued.

In cases where reconciliation is not possible, such as the presence of insects or distribution of food unfit for human consumption, the facilities are closed, after the violations are reported to the Public Prosecution.

After conducting the initial inspection, the sample receiving department at PAFN collects samples of water and food. Simultaneously, the Preventive Health Department gathers samples from the workers at the facility to compare them with recorded cases of poisoning. Typically, the facility remains closed until the sample results are obtained.

These samples are labeled 'Urgent' upon arrival at the Ministry of Health's laboratories to expedite the results. If the samples test positive, the facility is closed and marked with a red sticker bearing the authority's seal.

Regarding penalties, the sources said the penalties commence with issuance of violation reports, followed by closure and imposition of fines ranging from KD 500 to KD 50,000.

They indicated that the facilities usually request a temporary administrative reopening to rectify the violations. Subsequently, inspection teams revisit the facility to collect samples again. Once the safety of water and food is confirmed, the facility can reopen, but will be subjected to continued inspection tours.



His Excellency Dr. Nayef Al-Hajraf in a group photo during the inaugural charity gala dinner.

Event brings together 150 global financial leaders

His Excellency Dr. Al-Hajraf delivers keynote speech and receives Goodfellow Award at SWFI charity gala

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute (SWFI) and the Guild of Investment Managers (GIM) recently hosted their inaugural charity gala dinner at Haberdashers' Hall in London. The event, part of SWFI's Global Wealth Conference, brought together 150 global financial leaders from around the world, including government officials and esteemed figures from the finance sector.

Lakshmi Narayanan, Chairman of SWFI, commented: "We are delighted to bring together such esteemed guests for this important cause. Dr. Al-Hajraf's insights and his receipt of the Goodfellow Award highlight the caliber of expertise and leadership in our industry."

His Excellency Dr. Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf, former Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (2020-23) and Minister of Finance and Chairman of the Kuwait Investment Authority (2017-19), delivered the evening's keynote speech. In his address, Dr. Al-Hajraf highlighted the growing attractiveness of the GCC in drawing global investments.

Following his insightful talk, Dr. Al-Hajraf was honored with the Goodfellow Award for his exceptional contributions to international financial cooperation and leadership



H.E Dr. Al-Hajraf being honored with the Goodfellow Award.

in the sovereign wealth fund sector. This prestigious accolade, presented annually, recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to advancing global financial understanding and collaboration.

Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney, representing the Lord Mayor of London, remarked, "Events like these underscore the importance of investing in human capital for our future." The gala dinner, held in partnership with the Invest-

ment Managers' Charitable Trust (IMCT), aimed to raise funds for bursaries supporting young individuals from diverse backgrounds entering the investment management industry.

This event marks the beginning of a partnership between SWFI, GIM, and IMCT, creating pathways for the next generation of leaders in investment management while recognizing current leaders through accolades like the Goodfellow Award.

PAM's new deals and MoUs to address labor shortages

High-level talks to increase Filipino domestics recruitment

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Director of the International Relations Department at the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Jaber Al-Ali has confirmed the implementation of three agreements about domestic workers and the signing of 21 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) in the private sector, while 44 MoUs between the domestic labor and private sectors are in the negotiation stage and will be signed soon, reports Al-Rai daily.

This is part of the report presented by Al-Akhbar Channel entitled, "The Domestic Labor Crisis between Increased Demand and Lack of Options," during which it hosted Al-Ali and asked for the opinion of citizens about the domestic labor file

that burdens families from time to time.

Regarding the Filipino workers, Al-Ali disclosed "a high-level meeting with the Filipino side was held recently under the chairmanship of First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf Al-Sabah. We set several main points in this regard. I had a dialogue with the representatives of the Philippine Embassy and everything is going well. I believe that requests to hire Filipino domestic workers have reached some domestic labor recruitment offices."

On allowing domestic workers to transfer to the private sector, provided they have been working for their current employer for

at least one year; Al-Ali pointed out that the regulatory decisions issued in this regard take into account all the concerned parties -- employers and workers.

He explained that Ministerial Resolution No. 6/2024 was issued after the inspection campaigns carried out by the Inspection Department at PAM, indicating this is complementary to the grace period previously given to violators of the Residency and Labor laws to legalize their status or leave the country. He said the current employer's approval is the main requirement for domestic workers to transfer to the private sector, adding that the other conditions include at least one year in service under the current employer and the specified fees.

Other Voices

Sacrifices & slaughtering of livestock

By Ahmed alsarraf

The Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, and others have their own ways of slaughtering livestock. Although the majority of Hindus are vegetarians, there are groups that consume meat, and they follow traditional methods of slaughter, through specific rituals. Sikhs, who usually avoid the slaughter of others, prefer meat that is slaughtered in their own way, and these practices are rooted in their religious and cultural traditions and beliefs.

Jews have their own slaughtering rituals, known as the "shehita" or "shehita kosher," which follow specific laws in their law, requiring a trained person known as a "shehita" to perform the slaughter. The person must use a knife with certain specifications, and the slaughter must be carried out under supervision such as checking the animal after it is slaughtered to ensure that there are no defects that might make the meat non-kosher or halal. Finally, drying or removing the blood.

As for the rituals followed by Muslims, they are known as "halal slaughter," and is carried out according to the following rules -- intention of slaughtering must be dedicated to God; use of a sharp and clean knife; the method or manner of slaughtering; the slaughterer must utter the words 'In the name of God... God is Great' before slaughtering the animal and the animal must be left alone until most of its blood has drained.

In a note by the well-known writer Dr. Khaled Montaser, he says that three Islamic fatwas have generated and continue to generate imaginary sums of money for specific parties, most of whom are religious, exceeding 3 trillion dollars annually. He did not provide any sources for that information, and that this is called "halal trade," meaning slaughtering livestock and poultry in the Islamic way, or the way of the Quraysh.

The second-ranked fatwa is the fatwa of some "Islamic banks," which rely on a weak and disputed legal interpretation that considers bank "interest" to be a

type of "usury"! The third fatwa, which generates several billion more, is the fatwa prohibiting the use of alcohol in medicines, perfumes, and disinfectants, and prohibiting any amount, no matter how small, of pork fat in food products.

These fatwas or opinions have led the consumer to search for the (halal) product, even if it is more expensive and of lower quality, at the expense of the better, cheaper, and health-proven product!"

The halal merchant does not need to compete as long as these fatwas become a weapon in his hand, enabling him to sell any product, no matter how bad it is, and to overcome any competing product, no matter how good it is. The phrase "halal" that we find today on many products is perhaps the biggest sign of commercial fraud currently.

In non-Muslim countries, such as Brazil and Australia, which are the world's largest exporters of poultry and livestock, which we were unable to provide for ourselves, there are official bodies affiliated with those countries that supervise the halal slaughter process.

However, over time, unofficial bodies succeeded in imposing themselves on them, in cooperation with powerful Arab and Islamic countries, which at the time refused to import any meat from those countries unless it was accompanied by certificates from these private bodies, which are basically affiliated with well-known religious parties, proving that the slaughter was done in a correct Islamic manner.

It is worth noting that issuing those certificates costs the exporting countries huge sums that go to the accounts of those parties.

This is done despite the fact that the regulatory bodies can carry out the task of supervising the slaughter in the best possible way, especially since a high percentage of their populations are Muslims.

Importing countries, like us, can save a lot of the cost of slaughtered livestock and poultry by canceling the certificates of religious parties, but "business" and "halal profit" require otherwise.

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Iraqi invasion of Kuwait ... 34 years later, remembering resistance and int'l success

"ALTHOUGH with every anniversary of the brutal Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, I recall painful and bitter events, I always feel proud that we went through this harsh experience and succeeded in overcoming it with steadfastness and unbreakable Kuwaiti determination," columnist **Asrar Jowhar Hayat** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.



Asrar Hayat

"As a citizen, my family remained in Kuwait throughout the brutal occupation, and I did not leave. I was a keen follower, in the heat of youth, of every event related to the invasion, starting with the efforts of the wise leadership to restore Kuwait, and ending with the resistance, passing through the efforts of our young men and women abroad in demonstrations and protests, and their managing of cooperative societies, bakeries, and others.

"As a writer, I am very keen to write an article on this painful anniversary, because this experience represents a lesson to be learned, and perhaps the most prominent of these lessons is our presence in the international arena and our activity in international forums. It is no secret if we say that if it were not for this international Kuwaiti activity, we might have reached a stage that could have dire consequences, God forbid.

"The Security Council and the United Nations bear witness to how active the Kuwaitis, leadership and people, were. Indeed, Kuwait was able, in the invasion file, to activate all the resolutions of the Security Council and the United Nations, to mobilize votes and to work as active cells continuously, to gain support and votes in its interest.

"The result of these efforts was that the entire world stood by Kuwait, supported it and backed it in its legitimate right, so we regained Kuwait with our international activity, our usual diplomacy and our presence in international forums.

"Today, as I remember this painful anniversary, which carries feelings of pride at the same time, I am fully confident that we still have the energy and international standing that enables us to be a major player in the Gulf, Arab, and regional level and perhaps even global issues and files.

"The accumulation of our diplomatic experiences, the accumulation of our international efforts, and our presence in international forums, throughout the past years, give us the sufficient legacy and energy necessary to continue our usual diplomatic role.

"If 34 years ago we were able to suppress a brutal occupation and activate all the provisions and resolutions of the Security Council, today we will be able to play important roles on the international level, as we are a country that calls for peace and is always willing to bring viewpoints closer together.

"In conclusion, as I always remember on this anniversary, I record my rejection of those who call the invasion the Saddamist invasion, as it was an Iraqi invasion, in addition to my constant call to the Ministry of Education to document the events of the invasion in its curricula, and to include more stories of resistance, as what we went through is difficult to forget."

Also:

"The throne of the coming world ... is what the American writer and poet Albert Pike talked about in his letter dated 1871. This military leader, who today has the most beautiful statue representing him in the most powerful country in the world, did not come out of nowhere," columnist **Fakhri Hashim Al-Sayed Rajab** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"Yes, he left an important document that accurately tells about a plan that was fully implemented until the world reached its current reality today. As for the details of Albert Pike's plan, as researchers called it, they say: 'We have more than two hundred years to implement the plan'... A first, second, and third world war in which the decisive factor will be, and according to what was detailed in the document, everything it contained has been fully implemented.

"The goal of the First World War was to allow the so-called Illuminati (a sect of 16th-century Spanish heretics who claimed special religious enlightenment) to overthrow the rule of the Tsars in Russia, and make that region a stronghold of the atheistic communist movement, and then transform Russia from a Christian state to an atheist state, and then use communism as a doctrine to destroy other governments and destroy religions.

"The Second World War aims to pave the way for differences between the Fascists and the political Zionist movement, to end in destruction, and to expand the authority of political Zionism, so that the latter can establish a Jewish state in Palestine.

"Likewise, Communism must be supported until it reaches a stage where its strength is equal to the totality of the Christian world, and then work must be done to stop it at this point, so that work can begin to implement the third stage (i.e. the Third World War).

"The plan requires that a conflict

arises, incited by the 'Illuminati', between Zionism, represented by Israel, and the Islamic world, and that these wars be directed and managed, so that the Islamic world and Zionism destroy each other, while at the same time other peoples divided over this issue fight each other, until everyone reaches a state of extreme weakness, to complete exhaustion physically, mentally, spiritually, and even economically.

"Then the work begins on the stage of division into small states that fight until death, and the search for world peace begins as a final solution for salvation. Then they will find no way out except to resort to a new world order, based on the principle of 'single government,' which is the order that we have prepared, and the words here are from Albert Pike.

"Yes, we will work to cause a general humanitarian catastrophe, showing its endless ugliness to all nations. On the other hand, we will unleash destructive atheistic movements, and major bloody results will appear, after which there will be a general reaction as a result of the state of confusion among everyone, Muslims, Christians, and others. And the period will become ripe for integrating everyone. This talk is not only important, but it is literally the plan and it is being implemented.

"Do you think the recent war between the Zionists and the Palestinians will lead to the demise of the entity state? And will the Israeli existence end in demise?

"The entity state has actually begun bombing Lebanon in a calculated manner, preceded by a massacre in the Syrian Golan Heights, and things are heading towards an explicit escalation, and the resistance will certainly respond, but in a disciplined manner that avoids escalation. What do you think could happen if Hezbollah used the destructive weapons it now possesses?

"What I see is that the operation will be short and will end with a truce, but I have become certain that only Divine force will be capable of arranging the affairs of this amazing planet and its children, as everyone, and with evidence, was a hostage to a deliberate plan that brought the world to what it is. Let God's will be the strongest, so that we may survive."

"Much discussion revolves around human relations, with reputable institutions often emphasizing the importance of respect, effective communication, and attentive listening between leaders and their subordinates," columnist **Dr. Turki Al-Azemi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"According to Hofstede's studies, Kuwaiti society has been classified as far-reaching, which means officials often do not encourage questioning, and communication with them can be challenging.

"Dickson and Den Hartog say, 'To gain the respect of peers and subordinates, and to maintain self-respect, it is particularly important for officials to maintain their image or status.'

"The perception and status of officials are often shaped by direct interactions. Many participants in doctoral studies emphasized the importance of certain essential qualities in an official when interacting with subordinates. These qualities include:

"The image and status here appear through direct contact with the officials. Many participants in doctoral studies stressed on the necessity of some vital qualities in the personality of the official when dealing with his subordinates. These include honesty, communication and listening skills, and respect.

"The study concluded that in Kuwaiti society, both institutionally and among individuals and civil society institutions, analysis revealed that one of the most crucial qualities an official must possess is earning the respect of those they work with. Without this, effective collaboration and attentive listening become exceedingly challenging.

"Regardless of your position within your institutions, ministries, or groups, your self-respect should compel you to consider what the study has concluded. Does the speaker exhibit the essential quality of respect? Your own self-respect sets the tone for how you treat others, a principle emphasized in the teachings of our religion.

"That is why Allah the Almighty said, 'So by the mercy of Allah, you are gentle with them. And if you had been rude and harsh in heart, they would have disbanded from around you.'

"In an era rife with rumors, I believe it is imperative for us to seek counsel and engage in dialogue with wise individuals of experience and distinguished knowledge, placing our trust in Allah.

"In conclusion, respect, honesty, communication skills, and listening skills are qualities that, when possessed by an individual - whether an official or an ordinary person - make them a source of love, appreciation, and respect among their followers or listeners.

"However, if malice prevails and major responsibilities are delegated to inexperienced young people who lack good communication and listening skills as well as honesty, then it is natural for 'impudence' to become a prevailing characteristic. Allah is the source of our help."

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



Mol photo

Narcotic substances seized during the raid.

Narcotic substances seized during prison raid

By **Munif Naif**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

Acting on instructions from Major General Abdullah Safah, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Special Security Affairs, the Special Forces conducted a raid on the central prison.

During the operation, the men in

uniform seized mobile phones, sharp objects and narcotic substances and those involved have been handed over to the competent authorities.

This raid is part of ongoing security campaigns aimed at eliminating narcotics and prohibited substances from the central prison and implementing measures to prevent their entry.

Two expats get 5-yr jail, KD 149K fine for stealing KD 49K in goods

Case filed to cancel decision on fingerprinting

By **Jaber Al-Hamoud**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Criminal Court has sentenced two Egyptian accountants in charge of the family supplies section at the Ministry of Defense Supermarket to five years in prison and fined them KD149,000 for stealing goods worth KD49,000 in 2021 that they sold in external markets before escaping from the country.

The Legal Committee confirmed in its report to the Public Prosecution that it discovered the embezzlement committed by the two defendants; hence, it demanded for their punishment and for them to return the embezzled amount (value of the stolen goods).

The supermarket's management sought legal assistance after the CCTV recordings proved the theft of goods. After examining the activities of the defendants, it was found that they also forged the signature of a company representative on a returned document for goods from the supermarket.

It was revealed that the two employees took the goods from the supermarket and sold them outside the supermarket during the corona pandemic.

Case filed to cancel fingerprint decision: Lawyer Mohammed Al-Ansari revealed that a case has been filed for the cancellation of the decision taken by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to implement an additional fingerprint process to verify employee attendance at the workplace, a decision that came into effect last Sunday.

In a press statement, Lawyer Al-Ansari said the outcome of the case is known in advance because it is an organizational matter.

He stressed that there are several inquiries that can only be addressed through the Administrative Court.

Lawyer Al-Ansari indicated that he will request the concerned authorities to provide the CVs of the committee members who devised the plan for implementing the additional fingerprint system.

He said he wondered whether a comprehensive vision had been developed based on a serious actual study, indicating that the fingerprint system would enhance employee motivation, reduce negligence, increase productivity, and provide other pertinent information that employees have the right to know regarding this decision.

12 abandoned cars seized: The Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality has confirmed the impounding of 12 abandoned cars and the issuance of 39 warnings for other abandoned vehicles in Shuwaikh Industrial Area, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

In addition, the department disclosed in a press statement that the field teams of the public sanitation and road occupancy departments in various governorates continue to intensify their inspection efforts to uncover and address violations against regulations on public sanitation and road occupancy. It also affirmed that the role of supervisory bodies in enforcing the Municipality laws has been activated.

Director of the Public Sanitation and Road Occupancy Department at the Capital Municipality branch Faisal Al-Otaibi explained that the intensified inspection efforts are aimed at uncovering violations in order to take legal measures against those proven to have violated the regulations.

He added the inspection team in his department is keen on improving the level of cleanliness in areas under their responsibility, as well as removing everything that distorts the aesthetic view in the entire governorate.

MoJ to entertain visitors on Wednesdays: The Ministry of Justice has announced that every Wednesday will be dedicated to the Undersecretary of the Ministry for receiving individuals who wish to present their complaints and suggestions, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

This initiative aims to develop the work within the Ministry. The reception will take place from 9 am to 12 noon at the Ministries Complex.

CSC mandates work ID display for employees

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Civil Service Commission has mandated that all its employees must visibly display their work IDs during official working hours starting September 1. This directive, communicated through a circular obtained by **Al-Anba**, requires employees without a work ID to submit a personal photo and a copy of their civil ID to the Administrative Affairs Department, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

Issued by Undersecretary for Financial and Administrative Affairs Salah Khaled Al-Saqabi, the circular states that an ID holder will be provided to each employee following memos sent to relevant departments.

DGCA ends assignments of dozens of 'shift' employees

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Directorate-General of Civil Aviation has decided to terminate the assignments of dozens of employees working on a shift system, effective from the beginning of next September.

Informed sources told **Al-Seyassah** that the Audit Bureau recently advised the DGCA to halt the assignment of certain employees to the shift system, citing a misalignment between their educational qualifications and the nature of their administrative roles.

The assignment system requires employees to have specific technical specializations.

The sources revealed that the shift system had been previously exploited to provide financial incentives, with some administrative employees being assigned to shifts to obtain allowances despite their work not aligning with shift system requirements.

It was noted that some employees in administrative positions were receiving both a shift allowance and a civil aviation cadre allowance, amounting to approximately 280 dinars for a fourth-grade employee. These financial benefits are not commonly available in many other government agencies.

The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department said firemen acting on information rushed to Ali Sabah Al-Salem area and put out fire to a vehicle which was parked in front of a house, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The fire also destroyed a tent which was pitched nearby.

Bank account theft cases resurfaces, 3 new cases reported

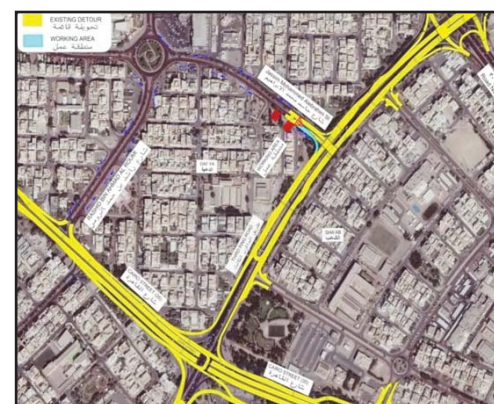
KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Bank account theft cases have resurfaced with three new cases registered at Northwest Sulaibikhat Police Station under the title, 'Bank Document Forgery', reports **Al-Anba** daily.

It remains unknown whether the victims responded to calls from gangs asking them to update their bank card information or their bank balances were stolen under different circumstances.

One of the victims, a female citizen, said she found that her bank account had zero balance after communicating with the bank. She revealed the amount KD900 was deposited into her account and then withdrawn immediately, along with whatever money she had in the account; indicating she lost KD440.

According to a security source, another citizen was surprised when he received messages from a local bank he is dealing with, as one of the messages stated his balance of about KD330 turned into zero; while one more citizen disclosed that his entire balance of KD335 was stolen.

The source has reiterated his call for citizens and expatriates to refrain from responding to gangs impersonating bank employees and requesting to update their data. He stressed that the Ministry of Interior and any bank neither request customer data nor contact customers by telephone to update their bank cards. He advised everyone to avoid logging into unknown websites or clicking suspicious links, as these links allow gangs to view the entire banking data of customers.



PART photo

Aerial view of the road closure.

Temporary road closure

Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport (PART) has announced the temporary closure of the Daiya exit on the Third Ring Road in the direction of Cairo Street to complete the final layer of asphalt, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The complete closure will be from 11 pm on Friday, Aug 9, until 10 am on Saturday, August 10, and the full opening will take place the same evening.

Fire engulfs vehicles: Fire engulfed a number of vehicles on a dirt lot in Hawally without causing injuries or loss of lives, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

Firefighting teams were dispatched to the location immediately after the Operations Unit at Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) received information about the fire incident.

In a related development, KFF organized seminars at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Central Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Municipality and Directorate General of Civil Aviation.



WEDDINGS, UPTO 140



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Real estate market sees significant surge in property deals and values

22% rise in July transactions

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: According to statistics issued by the Real Estate Brokers Union concerning real estate transactions in July, there was an increase in the value of real estate transactions by 22 percent and the number of properties by 46 percent in July compared to June.

The total value of real estate transactions in July was about KD 385.5 million compared to KD 316.4 million in June. The number of properties in July was 472 compared to 323 properties in June.

The statistics showed that the residential sector led in both the value and number of real estate transactions, comprising 39 percent of the total trading value and 71 percent of the total number of properties.

The investment sector ranked second with 30 percent in trading value and 24 percent in property numbers. The commercial sector secured third place with 17 percent in trading value and 2.5 percent in property numbers. Other transactions accounted for 14 percent of the trading value and 2.5 percent of the number of transactions.

The statistics also showed an increase in the value of real estate transactions in the residential sector by 42 percent and an increase in the number of transactions by 55 percent in July compared to June. The value of transactions reached KD 151.5 million with 337 properties compared to KD 107 million with

218 properties last month.

Sabah Al-Ahmad Marine City came first with about 17 percent, followed by Al-Masayel with about nine percent of the total value of transactions in the residential sector.

Sabah Al-Ahmad Marine City accounts for approximately 38 percent of the land transactions in the residential sector. There was a notable increase of about three percent in the value of real estate transactions in the investment sector and a 35 percent rise in the number of transactions from June to July. Transactions totaled KD 115.5 million across 113 properties, compared to KD 112 million involving 84 properties the previous month.

In terms of distribution, Salmiya led with approximately 25 percent of the total transaction value in the investment sector, followed by Hawally with 22 percent. Meanwhile, Mahboula accounted for approximately 30 percent of the total number of apartment transactions in this sector.

In the commercial sector, there was a notable decline of 30 percent in trading value and 42 percent in the number of transactions from June to July. This month, real estate trading amounted to KD 65.9 million across 11 properties, compared to KD 93.7 million involving 19 properties in June.

Salmiya remained at the forefront with approximately 38 percent of the total trading value in the sector, followed by Kuwait City with around 19 percent. Sabah Al-Ahmad Sea City represented 67 percent of the total number of land transactions in the commercial sector.



Hawalli Governor Ali Al-Asfar welcomed Sheikha Suhaila Salem Al-Sabah, the head of the Friends of the Disabled Team, along with Dr. Anoud Al-Tayyar, Maha Al-Hamdan, and Wael Al-Huwaider.

Hawalli Governor backs special needs integration

Hawalli Governor Ali Al-Asfar has emphasized his commitment to collaborating on the integration of people with special needs into society and ensuring they receive humanitarian care through exceptional projects, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This statement was made during his meeting with Sheikha Suhaila Salem Al-Sabah, Head of the Friends

of the Disabled Team; Dr. Anoud Al-Tayyar, Technical Supervisor at the Ministry of Education; Maha Al-Hamdan; and Wael Al-Huwaider.

During the meeting, Governor Al-Asfar was briefed on the team's key achievements, activities, and events, and he praised their efforts in advancing this cause.

Interior Ministry launches flag reporting via 112

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Interior Ministry has announced that the emergency phone number 112 is now designated for reporting dilapidated state flags, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Citizens can also photograph these flags and send them via WhatsApp to the Public Relations and Security Media Department of the ministry on

91110999.

This applies to flags on both government and private buildings, as well as flags on roads, to ensure necessary measures are taken.

The ministry emphasized the importance of removing flags that do not conform to the required specifications in terms of shape and general appearance.

Protecting and preserving the national flag of Kuwait is a national responsibility shared by society, individuals, and institutions.

This directive follows the Council of Ministers' decision to ensure every government institution and ministry monitors the state of the national flag, ensuring its quality and proper display.

Secondments pending for new roles

Minister Al-Adwani appoints 4 directors for key departments

By Abdulrahman Al Shimmari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Minister of Education and Minister of Higher

Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Adel Al-Adwani, has issued decisions to appoint four directors to central departments.

The appointments include Abdulaziz Al-Sahou as Director of the General Services Department, Falah Al-Dhafiri as Director of the Human Resources Department, Saud Al-Jassar as Director of the Legal Research Department, and Badr Al-Anzi as Director of the Psychological and Social Services Department.

The interview committee for these supervisory positions was chaired by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, Mansour Al-Daihani. Other members included the Undersecretary of Educational Activities, the Undersecretary of General Education, the Undersecretary of Administrative and Financial Affairs, and the Undersecretary of Legal Affairs.

After completing the interviews, the Ministry informed the Civil Service Bureau of the results and the candidates who passed, in preparation for issuing the secondment decisions for each position. These secondments typically last for a year before a decision is made to confirm the candidates in their positions permanently.

PADA ups safety for disabled kids

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The acting Director General of the Public Authority for the Disabled Affairs (PADA) Al-Humaidi Mohammad Al-Mutairi revealed that the authority has implemented several precautionary measures in response to the current political events to ensure the safety of children with disabilities under its care.

He indicated that an exceptional meeting was held with the authority's leaders, directors, supervisors, and technicians to review the measures implemented by the departments in this regard.



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Activities during the summer club programs for children.

Activities continue until August 14

NCCAL unveils summer club programs for children at Kuwait National Library

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6, (KUNA): The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) launched the summer club programs for children on Sunday, in cooperation with the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity - one of the centers of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) - as part of the 16th Cultural Summer Festival.

The "Summer Club" activities continue at the Kuwait National Library until August 14 and include four programs, each lasting for two days. In today's and tomorrow's programs, children will learn the principles of programming through simple programming commands sent to a robot, which moves in an interesting and innovative way, and the trainee will draw different geometric shapes by programming a virtual robot.

In the second program, children will learn a digital drawing method based on 3D printing technology and how to design and implement models, including the Kuwait Towers.

The third program is titled "Design a 3D Spacecraft," while the fourth program, titled "Electronic Circuits," covers the basics of electronic circuits, their components, and how to prepare and build projects related to their daily life.

Munira Faisal Al-Balushi, a guardian of one of the trainees, told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that she always ensures her daughter joins the programs of the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity, especially during the summer vacations, to make good use of free time. She noted that the programs offered by the center are of great benefit to children.

PAMA organizes youth workshop

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Public Authority for Minors Affairs has organized a workshop as part of the "Successful Youth" event for 2024, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This workshop aims to equip sponsored youth with the skills needed to create impactful projects that address societal needs and keep pace with modern technological developments.

Acting Director Tamadur Al-Omar emphasized the importance of this program in preparing participants to establish, manage, and operate successful projects.

She highlighted the role of the workshop in providing participants with up-to-date knowledge and skills necessary for navigating contemporary technological advancements.

The workshops are being conducted under the guidance of the Authority's team and in collaboration with specialists to ensure comprehensive support and relevant training for the participants.

Al-Omar reiterated the Authority's commitment to offering continuous training and awareness activities to enhance the capabilities and readiness of those under its care for future challenges and opportunities.

MEW delivers 33.4% of non-oil revenue

Expenditures rise to KD 4.057bn

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: According to government reports, the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy contributed 33.4 percent of the total non-oil revenues collected by 34 ministries and government agencies during the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

The reports explained that during the aforementioned fiscal year, the ministry garnered total revenues amounting to KD 483.608 million. This increase in revenue can be attributed to the ministry's diverse collection methods for debts owed by customers, including customer service offices across various governorates and electronic services available through the ministry's application and website.

Meanwhile, the ministry's total expenditures for the same fiscal year reached KD 4.057 billion, accounting for 71 percent of the total estimated expenditure of KD 4.1 billion. The largest portion of the ministry's budget, amounting to KD 2.9 billion, was allocated to goods and services, which includes expenses related to oil, gas, and other materials used in operating power and water production stations.

The rise in expenditures in this category was driven by an increase in oil prices during the fiscal year, which rose to USD

Ministry refutes closure rumors

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has refuted rumors circulating on social media about the potential closure of Quran memorization centers, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a recent press statement, the ministry clarified that it remains committed to maintaining all Quran memorization centers and Islamic studies houses across Kuwait's six governorates.

The ministry acknowledged that it is currently working on addressing organizational aspects related to the assignment clause system but emphasized that no centers will be closed.

It urged the public to rely on official sources for accurate information and to avoid spreading unverified news, warning that those who disseminate false information may face legal consequences under the applicable publication laws.

84 per barrel, exceeding the estimate of USD 70 per barrel in the budget.

The reports also revealed that the ministry's expenses for employee compensation totaled KD 740.51 million during the fiscal year, which includes salaries, bonuses, and allowances for employees.

pattern of fraud extended to real estate investments in London and Turkey.

The fraudsters used similar methods, leading to the term "real estate fraud mafia" being used to describe their operations. Unfortunately, there has been significant delay in enforcing judicial rulings and recovering the stolen funds.

Al-Attar estimated the amount defrauded through real estate exhibitions at around two billion dinars. The fraud often involves active companies in contracting, where legal actions reveal that the company's assets have been depleted.

Manal Al-Kandari, former Secretary-General of the Kuwaiti Transparency Association and an expert in integrity and transparency, highlighted Kuwait's robust legislative framework for combating money laundering and terrorist financing, established by Law No. 106 of 2013.

This law is considered strong and essential, with clear provisions to address illicit financial activities that threaten the country's economic stability, both locally and internationally.

Al-Kandari cited the case involving the "Shamiya Fund" and its fraudulent transactions and forged contracts as an example of the need for vigilance. She emphasized that recovering stolen assets and funds, as seen in the case involving the former director of the Kuwait Social Security Fund, is a positive step in the fight against corruption.

The embezzlement at the Social Security Fund was one of the most significant corruption cases in Kuwait's history. Al-Kandari praised the government's ongoing efforts to tackle money laundering, bribery, and other illicit activities that harm the public interest. She stressed the need for continued vigilance to prevent future incidents similar to the Social Security embezzlement, highlighting the importance of public awareness about the dangers of money laundering and understanding legal consequences.

She also emphasized Kuwait's commitment as a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to implement its recommendations to enhance regulatory systems and improve anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing measures. Al-Kandari underscored that laws must be applied equally to all, without selectivity.

Economic and administrative advisor Dr. Abdullah Al-Abduljader observed that corruption and money laundering are global issues, not confined to Kuwait. Their persistence worldwide indicates shortcomings in managing and monitoring national budgets and financial systems.

Dr. Al-Abduljader noted that the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Authority in Kuwait in 2016 aimed to combat corruption and money laundering, ensuring that those found guilty face appropriate legal consequences and that stolen funds are recovered.

Despite these efforts, corruption remains prevalent, with cases of money laundering and bribery continuing. He commended the Anti-Corruption Authority's role in encouraging whistleblowers and providing them with protection and emphasized the need to strengthen oversight and control over individuals and entities involved in corruption, especially those within government institutions.

He highlighted the importance of enhancing transparency and governance to protect public funds from misuse.

The Key Recommendations in terms of transparency and accountability include government agencies to issue periodic reports detailing their financial and administrative activities and achievements. This practice will enhance transparency and strengthen oversight and accountability and establishing independent oversight bodies to monitor these activities, and ensure that laws and regulations promoting transparency and combating corruption and money laundering are strictly enforced.

Dr. Al-Abdul-Jader's recommendations aim to build trust between the government and citizens, promote collaboration, and support effective implementation of government policies.



KUNA photo

Director General of KUNA, Dr. Fatima Al-Salem, meets with the Secretary-General of the Endowments Secretariat, Amal Al-Dallal.

KUNA and Awqaf to enhance media collaboration

The Director General of KUNA Dr. Fatima Al-Salem explored on Tuesday with Acting Secretary General of Awqaf General Secretariat Amal Al-Dallal ways to enhance media cooperation to support endowment activities and projects in Kuwait.

During the meeting, both sides discussed ways to benefit from KUNA's news services to

publish about Awqaf's activities, highlighting their impact on society and their role in the country's development.

Al-Salem expressed her appreciation regarding the General Secretariat of Awqaf's role in supporting charitable and development projects in Kuwait, stressing KUNA's full commitment in

providing all necessary media support to enhance these efforts.

For her part, Al-Dallal expressed appreciation for the great role that KUNA plays in providing media support for the secretariat's work, stressing its keenness to strengthen cooperation further. (KUNA)

Kuwait marks

Continued from Page 1

Faltering causes woes for students who could not continue their academic quest in addition to affecting their parents financially.

The State of Kuwait had set a considerable budget for scholarships and also provides scholarship students with a monthly allowance in accordance with the country of scholarship.

Students with A merit scholarships also have a monthly bonus of 50 percent on top of their monthly allowance, while students with B merit scholarships get around 25 percent bonus.

While expenses are on the rise, the state had made it clear that any losses from the higher education budget must be dealt with: therefore, the government will come out with a study that sets plans for annual scholarship to avoid wastefulness and also focus on the academic policies beneficial for students and Kuwait.

The Ministry of Higher Education had established several initiatives, including Al-Deera (the country) system, which academically linked it Kuwaiti cultural bureaus abroad.

The scholarships are also within Kuwait to help provide more options to students.

It is worthy to note that Kuwait is eager to create a system for academic development able to face challenges, progressing skills of citizens and institutes in according with the 2024-25 annual development plan.

Kuwait spent

Continued from Page 1

For his part, the head of the relief and projects sector at the association, Mahmoud Al-Misbah, affirmed that the Kuwait Relief Society and its partners from the Palestinian charitable societies operating in the Gaza Strip implemented relief projects that benefited about one million Palestinians.

He stated that the Kuwait Relief Society has implemented dozens of public cleaning projects, garbage and rubble removal, wastewater disposal, and support for hospitals with the necessary medical devices and equipment, and the provision of solar energy systems.

In turn, the Director of the Marketing and Public Relations Department at the Society, Ahmad Al-Nafais, expressed his pride in the high directives of the Kuwaiti political leadership and their great impact on the speed of response and providing the necessary and urgent support to the brothers in the Gaza Strip.

He also praised the efforts of local partners from charitable societies operating inside Palestine and international partners from international relief and charitable institutions and the parties concerned with providing facilities for the entry of relief convoys and teams in Palestine, Egypt and Jordan.

Minister sets

Continued from Page 1

cooperative societies, preparing contingency plans for emergency situations, and developing strategies to enhance and support the strategic inventory. The team must also follow up the availability and protection of the inventory, propose suitable plans, and submit regular reports on the inventory and available goods.

Money laundering

Continued from Page 1

As a result, when legal actions are taken, the company's bank balance often turns out to be empty.

Al-Attar mentioned that funds obtained from victims were often concealed through money laundering. This

Third fingerprint

Continued from Page 1

The CSC emphasized that these changes are part of an effort to improve government performance and ensure fair treatment of employees, as outlined in Civil Service Council Resolution No. 6 of 2024. This resolution amends Article No. 10 bis of Civil Service Council Resolution No. 41 of 2006, which pertains to official work rules and regulations.

In summary, while the new system was intended to enhance attendance tracking, the delay in its implementation highlights the need for technical adjustments to ensure a smooth transition and accurate recording of employee attendance.

Meanwhile, the Civil Service Commission has announced that it will soon issue a circular detailing the actual start date for implementing the third fingerprint requirement and the mechanism to be followed, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This is part of the efforts to enforce CSC Resolution No. (6) of 2024, aimed at enhancing government performance and providing optimal services to citizens.

The resolution ensures employees' presence during official working hours, maintaining the workflow in the best possible manner.

The CSC emphasized that the resolution is designed to promote job equality among all employees in government agencies.

The CSC Resolution No. 6 of 2024, which adds Article No 10 bis to Civil Service Council Resolution No. (41) of 2006, addresses the rules, provisions, and controls of official work.

To implement this decision effectively, the CSC is determining the start date and establishing the implementation mechanism.

This includes using smart phone applications to verify attendance without requiring employees to leave their workspace.

Mideast at

Continued from Page 1

In light of the rising tensions, the U.S. State Department has elevated Lebanon to "Level 4: Do Not Travel" in its travel advisory, with a particular focus on southern Lebanon, the border area with Syria, and refugee camps. The U.S. Embassy in Beirut has issued a security alert, advising American citizens to secure any available flights out of the country.

When asked about the possibility of evacuating U.S. citizens from Lebanon, Miller stated that while there is nothing to announce at this time, the U.S. government is preparing for all potential scenarios.

Meanwhile, global markets were reeling from a combination of geopolitical tensions and economic concerns, with Japan's Nikkei experiencing its most severe drop in 37 years, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Boursa Kuwait mirrored the global downturn, suffering significant losses. On a single day, the Boursa Kuwait's market value dropped by 843 million dinars, bringing its total losses over the past two days to approximately 1.68 billion dinars.

The general index fell by 2.03%, or 143.35 points, closing at 6927.33 points. The day's trading volume included 260.5 million shares across more than 20,000 transactions, valued at 65.7 million dinars.

The index plummeted by 4,400 points, or 12.4%, marking the largest daily decline Tokyo has seen since 1987. This dramatic fall is indicative of the broader financial turmoil impacting global markets.

The Main Market Index fell by 183.11 points, or 2.30%, reaching 5864.32 points, with 73.5 million shares traded in 5,485 transactions worth 8.8 million dinars; the Premier Market Index dropped by 151.66 points, or 1.97%, closing at 7543.68 points, with 187 million shares traded through 14,595 transactions valued at 56.9 million dinars.

Municipality employees protest allowance cuts

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Kuwait Municipality Director General Eng. Saud Al-Dabbous had earlier issued an administrative decision to stop the payment of shift allowance, shift bonus and food allowance to 479 inspectors, engineers and administrators in the Municipality; prompting several of those affected by the decision to submit a petition against the decision, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting a source from the Municipality.

The source stated that about 150 of the affected employees are planning to submit a joint petition against the decision; stressing they are entitled to the abovementioned benefits as per the related documents, especially the inspectors in supervisory and engineering departments.

The source pointed out that about KD200 will be deducted from the fi-

Doha East power station temporary shutdown after 'high voltage' surge

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy announced that the Doha East Power and Water Distillation Station went out of service at exactly 1:07 am recently, as two main feeders to the 132 kV network malfunctioned due to a voltage surge. One of these feeders is connected to the Doha East Power and Water Distillation Station, which went out of service due to the operation of the protection systems caused by the high voltage, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry explained this led to a minor fire in Unit No. 1 and inside the station, confirming the technical teams at the Doha East Station doused the fire that did not lead to material and human losses.

It stressed that the station's shutdown will neither affect the national electricity grid nor result in power outage, adding that work is underway to gradually operate the station at full production capacity.

nancial package of some employees due to the decision; indicating this will affect the work mechanism, con-

sidering there have been many transfer requests and reluctance to work in certain departments.

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Until Stock Limit

أكثر من 1000 منتج

عروض OFFERS

Lipton
Tea Bag 200's

From 07 to 09.08.2024

3.290 Prawns (Kuwait) /kg

From 07 to 10.08.2024

3.590 Indian Chilled Whole Mutton /kg

3.190

From 07 to 10.08.2024

1.695 Avocado Hass (Australia) per kg

1.595

Only on 08 & 09.08.2024

6.900 White Pomfret (Medium) /kg

5.900

From 07 to 10.08.2024

3.490 Local Kuwaiti Veal Bone-in /kg

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حيث يأتي العالم للتسوق

World News Roundup

Europe

Tavo wins mayoral poll

Russia sub destroys 'vessel' during drills

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia, Aug 6, (Agencies): A Russian Pacific Fleet submarine destroyed a simulated enemy vessel during exercises in the Sea of Japan, Pacific Fleet Command was quoted Russia's RIA Novosti news agency as saying on Tuesday.

According to the exercise scenario, the crew of the "Komsomolsk-on-Amur" submarine was tasked with covertly approaching the target, engaging the simulated enemy vessel, which was represented by a special target, and then stealthily exiting the area.

"The submarine crew successfully accomplished the assigned mission. The firing was carried out with two training torpedoes in compliance with safety requirements," the fleet command said.

The exercise was conducted in accordance with the Pacific Fleet's combat training plan at a naval training range in the Sea of Japan.

Meanwhile, the director of an exhibition park showcasing Russia's military might was arrested on fraud charges along with a top Defense Ministry official, part of a sweeping investigation into abuse of office in the top echelons of the military leadership.



Akhmedov

Vyacheslav Akhmedov, head of the Patriot Park - sometimes called Russia's "military Disneyland" - and Maj Gen Vladimir Shesterov, deputy of the Defense Ministry's innovations department, were detained, Russia's Investigative Committee said Monday.

Suspected

The committee, Russia's top criminal investigation agency, said the two are suspected of embezzling government funds earmarked for the park, which opened in 2015.

Patriot Park features displays of weaponry and serves as a venue for their demonstration and battle reenactments. The sprawling facility also includes an air base along with a firing range, museums, a conference center and even has a Russian Orthodox cathedral devoted to the armed forces on its 5,400 hectares (over 13,300 acres).

The park, a pet project of former Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, is designed to inspire patriotism in Russia's younger generations. Patriarch Kirill in 2020 consecrated the massive, khaki-colored Cathedral of the Russian Armed Forces, which features mosaics of Soviet and Russian soldiers. Russian President Vladimir Putin also personally donated money to commission the main icon for the church, according to the Kremlin.

The detention of Akhmedov and Shesterov follows a series of arrests of senior military officials who were part of the inner circle of Shoigu, dismissed by Putin soon after his inauguration in May to a sixth term.

Shoigu, who had personal ties to Putin, was given the high-profile post of secretary of Russia's Security Council, but several members of his entourage lost their jobs and many of them were arrested, including top associate and deputy, Timur Ivanov, who was jailed on bribery charges in April.

Shoigu had been widely criticized for Russia's setbacks on the battlefield in Ukraine and was accused of incompetence and corruption by mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin, who launched a brief mutiny in June 2023 to demand his dismissal.

Also:

BERLIN: Part of Frankfurt Airport's power supply was cut off for several hours during the night after a dormouse caused a short-circuit at an electricity substation, officials said Tuesday. The power cut had only a limited effect on flights.

Energy company Syna said the rodent triggered the short-circuit around 10:45 p.m. on Monday, German news agency dpa reported. Electricity was cut off and the airport's fire service was deployed due to the smoke that resulted from the incident. Power was restored around 3:20 a.m. and the dormouse was found dead next to the wire it had gnawed.

Airport operator Fraport said the effects on air traffic were limited because the incident happened shortly before flights ended for the night and was dealt with well before they started on Tuesday morning.

However, the airport said on social network X that "due to a technical problem, flight delays and cancellations can be expected ... this morning."

Eleven cancellations were announced on Tuesday morning, dpa reported. In all, 1,242 flights were scheduled Tuesday at Germany's busiest airport.

Fraport said it has pest controllers in constant deployment but it isn't possible to rule out incidents like this completely. Power to the airport comes from two separate suppliers and there are six substations.



ALBANIA: Preliminary results Monday showed Albania's governing Socialist Party candidate Vangjel Tavo won the mayoral election in the southwestern town of Himara after the previous mayor was removed in a case that has sparked tensions with Greece.

Results at the Central Election Commission showed Tavo won 58.62% of Sunday's votes, while 41.38% went to Petraq Gjukuria from the Together We Win 10-party coalition that includes the main opposition's center-right Democratic Party of former Prime Minister Sali Berisha and the left-wing Freedom Party of former President Ilir Meta.

The early election was held in Himara, 220 kilometers (135 miles) southwest of the capital, Tirana, after the previous mayor, Fredis Beleris was stripped of his title, convicted and imprisoned on vote-buying charges. He and neighboring Greece have claimed his conviction was politically motivated. Albanian officials strongly reject those claims, citing the independence of the judiciary.

Beleris and the two mayoral candidates are members of the local ethnic Greek minority.

The case against Beleris has strained relations between Tirana and Athens, with Greece threatening to hold up Albania's bid to join the European Union.

Sunday's preliminary turnout tally was 37.61%, or more than 3% than last year, and the voting was held without any issues according to the CEC.

The Socialists currently dominate the Town Hall's assembly.

The opposition complained that some 6,000 people were unable to vote due to expired identity cards. During the previous election, the commission allowed people with out-of-date IDs to vote upon the request of some political parties and a decision from the government. This year no such request was filed, according to CEC head Ilirjan Celibashi.

Former Interior Minister Taulant Balla said that despite his call on July 22 for a speedy two-day issuing of IDs, there was no response from Himara voters, especially those living in neighboring Greece.



Carter Grooms, 25, of Tampa, wades through the streets in the Shore Acres neighborhood of St. Petersburg, Fla on Aug 5, as Hurricane Debby passed the Tampa Bay area offshore. Inset: People attach a towline to a stranded vehicle on a flooded street after heavy rain from Debby in Savannah, Ga. (AP)

Debby brings torrential rains, major flood threat to southeastern US

Tropical Storm Debby moved menacingly into some of America's most historic Southern cities and was expected to bring prolonged downpours and flooding throughout the day Tuesday after slamming into Florida and prompting the rescue of hundreds from flooded homes.

Record-setting rain from the storm that killed at least five people on Monday was causing flash flooding, with up to 30 inches (76 centimeters) possible in some areas, the National Hurricane Center said.

The storm's center was over southeastern Georgia early Tuesday with maximum sustained winds near 45 mph (75 kph) and it was moving northeast near 7 mph (11 kph). The center is expected to move off Georgia's coast later Tuesday. Some strengthening is forecast on Wednesday and Thursday as Debby drifts offshore, before it moves inland over South Carolina on Thursday.

"Hunker down," Van Johnson, the mayor of Savannah, Georgia, told residents in a social media

livestream Monday night. "Expect that it will be a rough day" on Tuesday, he said.

Flash flood warnings were issued in Savannah, Georgia, and Charleston, South Carolina, among other areas of coastal Georgia and South Carolina. Both Savannah and Charleston announced curfews Monday night into Tuesday.

In South Carolina, Charleston County Interim Emergency Director Ben Webster called Debby a "historic and potentially unprecedented event" three times in a 90-second briefing Monday. (AP)

Politics

Vought ready to shock Washington if Trump wins

Harris selects Walz as VP running mate

WASHINGTON, Aug 6, (AP): US Vice President Kamala Harris picked Minnesota Gov Tim Walz to be her running mate on Tuesday, according to three people who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

In choosing Walz, she is turning to a Midwestern governor, military veteran and union supporter who helped enact an ambitious Democratic agenda for his state, including sweeping protections for abortion rights and generous aid to families.

Harris hopes to shore up her campaign's standing across the upper Midwest, a critical region in presidential politics that often serves as a buffer for Democrats seeking the White House. The party remains haunted by Republican Donald Trump's wins in Michigan and Wisconsin in 2016. Trump lost those states in 2020 but has zeroed in on them as he aims to return to the presidency this year and is expanding his focus to Minnesota.

Promising

Walz, 60, is joining Harris during one of the most turbulent periods in modern American politics, promising an unpredictable campaign ahead. Republicans have rallied around Trump after his attempted assassination in July. Just weeks later, President Joe Biden ended his reelection campaign, forcing Harris to unify Democrats and consider potential running mates during an exceedingly compressed time frame.

The three people spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid preempting the official announcement later Tuesday.

Harris, the first Black woman and person of South Asian descent to lead a major party ticket, initially considered nearly a dozen candidates before zeroing in on a handful of serious contenders, all of whom were white men. In

landing on Walz, she sided with a low-key partner who has proven himself as a champion for Democratic causes.

Walz has been a strong public advocate for Harris in her campaign against Trump and Vance, labeling the Republicans "just weird" in an interview last month. Democrats have seized on the message and amplified it since then.

During a fundraiser for Harris on Monday in Minneapolis, Walz said: "It wasn't a slur to call these guys weird. It was an observation."

Small

Walz, who grew up in the small town of West Point, Nebraska, was a social studies teacher, football coach and union member at Mankato West High School in Minnesota before he got into politics.

He won the first of six terms in Congress in 2006 from a mostly rural southern Minnesota district, and used the office to champion veterans issues. Walz served 24 years in the Army National Guard, rising to command sergeant major, one of the highest enlisted ranks in the military.

He ran for governor in 2018 on the theme of "One Minnesota" and won by more than 11 points.

As governor, Walz had to find ways to work in his first term with a legislature that was split between a Democratic-controlled House and a Republican-led Senate. Minnesota has a history of divided government, though, and the arrangement was surprisingly productive in his first year. But the COVID-19 pandemic hit Minnesota early in his second year, and bipartisan cooperation soon frayed.

Walz relied on emergency powers to lead the state's response. Republicans chafed under restrictions that included lockdowns, closing schools and shuttering businesses. They retaliated by

firing or forcing out some of his agency heads. But Minnesotans who were stuck at home also got to know Walz better through his frequent afternoon briefings in the early days of the crisis, which were broadcast and streamed statewide.

Walz won reelection in 2022 by nearly 8 points over his GOP challenger, Dr. Scott Jensen, a physician and vaccine skeptic. Not only did Walz win, Democrats kept control of the House and flipped the Senate to win the "trifecta" of full control of both chambers and the governor's office for the first time in eight years. A big reason was the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, which held that the Constitution doesn't include a right to abortion. That hurt Minnesota Republicans, especially among suburban women.

Also:

WASHINGTON: Russell Vought sounds like a general marshaling troops for combat when he talks about taming a "woke and weaponized" federal government.

He recently described political opposition as "enemy fire that's coming over the target," while urging allies to be "fearless at the point of attack" and calling his policy proposals "battle plans."

If former President Donald Trump wins a second term in November, Vought may get the opportunity to go on the offensive.

A chief architect of Project 2025 - the controversial conservative blueprint to remake the federal government - Vought is likely to be appointed to a high-ranking post in a second Trump administration. And he's been drafting a so-far secret "180-Day Transition Playbook" to speed the plan's implementation to avoid a repeat of the chaotic start that dogged Trump's first term.

Man charged with threats against VP: A Virginia man has been arrested and charged with threatening online to kill US Vice President Kamala Harris and harm other public officials.

Frank L. Carillo, 66, of Winchester, made an initial appearance Monday in federal court and is being held pending a detention hearing scheduled for Thursday, according

to court records and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Virginia, which is prosecuting the case. According to an FBI affidavit, agents in Phoenix began investigating after online threats were made against a Maricopa County official on a social media website called GETTR.

Agents found that an account under the name "joemadarats1" had made numerous threats against politicians, including Harris and President Joe Biden. (AP)



3 found dead in Albuquerque: Three people have been found dead at a southeast Albuquerque home in an apparent murder-suicide, authorities said Monday.

Albuquerque police said it appears a 22-year-old man fatally shot his 20-year-old sister and 17-year-old brother before turning the gun on himself.

Police said the three all had gunshot wounds to the head. A possible motive for the murder-suicide is not immediately known and police weren't releasing the names of the three dead at this time. (AP)

"It's a real tragedy," police spokesman Gilbert Gallegos said at a news conference. Police said officers received a call around 11 pm Sunday that three people were found unresponsive inside a residence and were later pronounced dead at the scene. (AP)



Britain's Anne, The Princess Royal, receives the salute during the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle, in Edinburgh, Scotland on Aug 5. (AP)



Biden



Harris

America

Wildfire torches Calif: Several homes burned Monday as a fast-moving wildfire torched a California hillside community, triggering evacuations while hundreds of firefighters tried to control the blaze.

The Edgell fire erupted in the 3300 block of Beverly Drive on Little Mountain about 2:40 p.m., according to San Bernardino County fire officials.

Early reports said the fire, fought by more than 200 firefighters, grew to at least 100 acres (40 hectares). By about 6 pm, county officials said that the forward progress of the fire had been stopped, and that the blaze was holding at 54 acres (22 hectares) with 25% contained, the San Bernardino County Fire Department said on X, formerly known as Twitter. (AP)

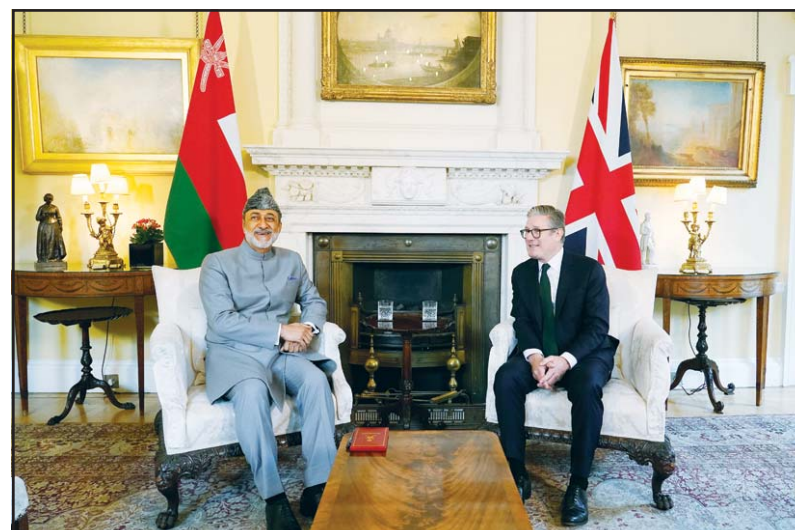


4 missing after Alaska boat capsizes: The US Coast Guard has suspended search efforts for four people who were missing after the boat they were on capsized near Homer in south-central Alaska on Saturday.

The missing were identified by a relative as a family of four from Troy, Texas - Mary and David Maynard, and sons Colton, 11, and Brantley, 7, the Anchorage Daily News reported Monday. Christi Wells, who provided a statement on behalf of Mary Maynard's parents, said the family enjoyed spending time with friends and relatives, and traveling.

Wells said Mary Maynard, 37, was a traveling nurse and David Maynard, 42, stayed at home with the children and had a lawn care business.

A report came in Saturday evening that a 28-foot (8.5 meter) aluminum boat carrying eight people had begun taking on water, said Travis Magee, a U.S. Coast Guard spokesperson. The Coast Guard notified other ships in the area of the situation, and a boat nearby rescued four people. (AP)



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer welcomes Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, the Sultan of Oman to 10 Downing Street in London on Aug 6. (AP)

Africa

Saied files re-election bid

US hands over last army base in Niger

DAKAR, Senegal, Aug 6, (Agencies): The US handed over its last military base in Niger - one of two crucial hubs for American counterterrorism operations in the country - to local authorities, the US Department of Defense and Niger's Ministry of Defense announced in a joint statement on Monday.

The handing over of Airbase 201 in the city of Agadez came after the US troops withdrew earlier this month from Airbase 101, a small drone base in Niger's capital of Niamey.

US troops have until Sept. 15 to leave the Sahel country following an agreement with Nigerien authorities.



Singh

There are about two dozen American soldiers who remain in Niger, largely for administrative duties related to the withdrawal, according to Sabrina Singh, the Pentagon spokeswoman. They are located at the US embassy.

In March, Niger's ruling junta ended an agreement that allowed US troops to operate in the West African country. A few months later, officials of the two countries announced in a joint statement that US troops would complete their withdrawal by the middle of September.

Niger had been seen as one of the last nations in the restive region that Western nations could partner with to beat back growing jihadi insurgencies. The US and France had more than 2,500 military personnel in the region until recently, and together with other European countries had invested hundreds of millions of dollars in military assistance and training.

In recent months Niger has pulled away from its Western partners, turning instead to Russia for security. In April, Russian military trainers arrived in Niger to reinforce the country's air defenses.

Saied files re-election bid: Tunisian President Kais Saied filed papers Monday to run in the October presidential election, where he is expected to face little competition as potential challengers have been imprisoned during his first term.

Saied submitted 242,224 signatures from registered voters to qualify for inclusion on the Oct. 6 ballot in the North African nation.

Four other candidates have gathered signatures to run including Abir Moussi, a right-wing critic of the president who has been behind bars since she staged a protest outside his residence last year. Her attorneys said they filed her paperwork on Sunday.

Tunisia will publish a complete list of candidates by Saturday. The Independent High Authority for Elections requires candidates gather 10,000 signatures to appear on ballots.

'Chad army responsible for detainees deaths': Chad's military was responsible for the deaths of several detainees arrested following protests in October 2022, Human Rights Watch said Tuesday.

At least four people died en route to Koro Toro prison and six others died there, and it was not clear where another man died, the group said in its report, adding that the real toll was likely much higher.

At the time, security forces in the central African nation fired live ammunition, killing at least 60 people during demonstrations against interim leader Mahamat Deby Ito's two-year extension of power. The unrest was unprecedented in Chad, which saw little public dissent during the regime of Deby Ito's father, who ruled for more than three decades until his assassination in 2021.

Nigeria protesters defy prez request: Protests against economic hardship continued for a fifth day in several Nigerian states on Monday, a day after President Bola Tinubu called for an end to the demonstrations that have faced a crackdown from security forces.

Far fewer protesters were seen compared to earlier demonstrations that drew thousands, mostly young people. Hundreds showed up in the economic hub of Lagos and a few northern states.

At least 13 people have been reported dead in the protests which began on Thursday against the West African nation's worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation and against the corruption and alleged bad governance that have stifled its development.

Hundreds gather at Somalia beach: Hundreds gathered Monday at a Somalia beach hotel, the site of an attack claimed by al-Qaida's East Africa affiliate that left 37 people dead and dozens wounded, to condemn the violence and demand stronger security measures.

Al-Shabab said on its radio station that its militants carried out Friday's attack at the popular Lido beach in the capital, Mogadishu. Witnesses said they saw an attacker wearing an explosive vest moments before he blew himself up. Security forces said they killed four other militants.

Ethiopia landslides kill 13: A landslide triggered by heavy rains in southern Ethiopia's Wolaita area killed at least 13 people and the number of fatalities is expected to rise, a local official said Monday.

Samuel Fola, zone chief administrator of Wolaita, said more than 300 people have been evacuated from the area in Kindo Didaye district and that the number of those unaccounted for remains unknown.

"Children are among the dead," said Fola. "We have now evacuated more than 300 people as a precaution and in anticipation of yet another likely major landslide."

Kenya road accident kills 4 tourists: Five people, including four foreign tourists, died Monday in a road accident along a busy highway in Narok County in southwestern Kenya, police confirmed.

The accident, involving a truck and a Land cruiser which was carrying the tourists, occurred at 3:10 p.m. (12:10 GMT) along Narok-Mulot highway, national police spokesperson Resila Onyango said.

Onyango said three people, including the driver, died on the spot, while two others succumbed to injuries at a local hospital.

"Four unknown passengers, three of them are of African race and one female Caucasian died on the spot while one male unknown Caucasian died on his way to hospital," Onyango said.



Doves fly over the cenotaph dedicated to the victims of the atomic bombing during an annual ceremony marking the 79th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing, at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, western Japan on Aug 6. Inset: Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida speaks at a press conference in Hiroshima, western Japan on Tuesday after he attended an annual ceremony marking the 79th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing. (AP)

N-disarmament must be tackled as pressing issue, not an ideal: Hiroshima gov

Hiroshima officials urged world leaders Tuesday to stop relying on nuclear weapons as deterrence and take immediate action toward abolishment - not as an ideal, but to remove the risk of atomic war amid conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East and rising tensions in East Asia.

They commented as Hiroshima remembered its atomic bombing 79 years ago at the end of World War II.

The memorial comes days after Japan and the US reaffirmed Washington's commitment to "extended deterrence," which includes atomic weapons, to protect its Asian ally. That is a shift from Japan's past reluctance to openly discuss the sensitive issue as the world's only country to have suf-

fered atomic attacks.

Hiroshima Gov. Hidehiko Yuzaki said nuclear-armed nations and supporters of atomic deterrence "deliberately ignore ... the fact that once people invented a weapon, they used it without exception."

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who attended the ceremony, said global conflicts and divided views over approaches to nuclear disarmament make achieving that goal "all the more challenging," but pledged to do his utmost in pursuing "realistic and practical measures" to build momentum within the international community.

Also:
PHNOM PENH, Cambodia: Japan's defense minis-

ter held talks with senior officials in Cambodia, a top ally of China, on Monday as he began a Southeast Asian trip that will also take him to Vietnam, whose relations with Beijing are complicated by maritime disputes.

Japan has historically maintained warm relations with Cambodia, but its influence is minor compared to that of China, Tokyo's biggest geopolitical rival in Asia, with growing influence throughout Southeast Asia. Tokyo is disturbed by China's aggressive maritime activity, as are several Southeast Asian nations, and seeks to counter Beijing's diplomatic and economic outreach. (AP)

Subcontinent

Sri Lankan navy arrests 22 Indian fishermen

Bangladesh president dissolves parliament

DHAKA, Bangladesh, Aug 6, (Agencies): Bangladesh's president dissolved parliament Tuesday, clearing the way for new elections to replace the longtime prime minister who resigned and fled the country following weeks of demonstrations against her rule that descended into violent unrest.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin also ordered opposition leader Khaleda Zia released from house arrest. Zia, a longtime rival of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was convicted on corruption charges by Hasina's government in 2018.

The streets of Dhaka appeared calmer Tuesday, with no reports of new violence as jubilant protesters thronged the ousted leader's residence. Some posed for selfies with soldiers guarding the building where a day earlier angry protesters had looted furniture, paintings, flower pots and chickens.

Emerge

As the country waited for a new government to emerge, a key student leader said protesters wanted Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus to head an interim government.

Yunus, who is currently in Paris for the Olympics, called Hasina's resignation the country's "second liberation day." He could not immediately be reached for comment, but student leader Nahid Islam said Yunus had agreed. Bangladesh's figurehead president and its top military commander said late Monday that an interim government would be formed soon to preside over new elections.

Hasina fled to India by helicopter on Monday as protesters defied military curfew orders to march on the capital, with thousands of demonstrators eventually storming her official residence and

other buildings associated with her party and family. Protests against a quota system for government jobs that critics said favored people with connections to her party grew into broader challenge to her 15-year rule in recent weeks.

A crackdown on the demonstrations led to clashes that left scores dead - and only fueled the movement.

Formed

Military chief Gen. Waker-uz-Zamam said he was taking temporary control of the country after Hasina resigned, and he and the country's figurehead president promised an interim government would be formed soon to preside over new elections. The military wields significant political influence in Bangladesh, which has faced more than 20 coups or coup attempts since independence in 1971.

Earlier Tuesday, protest leader Sarjis Alam told reporters that they had asked the president to dissolve Parliament by 3:00 p.m., and threatened to renew demonstrations otherwise as they seek to "repair the state."

"We have proposed the name of Muhammad Yunus with his consent, now if someone else comes from among the MPs, we will not allow that to happen," he said.

A longtime opponent of the ousted leader, Yunus was accused of corruption by her government and tried on charges he said were motivated by vengeance. He received the Nobel in 2006 for work pioneering microlending.

Islam, the organizer, said protesters would propose more names for the cabinet, and suggested that it would be difficult for those in power to ignore their wishes.

Amid celebrations, student Juairia Karim said it was a historic day: "To-

day we are getting what we deserve," she said. "Everyone is happy, everyone is cheerful."

But the country was still counting the toll of weeks of violent unrest that produced some of the country's worst bloodshed since the 1971 war of independence. Many fear that Hasina's departure could lead to even more instability in the densely populated South Asian nation, which is already dealing with crises from high unemployment to corruption to climate change.

Violence just before and after Hasina's resignation left at least 109 people dead, including 14 police officers, and hundreds of others injured, according to media reports, which could not be independently confirmed.

Also:

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka's navy arrested 22 Indian fishermen for poaching in the country's territorial waters on Monday, the navy said in a statement on Tuesday.

The arrest was made during a special operation to chase away Indian trawlers poaching in the seas off Kudiramalai Point in the country's North Western Province, the navy said.

A number of other Indian fishing vessels fled, the navy said.

The navy also seized two trawlers that the Indians were traveling in, the statement said, adding that the trawlers and Indian fishermen would be handed over to the local authority for legal proceedings.

Sri Lanka's navy conducts regular patrols and operations in its waters to curb illegal fishing practices of foreign fishing trawlers, the navy said.

With the arrest, the navy has seized a total of 40 Indian poaching trawlers and arrested 287 Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan waters so far in 2024.



Protesters try to demolish a large statue of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, father of Bangladesh leader Sheikh Hasina, after she resigned as Prime Minister, in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Aug 5.



Machado



Gonzalez

Lat/Am

Venezuela AG launches probe: Venezuela's top prosecutor on Monday announced a criminal investigation against the opposition's presidential candidate Edmundo González and its leader Maria Corina Machado over their call on the armed forces to abandon their support for President Nicolás Maduro and to stop repressing demonstrators.

Attorney General Tarek William Saab's statement tied the investigation directly to a written appeal the two members of the opposition sent hours earlier about Maduro and the demonstrators who have come out in force to defend their votes in the July 28 election.

Saab, in a written announcement posted on the social media site X, said the duo "falsely announced a winner of the presidential election other than the one proclaimed by the National Electoral Council, the only body qualified to do so" and they openly incited "police and military officials to disobey the laws."

González's and Machado's written appeal shows the alleged commission of various crimes including usurpation of functions, dissemination of false information to cause fear and conspiracy, Saab said.

The armed forces are traditionally the arbiter of political disputes in Venezuela. But they've shown no signs of ditching Maduro even in the face of credible evidence presented by the opposition that it trounced the self-proclaimed socialist at the polls by a more than 2-to-1 margin. (AP)

Brazil reinforces troops: More federal law enforcement officers are being sent to Brazil's Mato Grosso do Sul state after clashes over land between Indigenous peoples and farmers over the weekend, the Ministry of Justice said Monday.

The National Public Security Force had already stepped up its presence in that region since the beginning of July but will now deploy more agents as reinforcements, the ministry said.

The Ministry of Indigenous Peoples said

it had received reports of farmers attacking Guarani Kaiowa people in the Douradina municipality Saturday, injuring at least eight people.

Five of the injured were taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital, where doctors

found three had been shot by firearms and two wounded by rubber bullets, a ministry statement said.

Another attack on Guarani Kaiowa took place Sunday evening, the ministry said.

Officials said that in the second incident



Policemen patrol on a street as people protest over economic hardship in Lagos, Nigeria on Aug 5. Protests against economic hardship continued for a fifth day in several Nigerian states on Monday, a day after President Bola Tinubu called for an end to the demonstrations that have faced a crackdown from security forces. (AP)

a fire was set, tear gas used and four gunshots heard, although the perpetrator could not be identified. It said at least one farmer was injured.

Prosecutors will open a police inquiry to investigate possible criminal offences, authorities said. (AP)

'Ban Escobar souvenirs': Souvenirs depicting the late Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar could be banned in Colombia if legislators approve a bill introduced this week in the nation's congress. The proposal is criticized by vendors who sell his merchandise to tourists from around the world, but backed by those who believe the country should shed its image of mafia bosses.

The bill proposes fines of up to \$170 for vendors who sell merchandise that depicts Escobar and other convicted criminals, and would also enable police to fine those who wear t-shirts, hats and other garments that "exalt" the infamous drug lord.

"These items are revictimizing people who were victims of murderers," said Cristian Avendaño, a representative from Colombia's Green Party who drafted the bill.

"We must protect the right of the victims to recover...and find other symbols for our country."

The proposal has been widely covered by newspapers in Colombia, where Escobar is seen as a murderous figure, linked to one of the most violent periods in the nation's history. (AP)

oil plunges

The price of Kuwait oil pb fell USD 4.70 to USD 75.77 pb on Monday compared to USD 80.47 on Friday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), Tuesday.

On a global scale, the price of the Brent crude futures fell 51 cents to USD 76.30 pb, while West Texas Intermediate crude fell 58 cents to USD 72.94 pb. (KUNA)

Aramco reports half-year profits of \$56.3 bln amid global economic worries

Saudi oil giant Aramco reported half-year profits Tuesday of \$56.3 billion, down from the year before due to weakening volumes sold amid worries about the global economy.

Aramco, formally known as the Saudi Arabian Oil Co., said its overall revenue for the half-year was \$220.7 billion, up from \$218.6 billion the year before. Profits in 2023 were \$61.9 billion, nearly \$5 billion higher.

"The decrease was primarily a result of lower crude oil volumes sold, weakening refining margins and lower finance and other income," Aramco said in a filing on Riyadh's Tadawul stock exchange. "This was partially offset by higher crude oil prices and lower production royalties

compared to the same period last year and lower income taxes and zakat," or Islamic charitable contributions.

Aramco will pay dividends of \$20.3 billion for the second quarter and a performance-linked dividend of \$10.8 billion, the company said. It hopes its overall dividend for the year will be over \$124 billion.

While a sliver of Aramco trades on the Tadawul, the vast majority of the firm is held by Saudi Arabia's government, fueling its expenditure and providing wealth to its Al Saud royal family.

Saudi Arabia, a leader in the OPEC cartel, has allied with Russia and others outside of the group to try to keep production down to boost global oil prices. Benchmark Brent

crude traded around \$77 a barrel on Tuesday after Japan's Nikkei stock market plunged 12.4% Monday in its worst single-day decline since 1987.

It marked the latest in a global sell-off that began the previous week. A report Friday showed U.S. employers slowed their hiring in July by much more than economists expected. That was the latest piece of data on the United States economy to come in weaker than expected. It's all raised fear the Federal Reserve has pressed the brakes on the U.S. economy by too much for too long through high interest rates in hopes of stifling inflation.

The Nikkei bounced back Tuesday morning, nearly recouping those losses. (AP)

Market Movements

06-08-2024

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
SAUDI	- TASI	+174.70	11,679.16	PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	-1.49	6,433.24
DUBAI	- DFMGI	+91.42	4,137.32	PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	-72.09	77,158.19
JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	+3,217.04	34,675.46				
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+369.77	28,210.41				

Business

Warba Bank achieves KD 9.4 million in H1 2024

3.59 fils profit earnings per share and 4.7% asset growth to KD 5.10 billion

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Warba Bank announced its business results for the first half ending on June 30, 2024. These results indicated that the Bank's net profits amounted to KD9.4 million, equivalent to 3.59 earnings per share as compared to net profits of KD 10.3 million, equivalent to 3.99 earnings per share in June 2023.

The Bank said in a press statement that total assets as of the first half of this year 2024 grew by 4.7% compared to the end of year end of 2023 on an annual basis, to reach KD5.106 billion, while total shareholders' equity reached KD 321.7 million, an increase of 2% as on an annual basis compared to the year end of 2023, while the total financing portfolio reached KD 3.62 billion, an increase of KD 163 million, with a growth rate of 4.7% compared to the end of 2023 billion, and the total depositors' accounts reached KD 2.87 billion, by the end of the first half of this year as at 30 June 2024.

Net financing income revenues increased in the first half of 2024 to KD26 million, with a growth rate of 34.5% compared to the same period of the previous year 2023. Net operating income revenues reached KD 354.6 million, with a growth of 5.41% compared to the same period of the previous year 2023. The capital adequacy ratio reached 16.28%, exceeding the minimum required by the regulatory authorities, a ratio that confirms the strength of Warba's financial position.

Positive results ... and market share

Commenting on the Bank's quarterly financial results, Chairman of Warba Bank Hamad Musaed Al-Sayer said: "We ended the first half of this year 2024 with positive results, reflecting the success of our plans to expand and increase our market share, in addition to diversification and innovation to achieve sustainable growth based on clear foundations."

He added that the positive financial results achieved during the first half of 2024 are evidence of Warba's distinguished position in the local financial and banking market, assuring the Bank's clients of the management's continuous efforts to achieve leadership and sustainable growth in all sectors.

Developing digital infrastructure

Al-Sayer explained that the results achieved during this period were closely linked to a radical strategy that contributed to driving financial and operational performance, noting that the Bank is taking steady steps to enhance growth and positive performance, develop digital infrastructure, increase market shares and move towards accelerating the development process in general.

Al-Sayer pointed out that Warba Bank will continue its efforts to enhance the role of the banking sector and strengthen its position by achieving profitability and sustainable growth, keeping pace with developments in the fields of digitization and applying artificial intelligence and innovation in financing and investment products and solutions, optimal investment in human resources, enhancing knowledge and attracting young national banking talents, supporting entrepreneurship, providing banking and financing services to companies, and supporting small and medium enterprises.

Stimulating economic and commercial growth

He stated that since the beginning of 2024, the corporate sector at Warba Bank witnessed the launch of a group of innovative digital solutions that will contribute to supporting various local economic sectors and stimulating economic and commercial growth, stressing that Warba Bank's management is always working to improve the quality of services and products to enhance and enrich a banking experience that meets clients' needs and shapes their daily lifestyle.

Al-Sayer noted that Warba Bank's digital transformation strategy has gained great success as an experience and a living example of success in reaching high levels of competition in the field of digital services and making a change in clients' lives through the services and products it provides, which can be summarized as an exceptional case through which Warba Bank was able to excel and reach the top despite the competition in a market that is strongly and rapidly growing; the digital



Hamad Al-Sayer, Chairman



Shaheen Al-Ghanem, CEO

Al-Sayer:

- Our positive results reflect the success of our plans to expand, increase our market share, diversify and innovate
- We assure the Bank's continuous efforts to achieve leadership and sustainable growth in all sectors
- The Bank takes steady steps to enhance growth, positive performance and develop digital infrastructure
- "Warba" will continue its efforts to enhance the role of the banking sector and strengthen its position by achieving profitability and sustainable growth
- We launched a set of innovative digital solutions that contributed to supporting various sectors and stimulating economic growth
- Our digital transformation strategy gained significant momentum as an experience and a living example of success in reaching high levels of competition

Al-Ghanem:

- The Bank's management is always working to improve the quality of services and products to enhance and enrich a banking experience that meets clients' needs
- "Warba" continued to support and employ its human resources and national talents and was able to reach the highest percentage of national employment
- Warba Bank maintains sustainable growth as a result of optimal strategy implementation and commitment to applying the best responsible banking practices
- The Bank succeeded in achieving its strategic objectives and enhancing its leading position, overcoming the difficulties of the operating environment and various challenges.
- We realize the importance of investing, developing small and medium enterprises, and supporting entrepreneurship by providing advanced financing solutions.
- "Warba" has been able to prove its leadership in social responsibility and its sustainable role through many social events and initiatives.
- Sustainability is an integral part of Warba Bank's commitment and continuous efforts within its strategy to deliver a specific message to various segments of society.
- The Bank was able to leave a distinctive community footprint to deepen the meaning of giving, volunteering and commitment to community participation.

banking services market.

Maintaining leadership in innovation

During the first half of this year 2024, Warba Bank provided a range of services and products as well as innovative digital solutions that contributed to creating added value for its clients and maintaining its leadership in the field of innovation to ensure enriching their banking experience and making it easier, especially in light of the competition in various business sectors to reflect the continuous approach to developing the scope of digital infrastructure in addition to providing the best in the field of digital payment.

Human resources and national talents

Al-Sayer continued by saying: "Warba Bank continued to support and

employ its human resources and national talents, as the Bank was able to reach the highest percentage of national employment in the private sector, exceeding 84.4%, while continuing to empower women, whose percentage in the Bank reached 16.4%, with many women reaching leadership positions in the Bank."

Sustainable growth and creditworthiness

For his part, Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanem, CEO of Warba Bank, said that the record financial results achieved until the end of the first half of 2024, and the sustainable growth that Warba has maintained for several years, came as a result of the optimal implementation of the strategy, and shows in strong operational performance, commitment to apply the best responsible banking practices, risk management, balance in providing priorities, and enhancing the financial solvency and creditworthiness of Warba Bank.

Warba Bank announced the success of issuing green sukuks worth US\$500 million, which reinforces its firm commitment to sustainability practices and significantly strengthens its financial position. This strategic decision reflects the strength of the bank's credit position and confirms its commitment to achieving remunerative and sustainable returns for investors. The issuance received an exceptional response turnout, as Investor orders amounted reached to US\$1.8 billion, almost four times the issue size.

Al-Ghanem explained that Warba has succeeded in achieving the main objectives of its strategy and strengthening the leading position, overcoming the difficulties of the operating environment and various challenges, noting the high liquidity ratios, solid capital base, and strong operational performance that resulted in recording growth in operating revenues, profits, the financing portfolio, and all key financial indicators.

Clients' experience and meeting their aspirations

Al-Ghanem pointed out that Warba Bank's digital transformation strategy is gaining significant momentum, indicating that digital efforts and applications have covered many areas with the aim of improving customer experience and meeting their aspirations, in addition to contributing to increasing financial inclusion by providing a wide range of financial solutions at the client's disposal at any time and place through alternative channels.

Small and medium enterprises

He continued, "We at Warba Bank realize the importance of investing and developing small and medium enterprises, and supporting entrepreneurship by providing financing solutions to develop and grow this sector. Warba Bank also continues to play a proactive role in its commitment to implementing strategic community initiatives in Kuwait."

Social responsibility

Al-Ghanem stated that Warba Bank has been able during the past period to prove its leadership in social responsibility and its sustainable role through many social events and initiatives, which highlighted its local superiority, so that this period represents a milestone in Warba Bank's continuation in its social role, stressing that social leadership in Kuwait, which the Bank always seeks to achieve, is no less important than the banking role of the institution.

Social responsibility is an integral part of Warba Bank's commitment and continuous efforts within its strategy to deliver a specific message to various segments of society, through its various contributions, voluntary and charitable work, which benefits them and extends a helping hand to all, so that we can ultimately be a role model in the field of social responsibility and sustainable development, stressing that the Bank has been able to leave a distinctive societal footprint to deepen the meaning of giving, volunteering and commitment to unprecedented community participation.

Significant figures:

- KD 26.1 million net financing income...a growth rate of 34.5%
- KD 34.6 million net operating income, a growth rate of 5.4%
- KD 9.4 million net profit for the period.
- Finance receivables balances amounted to KD 3.6 billion.
- Depositors' accounts amounted to KD 2.9 billion.
- Total assets amounted to KD 5.1 billion.

Non-resident credit expands strongly by 22% YTD

Kuwait sees weak business and household credit growth in Q2

By National Bank of Kuwait

Domestic credit growth was a relatively decent 1.1% in Q2, resulting in a 2% YTD increase (+2.9% y/y). However, growth in Q2 was mainly driven by lending to banks/financial institutions (+9.2% q/q) and for securities purchase (+2.8%), not by business/household lending. Business credit growth, after a solid Q1, weakened to 0.5% q/q, pushing the YTD increase to 2.2%. Business lending needs to be robust in Q3 for it to finish 2024 at a meaningful increase, given that Q4 is usually the weakest. A faster roll-out of projects and some long-awaited laws, given the new political backdrop, is a tailwind for credit growth going forward.

Within business lending, "construction" remains in the lead, in line with 2022-2023, up 4.4% q/q and 12% YTD while "trade" is a distant second (+4.8% YTD). In contrast, the oil/gas sector remains the main laggard, falling by 6% YTD, following a steep 8% drop in 2023. The dominant "real estate", although soft in Q2, is up by 2.3% YTD, easily exceeding the 1.3% growth seen in full-2023. After a very weak start for 2024 in terms of project awards, there has been a major pick-up recently, with awards climbing to around KD 1 billion YTD through July, marginally lower than the same period last year, noting that 2023 was strong, witnessing the highest level of awards since 2017. This

robust level of awards, if sustained, should eventually support business credit growth. On the other hand, household credit growth, while remaining broadly lackluster (+0.9% YTD), picked up to 0.6% q/q from 0.3% in Q1. It remains to be seen whether H2 will show a further incremental improvement, similar to last year, when household credit expanded by 1.5% in the second half of the year. Meanwhile, we note that credit for non-residents (13% of total credit) continued to expand strongly, bringing its YTD increase to a whopping 22%, which results in an overall solid credit (domestic plus non-resident) growth of 4.2% YTD. Lending to banks/financial institutions accounted for as much as 47% of the YTD increase in non-resident

credit, "public services" 37%, and "other services" 15%.

Plunging public-institution deposits but modest recovery in private-sector deposits

Driven by a plunge in public-institution deposits (KD 1 billion, -15% q/q), resident deposits inched down in Q2, resulting in a 1.2% YTD increase (+3% y/y). Private-sector deposits (78% of total deposits) continued their modest recovery following a weak Q1, growing by 3.1% YTD. Government deposits continued to power ahead, up for the sixth straight quarter with YTD growth at 6.9%. Within private-sector KD deposits, after a good Q1, CASA lost steam in Q2, although remained slightly positive YTD (+0.5%). Time deposits, while still drifting upward (+5.1%

YTD), continued to exhibit weakening y/y trends with growth falling to around 7% from a peak of 26% in mid-2023.

Market's expectation of rate cuts in the US increased recently; lower rates in Kuwait to support credit growth

Given progress on dis-inflation in the US in Q2 coupled with recent warning signals from the US job market, the current market pricing of cuts in US rates has been pushed again higher to a cumulative 100 bps cut before year-end. A minimum 25 bps cut in September is now assumed with 100% probability. While this dynamic will be evolving, any rate cuts by the CBK will be supportive for credit growth, especially household.

Patent applications decline by 13%

Kuwaiti non-oil exports surge in July to KD 24m

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: In July, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry reported a significant increase in non-oil exports of Kuwaiti origin, totaling 24 million dinars (approximately \$78.5 million), compared to 7.21 million dinars (around \$23.8 million) in June, reports Al-Seyasah daily.

The following are the key details of the certificates of origin:

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) -- 1,597 certificates valued at KWD 7.15 million (about \$4.51 million) were issued in July, compared to 1,495 certificates valued at 68.11 million dinars (around \$38 million) in June.

Arab and Islamic Countries -- 366 certificates with a total value of 1.7 million dinars (approximately \$2.23 million) were issued, down from 403 certificates valued at 3.9 million dinars (about \$4.30 million).

European Countries -- 22 certificates for nine countries worth one million dinars (about \$3.2 million) were issued, a notable increase from 11 certificates valued at 515,276 dinars (approximately \$1.7 million) in June.

African Countries -- Four certificates totaling 224,626 dinars (around \$735,000) were issued, unchanged from the previous month, with no significant changes in values.

Additionally, the ministry's statistics revealed a 68% decrease in the issuance of commercial activity licenses in July, with only 7,300 licenses issued compared to 23,200 in June.

In July, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry reported various changes in commercial and regulatory activities:

Examinations of Precious Metals and Stones -- A 26% decrease, with a total of 198,600 examinations conducted in July compared to 268,700 in June.

Trademark Registration Applications -- Applications increased by about 4%, totaling 1,117 compared to 1,070 in June. The total transactions for issuing trademarks were 983, showing a slight decrease of 0.6% from 984 transactions the previous month.

Patent Applications -- These decreased by 13%, with 46 applications in July compared to 53 in June. Commercial Control Seizure Reports -- There was a 22.2% increase in reports, with 643 issued in July compared to 493 the month before.

Facility Openings and Closings: In July, 23 new facilities were opened and 14 were closed. This contrasts with June, when 9 facilities opened and 40 were closed.

Table 1: Credit growth

Credit	Jun-2024		% growth		
	KD billions	q/q	YTD	y/y	2023
Business	23.7	0.5	2.2	1.4	0.8
of which Real Estate	9.8	0.4	2.3	2.6	1.3
Household	18.9	0.6	0.9	2.4	1.5
Securities	3.6	2.8	3.9	12.3	6.9
Banks & financial instit.	2.4	9.2	7.0	10.3	4.2
Total domestic credit	48.6	1.1	2.0	2.9	1.7
Non-resident credit	7.2	11.6	21.8	25.0	5.7
Total credit	55.8	2.4	4.2	5.3	2.1

Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

Table 2: Deposit growth

Deposits	Jun-2024		% growth		
	KD billions	q/q	YTD	y/y	2023
Private sector	38.5	1.0	3.1	1.8	1.1
of which Time dep.	21.7	2.7	5.1	7.4	12.0
of which CASA dep.	14.9	-1.1	0.5	-6.3	-11.0
Public Institutions	5.9	-14.7	-13.4	-1.0	2.2
Government	5.0	6.5	6.9	20.4	37.2
Total resident dep.	49.3	-0.7	1.2	3.0	3.9
Non-resident deposits	3.4	-13.7	-19.7	-13.4	-0.7
Total deposits	52.7	-1.6	-0.5	1.8	3.5

Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

People

Man charged in PnB Rock murder claims 'I did nothing'

COMPTON, Calif., Aug. 6, (AP) — A man charged with murder vehemently denied in court testimony that he sent his 17-year-old son into a Los Angeles restaurant in 2022 to rob and kill hip-hop star PnB Rock. "I understand you're trying to put together your story," Freddie Trone told a prosecutor during cross-examination in a Compton, California, courtroom at his trial Monday before closing arguments began. "I never had nothing to do with it. I wasn't there. I didn't tell nobody to do nothing. I didn't hand nobody no gun."

Trone had not been asked directly about his guilt, but had grown increasingly frustrated with questioning from Deputy District Attorney Timothy Richardson and heatedly volunteered the denial. "How is this relevant to trying to tie me to something?" Trone asked the prosecutor at one point. He later shouted, "for the fifth time!" after answering a question about encountering his son after the shooting.

The defense made the rare and risky move of putting the Trone, 42, on the stand as he faces one charge of murder, two counts of second-degree robbery and one count of conspiracy to commit robbery. He was the only defense witness called. Trone acknowledged on the stand that the crimes were "heinous" and that his son, who is in the juvenile justice system and has not been tried, was "dangerous."

Richardson seized on both during his closing argument, saying, "But you send your 17-year-old son with knowledge of the problems he possesses to do this?"

Richardson repeatedly spoke with extra emphasis, as if in disbelief, when he said to jurors, "his son" or "his biological son." The Associated Press does not typically name minors who are accused of crimes.

PnB Rock, the Philadelphia rapper whose legal name is Rakim Allen, was best known for his 2016 hit "Selfish" and for guest appearances on other artists' songs such as YFN Lucci's "Everyday We Lit" and Ed Sheeran's "Cross Me" with Chance the Rapper.

Richardson emphasized to jurors that a non-shooter can be guilty of felony murder when they are a "major participant" who acted with "reckless indifference to human life."

"A robbery is inherently dangerous," Richardson said. "It's up close and personal."

The prosecutor then walked the jurors through the events of Sept. 12, 2022, replaying clips from the surveillance video the case heavily relied on.

Video showed Trone in the parking lot of a South Los Angeles Roscoe's House of Chicken and Waffles restaurant about 30 minutes before the killing. Trone testified that he had reason to be there because he was drumming up business for his nearby beauty shop.

Richardson showed a surveillance image of Trone's friend and co-defendant, Tremont Jones, fist-bumping Allen, whose arm had valuable pieces of jewelry he had.

"Was there motive? Yes!" Richardson said. "Half-a-million dollar worth!"

Prosecutors allege Jones tipped Trone off to the rapper's presence and his jewelry. Jones has pleaded guilty to two counts of robbery and one count of conspiracy.

Richardson showed video from minutes later of Trone's Buick Enclave dropping off the boy near the restaurant and picking him up a few minutes later. Trone testified that his keys and Buick had disappeared before the shooting and he later found his son and the SUV with three other young men.

The defense, which gives its closing on Tuesday, plans to argue that video of the teen getting in and out of the back of the car rather than the passenger seat was evidence that there were several people inside.

The prosecutor also showed video from inside the restaurant during the shooting, the actual killing is behind a dividing wall and mostly not visible.

Allen's mother, who was in the audience often wiping away tears, looked away during the video and left the courtroom before Richardson showed jurors a medical examiner's photo of Allen after his death.

Witnesses testified that a person in a ski mask walked up, demanded their jewelry, then fired. Allen was shot once in the chest and twice in the back as he fell to the ground. A gun was found on him, but prosecutors say it was not pulled or fired.

Variety



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Zachary Levi, right, and Lil Rel Howery in a scene from 'Harold and the Purple Crayon.' (AP)

Film

'Purple Crayon' movie brings iconic book to life

Adult Harold ventures into reality in film

By Kaitlyn Huamani

'Harold and the Purple Crayon,' the famed 1955 children's picture book, is getting the three-dimensional treatment nearly 70 years after its release.

The picture book, written and illustrated by Crockett Johnson, follows Harold, a child who can create whatever he can imagine, so long as he draws it with his magic purple crayon. The film adaptation opens with a short animated sequence that gives life to the book's famous illustrations. But how far can a children's picture book stretch across an hour and a half-long movie? Not very.

After the film gets through the book's story in about a minute, the narrator says that the book's ending was not the close of Harold's story. Cut to an animated adult Harold, all grown up but still in a onesie, with his purple sketched friends, Moose and Porcupine, as they venture around their two-dimensional existence and wonder what goes on in "the real world."

After some brief exposition and short narration by Alfred Molina, Harold (Zachary Levi) draws a door labeled "Real World" and walks through it. He's then miraculously spit out in Providence, Rhode Island, as a "real" person. Moose and Porcupine, played by Lil Rel Howery and Tanya Reynolds, respectively, follow through the magical door shortly after. Together, they embark on a mission to find the book's narrator and author - the "old man," as they call him - to ask him why he created them and their story.

What we get from there is something that feels like a hybrid of characters played by Amy Adams in "Enchanted" and Will Ferrell in "Elf": an adult person who left their animated or fantasy world and is incredibly unfamiliar with reality. It's an entertaining idea to see someone so naive navigating everyday life, but it feels rather derivative.

Much like her character in "Elf," Zoey Deschanel plays Terry, a "real world" woman who is unenthused by our other-worldly protagonist's antics for the better part of the movie. As the mother of the young and creative Mel (Benjamin Bottani), Terry hits Harold and Moose with her car, and eventually lets them stay at her house after some convincing from her son.

Predictably, shenanigans ensue as Harold lacks understanding of how to behave as the adult everyone sees him as (and wreaks havoc with his magic crayon). Levi is terribly earnest as Harold, making his hijinks more endearing.

Director Carlos Saldanha, an animation veteran who helmed the "Ice Age" franchise and the "Rio" movies, keeps the story moving with light humor and fun visuals sprinkled throughout. The imaginative animation over the live-action shots is the movie's highlight, as Harold can still create anything with his purple crayon in the real world. With more colors and dimensions to play with now, he draws everything from a plane they fly over Rhode Island to Mel's imaginary pet, which is some sort of dragon-lizard hybrid.

The plot, again, feels familiar when we meet the villain, librarian Gary, who wants to wield the powers of the crayon to feed his self-serving interests. Gary (Jeanine Clement) uses the crayon to make the fantasy world of his failing book come to life so he can get "revenge" on the publishers who turned it down. As far as conflict goes, it falls a little flat, but it does result in a sweet lesson of empathy; Gary says he just wanted to be in a place where he can fit in and Harold, using the crayon for good, creates that world for him.

While much of the movie may feel well-worn, I'd wager many copies of "Harold and the Purple Crayon" have seen better days. It's the kind of children's book that's stayed on shelves through multiple generations. Even if the book's story has been told and the movie's format has been done before, a movie that reminds us to be imaginative - and that delivers some imaginative visuals to boot - can't really get old.

"Harold and the Purple Crayon," a Columbia Pictures release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association for mild action and thematic elements. Running time: 92 minutes. Two stars out of four.

Also:
LOS ANGELES: The moments are seared into the pop culture pantheon. And our collective consciousness.

A friendly alien taking **Henry Thomas'** character **Elliott** on an airborne bike ride with the full moon as a backdrop in "E.T." **Carol Anne (Heather O'Rourke)**

in "Poltergeist," getting out of bed, staring into a pulsating TV screen, turning to her family and warning: "They're here." **Arnold Schwarzenegger's** titular hero Conan the Barbarian succinctly listing for his compatriots what is best in life: "To crush your enemies. See them driven before you. And hear the lamentation of their women."

Former Entertainment Weekly film critic **Chris Nashawaty** walks readers through the significance (and making) of each of the films, as well as five other science fiction/fantasy classics — "Blade Runner," "Mad Max 2: The Road Warrior," "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan," "The Thing" and "Tron" — that, incredibly, were released within two months of each other in the summer of 1982.

In the ultra-entertaining and informative "The Future Was Now: Madmen, Mavericks, and the Epic Sci-Fi Summer of 1982," Nashawaty makes the case that the octet of flicks altered the trajectory, not only of the auteurs at the helm, but of Hollywood filmmaking.

"The summer of 1982 was the moment when sci-fi, fantasy, and splashy blockbusters ripped from the pages of comic books would grow up," Nashawaty writes. "These films could no longer be nonchalantly dismissed as kids' stuff."

"They became the harbingers of a new era and eventually the most dominant force in popular entertainment."

His thesis is solid, sure. But it's not what makes "The Future Was Now" a great read. The behind-the-scenes intrigue does that.

Nashawaty digs deep into the history of how these groundbreaking films got — and were — made. Perhaps most fascinating is the tale of burgeoning cinema maestro **Steven Spielberg** leading his young charges through the filming of the now-classic "E.T." and more or less taking over the production of "Poltergeist," a much different kind of film that now is considered to be a landmark in the horror genre.

Add in the complex origins of the "Star Trek" and "Mad Max" sequels, plus **Ridley Scott's** odyssey in transforming a **Philip K. Dick** novel into the big-screen cult classic "Blade Runner," and you've got a must-read for any cinephile. (AP)

TAIPEI, Taiwan: Chinese-American physicist **Tsung-Dao Lee**, who in 1957 became the second-youngest scientist to receive a Nobel Prize, died Sunday at his home in **San Francisco** at age 97, according to a Chinese university and a research center.

Lee, whose work advanced the understanding of particle physics, was one of the great masters in the field, according to a joint obituary released Monday by the Tsung-Dao Lee Institute at **Shanghai Jiao Tong University** and the **Beijing-based China Center for Advanced Science and Technology**. Lee, a naturalized US citizen since 1962, was also a professor emeritus at **Columbia University in New York**.

Robert Oppenheimer, known as the father of the atomic bomb, once praised Lee as one of the most brilliant theoretical physicists of the time, whose work showed "remarkable freshness, versatility and style."

Lee was born in Shanghai on Nov. 24, 1926, the third of six children to a merchant father, **Tsing-Kong Lee**, and a mother, **Ming-Chang Chang**, who was a devout Catholic, according to local newspaper **Wenhui Daily**.

He went to high school in Shanghai and attended National Chekiang University in **Guizhou** province and National Southwest Associated University in **Kunming** in **Yunnan** province.

After his sophomore year, he received a scholarship from the Chinese government to attend graduate school in the **United States**.

Between 1946 and 1950, he studied at the University of Chicago under **Enrico Fermi**, a Nobel laureate in physics.

In the early 1950s, Lee worked at the **Yerkes Observatory** in **Wisconsin**, at the University of **California** at **Berkeley** and at the Institute for Advanced Study in **Princeton, N.J.**

His research in elementary particles, statistical mechanics, astrophysics and field theory, among others, was standing out.

In 1953, he joined **Columbia University** as an assistant professor. Three years later, at age 29, he became the youngest-ever full professor there. He developed a model for studying various quantum phenomena known as the "Lee model."

In 1957, Lee was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics together

with **Chen-Ning Yang** for work exploring the symmetry of subatomic particles as they interact with the force that holds atoms together. At 31, Lee was the second-youngest scientist to receive the distinction.

He won many other accolades including the **Albert Einstein Award in Science**, the **Galileo**



Lee



McDowell

Galilei Medal and the **G. Bude Medal**, as well as honorary doctorates and titles from organizations around the world.

As China became more open to international exchanges in the 1970s, Lee returned to his home country on repeated visits to give lectures and encourage the development of sciences, according to

state media. (AP)

HOUSTON: Actor **Akili McDowell**, who starred in the television series "David Makes Man" and had roles in "Billions" and "The Astronaut Wives Club," has been charged with fatally shooting a man in the parking lot of a Houston apartment complex,

authorities said.

McDowell, 21, was charged last week with murder in the July 20 shooting death of **Cesar Peralta**, 20, the **Harris County** sheriff's office said. McDowell remained in jail Monday on \$400,000 bond on the murder charge. The attorney listed for him in court records did not immediately reply to a request for comment. (AP)

India's Phogat stuns Susaki

Vinesh Phogat of India stunned four-time world champion Yui Susaki of Japan with a late takedown to claim a 3-2 decision in their opening match at 50 kilograms at the Paris Olympics on Tuesday.

Susaki, the seemingly unbeatable top seed in Paris, won the gold medal at the Tokyo Games three years ago without conceding a point.

Phogat won her quarterfinal match 7-5 against Oksana Livach of Ukraine to qualify for the quarterfinal.

Phogat tore her anterior cruciate ligament during her Olympic quarterfinal in 2016 and was taken out on a stretcher. She had never placed higher than ninth at the Olympics or third at a world championship event.

For Susaki to have a chance to fight for a medal through repechage, Phogat will need to reach the final. Phogat faces Yusneylis Guzman Lopez of Cuba on Tuesday night in a semifinal. (AP)



A fleet of boats compete in the 470 mixed dinghy race during the 2024 Summer Olympics in Marseille, France. (AP)

Unbeaten Germany also advance

Serbia top Australia in overtime to reach semifinals

De Jong secures victory for Dutch in thrilling 3x3 final

Netherlands hold off France

PARIS, Aug 6, (AP): Worthy de Jong made the switch to 3x3 basketball after a long career in 5x5 play because he'd lost his joy for the game.

Now he's an Olympic gold medalist.

De Jong's 2-pointer in overtime lifted the Netherlands to an 18-17 win over France and the gold medal in men's 3x3 at the Paris Games.



Arvin Slagter (44), of the Netherlands, and Franck Seguela (21), of France, battle for the ball during a men's 3x3 basketball gold medal game during the 2024 Summer Olympics, in Paris, France. (AP)

BASKETBALL

"I started to feel like that kid that fell in love with basketball all over again," he said. "So to go from there to this right now, that just shows that if you work hard and if you enjoy what you do, a lot of things are possible."

Timothe Vergiat put France up with a 1-point basket. De Jong then stepped back and drained a 2 to close out overtime, where the first team to score two points wins.

The almost exclusively pro-France crowd fell quiet as De Jong was mobbed by his teammates.

De Jong also stepped up in regulation, too. He scored with 27 seconds left before driving into the lane for

a layup with 1 second to go, tying it at 16.

He had seven points for the Netherlands.

He hopes the success of the team will lead to more interest in basketball in his country.

"Before 3x3 basketball, we were never in a position to make it to the Olympics or even make it to a world championship," de Jong said. "So to be here and get a gold medal, I hope it shows how beautiful the sport is

and inspires a lot of players and kids to go on this journey."

Dimeo Van der Horst cut the lead to one on a layup with 52 seconds to go in regulation, but a basket by Franck Seguela pushed France's lead to 16-14.

Lucas Dussoulier and Seguela each scored five points for France, which won silver.

The game was tied with about three minutes left when Vergiat found Jules Rambaut for an easy

basket to put France on top.

Dussoulier made 1 of 2 free throws to make it 13-11 a minute later.

A 2-pointer by Arvin Slagter tied it again with just over a minute remaining. Seguela made two free throws to put France up 15-13 with a minute left.

Sarunas Vingelis had nine points to give Lithuania a 21-18 win over defending champion Latvia for the bronze. Latvia went 7-0 in pool play before losing twice Monday to go home without a medal.

"We created history and I am very proud of my teammates," Lithuania's Gintautas Matulis said. "I am very happy, very excited, and we are going to celebrate for sure."

France reached the final with a 21-14 win over Latvia. Dussoulier had nine points and seven rebounds to lead the way.

Latvia pulled within three with about two minutes to go. But France used a 4-0 run to close it out.

"We lost because we cracked under the pressure," Latvia's Karlis Lasmanis said. "We were not ready for that. We won all the pool games and we thought it would be easier than it was."

De Jong scored eight points to lead the Netherlands to a 20-6 win over Lithuania to move the team into the gold-medal game.

BASKETBALL

PARIS, Aug 6, (AP): Nikola Jokic had 21 points and 14 rebounds, and Serbia surged back to beat Australia 95-90 in overtime Tuesday to reach the Olympic basketball semifinals.

Bogdan Bogdanovic added 17 for points for Serbia, which rallied from a 24-point first-half deficit to set up a meeting with either the U.S. or Brazil.

Serbia is aiming for its first Olympic medal since the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro, where it took home silver. That was the first Olympics for a then 21-year-old Jokic.

Patty Mills had 26 points -- but



Germany's Johannes Voigtmann celebrates from the bench during a men's basketball game against Greece at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Villeneuve-d'Ascq, France. (AP)

just six after halftime -- for Australia, which won the Olympic bronze medal in Tokyo three years ago.

Jokic put Serbia on top, 91-90, with just over a minute left in overtime. Australia's Jack McVeigh then misfired on its next possession. Serbia got the ball back to Jokic, who converted again.

Australia attempted to get the ball into Mills on the inbounds, but it was knocked away and stolen by Serbia.

Serbia's stormed back in the third quarter and retook the lead late, 61-60, on a jumper by Bogdanovic. The basket capped a 40-14 scoring run.

Serbia led 67-65 entering the fourth and was up 81-78 when Josh Giddey hit a short jumper to cut the margin to a point with just over a minute to play in regulation.

Australia rebounded a Bogdanovic miss, but Mills misfired on the other end. Australia forced a Vasilije Micic error, but he was found on the rebound with 9.8 seconds left. He then connected on 1 of 2 free throws.

Australia got the ball into Mills, who lost his dribble, gathered and hit a fallaway jumper to send the game to an extra frame.

At 35 and playing in his fifth Olympics, Mills is one of the most decorated players in Australian basketball history and had developed a penchant for big games in international play.

He'd been mostly quiet in France, averaging just over 13 points per game, while shooting 35% from the field.

He found his shot Tuesday, scoring 20 points in the first half on 8-of-11 shooting as Australia raced to a big early lead.

Franz Wagner scored 18 points and Germany overcame a sluggish start to beat Greece 76-63 and advance to the Olympics semifinals for

the first time.

Dennis Schroder added 13 points and eight assists for the reigning World Cup champions, who will face the winner of France and Canada on Thursday. Germany's previous best finish at the Olympics was seventh place in 1992.

Germany is unbeaten at the Paris Games after going 3-0 in the group stage.

Wagner said he and his teammates haven't had to look too deep for extra motivation during their time in France.

"I think everybody on the team knows that we've got a special group, and I want to get the most out of this," Wagner said. "Obviously, last year was special but we're trying to continue that and hopefully keep that momentum going forward."

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 22 points for Greece, which was denied its first semifinals berth in Antetokounmpo's first Olympics appearance.

Greece had 15 turnovers, leading to 20 points for Germany.

"There were a lot of details in this (game) they get you punished. They get you beat," said Greece's Thomas Walkup, who added 12 points.

Wagner entered the quarterfinals averaging a team-high 22 points per game but struggled to get going.

Greece led by 12 at one point -- the first time Germany had trailed by 10 or more points in the tournament. But Germany settled in and used a big third quarter to take a seven-point lead into the fourth. Germany started the final period on a 13-5 run to increase its lead to 72-57 with 1:50 remaining.



The Netherlands men's 3x3 basketball team celebrates their gold medals during the medal ceremony at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

More problems in the River Seine, marathon swim practice cancelled

PARIS, Aug 6, (Xinhua): The water quality in the River Seine continues to be an issue at the Olympic Games on Tuesday with the confirmation that the women's familiarization session for Thursday's marathon swim had been cancelled.

"After the daily situation meeting this morning between Ville de Paris, Paris 2024 and World Aquatics, it has been decided that the familiarization session to take place today, 6 August 2024, is cancelled," confirmed World Aquatics.

Although they didn't give a reason for the cancellation of the session, the level of bacteria in the water of the Seine has been an issue throughout the Games, leading to the cancellation of practice sessions in the river ahead of

the men and women's triathlon.

The men's triathlon then had to be postponed 24 hours, before being held directly after the women's race a week ago.

SWIMMING

Meanwhile the Belgian team withdrew from Monday's mixed triathlon after revealing that their athlete, Claire Michel was "unfortunately ill and will have to withdraw from the competition," although they did deny that Michel had spent four days in hospital after competing in the women's triathlon.

The marathon swim races are due to be held on Thursday and Friday.

Vaast surfs to gold on home waves, Marks keeps women's title for US

TEAHUPO'O, Tahiti, Aug 6, (AP): French Polynesian Kauli Vaast won the gold medal in men's surfing while Caroline Marks from the United States won the women's surfing gold medal at the Paris Olympics in Tahiti.

Cheers and tears erupted from boats floating near the wave and crowds of spectators along the shore as the men's final match ended in the afternoon. Vaast pumped his arms into the air in victory after beating Jack Robison from Australia, who received the silver medal.

"I don't really realize it, but I just made history," said Vaast. "I can't be prouder to represent Tahiti and France at home."

The women's gold medal match ended about thirty minutes later, with Marks beating Taziana Weston-Webb from Brazil, who was awarded the silver medal.

"Your whole life goes into a mo-

ment like this," Marks said with a gold medal hanging around her neck. "It's beyond all my wildest dreams."

For the bronze medals, Gabriel Medina from Brazil and Johanne Defay from France won after beating Alonso Correa from Peru and

SURFING

the names of the athletes as they walked by.

All winners of the Paris Olympics surfing competition are first-time Olympic medalists, after defending Olympic women's champion Carissa Moore of the United States - who won at the Tokyo Games, where Olympic surfing debuted - was beaten in the quarterfinals on Thursday.

"Obviously I'm really sad to not be a part of finals day, to get to represent my home and my family one more time, but I'm really grateful," Moore said after her loss. "I just hope that at the end of the day I can encourage whoever is watching, win or lose, don't be afraid to go into it fearlessly and don't be afraid to fail."

The final day of the Paris Olympics surfing competition began Monday morning after two days of delays due to unfavorable con-



Caroline Marks, of the United States, celebrates after winning the gold medal match of the surfing competition at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Teahupo'o, Tahiti. (AP)

ditions. In the morning, conditions were smaller than the heavy, barrel-shaped waves Teahupo'o is famed for and that were seen during part of the men's competition the week before.

But by the afternoon waves grew larger and more frequent, giving athletes a chance to impress judges with the time they spent inside the barrels. At one point during the competition a whale jumped out of

the water while surfers went head to head.

Six of the eight surfers who made it to the semifinals represented different nations. French Polynesian, Peruvian, Australian and other national flags flew from boats near the waves.

While not every surfer who competed was able to bring home a medal, many agreed that the second-ever Olympics surfing competition - filled with viral photographs, record-breaking scores and hours of stunning video footage broadcast to viewers around the world - helped promote the sport.

"Everyone's watching and paying attention," said Medina, who said he gained millions of social media followers after a photo of him floating in the sky next to his surfboard while bailing out of a wave went viral during the competition. "I think surfing wins"

