



olympics

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Opinion

Ingenuity of renaissance leaders lies in their choice of geniuses

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

TO be honest, the measures taken by His Highness the Amir were intended to address the issues that have been affecting Kuwait for over three decades.

During this period, the National Assembly had become a detrimental force, impacting not only institutions but also society at large. This, undoubtedly, represents a critical issue that must be addressed and eradicated for the state to achieve effective recovery.

However, the Council of Ministers, using the powers entrusted to it, must fulfill its role fully, without underperforming and making matters worse, especially since there are currently no external distractions for its members.

Unfortunately, in recent months, some ministers strayed from their responsibilities. They have not served the interests of Kuwait. This is for the observers

who might still give them the benefit of the doubt.

In reality, some decisions reflect a lack of prudence in positively serving the country's and its people's interests, and fail to align with the aspirations of leadership of Kuwait's renaissance.

Instead of seeking to enhance economic stability, the decision to suspend commercial licenses for expatriates holding Article 18 residency was a nail in the coffin of the commercial movement in the country. No matter how hard the ministry tries to patch it up, it will not be able to eliminate the negative effects left by the decision.

If the Ministry of Commerce and Industry claims that the decision was made based on a directive from the Public Authority for Manpower, it means that the latter's decisions may not always serve the public interest.

For example, the policy of denying residency renewals for expatriates over 60 years old, along with the requirement of presenting academic certificates for the renewal of residencies, even for those who have been in the country for over 40 years, continue to impede development of projects and businesses.

It is evident from all this that the goal appears to be to shackle the national economy, whether intentionally or not, under the guise of modifying the demographic structure. This notion seems unrealistic, especially given our current state of development and the ongoing need for expatriates.

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Kuwait leads Arabs in brain-dead donations

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The official spokesman for the Ministry of Health, Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad, stated that Kuwait ranks first in the Arab world and second in the Middle East in the number of organ donors after death of a relative thus confirming what was published by Al-Seyassah on June 21, under the headline 'Kuwait is the first in the Gulf in donating organs from brain-dead people'.

During the 'Concepts' program on Kuwait TV, Dr. Al-Sanad shared that the Hamed Al-Essa Center for Organ Transplant performs 100 kidney transplants, 16 liver transplants, and pancreas transplants annually.

He added that Kuwait has recently initiated a heart transplant program, with more than one successful case already completed.

Dr. Al-Sanad also noted that Kuwait ranks second among the GCC nations in establishing a stem cell transplant program for children. He emphasized that advancements in medical practices, particularly in organ transplantation, are rapidly evolving, necessitating legislative updates to keep pace with these developments.

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) expressed on Saturday Kuwait's sympathy and solidarity with Brazil over a plane crash near Sao Paulo that resulted in the demise of 62 passengers.

In a statement, the ministry offered on behalf of the State of Kuwait sincere condolences to the government of the Brazilian Federation and to the victims' families. (KUNA)

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CAIRO: Clashes between two heavily armed militia groups in Libya's capital terrorized residents and killed about a dozen people, the latest bout of violence in the largely lawless North African nation, officials said Saturday.

The hours-long clashes, which involved heavy weapons, occurred Friday in Tripoli's eastern neighborhood of Tajoura between Rahba al-Duruae militia, which is led by warlord Bashir Khalafallah - known as al-Baqrah - and another militia al-Shahida Sabriya, the officials added. (AP)

DAMASCUS: US forces across Syria have been placed on high alert following a midnight attack by Iranian-backed militias on one of its bases in the northeastern province of Hasakah, a war monitor reported on Saturday.

In the early hours of Saturday morning, an armed drone directly targeted the Kharab al-Jir base in the Rmelan area of Hasakah, leading to significant damage and fires within the facility. (Xinhua)



Kuwaiti divers revive tradition as they begin their journey in hunt for oyster pearls. Inset: A young boy bids farewell to family and friends embarking on the sea voyage.

Kuwaiti divers off in hunt for pearls

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Today, the "Dasha" ceremony for the 33rd Diving Commemoration Trip, organized by the Maritime Heritage Committee, was held at the Kuwaiti Marine Sports Club at 8:30 am along the seashore in Salmiya.

The event, running from August 10 to 15, is held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The event featured divers and youth participants and included a presentation highlighting the art of diving and pearls hunting.

The divers were seen off by those who attended the event and the families of the divers as they departed for Bandar Al-Ghous throughout the trip in the Herat Al-Khairan, areas known for their oyster beds.

Khaled Al-Foudari, the club's Secretary General, told the Arab Times that approximately 150 young Kuwaitis, aged between 15 and 20, are participating in this event.

They will express their pride in Kuwait's maritime heritage and the sacrifices of the first generation of fathers and grandfathers.

The participants will be aboard four diving dhows which were donated by HH the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, including those of the Sunbok and Shu'i types, named after prominent captains who played significant roles in past diving trips.

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Gov't not to renew Al-Asousi contract

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Council of Ministers has decided not to renew the contract of the acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Eng. Maha Al-Asousi. Therefore, last Thursday would be considered her last official working day at the ministry, and she has been referred to retirement.

According to informed sources, the Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Minister of State for

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Photo by Samer Shaqir

First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah made an inspection tour of several public security directorates across the country's governorates on Saturday. The Interior Ministry stated in a press release that the tour aimed to review the workflow and readiness of security personnel.

Kuwait condemns Israeli bombing of Gaza school

'Halt gruesome crimes against Palestinians'

Kuwait eyes skills in 'cybersecurity'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (KUNA): Chief of Kuwait National Cyber Security Center Major General (Rtd) Eng. Mohammad A. Boarki discussed recently with UN cyber security official cementing cooperation to harness the skills of national cadres in this important domain.

This came in a meeting with Programme Management Officer Cybersecurity and New Technologies Unit at the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism Balquees Al Radwan at the National Cyber Security Center headquarters.

Boarki and Al-Radwan also reviewed the most important developments and breakthroughs in cybersecurity and artificial intelligence, the Cyber Security Center said in a press statement.

The meeting was attended by The Center's Vice President for Operations Affairs Dima Al-Sumait and Director of the Cyber Operations Department Meshal Al-Zayed.



KUNA photo

Chief of Kuwait National Cyber Security Center Major General (Rtd.) Eng. Mohammad A. Boarki meets UN cybersecurity officials.

507 deleted addresses published

PACI expenses exceed revenues by KD 23m

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The draft decree law No. 76/2024, which approves the final account of the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), reveals that the total expenditures amounted to KD 40.515 million, and revenues KD 17.330 million, resulting in expenditures exceeding revenues by KD 23.185 million.

The draft decree, which has been published in the official gazette "Kuwait Today", stated that the increase in expenditures was covered by the budget

of ministries and government departments.

On the other hand, the PACI announced via the official gazette that the residential addresses of 507 people were deleted based on owners' declarations or due to the demolition of the buildings.

It has called on those whose addresses have been deleted to visit PACI and register the new address after providing supporting documents within 30 days from the date of publication in the gazette. Otherwise, these individuals will be imposed a fine not less than KD 100, as stipulated in Article 33 of Law No. 32/1982, and the fine will be multiplied by the number of people.

Doors for legal action open as KIA loses diplomatic immunity

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: A British court has ruled that the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) is a commercial entity, allowing it to be sued and stripping it of its diplomatic immunity, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This decision opens the door for employees to initiate legal action against the KIA's London office.

The ruling, which confirms reports published by Al-Seyassah on July 8, highlights administrative confusion and legal vulnerabilities within the Authority, which could lead to significant financial and legal repercussions at the international level.

The court emphasized that the KIA is separate from the Kuwaiti government according to Article 14 (1) of the State Immunity Law of 1978 and manages assets on behalf of various entities, including the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences.

The ruling added, "The definition of the Kuwait Investment Authority's office in London stipulates that "the Authority opens an office in London

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KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (Agencies): Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly deplored Saturday the Israeli occupation bombardment of Gaza's Al-Tabin district, which was sheltering displaced people, and resulted in killing and wounding hundreds.

In a statement, the Ministry said that the act is a blatant violation of international law and international humanitarian law as well as the relevant UN Security Council resolution.

The Ministry reiterated the need of the international community and the Security Council's intervention to halt these gruesome crimes committed against this unarmed people, it added.

It further demanded providing civil protection for unarmed Palestinians and compelling the occupying entity to comply with international resolutions in this regard, it noted.

An Israeli airstrike hit a school-turned-shelter in Gaza City early Saturday, killing at least 80 people, Palestinian health authorities said, in one of the deadliest strikes in the 10-month-old war between Israel and Hamas.

The Israeli military acknowledged the strike on the Tabeen school in central Gaza City, claiming it hit a Hamas command center within the school. Hamas denied that.

There have been reports of increasing Israeli attacks on Gaza's schools, which have become shelters for people who have been forced to flee their homes by the war.

Video from the scene showed walls blown out on the ground level of a large building. Concrete chunks and twisted metal lay atop the blood-soaked floor, along with clothing, toppled furniture and other debris. A blackened car with the windows blown out was covered in rubble.

Fadel Naem, director of the al-Ahli hospital in Gaza City, told The Associated Press that the facility received 70 bodies of those killed in the strike and the body parts of at least 10 others. The Health Ministry said another 47 people were wounded.

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Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:46 Asr 15:29
 Sunrise .. 05:13 Maghrib .. 18:33
 Zohr 11:53 Isha 19:57

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 to light southeasterly wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Weather

By Night: Hot to rather hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**
 Kuwait City 49 36

Kuwait Airport 49 31
 Abdaly 49 32
 Jahra 50 34
 Salmiyah 45 34
 Jal Aliyah 48 33
 Nuwaisib 47 33
 Wafra 49 30

HH Crown Prince and Prime Minister send similar cables

HH Amir congratulates Singapore and Ecuador on national days

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Friday a cable to the President of Singapore Tharman Shanmugaratnam congratulating him on the country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished President Shanmugaratnam good health, and the friendly country and people further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President Shanmugaratnam on his country's National Day, wishing him good health and further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Shanmugaratnam, con-

gratulating him on his country's National Day.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent on Saturday a cable to the President of Ecuador Daniel Noboa, congratulating him on the country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished President Noboa good health, and the friendly country and people further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled sent a congratulatory cable to President Noboa on his country's National Day, wishing him good health and further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah sent a cable to President Noboa, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

More than 25,000 Indian doctors, nurses working in Kuwait: envoy

Ambassador Al-Shamali says Kuwaiti-Indian ties are solid

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Kuwaiti Ambassador to India Mishal Al-Shamali has confirmed that there are more than 25,000 Indian doctors and nurses in Kuwait, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a recent interview with the daily, Al-Shamali stressed that Kuwaiti-Indian relations are solid and deeply rooted in history; dating back to the ancient times when the Arabs used the trade routes to the Indian subcontinent. He affirmed the commitment of both sides to further strengthen bilateral relations, strategic partnership and cooperation in various fields.

He revealed that the seventh round of political consultations will be held next year in New Delhi and the coming days will witness high-level bilateral visits between the two countries.

He said there are approximately one million Indians in Kuwait, while thousands of Kuwaitis travel regularly to the Republic of India, which reflects the excellent relations between the peoples of the two countries.

Cooperation

He stated that political cooperation is a fundamental pillar of bilateral relations between Kuwait and the Republic of India. He affirmed that coordination between the two countries is of great importance in light of political instability worldwide. He added both countries always support the foundations of security and political stability at the regional and international levels, and establishing friendly relations with various countries around the world; especially since India is now moving towards strengthening its relations with Arab countries, particularly the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries with which India has a deep historical connection.

He pointed out that the health sector is one of the most important aspects of cooperation between Kuwait and the Republic of India. He affirmed the sector has achieved tangible achievements over the past few years; considering the participation of Indian doctors and nurses in providing health care in the governmental and private sectors in Kuwait, specifically during the corona pandemic.

He added: The competent authorities in both countries are exerting tremendous efforts to strengthen cooperation in the field of public health. They are keen on exchanging views, experience and visits in a way that serves mutual interests and the continuous development of health services. They also hold meetings to discuss healthcare issues; procedures for implementing agreements and health cooperation protocols; exchanging expertise; and bringing doctors, technicians and nursing staff from India to Kuwait.

He stated that "there are about 1,000 doctors; 500 dentists and 24,000 nurses from India. They are highly appreciated for their contributions to the development of the country's health system. Kuwait is also working hard to strengthen its medical partnership with India in order to benefit from Indian medical institutions through the exchange of expertise, and by bringing medical and healthcare staff to the country to continue developing the technical and administrative performance in the health sector and to provide the best services and healthcare to citizens and expatriates."

Relations

He pointed out that educational cooperation and the exchange of cultural and educational programs play a vital role in consolidating bilateral relations between the two countries. "Educational ties were strengthened after the two countries signed a number of agreements on culture and education; such as the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Education and Higher Education (2017) and a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training (2019)," he disclosed.

He confirmed "these agreements contribute to facilitating procedures to strengthen cooperation in various fields like student and faculty exchange, joint research, development projects, curriculum design, participation



Minister Al-Yousef, Fahd and Al-Fajjam pose for a photo after signing the agreement.

Al-Jarida photo



KUNA photo

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Airways presents a memorial shield to the Bahraini Minister of Tourism Al-Sayfari.

Call for unified GCC tourism marketing strategy

By Mohammad Al-Mutairi

Minister of Tourism and Chairman of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority, Fatima Al-Sayfari, stressed the importance of unifying marketing and promotion efforts for the GCC countries as a unified tourist destination.

This came in remarks to KUNA, following her meeting with the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Airways Corporation Abdulmohehsen Al-Faqan Thursday.

The Bahraini minister said that the launch of special tourism packages was discussed in cooperation between the

two sides, which would enrich the experience of tourists in both countries.

She also touched on the most prominent achievements and new tourism projects in Bahrain, indicating that they discussed ways to enhance cooperation during national holidays and occasions and regional and international events that will be hosted by Bahrain and Kuwait.

For his part, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Airways stressed the importance of Kuwait Airways' effective role in the events, occasions, and projects planned between the two countries. (KUNA)

KSIT honors training program students

INDICATORS project Kuwait's ICT spending to reach around \$5.71 bln by 2026

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Chairman of the Kuwait Society for Information Technology Dr. Zuhair Al-Mutawa highlighted the importance of information technology and its various disciplines in supporting sustainability in all economic, political, educational, and healthcare levels.

He said this in a press statement issued on the sidelines of the ceremony held by the Kuwait Information Technology Society in honor of elementary, intermediate and secondary students who passed its 35th summer training program, with the cooperation of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) and Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity.

Dr. Al-Mutawa explained that the rapid advancements in technology and its ever-changing forms and types pose new challenges for individuals, businesses, and governments. Among these challenges is the ability of countries to effectively activate digital empowerment within the educational framework at all levels, which is essential for establishing a robust digital economy rooted in knowledge.

Since its inception, the founders of the society recognized the significance of specialized e-learning and training for children and youth to develop the educational system and cultivate a generation adept in creative, scientific, and critical thinking patterns.

Pride

He expressed his pride in upholding the approach set by the society's first founders by continuing the summer training program.

Al-Mutawa said, "This program plays a crucial role in digitally empowering the education system through the strategic use of information and communications technology and digital tools with skill, efficiency, and effectiveness. These tools are integrated into educational content in line with teaching and learning strategies, aimed at enhancing the technological skills of participants and producing generations that are capable of creativity and innovation. This will contribute strongly to driving the wheel of achievement to implement the New Kuwait 2035 vision.

Al-Mutawa revealed the results of some recent studies that emphasize the importance of the field of information technology. He referred to a recent study by the International Data Corporation (IDC), which projects that total spending on information and communications technology in Kuwait

will rise significantly, reaching 5.71 billion by 2026. Gartner Research also forecasts that spending on information technology in the Middle East and North Africa will reach \$193.7 billion during the current year, marking a 5.2 percent increase compared to the previous year, 2023.

He highlighted the society's new five-year strategy, which will soon be revealed.

Strategy

Al-Mutawa explained that the strategy includes several pillars that are focused on enhancing the reality of information technology in Kuwait. Central to this initiative is the promotion of "digital citizenship," a novel concept aimed at preparing competent digital citizens capable of utilizing digital technology responsibly and safely. This involves adhering to behavioral, religious, ethical, and legal guidelines to foster the development of a healthy digital society.

He stressed that the society's summer training program plays a crucial role in cultivating a generation that understands "digital citizenship" and can actively and critically engage in the digital realm, adding that this involves fostering communication skills and effective creativity to encourage forms of social participation that uphold human rights and dignity.

Al-Mutawa concluded by expressing appreciation for the support provided by KFAS for the activities and events organized by the society, adding that achieving "digital citizenship" in Kuwait necessitates collaborative efforts across governmental and private sectors.

He also announced that the society will launch a number of effective initiatives to reach the highest levels of efficiency and enhance the values of digital citizenship in coordination with a number of governmental agencies concerned with educational and social affairs.

In addition, the Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Information Technology Society Shurooq Al-Sayegh said, "One of the primary goals of the society, which its board of directors is dedicated to achieving, is to promote cultural awareness in the field of computers. This includes advancing the professional and scientific capabilities of members of the society and the broader community in computer technologies.

The society's summer training program lays the foundation for building a generation that is aware and capable of keeping pace with global technological advancements. The support provided by KFAS to this program reflects a clear commitment towards advancing technological sustainability. This initiative aligns with the vision of the Amir of Kuwait and the Chairman of KFAS His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad in preparing and training national talent to meet future challenges."

'Bachelor of Fire Engineering Technology' program

DGFD inks partnership agreement with PAAET

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) said it has signed a strategic partnership cooperation agreement to launch the academic program 'Bachelor of Fire Engineering Technology' with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), reports Al-Jarida daily.

The signing ceremony was attended by the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef.

Major General Khaled Fahd, the

DGFD head stated that the agreement aims to enhance cooperation between government agencies, improve job performance, and maintain the quality of education and educational outcomes for members of the force.

The program will be conducted at the College of Technological Studies, affiliated with PAAET, leveraging the expertise and skills of its educational staff in various engineering and scientific fields. Practical applications during the study period will take place in the training department of the fire force.

Major General Fahd emphasized

that the specialization in fire engineering technology is a rare program in the region, aimed at keeping pace with the latest developments in fire science and engineering by international organizations.

He also noted that developing human resources through this Bachelor's degree in Fire Engineering Technology aligns with the strategic goals of the fire force.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam, Director of PAAET, Dr. Muhammad Al-Hayyan, Dean of the College of Technological Studies, and several other officials from both sides.

Two companies accredited ... more can join

EPA to launch mobile laboratories to monitor air quality: Al-Kandari

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Acting Director General of the Environmental Public Authority (EPA) Eng. Samira Al-Kandari announced the activation of decision No. 1/2023, which has been published in the official gazette "Kuwait Today", regarding mobile environmental laboratories, reports Al-Anba daily.

Eng. Al-Kandari explained that this decision mandates that mobile environmental laboratories perform measurements, examinations, and physical and chemical tests on outdoor air samples. The goal is to monitor gaseous pollutants, measure level of suspended particles and inhalable dust, and ensure various facilities comply with the environmental standards.

The key conditions for approving mobile environmental laboratories include:

■ A valid commercial license from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry specifying "mobile environmental laboratories" as the activity.

■ A license from the Ministry of Interior for registering vehicles used as mobile environmental laboratories.

■ A list of employee data and employment contracts, with a minimum of three staff members.

■ A list of analytical devices and related equipment required in the



Eng Samira Al-Kandari

mobile environmental laboratory, with calibration reports for these devices not exceeding three months from their issuance.

Al-Kandari revealed that two companies have been accredited by purchasing the accreditation booklet from EPA's official website through the Environmental Compliance Platform - Environmental Activities Accreditation Program - in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Kuwait Municipality.

She said new companies wishing to operate mobile environmental laboratories must submit their applications to EPA, and the concerned department will review the applications to ensure all accreditation conditions are met and will issue an environmental certificate upon payment of a KD 5,000 fee, valid for two years, with a renewal fee

of 50 percent of the original accreditation fee.

Meanwhile, EPA issued a statement addressing recent social media claims about its work and the implementation of the Environmental Protection Law.

The authority explained that the Ministry of Interior monitored a violator with certain species listed in the International Convention (CITES). Following this, the EPA coordinated with the ministry, and legal actions were taken in accordance with Environmental Protection Law No. 42/2014, its amendments, and international obligations. All decisions and procedures are supervised by the relevant authorities, each within its jurisdiction.

The EPA has called on social media users to verify the accuracy of information about the authority and its employees, cautioning against spreading rumors that lack legal basis or evidence. It stressed the importance of obtaining accurate data from official and reliable sources to avoid legal repercussions.

The EPA affirmed its commitment to enforcing Environmental Protection Law No. 42/2014 and its amendments against all environmental violations within its jurisdiction, adding that reports and complaints can be submitted through the EPA's website under the Environmental Complaints section.

in cultural and educational events, and exchange of best practices and experience, and development of programs related to the needs of students in both countries."

He added a total of 26 schools in Kuwait follow the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) curriculum of India; revealing more than 60,000 students of different nationalities, most of whom are Indians, are enrolled in these schools. Some Kuwaitis are completing their postgraduate studies at the most prestigious Indian universities, he revealed.

He asserted that India is considered one of the most important trade partners of Kuwait. He said the trade

and investment relations between the two countries has improved significantly and rapidly over the years, as the volume of bilateral trade exchange reached about \$13.0 billion in fiscal 2023/2024; while Kuwait is the ninth largest oil supplier during the same period -- about three percent of India's total energy needs.

He indicated that completing the free trade negotiations between the GCC countries and India will lead to economic and trade growth in Kuwait and other countries in the region, not to mention the greater potential for a stronger trade and investment partnership between the two countries.

He said Kuwait has huge in-

vestments in India covering several fields -- the most important of which are petrochemicals, considering the total foreign direct investment from Kuwait to India amounted to \$10.1 billion as at March 2023 due to the attractiveness of the Indian economy and the amount of foreign investments in India in the few years. He added Kuwait is keen on attracting more Indian investments and talents by adopting a new strategy to encourage Indian investment in a variety of promising sectors like infrastructure, manufacturing, tourism, health and renewable energy.



'Prevent spread of madness, restore balance to humanity'

"MADNESS has often been described as the loss or corruption of reason. Some researchers define it as behaviors and actions that deviate from human nature, values, and morals, actions that may be carried out either consciously or against one's will. By this definition, madness not only affects individuals but also institutions and entire nations," columnist Dr. **Muhammad Hussein Al-Dallal**, wrote for Al-Qabas daily.



Dr Al-Dallal

The madness of these individuals poses a threat to themselves, those around them, their societies, their countries, and even the world. Historical examples include the actions of Hitler, Mussolini, and Stalin, and in the present day, the madness can be seen in the actions of the Zionist leader Netanyahu and other leaders of the Zionist occupation, along with their supporters, who are leading the world toward destruction.

"A world gone mad is one where the drums of war beat in critical and vital regions. The American administration, influenced by the Zionist occupation state, seeks to expand war in the Middle East, supporting an occupation condemned by international resolutions and charters, while remaining silent -- or even complicit -- in the daily war crimes, genocide, and starvation of the Palestinian people. The madness intensifies as the Zionist rampage spreads to other countries in the region.

"For instance, is it reasonable for a resistance leader and negotiator, such as Ismail Haniyeh, to be assassinated during ongoing negotiations to end the war, disregarding the potential escalation of war and destruction across the Arab region?"

"The madness of the world is further exemplified by the actions of the American sponsor of the Zionist occupier, particularly when it attacked and condemned the International Court of Justice.

"This occurred when the court declared the continued existence of the State of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territories to be illegal and indicated plans to take legal and judicial measures against the leaders of the Zionist entity.

"The greatest madness is seen in the double standards applied in international cases: while actions by the International Court of Justice against Russia and its leadership are deemed necessary and acceptable, its efforts to address the crimes of the Zionist occupier are rejected and condemned.

"The free world watched in disgust and amazement as most members of the US Congress applauded the Zionist war criminal Netanyahu during a session, where he boasted of the war crimes, genocide, and starvation inflicted on the Palestinian people in Gaza and the occupied territories.

"The shock was compounded when the leaders of that institution, which claims to champion democracy and freedom worldwide, applauded as Netanyahu attacked American citizens who demonstrated outside Congress against his visit, accusing them of affiliations with terrorist nations.

"Another example of the world's madness was what occurred during the opening ceremony of the Olympics in France, where blatant displays contrary to values and morals were showcased, promoting homosexuality and perversion. Furthermore, the event went so far as to mock the Prophet Jesus, peace be upon him, thereby offending the religions, beliefs, and values of the majority of the world's people.

"Humanity now faces one of the most significant challenges in its history: the challenge of standing against the tide of secularism and savage modernity. The global madness we are witnessing stems from this savage,

worldwide thought.

"The thinker Abdel-Wahhab El-Messiri, may God have mercy on him, stated: 'I define secularism not as the separation of religion from the state, but rather as the separation of all human life from moral, religious, and human values, turning the world into a material for use by the powerful for their own benefit.'

"This savage, modern secular thought rewards criminals for their crimes, transgresses against heavenly religions, values, and human covenants, and embodies a practice where the strong devour the weak, showing no respect for the cultural or legal boundaries of the world's peoples.

"This dangerous ideology must be confronted intellectually, scientifically, and practically within the framework of the law to prevent the spread of madness and restore balance to humanity."

Also:

"Since the Al-Aqsa Flood operation on October 7, 2023, the Middle East has experienced continuous security tensions, with conflicts spreading across Gaza, southern Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, and Iran, transforming these areas into open battlefields," columnist **Adel Al-Mutairi** wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"The Al-Aqsa Flood operation marked a significant setback for Israel, representing the biggest failure in its military history and a severe blow to the Israeli doctrine of deterrence, which had been upheld for decades. In response, Israel has attempted to regain its military dominance through actions on multiple fronts, including targeted assassinations of Palestinian leaders and figures from Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

"A notable recent assassination was that of Fuad Shukur, followed by a reckless attack on the Iranian consulate in Damascus. This attack prompted Iran to launch air strikes on Israel in April under the name 'Operation True Promise', to which Israel responded with a covert strike on an Iranian air base near a nuclear facility.

"Israel's show of force escalated to the point of assassinating the head of the Hamas movement in Iran, an act that embarrassed the Iranian leadership and exposed significant vulnerabilities within Iran's security and intelligence institutions. In response, Iran convened with its regional allies, announcing that it would retaliate against Israel at a time and place of its choosing.

"Speculation suggests that Iran's response could come from multiple directions simultaneously, complicating Israel's defense efforts. Some predict coordinated air strikes combined with ground infiltration operations from southern Lebanon, similar to the Al-Aqsa Flood operation. Others anticipate an Israeli pre-emptive strike to mitigate the impact of Iran's potential retaliation on infrastructure and civilian casualties.

"Ultimately, the nature and timing of the Iranian response remain uncertain, even to American security and intelligence agencies, which have been unable to predict Iran's actions in their briefings with President Biden.

"However, it is expected that both sides may engage in various air strikes, which could continue for several days until mediators intervene to prevent a broader war in the region.

"It is important to note that Iran traditionally avoids direct military confrontation with Israel, opting instead to exhaust its enemies through proxy groups. Iran's measured response in April, where it announced and ended its military retaliation within a specific timeframe, demonstrates its preference for rational and calculated actions.

"Despite this, the recent security breaches and assassinations, including the attack on Ismail Haniyeh inside Iranian territory, have compelled Iran to respond, forcing it to confront the repercussions of the strikes carried out by its adversaries."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes



Al-Seyassah photo

'Young soldiers' participating in the camp.

Army Officers Club holds 4-week Young Recruit Camp

The Army Officers Club in Kuwait has organized the Young Recruit Camp, a 4-week mini training camp designed to instill a sense of loyalty, belonging, and love for the homeland in the younger generation. The camp aims to foster cultural awareness, national customs, and traditions among the participants, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to the Directorate of Moral Guidance and Public Relations at the Ministry of Defense, the Young Recruit Camp also focuses on teaching behaviors that promote giving, sacrifice, and dedication to community service, as well as strengthening the participants' loyalty to their country.

The course includes training in

military skills such as leadership, discipline, coordination, commitment, and sports activities like shooting, swimming, obstacle courses, and martial arts.

During the first week, the young recruits were trained in military discipline and coordination, participated in national and military lectures, and engaged in various recreational activities.

Court rules cancer patient eligible for disability benefits under PADA

Dud cheque for KD 48K issued in purchase of 6 cars

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Court of Cassation has confirmed that a Kuwaiti cancer patient is classified as moderately and permanently disabled; thereby, obligating the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA) to issue a disability certificate to the patient and disburse all the corresponding financial benefits.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the merit of the court ruling; stating that the PADA Law is applicable to cancer patients, since it defines a disabled person as anyone who suffers from permanent disability -- whether total or partial, leading to a deficiency in his physical, mental or sensory abilities, and may prevent him from securing the necessities of life for work or participating fully and effectively in society on an equal footing with others. The court affirmed this applies to some cancer patients, including the plaintiff who filed the case through his lawyer Attorney Nasser Al-Ajmi.

Al-Ajmi pointed out that his client suffers from advanced glandular cancer in the lower part of the esophagus and has spread to the lymph nodes and liver, resulting in the total removal of the stomach.

He added his client also suffers from chronic bronchial asthma and peripheral neuropathy, which constitute a permanent disorder that leads to a deficiency in his physical and sensory abilities; preventing him from fully or effectively participating in society on an equal footing with others.

He argued there is no better evidence than his client's termination, so the court ruled in favor of the latter.

One dies, 2 injured in accident: Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) reported firemen from Shuwaik acting on information rushed to an unidentified location on the Airport Road and dealt with a traffic accident, which claimed the life of one person and caused serious injury to two others, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The injured were rushed to a nearby hospital and the corpse of the deceased was referred to Forensics. The cause of the accident is being investigated.

Brig Abu Sulaib promoted: Brigadier Nasser Abu Sulaib has been appointed as the Director General of the Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior, following a decision by the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Meanwhile the Education and Training Affairs Sector of the Ministry of Interior has announced an amendment to the age requirement for applicants registering for courses for the positions of deputy officer, first sergeant, and sergeant, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Earlier, the age of applicants was calculated from September 15, 2024, but this has now been changed to March 15, 2025.

This decision reflects the Ministry's commitment to providing opportunities for those interested in joining these courses and serving in the military. Additionally, the registration period for these courses has been extended until August 15, 2024.

Dud cheque issued for KD 48,000: The lawyer of a car sales company filed a complaint at Hawally Police Station against an individual residing illegally in the country for issuing a dud cheque for KD48,000 as payment for the six cars he purchased; indicating the cheque bears the signature of a prisoner at the Central Prison, reports Al-Anba daily.

The lawyer told police that the accused has been a regular customer, so the cars were handed over to him immediately after he gave the cheque.

Case no. 313/2024 was registered at the police station and then the accused was arrested. He admitted purchasing the six cars and that he sold three of the cars. He revealed the signatory on the cheque is his partner in trading in vehicles and was imprisoned after the purchase.

Nazaha committed to protect whistleblowers: The Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) has referred a former official from the Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts, along with officials from the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters, to the Public Prosecution on suspicion of embezzlement and facilitating the squandering of public funds, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement, Nazaha reaffirmed its commitment to investigating all credible reports of corruption, praising whistleblowers for their vital role in providing necessary information.

Nazaha also reiterated its dedication to offering maximum protection and confidentiality to those who report corruption, in line with legal requirements.

Arrest warrant issued against drug trafficker

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Jahra security forces have issued an arrest warrant against a young man who has reportedly fled from a checkpoint after damaging public property, reports Al-Anba daily.

The incident occurred around 1:00 am on Kabd Road when a bronze-colored Japanese saloon vehicle, with two people, was stopped at a checkpoint.

When the man behind the wheel was asked to show his ID, he stepped on the gas pedal and escaped hotly pursued by police patrol.

After being briefly ordered to pull over, the driver escaped again, leaving behind his companion and a bag containing seven narcotic pills.

During a second pursuit, the fugitive collided with a patrol car to evade capture. The companion then provided the authorities with the fugitive's full details, including his name and residence.



Al-Jarida photo

One of the stores being closed.

DGFD shuts 36 establishments

Thursday morning, the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) administratively shut down 36 stores and establishments across several governorates, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The closures were due to failure by business owners to obtain the necessary firefighting licenses and their non-compliance with safety and fire prevention requirements.

These establishments had previously been warned to rectify these violations but failed to keep their promises.

Alcohol bottle found in car

Securitymen nab drunk driver in Sulaiya

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: An unidentified person has been charged with driving under the influence of alcohol after being apprehended by a traffic patrol in Sulaiya, reports Al-Anba daily.

He was found in a state of intoxication, and a water bottle containing alcohol was found in his vehicle.

Security sources report that two Jahra traffic patrol officers stopped an American saloon car in Amghara around 6 pm when they noticed the man behind the wheel was driving recklessly.

The driver, born in 1975, was found to be exhibiting signs of intoxication and a foul odor emanating from his mouth.

Drugs worth over KD 1m

2 Asians arrested with 80 kg shabu

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Personnel from the Directorate-General for Drugs Control have arrested two Asians and seized from them approximately 80 kilograms of the narcotic substance "shabu," reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The seized drugs have an estimated market value of over one million Kuwaiti dinars.

During the investigation, the suspects admitted that the drugs belonged to them and said that they were receiving instructions from their 'boss' based overseas about the distribution of the drugs after they were smuggled into the country for sale.

The suspects, along with the seized drugs, are being referred to the Public Prosecution for the necessary legal proceedings.

The Ministry of Interior emphasized its ongoing commitment to monitoring and disrupting any attempts to smuggle and



Mol photo

The suspects with the seized contraband.

trade narcotic drugs to protect the society.

The ministry has urged the people to cooperate with security personnel and report any suspicious activities through the emergency phone line 112 or the General Administration for Drug Control's hotline 1884141.

Health ministry confirms low risk of monkeypox in Kuwait

Country lacks significant tourism from African nations

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: In parallel with the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring a state of emergency to address the outbreak of a new strain of mon-

keypox due to a recent surge in infections, Dr. Ghanem Al-Hujailan, a consultant in internal and epidemiological diseases at Adan Hospital, affirmed that Kuwait is distant from the outbreak's hotspots and that the pandemic does not pose a significant threat to the country.

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Hujailan explained that Kuwait is not an international transit hub and lacks significant tourism from African countries, which makes it less likely for the disease to enter the country through travelers from those countries.

Monkeypox is a viral disease of animal origin. It can be transmitted to humans through direct contact with the blood, bodily fluids, or skin lesions of infected animals. It can also spread from person to person through close contact with respiratory secretions or skin lesions of an infected individual.

There are two distinct types of monkeypox virus - the Congo Basin virus, which is more contagious, and the West African virus.

Meanwhile, Director of the Health Promotion Department Dr. Abeer Al-Baho said the vaccines used in the smallpox eradication program offer up to 85 percent protection against monkeypox.

She explained that the monkeypox virus has been found in various animals in Africa, including mountain squirrels, tree squirrels, Gambian marsupial rats, dormice, and different types of monkeys. Consuming undercooked meat and other animal products from infected animals is also a risk factor. In Africa, monkeypox infections have been linked to consuming meat of infected monkeys, rats, or squirrels.

The rash associated with monkeypox resembles those from various infectious diseases, such as varicella zoster virus, herpes simplex virus, and syphilis, with symptoms including fever, rash, and swollen lymph nodes.

The disease predominantly affects young people, with studies from two years ago showing that 98.2 percent of global cases involve young individuals, and 95.2 percent of reported cases are among homosexual and bisexual individuals.

The incubation period for monkeypox, i.e., the time period between infection and the appearance of symptoms, ranges from five to 21 days. In the initial five days, symptoms appear in the form of fever, severe headache, back and muscle pain, and extreme weakness, with enlarged lymph nodes being a distinctive feature of monkeypox.



Al-Seyassah photo

Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Al-Jaber during a recent inspection tour alongside officials from the Ministry of Public Works, the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport, and the traffic departments.

Timely completion of road projects top priority, says Ahmadi Governor

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Al-Jaber has emphasized on the importance of adhering to timelines for road projects in the governorate, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During a recent inspection tour, he got first hand information on various road projects, including intersections, entrances, and bridges, alongside officials from the Ministry of Public Works, the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport, and the traffic departments.

The inspection covered key locations such as Al-Ghous Street diversions, the intersection of Jaber Al-Ali Bridge, Al-Raqa Bridge, Fahad Al-Ahmad, the Al-Sabahiya area entrance, and the intersection of Hamad Al-Zuwair and Al-Ghous Streets.

The governor commended the collaborative efforts to complete these projects efficiently and overcome any challenges.

Appointments via 'When' platform

Education Ministry rolls out new schedule for public engagement

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Lamia Al-Malham, the Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, has announced that she will hold periodic meetings with visitors every Sunday and Tuesday from 2 pm to 3 pm, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



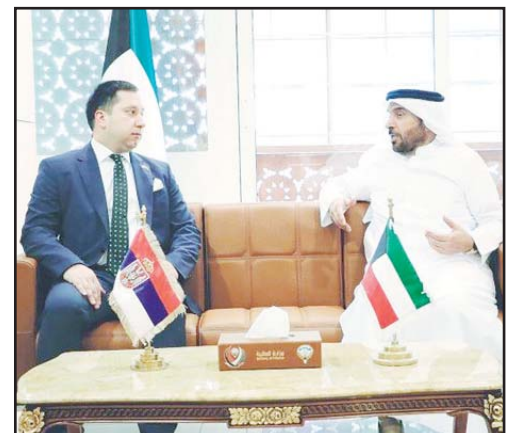
Al-Malham

This initiative follows directives from Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Adel Al-Adwani, to engage directly with the public, address their issues, and listen to their demands.

Moreover, Ghaida Madhkur, the Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Scholarships, Equivalencies, and Cultural Relations, will be available to meet with visitors on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 pm to 3 pm at the ministry's office.

The ministry plans to document and review the issues raised by visitors, taking necessary actions while adhering to laws and regulations.

Periodic reports and statistical updates on these issues will be provided to the Minister. The scheduling for these meetings will be managed through the "When" platform, which was recently launched to facilitate the booking of appointment slots.



Al-Seyassah photo

Minister of Finance, Dr. Anwar Al-Mudhaf with Charge d'Affaires, Filip Katic of the Serbian Embassy in Kuwait.

Kuwait-Serbia meeting unveils promising economic initiatives

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Minister of Finance and the Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Dr. Anwar Al-Mudhaf received in his office Charge d'Affaires of the Serbian Embassy in Kuwait, Filip Katic.

The meeting was also attended by Undersecretary Aseel Al-Munaifi.

During the discussions, the officials focused on exploring ways to activate and enhance bilateral cooperation between Kuwait and Serbia, with a particular emphasis on economic and investment relations.

They reviewed opportunities for promising investments in sectors of mutual interest to both countries.

Employees must submit updated proofs

New KPA policy targets validation of academic credentials earned abroad

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) has issued an administrative circular regarding the examination of academic certificates for its Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti employees, reports Al-Anba daily.

Based on KPA's keenness to enhance integrity and fairness among all employees and in line with the Cabinet's directives on verifying post-secondary certificates issued abroad, KPA's Director General Sheikh Khaled Salem Al-Sabah issued a decision to form a working team to examine post-secondary school certificates that were issued from abroad.

It has requested all employees who have obtained post-secondary qualifications (diploma, bachelor's, master's, or doctorate) from outside Kuwait after January 1, 2000 to submit a photocopy of their academic certificates along with a certified copy of the equivalency issued by the Ministry of Higher Education. This equivalency must be dated after January 1, 2024. Documents should be submitted by scanning the QR code attached to the decision and using the provided form to ensure all necessary information is included.

KPA said employees should use their company email to submit these documents, adding, "If there is no recent equivalency, employees must take necessary steps to obtain one and provide proof of their equivalency process."

It revealed that all concerned parties must comply with the circular within three weeks from its issuance to avoid legal consequences.



Sheikh Khaled

KU okays disbursement of summer semester stipend

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Dr. Fadel Aziz, the Dean of Admission and Registration at Kuwait University, has approved the disbursement of the summer semester stipend for the academic year 2023/2024, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This decision applies to all staff, including leaders, faculty members, supporting academic staff, language teachers, assistant technical positions, and administrators.

Dr. Aziz emphasized that the Deanship is committed to meeting all requirements efficiently. To streamline the process, the Deanship formed a team to convert all paperwork into electronic form, facilitating the mechanism for distributing the summer rewards. This effort has been completed successfully.

Khalida Al-Salahi, Director of the Registration Department, explained that the disbursement mechanism involved a specialized work team comprising members from the Information Department, the Financial Affairs Department, and the Registration Department.

This team prepared the necessary lists, including information on vacations, salaries, eligibility for participation, and overtime, to ensure a unified schedule for each concerned team.

Mai Sultan Al-Muftah, Supervisor of the Registration Department, noted that the disbursement process this year was completed much more quickly than in previous years due to the transition from manual to electronic statements, which accelerated the process.

Dr. Fadel Aziz extended his sincere thanks and gratitude to all participating sectors, directors, and employees of the Deanship, as well as the Finance Department and the Information Systems Department, for their significant and clear efforts during this short period.

Ministry fast-tracks tenders

Boubiyan Island 'brightens up' with 900 megawatts power commitment

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy has committed to supplying the Boubiyan Island with 900 megawatts of electricity over the next five years, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This initiative is part of a broader plan to support the island's development projects, including the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, which is under construction by the Ministry of Public Works.

The electricity supply will be complemented by corresponding water projects to ensure that the island's essential services are fully integrated.

Additionally, the ministry is expediting the procedures for 41 tender contracts that have been offered since the beginning of the year.

These tenders, managed in collaboration with the Central Tenders Agency, are focused on maintenance work for power generation and distribution stations. The goal is to finalize these contracts promptly to prevent any disruptions in electricity supply during the summer of 2025.

PAI posts KD98m surplus for fiscal year 2023/2024

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The final account of the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) for fiscal 2023/2024 showed that revenues are higher than expenditures by more than KD98 million; as total revenues amounted to KD184.3 million, while expenditures reached KD 86.3 million.

Decree No. 62/2024, which stipulates approval of the final account of PAI, stated the transfer of 46.8 percent of the net operating profits valued at KD42.3 million to the reserve for new projects and support for existing projects; and the remaining amount of KD 55.7 million will be transferred to the State treasury.



KUNA photo

Satellite image of Boubiyan Island.



AUGUST

Room Promotion





Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 57.173 net	BHD 128.000
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 65.000	BHD 145.000

Promo period from 1st August to 31st August 2024 Terms & conditions apply*

LOCAL

Over 80 marine vehicles seized

Coast Guard reports a drop in violations after summer surge

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Head of the Southern Sector at the Coast Guard General Department in the Interior Ministry Colonel Naval Ali Al-Durai revealed that 300 marine violations were registered and more than 80 marine vehicles were seized since the beginning of summer; while affirming the decrease in the number of violations since the beginning of August, reports Al-Rai daily.

In an interview with Al-Akbar Channel, Al-Durai confirmed that citizens are fully aware of marine laws and coast guard officers are assigned at Sabah Al-Ahmad coastal area -- near the public old ship. "Our patrols work round the clock to maintain security and provide all kinds of assistance to the public. The Maritime Transport Department inspects the boats and other marine vehicles to verify the identification papers and ensure strict compliance with the regulations among those driving boats and jet skis. We recently noticed that boat and jet ski owners are strictly complying with the law. They always carry their marine license and wear a life jacket.

The coast guard patrols guide them to avoid the swimming areas, while some jet ski drivers were found to have violated the speed limit when entering or exiting the sea," he revealed.

He called on the jet ski drivers to adhere to the safe speed to protect lives, stressing that "children and people of different ages are swimming on the beach; hence, the need to strictly abide by the speed limit."

He urged them to comply with the regulations; such as carrying the marine license and the jet ski book, as well as wearing a life jacket throughout the sailing period. "In case of an accident, the jet ski driver can float on the water if he is wearing a life jacket. The law prohibits riding the jet ski after sunset. This violation leads to the immediate seizure of the jet ski. We are not lenient in this regard, because it is strictly prohibited to ride the jet ski at night due to the absence of navigation lights. Parents should never allow their children to swim far from the shore and they must always wear a life jacket," he concluded.

Municipality intensifies inspections to tackle sanitation and road violations

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality has announced that the inspection teams of the public sanitation departments in various governorates continue to intensify their efforts to address public sanitation and road occupancy violations throughout the country, reports Al-Shahed daily.

The Public Sanitation and Road Occupancy Department at the Municipality branch in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate has been conducting extensive inspection of residential areas to maintain cleanliness, remove obstructions on the roads and distortions to the general view, and prevent improper waste disposal.

Director of the Public Sanitation and Road Occupancy Department at the Municipality branch in

Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate Khaled Al-Anzi explained that the intensified inspection tours are aimed at eliminating violations and to take legal measures against those proven to have committed violations. He affirmed that the supervisory team in his department focuses on maintaining cleanliness in areas under its responsibility, as well as removing everything that distorts the aesthetic view of the governorate.

He revealed the recent inspection tours resulted in the removal of 10 abandoned and scrap cars, a grocery store and two boats; issuance of violation citations to five street vendors and placing 13 warning stickers. He affirmed the inspection tours will continue, warning that no violation will be tolerated.

Kuwait's new crowdfunding platforms set to revolutionize financial landscape

Update regulation aims to boost digital infrastructure

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Nearly two years after the initial draft for financial technology regulation was introduced, Kuwait has officially launched securities-based crowdfunding platforms, a new commercial activity.

This move, announced by Minister of Commerce and Industry Omar Al-Omar, with the aim of diversifying financing options for small projects through licensed digital platforms, thereby supporting entrepreneurs and enhancing the country's digital infrastructure.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Mulhim, Chief Commissioner of the Capital Markets Authority, emphasized that this development represents a significant step in advancing Kuwait's financial markets, ensuring competitiveness, fairness, and transparency.

He added is confident that this step will contribute to achieving the aspirations of the private sector and developing the digital infrastructure, stressing "the government's commitment to providing the necessary support and facilities to enhance competitiveness in the business market.

This activity is defined as "financing projects by collecting money from a large number of people through licensed digital platforms (applications).

For his part, the Chief Commissioner of the Capital Markets Authority, Dr. Ahmed Al-Mulhim, stressed that adding the activity of the securities-based crowdfunding platform represents a qualitative step in the path of developing the local financial markets, and its commitment to supporting modern trends in the field of financing and expanding the options available to investors of various categories.



Al-Anba photo
Director of Farwaniya Mosques Saud Al-Mutairi presented Endowment Department representatives a commemorative shield and gifts for their generous donation.

Farwaniya Mosques Director commends Endowment Department for its donation

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Director of the Farwaniya Mosques Department Saud Al-Mutairi welcomed representatives of the Abdullah Rashid Al-Zeir Endowment Department Mishaal Abdullah Al-Zeir and Mohammad Abdullah Al-Zeir, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Mutairi presented them with a commemorative shield and gifts to express gratitude for their generous donation, which covered the costs of completing the

construction and finishing works for the expansion of the Abdullah Rashid Al-Zeir Mosque in Omariya.

He praised the department's initiative, highlighting it as a testament to the values and generosity of the Kuwaiti people who are dedicated to supporting and building places of worship.

Al-Mutairi called on Allah Almighty to record the good deeds of the donor Abdullah Al-Zeir.

Dr. Al-Mulhim pointed out that the Authority issued the executive regulations entitled "Financial Technologies" and this decision is complementary to what it stipulated, as it was developed in accordance with

the best international practices.

He added that the Authority has established the necessary regulatory and supervisory frameworks and has received many requests from the department created under the name of

the Financial Technologies Department in the Authority's organizational structure to ensure the activation of the regulation in accordance with standards of fairness, competitiveness and transparency.

Minister Al-Omar briefed on discrepancies

Health insurance tender rejected, SAB cites 40% price increase

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The State Audit Bureau (SAB) has rejected the tender for the provision of health insurance to the employees of the Communications Authority, because the price offered by the winning bidder is higher

by more than 40 percent than the estimated cost.

Sources pointed out this decision portends a dispute between the authority and SAB. They said the bureau explained that after approving the tender, the price increased due to several factors like limiting the bidding to companies listed on Bursa Kuwait; hence, the lower number of competing companies.

They added the bureau cited other factors like the detailed loss rates in the last three years of the tender, which led to the failure to verify the suitability of the price offered by the winning bidder and inability of companies to offer a fair price; as well as canceling the employees' deductible percentage in hospitals and medical centers associated with the winning bidder, and full coverage for

chronic diseases such as high blood pressure and diabetes.

Sources revealed SAB refused to contract with an insurance company at the end of last year, after studying the related documents. They confirmed that the bureau recently addressed Minister of Commerce and Minister of State for Communications Affairs Omar Al-Omar about the different opinions on the offer of a company amounting to KD 732,100.

Ingenuity of

Continued from Page 1

The additional fingerprint mandated by the Civil Service Commission has only added to the confusion. It reflects a lack of trust in the large workforce, which should be focused on enhancing productivity rather than being distracted by such measures.

All these decisions and improvised steps do not stem from a sound vision. Building countries should be based on a plan with one goal, which is development for the sake of competition.

This is what China relied on in 1979 when its late president Deng Xiaoping sought the help of the British expert of Iraqi origin Elias Karkis for the renaissance that was achieved within a few years.

All across the world, leaders who have driven the renaissance of their countries were not necessarily geniuses. What they had was a clear vision, determination, and a strong desire to succeed. They sought the help of talented individuals both from inside and outside their own countries to achieve their strategic goals.

That was what Singapore and many other countries did, including the Arabian Gulf countries.

The leaders of the United Arab Emirates enlisted the expertise of international talent to achieve the remarkable development seen in their country. Dubai has today become a regional business and project hub, with several islands developed to contribute to the ongoing growth and advancement of the region.

Also, Qatar sought the help of minds and businesspersons from abroad, and we saw how it was able to transform into an economic power within 12 years.

Similarly, Saudi Arabia sought expertise both from abroad and within the country transparently to achieve the region's most significant renaissance. It is now reaping the benefits of this and continuing to implement its vision.

All these countries opened their doors wide to those who could help. They granted golden residencies and even citizenship to creative people in various fields. They also took steps to ensure that a visit visa can be issued within five minutes.

In contrast, Kuwait continues to close its doors, refuse foreign investments, deport residents if visitors under their sponsorship delay their

stay in the country for a few days, and deport residency violators. This reflects a lack of innovative thinking, and has resulted in labor wages surging significantly. It seems as if no one wants to see the negative impacts on the national economy.

All these problems are highlighted by the daily press, which has become the voice of the people. It has been playing this role for a long time, even with the existence of the National Assembly, which used to work for the interests of its members.

Therefore, the government must actively monitor and address what is published in the newspapers by providing clear clarifications rather than resorting to lawsuits. It should also hold regular meetings with editors-in-chief, with His Highness the Crown Prince taking the lead in this matter, especially if His Highness the Prime Minister is not available.

Additionally, there should be press conferences for ministers not just for image management, but to highlight any achievements, if any. These actions align with the leader's vision for renaissance and reform.

The press has played a crucial role from the time of independence until today, exposing mistakes and bringing them to the attention of the leadership, which then instructed the authorities to correct them.

Kuwaiti divers

Continued from Page 1

These dhows, including one named "Gulf Bank," will be captained by young diving enthusiasts under the supervision of Naukhadha Hamed Al-Sayyar, the general supervisor of the committee, and the guidance of veteran historian Thamer Al-Sayyar.

The event will include a media visit on Tuesday to follow the trip, culminating in the "Qaffal" ceremony at 5:30 pm next Thursday on the club's coast. This will be a large public celebration to welcome back the diving ships, featuring marine arts and family participation in the traditional welcoming of the divers.

Gov't not

Continued from Page 1

for Housing Affairs Dr. Mahmoud Boushahri has issued a decision to assign the Assistant Undersecretary for Power Plants and Water Distri-



Photo by Mohammad Morsi
Participating boats of the 33rd Pearl Diving commemoration trip depart as their families bid them farewell during the Dasha ceremony.

tion Affairs in the ministry Eng. Haitham Al-Ali as the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity in place of Eng. Maha Al-Asousi.

It is worth highlighting that Al-Asousi took on the ministry's responsibilities during a challenging period. Despite the risks and a production shortfall compared to the high expectations for the load index, she worked diligently to ensure the delivery of the ministry's services to all its customers.

Kuwait condemns

Continued from Page 1

Naeem said some of the wounded had severe burns and many had to have limbs amputated.

"We received some of the most serious injuries we encountered during the war," he said.

The strike hit without warning in the early morning before sunrise as people were praying at a mosque inside the school, according to Abu Anas, a witness who worked to rescue people.

"There were people praying, there were people washing and there were people upstairs sleeping, including children, women and old people," he said. "The missile fell on them

without warning. The first missile, and the second. We recovered them as body parts."

Three missiles ripped through the school and the mosque inside, where about 6,000 displaced people were taking shelter from the war, said Mahmoud Bassal, a spokesperson for the Civil Defense first responders who operate under the Hamas-run local government.

Many of the dead were unrecognizable, he said, adding that he expected the death toll to rise. Many of the casualties were women and children, he said.

In a report issued Monday, the U.N. Human Rights Office said there were at least 17 attacks on schools in the previous month - seven of them in the previous eight days alone - that reportedly killed 163 people, many of them women and children. Many of the schools were serving as shelters, the report said, adding that Israel has a duty under international law to provide safe shelter for the displaced.

"There's no justification for these massacres," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in a statement posted on the social media platform X, in reference to the strikes on schools.

The U.N. said that as of July 6, 477 out of 564 schools in Gaza had been directly hit or damaged in the war.

On Thursday Israel's military hit two schools sheltering displaced people in eastern Gaza City, killing at least 15 people, according to hospital officials.

Israel has blamed civilian deaths in Gaza on Hamas, saying the group endangers noncombatants by using schools and residential neighborhoods as bases for operations and attacks.

Israeli intelligence indicated about 20 militants from Hamas and Islamic Jihad, including senior commanders, were using the Tabeen school compound to plan attacks on Israeli forces, Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli military spokesman said in a statement on X.

Izzat al-Rishq, a top Hamas official denied there were militants in the school.

Shoshani also questioned the casualty numbers issued by the Palestinian Health Ministry.

Israel said the targeted school was located next to a mosque serving as a shelter for Gaza City residents.

A cameraman working for The Associated Press said, however, that the mosque and the classrooms were in one building, with the prayer hall on the ground floor and the school above it. A missile appeared to have penetrated through the floor of the classrooms to the mosque below and then exploded,

according to the cameraman.

The strike came as American, Qatari and Egyptian mediators renewed their push for the two parties to achieve a cease-fire agreement that could help calm soaring tensions in the region following the assassination of top Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and a senior Hezbollah commander in Beirut.

Egypt, which borders Gaza and serves as a key mediator, said the strike on the school showed Israel had no intention of reaching a cease-fire deal and ending the war. Neighboring Jordan condemned the attack as a "blatant violation" of international law. Qatar demanded an international investigation, calling it a "heinous crime" against civilians.

Late Friday, two separate airstrikes in central Gaza killed at least 13 people including three children and seven women, hospital authorities said. An Associated Press journalist counted the bodies at the al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in the central city of Deir al-Balah.

One strike hit a house in the Nusseirat refugee camp, killing seven people, all but one of them women, hospital officials said. Another hit a house in Deir al-Balah, killing six, including a woman and her three children, the hospital said.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has praised the joint statement issued by the leaders of Qatar, Egypt, and US regarding the importance of putting an end to the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian people in Gaza Strip.

In a statement, the ministry affirmed the position of the State of Kuwait in support of all efforts made within the framework of reaching agreements that would stop the aggression on Gaza Strip; it also renewed appreciation for the ongoing efforts made by Qatar, Egypt, and the United States to reduce regional instability.

Doors for

Continued from Page 1

(for commercial purposes)," that is, to manage investments on a commercial basis.

This legal change may negatively impact future investment returns and tax exemptions that the Authority previously enjoyed under sovereign immunity.

Bloomberg has noted the ruling as a partial blow to the KIA, which has traditionally operated under the protection of diplomatic immunity.

World News Roundup

Europe

Charles applauds people who stood against racism: King Charles III has applauded people who took to the streets of British towns and cities earlier this week to help blunt days of unrest fueled by far-right activists and misinformation about a stabbing attack that killed three girls.

Charles on Friday held telephone audiences with Prime Minister Keir Starmer and law enforcement officials during which he offered his "heartfelt thanks" to police and other emergency workers for their efforts to restore order and help those affected by the violence, Buckingham Palace said in a statement.

"The king shared how he had been greatly encouraged by the many examples of community spirit that had countered the aggression and criminality from a few with the compassion and resilience of the many," the palace said. "It remains his majesty's hope that shared values of mutual respect and understanding will continue to strengthen and unite the nation."

British police remain on alert for further violence after the nation was convulsed by rioting for more than a week as crowds spouting anti-immigrant and Islamophobic slogans attacked mosques, looted shops and clashed with police. The government described the violence as "far-right thuggery," and mobilized 6,000 specially trained police officers to quell the unrest. (AP)



Charles

Man who encouraged torching UK hotels gets 3 yrs: A man who used social media to stoke racial hatred during the far-right violence that erupted in Britain last week and encouraged people to torch hotels housing asylum seekers was sentenced Friday to more than three years in prison.

The term handed down to Tyler Kay, a 26-year-old father of three, was among the harshest sentences so far for people who have taken part in or encouraged the latest rioting in Britain.

"You posted as you did because you thought there were no consequences for yourself from stirring up racial hatred in others," Judge Adrienne Lucking told Kay in Northampton Crown Court.

"I am sure that when you intentionally created the posts, you intended that racial hatred would be stirred up by your utterly repulsive, racist and shocking posts that have no place in a civilized society," Lucking said. (AP)

Russia declares emergency in Kursk: Russia declared a "federal-level" emergency in the Kursk region following a large-scale incursion from Ukraine and sent reinforcements there on Friday, four days after hundreds of Ukrainian troops poured across the border in what appeared to be Kyiv's biggest attack on Russian soil since the war began.

Meanwhile, a Russian plane-launched missile slammed into a Ukrainian shopping mall in the middle of the day, killing at least 14 people and wounding 44 others, authorities said.

The mall in Kostiantynivka, in the eastern Donetsk region, is located in the town's residential area. Thick black smoke rose above it after the strike.

"This is another targeted attack on a crowded place, another act of terror by the Russians," Donetsk regional head Vadym Filashkin said in a Telegram post.

It was the second major strike on the town in almost a year. Last September, a Russian missile hit an outdoor market there, killing 17. (AP)

US announces \$125m aid package for Ukraine: The US is sending Ukraine an additional \$125 million in weapons to assist in its military operations against Russia, including much-needed air defense capabilities, radars to detect and counter enemy artillery and anti-tank weapons, the White House announced Friday.

The latest package comes as Ukraine has launched its largest ground offensive on Russian soil since the war began in February 2022. The offensive in the Kursk region has prompted Moscow to declare an emergency and send reinforcements there.

National security spokesman John Kirby said Ukraine's use of US-provided weapons in the offensive was in line with administration policies. The Biden administration has approved their use in cross-border counterstrikes against Russia but not against targets deeper inside Russia, although the specific distances are not clear.

The weapons in this latest aid package will be drawn from existing US stocks and will include Stinger missiles, 155mm and 105mm artillery ammunition, High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) ammunition and vehicles. (AP)

Norway likely won't proceed with spying trial: Norway is unlikely to go ahead with the trial of a Russian citizen who was arrested in the Scandinavian country in 2022 on espionage charges and who was part of a massive, multinational prisoner swap between Russia and the United States last week, a senior prosecutor said Friday.

The trial for Mikhail Mikushin had been planned for September but he then became part of the largest East-West civilian prisoner swap in post-Soviet history.

The deal saw two dozen people freed, including Mikushin. Moscow released journalist Evan Gershkovich and fellow American Paul Whelan, along with dissidents including Vladimir Kara-Murza as part of the swap.

"No charges will be brought against him," prosecutor Frederik G. Ranke of the national prosecution office told Norwegian broadcaster NRK on Friday, adding that to prosecute Mikushin was no longer in the public interest since he is no longer in the country. (AP)

Poland previous govt accused of illegal spending: Prime Minister Donald Tusk on Friday accused Poland's previous government of illegally spending 100 billion Polish zlotys (\$25 billion) as he announced a government effort to try to recover the money.

Tusk said that six months of investigations and audits had revealed widespread financial abuse, with 62 members of the previous "ruling elite" being charged so far.

Tusk is a centrist who leads a broad coalition that won a national election last year on promises to restore democratic standards. The government took power in December after eight years of rule by the national conservative Law and Justice party.

Law and Justice was accused by the EU of eroding democratic standards. Polish media also reported during its years in power on alleged cases of nepotism and corruption, for instance state funds going to party loyalists and foundations. (AP)

Ex-Catalan leader said to be in Belgium: Former Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont was back in Belgium on Friday, his lawyer said, after he evaded arrest in Spain for the second time in seven years with a dramatic dash into a getaway car following a public appearance in Barcelona.

Puigdemont made a much-anticipated return to Spain this week despite a pending arrest warrant against him for his role in a 2017 independence referendum deemed illegal by Spanish courts.

In an astonishing turn of events, he disappeared shortly after speaking Thursday to hundreds of supporters in central Barcelona under the eyes of almost as many journalists and police officers who had intended to arrest him after the speech.

The heads of Catalonia's regional police, which had deployed 500 officers in preparation for the fugitive's pre-announced return, defended their actions following the failure to catch Puigdemont and said an investigation had been launched to look into what went wrong. (AP)

'Knox falsely accused bar owner': Amanda Knox's hand-written memo at the center of her latest retrial for falsely accusing a Congolese bar owner in the 2007 murder of her British housemate contained enough elements for her to be reconvicted of slandering in June, an Italian appeals court said Friday.

The slander conviction is the only one remaining against her long after Knox was definitively exonerated of the murder, and she traveled to Florence in June hoping to remove the last legal stain against her - only to be convicted again.

Knox's hand-written document was the only piece of evidence the Florence appellate court was to examine after Italy's supreme court threw out two signed statements falsely accusing Patrick Lumumba of murdering Meredith Kercher in the Italian university town of Perugia. (AP)



Tim Walz, running mate of US Vice President Kamala Harris, speaks during a campaign rally at an airport hangar outside Detroit, Michigan, the United States, on Aug 7. Harris drew on her prosecutorial background to make her first expansive pitch on immigration to border-state voters as she and Walz, attracted thousands to a campaign rally in Arizona during their tour of battleground states on Aug 9. (Xinhua)

Politics

Trump headlines Montana rally

Harris makes immigration pitch in Ariz

GLENDALE, Ariz., Aug 10, (AP) — US Vice President Kamala Harris drew on her prosecutorial background to make her first expansive pitch on immigration to border-state voters as she and her new running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, attracted thousands to a campaign rally in Arizona during their tour of battleground states.

Harris, the former attorney general of California, reminded the crowd that she, as a law enforcement official, targeted transnational gangs, drug cartels and smugglers.

"I prosecuted them in case after case, and I won," Harris said in front of a crowd of more than 15,000 in Glendale, a suburb of Phoenix. "So I know what I'm talking about."

Harris promoted a border security bill that a bipartisan group of senators negotiated earlier this year, which Republican lawmakers ultimately opposed en masse at Republican nominee Donald Trump's behest.

"Donald Trump does not want to fix this problem," Harris said. "Be clear about that: He has no interest or desire to actually fix the problem. He talks a big game about border security, but he does not walk the talk."

Her effort to address immigration - a political liability that has dogged Harris for most of her vice presidency - head-on in the critical battleground state is part of a broader push from her campaign to make gains in Sun Belt states that had become increasingly out of reach with Joe Biden at the top of the ticket.

Shifting

Trump and his allies, who had long hammered Biden over the influx of migrants during his term, are now shifting their attacks to Harris. Kari Lake, who is running against Democratic Rep. Ruben Gallego for the open Senate seat in Arizona, bashes Gallego in a recent ad for supporting Biden's and Harris' "radical border agenda," featuring repeated clips of the vice president chortling.

"It's very easy for us to segue and switch our sights and focus on her," said Dave Smith, Pima County's Republican party chairman.

But Harris has been courting the state's fast-growing Latino population and released a new ad of her own, highlighting

how Harris, the daughter of immigrants from India and Jamaica, rose to the highest echelons of American politics.

And, as she has done in other campaign stops, Harris during the rally infused the theme of "freedom" throughout her remarks, especially as it came to voting rights, gun safety, LGBT rights and access to abortion.

"Arizona, ours is a fight for the future and it is a fight for freedom," Harris said, who had walked out on the stage as Beyoncé's "Freedom" blared throughout Desert Diamond Arena.

Harris' message on safety and gun restrictions resonated with Jen Duran, a 37-year-old mother and independent voter.

"I have an elementary school daughter who has been going to this school since she was 4, and today we got a notification that there was a lockdown drill," Duran said. "So safety for our kids is really important." Phyllis Zeno, a 65-year-old grandmother from Maricopa, said she was thrilled to hear Harris' message of unity and her policy positions, especially on affordable health care and reproductive rights.

Democracy

"Her message to me, it wasn't just hope, but renewed faith in democracy, that we can do this," Zeno said.

Arizona is represented by Democrat Mark Kelly in the US Senate, who has won two tough races in the politically divided states and whom Harris passed over as a running mate this week.

In choosing Walz over Kelly, Harris may have lost the chance to win over people like Gonzalo Leyva, a 49-year-old landscaper in Phoenix. Leyva plans to vote for Trump but says he would have backed a Harris-Kelly ticket.

"I prefer Kelly like 100 times," said Leyva, a lifelong Democrat who became an independent at the beginning of Trump's term in office. "I don't think he's that extreme like the other guys."

In Arizona, every vote will be critical. The state is no stranger to nail-biter races, including in 2020 when Biden bested Trump by fewer than 11,000 votes. Both parties are bracing for a similar photo finish this year.

Harris acknowledged how tough the

race will be as she and Walz toured a campaign office in North Phoenix Friday afternoon and thanked volunteers, who were making signs with sayings such as "This Mamala is Voting for Kamala" and "Kamala and the Coach." (Walz has been a high school football coach.)

She also emphasized it during the rally.

Also:

BOZEMAN, Montana: Donald Trump traveled to Montana for a Friday night rally intended to drum up support for ousting the state's Democratic senator, but the former president's plane first had to divert to an airport on the other side of the Rocky Mountains because of a mechanical issue, according to airport staff.

Trump's plane was en route to Bozeman, Montana, when it was diverted Friday afternoon to Billings, 142 miles to the east, according to Jenny Mockel, administrative assistant at Billings Logan International Airport. Trump continued to Bozeman via private jet.

The former president came to Montana hoping to remedy some unfinished business from 2018, when he campaigned repeatedly in Big Sky Country in a failed bid to oust incumbent Democratic Sen. Jon Tester. On Friday, Trump ripped into the three-term senator, mocking him for being overweight and for insinuating he sometimes sided with the former president.

"He voted to impeach me - that guy voted to impeach me," Trump said of Tester, whom he called a "slob" with "the biggest stomach I've ever seen."

Trump also invited to the stage Texas Rep. Ronny Jackson, his former White House physician, to further slam Montana's senior senator. Tester sank Jackson's nomination to be Trump's Veterans Affairs secretary, alleging the doctor drank and used prescription drugs while on duty.

Tester has tried to convince voters he's aligned with Trump on many issues, mirroring his successful strategy from six years ago. While that worked in a non-presidential election year, it faces a more critical test this fall with Tester's opponent, former Navy SEAL Tim Sheehy, trying to link the three-term incumbent to Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris.

Municipal Court records show.

The Cobb County politician was arrested Thursday night in the Grant Park neighborhood of Atlanta by a Georgia State Patrol task force that targets drunken drivers.

"Today I'm thankful that no one was seriously hurt in last night's traffic incident," Seabaugh said on social media.

"I appreciate the professionalism of the law enforcement officers on the scene, and we will let the legal process continue to play out," he added. "I look forward to the facts coming out and providing clarity to all concerned." (AP)

Illinois sheriff retires: An Illinois sheriff who hired the deputy charged in the death of Sonya Massey announced Friday that he will retire, five weeks after the 36-year-old Black woman was fatally shot in her home.

Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell, who won the office in 2018, said politics stood in the way of his effectiveness as sheriff and suggested he and his family had received death threats. Campbell, a 30-year veteran of the department, had previously said he did "not intend to step down."

"We must honor the life of Sonya Massey by ensuring that no one else falls victim to such tragic and senseless action. That has been my sincere mission since that fateful day," Campbell said in a statement. "But it has become clear that the current political climate has made it nearly impossible for me to continue effectively in my role. (AP)



A bike taxi cart rides through Times Square in New York, on Aug 9. Debby finally moved out of the US on Saturday after the storm spent the better part of week unleashing tornadoes and flooding, damaging homes and taking lives. (AP)



Campbell



Seabaugh

America

Debby finally moves out of US: Debby finally moved out of the US on Saturday after the storm spent the better part of week unleashing tornadoes and flooding, damaging homes and taking lives as it moved up the East Coast after first arriving in Florida as a hurricane.

Debby's last day over the US before blowing into Canada inundated south-central New York and north-central Pennsylvania with rain, prompting evacuations and rescues by helicopter. The post-tropical cyclone continued dropping rain on New England and southern Quebec, Canada, on Friday night with conditions expected to improve Saturday morning as the system continued moving northeast.

Some of the worst flash flooding in New York on Friday happened in villages and hamlets in a largely rural area south of the Finger Lakes.

In Steuben County, which borders Pennsylvania, officials ordered the evacuation of the towns of Jasper, Woodhull and part of Addison, and said people were trapped as floodwaters made multiple roads impassable. By mid-evening, some of those orders were lifted as threat of severe flooding passed. (AP)

US spots Russian ship: A US Coast Guard cutter on routine patrol around Alaska's Aleutian Islands came across a Russian ship in international waters but within the US exclusive economic zone, officials said.

The crew on the US Coast Guard Cutter Alex Haley on Monday detected the vessel about 30 miles (48 kilometers) southeast of the Amukta Pass, the Coast Guard said in a Friday statement. A helicopter aircrew from Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak also spotted the vessel.

The vessel was "transiting in international waters but still inside the US Exclusive Economic Zone," which extends 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) from the US shoreline, according to the statement.

The Coast Guard vessel did not communicate with the Russian ship but followed it as it moved east, the statement said.

"We met presence with presence to ensure there were no disruptions to US interests in the maritime environment around Alaska" Cmdr. Steven Baldovsky, commanding officer of the Alex Haley, said in the statement. (AP)

Georgia lawmaker charged: Georgia state Rep Devan Seabaugh is accused of driving under the influence after authorities say he ran into a bicyclist who was riding in

the bike lane of an Atlanta street.

Seabaugh faces seven charges, including driving under the influence of alcohol, and driving under the influence of drugs, Atlanta



Emergency workers search for victims after a Russian missile hit a supermarket in Kostiantynivka, Donetsk region, Ukraine on Aug 9. Russia declared a "federal-level" emergency in the Kursk region following a large-scale incursion from Ukraine and sent reinforcements on Friday, four days after hundreds of Ukrainian troops poured across the border in what appeared to be Kyiv's biggest attack on Russian soil since the war began. (AP)

Lat/Am

Maduro goes after X

Brazil plane crash kills 62, probe on

VINHEDO, Brazil, Aug 10, (Agencies): Brazilian authorities worked Saturday to piece together what exactly caused the plane crash in Sao Paulo state the previous day that killed all 62 people on board.

Local airline Voepass' plane, an ATR 72 twin-engine turboprop, was headed for Sao Paulo's international airport in Guarulhos with 58 passengers and 4 crew members, when it went down in the city of Vinhedo.

Initially, the company said its plane had 62 passengers, then it revised the number to 61 and early on Saturday it raised the figure once again after it found a passenger named Constantino Thé Maia was not on its original list.

Images recorded by witnesses showed the aircraft in a flat spin and plunging vertically before smashing to the ground inside a gated community, and leaving an obliterated fuselage consumed by fire. Residents said there were no injuries on the ground.

Rain drizzled down on rescue workers as they recovered the first bodies from the scene in the chill of the Southern Hemisphere's winter. Some residents of the condominium silently left to spend the night elsewhere.

It was the world's deadliest airline crash since January 2023, when 72 people died on board a Yeti Airlines plane in Nepal that stalled and crashed while making its landing approach.



Sousa

Formation
A report Friday from Brazilian television network Globo's meteorological center said it "confirmed the possibility of the formation of ice in the region of Vinhedo," and local media cited experts pointing to icing as a potential cause for the crash.

An American Eagle ATR 72-200 crashed on Oct. 31, 1994, and the United States National Transportation Safety Board determined that the probable cause was ice buildup while the plane was circling in a holding pattern. The plane rolled at about 8,000 feet and dove into the ground, killing all 68 people on board.

But Brazilian aviation expert **Lito Sousa** cautioned that meteorological conditions alone might not be enough to explain why the plane fell in the manner that it did on Friday.

"Analyzing an air crash just with images can lead to wrong conclusions about the causes," Sousa told the AP by phone. "But we can see a plane with loss of support, no horizontal speed. In this flat spin condition, there's no way to reclaim control of the plane."

Brazil expels Nicaragua envoy: Brazil's government kicked out Nicaragua's ambassador in retaliation for a similar move by the Central American country's President Daniel Ortega.

Brazil's foreign ministry said it had decided to expel Nicaraguan Ambassador Fulvia Patricia Castro Matu in "application of the principle of reciprocity to the measure adopted by the Nicaraguan government about the Brazilian ambassador in Managua." The ministry's statement said Brazil's Ambassador Breno da Costa has already left the country.

Nicaragua's government said both the Nicaraguan and the Brazilian ambassadors have left their positions, but did not mention they were kicked out or elaborate on the reasons for those moves.

A rift between Ortega and Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, two former allies, has grown over the last year.

Chile plane crash kills 7: Seven people died when a small plane crashed in the southern Chilean region of Aysen on Friday, the Civil Aeronautics Directorate said.

Both the pilot and the six occupants in the plane were killed, and investigators were heading to the scene to carry out an investigation, the agency said in a statement.

The cause of the accident was being investigated in complex climatic conditions, the statement said.

"What comes next is the investigation. That is why the regional prosecutor is being established in the command post, along with the corresponding experts," Rodrigo Araya, the regional presidential delegate of Aysen, told the local press.

Rescue groups would probably get to the scene of the accident on Saturday, according to local media reports.

Maduro goes after X, WhatsApp: Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro is trying to accomplish something that seems impossible in the South American country: steer people away from WhatsApp and X.

Maduro's announcement this week that he had ordered a 10-day block on access to X in Venezuela is the latest in a series of efforts by his government to try to suppress information sharing among people voicing doubts about his claim to victory in the July 28 presidential election.

It also reveals how every aspect of Venezuela's government is subject to Maduro's wants and needs, and as he went from demanding his Cabinet to retweet his posts in May to ordering the nation's telecommunications agency on Thursday to block access to X.

"X out for 10 days! Elon Musk out!" Maduro said Thursday as he announced his decision to temporarily ban the social network and accused its owner, tech billionaire Elon Musk, of using it to promote hatred after Venezuela's disputed presidential election.

'El Mayo brought to US against his will': The US ambassador to Mexico confirmed Friday that drug lord Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada was brought to the United States against his will when he arrived in Texas in July on a plane along with fellow drug lord Joaquín Guzmán López.

Zambada's attorney had earlier claimed the longtime chief of the Sinaloa cartel had been kidnapped. But officials had not confirmed that and Zambada's age and apparent ill-health had led some to speculate he turned himself in. US Ambassador Ken Salazar on Friday said "the evidence we saw ... is that they had brought El Mayo Zambada against his will."

"This was an operation between cartels, where one turned the other one in," Salazar said. Zambada's faction of the Sinaloa cartel has been engaged in fierce fighting with another faction, led by the sons of imprisoned drug kingpin Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán. Guzmán López is the half-brother of the factional leaders.



In this photo taken during a two-day trip on Aug. 8 and Aug. 9, 2024 and provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un delivers a speech as he visits a flood-hit area in Uiju, North Phnyongan province, North Korea. (AP)

Asia

NKorea again flying balloons toward South: military

'Flood victims will be brought to Pyongyang'

SEOUL, South Korea, Aug 10, (AP): North Korea will not seek outside help to recover from floods that devastated areas near the country's border with China, leader Kim Jong Un said as he ordered officials to bring thousands of displaced residents to the capital to provide them better care.

Kim said it would take about two to three months to rebuild homes and stabilize the areas affected by floods. Until then, his government plans to accommodate some 15,400 people - a group that includes mothers, children, older adults and disabled soldiers - at facilities in Pyongyang, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Saturday.

KCNA said Kim made the comments during a two-day trip to northwestern town of Uiju Friday to meet flood victims and discuss recovery efforts. The agency gave Kim its typical effusive praise, saying the visit showed his "sacred leadership" and "warm love and ennobling spirit of making devoted service for the people."

State media reports said heavy rains in late July left 4,100 houses, 7,410 acres of agricultural fields, and numerous other public buildings, structures, roads and railways flooded in the northwestern city of Sinuiju and the neighboring town of Uiju.

The North has not provided information on deaths, but Kim was quoted blaming public officials who had neglected disaster prevention for causing "the casualty that cannot be allowed."

Traditional allies Russia and China, as well as international aid groups, have offered to provide North Korea with relief supplies, but the North hasn't publicly expressed a desire to receive them.

"Expressing thanks to various foreign countries and international organizations for their offer of humanitarian support, (Kim) said what we regard as the best in all realms and processes of state affairs is the firm trust in the people and the way of tackling problems thoroughly based on self-reliance," KCNA said.

Kim made similar comments earlier in the week after Russian President Vladimir Putin offered help, expressing his gratitude but saying that the North has established its own rehabilitation plans and will only ask for Moscow's assistance if later needed.

'NKorea again flying balloons': South Korea's military says North Korea is again flying balloons likely carrying trash toward the South, adding to

China jets endangered patrol plane with flares, says Philippine military

MANILA, Philippines, Aug 10, (AP): The Philippine military chief condemned Saturday what he said was the provocative actions of two Chinese air force aircraft that executed a dangerous maneuver and dropped flares in the path of a Philippine air force plane on routine patrol in the South China Sea.

All those aboard the Philippine air force NC-212i light transport plane were unharmed and returned safely to Clark Air Base north of Manila after Thursday morning's incident over the Scarborough Shoal, Gen. Romeo Brawner said, without providing other details.

A top Philippine security official told The Associated Press that the Chinese jets flew at a "very close distance" to the Philippine air force turbo-prop plane and "put the lives of our pilots in real risk and danger." Another security officer said at least eight flares came from the Chinese fighter jets. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the incident.

The Southern Theater Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army said in a statement Saturday that a Philippine Air Force aircraft on

Thursday had "illegally" entered the airspace above Huangyan Island - the Chinese name for Scarborough Shoal, which China claims - and disrupted its training activities.

Also:

MANILA, Philippines: A Philippine appeals court reversed a regulator's 2018 order to shut down a prominent news outlet in a decision made public Friday, marking a legal victory for journalists who angered former President Rodrigo Duterte by reporting critically on his deadly crackdown on illegal drugs and alarming human rights record.

The Court of Appeals ordered the Securities and Exchange Commission to restore the certificates of incorporation of Rappler, an online news outfit founded by 2021 Nobel peace prize co-winner **Maria Ressa**, in a decision issued July 23.

It wasn't immediately clear if the SEC will appeal the ruling.

"It's a vindication," Rappler said in a statement. "It's a fact that the Duterte government used the SEC order to unleash its power to further harass us, our employees, our stakeholders and our communities."

a bizarre psychological warfare campaign amid growing tensions between the war-divided rivals.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said Saturday that the winds could carry the balloons to regions north of the South Korean capital, Seoul. Seoul City Hall and the Gyeonggi provincial government issued text alerts urging citizens to beware of objects dropping from the sky and report to the military or police if they spot any balloons.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or property damage.

North Korea in recent weeks has flown more than 2,000 balloons carrying waste paper, cloth scraps and cigarette butts toward the South in what it has described as a retaliation toward South Korean civilian activists flying anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets across the border.

Pyongyang has long condemned such activities as it is extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of leader Kim Jong Un's authoritarian rule.

North Korea last flew balloons toward the South on July 24, when trash carried by at least one of them fell on the South Korean presidential com-

mand.

Japan PM cancels Asia trip: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida canceled a planned trip to Central Asia on Friday to lead the government's response after scientists urged people to prepare for a possible "megaquake" off the country's southern coast.

The Japan Meteorological Agency issued its first ever "megaquake advisory" on Thursday warning of a possible future major earthquake triggered by the underwater Nankai Trough, after a magnitude 7.1 quake shook just off the eastern coast of Kyushu island earlier in the day. The trough, which runs along Japan's Pacific coast, was the source of past devastating earthquakes.

Seismologists at the agency held an emergency meeting after Thursday's quake to analyze whether it had affected the nearby trough and reassessed the risk of a major quake. They urged people to observe high caution levels for about a week.

Thursday's quake injured 16 people, most of them slightly, and caused no major damage.



A woman sorts through floodwaters near her damaged home near the city of Abu Hamdan in Northern Sudan on Aug. 7. The United Nations refugee agency said on Aug 9 that flood conditions in Sudan have hindered the delivery of aid to areas where many are already facing hunger and famine, including to a camp in North Darfur for those who have fled ongoing fighting. (AP)



Wisniewski



Meyer

Africa

Mali ousts Swedish envoy: Sweden's ambassador to Mali was ordered to leave the country within 72 hours following what it said was a hostile statement by a Swedish minister, the government said Friday.

The ousting of Ambassador Kristina Kuhnelt comes days after Mali severed diplomatic ties with Ukraine, prompting comments by Sweden's minister for international cooperation and trade.

"You can't support Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine and at the same time receive several hundred million kronor each year in development aid," said Johan Forsell on social media platform X. "The government has therefore decided to phase out Sweden's bilateral aid strategy with Mali in 2024."

Relations between Mali and the West have frayed since a military junta seized power in 2020 and staged another coup the following year.

In January, the government in Stockholm announced it would end its development aid to Mali this year. In the past decade, Sweden has provided more than \$330 million in assistance to the West African nation.

Several ambassadors and officials have been expelled. In 2022, French Ambassador **Joel Meyer** was told to leave as well as the spokesman for the peacekeeping mission, Olivier Salgado. (AP)

'Release students, lecturer': Polish diplomats on Friday said they were making progress as they appealed for the release of seven citizens who were detained in Nigeria in what Warsaw believes was a misunderstanding that happened as protests were underway in the West African country.

Six Polish students and a lecturer from Warsaw University, who were taking part in a program to study the Hausa language, were detained earlier this week in the state of Kano in northern Nigeria.

Nigeria's secret service said they were arrested for carrying Russian flags during a protest - something Polish officials say they find unlikely.

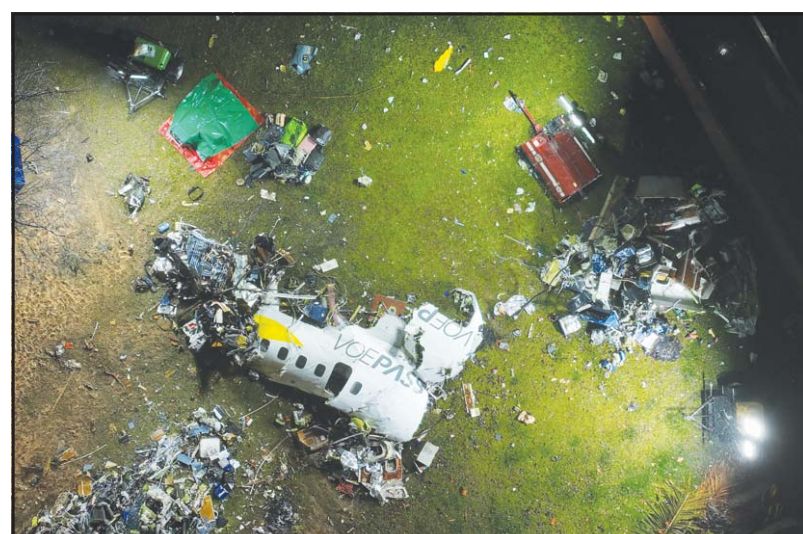
The Polish consul in Abuja, Nigeria's capital, met Friday with the detained students as Poland sought to clarify their legal situation. They "are feeling well and in good condition. They are currently living in a hotel in a good district of the city," Poland's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "No charges have been brought against them, and procedures are underway to conclude the investigation."

Deputy Foreign Minister **Jakub Wisniewski** earlier appealed to Nigeria to allow the students and lecturer to return home to their families, briefing reporters after

meeting separately with Nigeria's chargé d'affaires and the families of the detained Poles. "During the meeting, I conveyed that I was convinced that the students' behavior could have resulted from their ignorance of local customs, culture and laws. I appealed

for the possibility of their return to Poland, to their homes, where their families are waiting for them," Wisniewski said.

Wisniewski said he did not believe the students had been carrying Russian flags. (AP)



The debris at the site where an airplane crashed with 61 people on board, in Vinhedo, Sao Paulo state, Brazil, on Aug 10. Brazilian authorities are working to piece together what exactly caused the plane crash in Sao Paulo state the previous day, killing all 61 people aboard. (AP)

Flood restricts aid to Sudan: The United Nations refugee agency said Friday that flood conditions in Sudan have hindered the delivery of aid to areas where many are already facing hunger and famine, including to a camp in North Darfur for those who have fled ongoing fighting.

The agency said in a statement that at least 11,000 people, many of them already displaced, have been affected by the heavy rains and flooding.

Much of the country has descended into a humanitarian crisis since fighting began over a year ago between the military and a powerful paramilitary group, the Rapid Support Forces, or RSF. Some of the most devastating violence and displacement has been in the country's western provinces of North Darfur and Darfur.

A July report on hunger conditions released by the The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC, found it likely that parts of North Darfur - especially the Zamzam camp - are experiencing "the worst form of hunger" known as IPC Phase 5. The IPC said the famine conditions in Zamzam camp were fueled by the conflict and "severely restricted humanitarian access."

		Change	Closing pts
JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	+193.85	35,025.00
PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	+98.53	6,647.80
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+560.61	78,529.88
BRITAIN	- FTSE 100	+23.13	8,168.10
EUROPE	- EURO Stoxx 50	+6.54	4,675.28

		Change	Closing pts
DUBAI	- DFMGI	-0.79	4,195.15

Business

Other Voices

US leads market

Petrochemical market faces 'glut', needs reconstruction

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

The time has come for the petrochemical industry to address global oversupply and enter a stage of phasing-out and industrial reconstruction.

While the US remains in the driver's seat, having either consolidated its position through partnerships or partially transferred ownership to foreign partners, the Middle East could become a significant buyer, with Kuwait potentially involved in either the US or Europe. This industry is crucial for the profitability of the global refining business and the petrochemical sector, driving substantial revenues.

This industry is the backbone for the profitability of the global refining and petrochemical sectors. The challenge lies in building and investing in both petrochemical and refining projects simultaneously rather than sequentially, which is the case in Kuwait. After completing the projects, Kuwait realized that it had missed three previous opportunities. It is now time to invest in this sector, exemplified by

projects such as the Al-Zour refinery and the joint refinery with Al-Duqm in Oman.

Major producers in Asia and Europe are now selling parts of their assets and shutting down old plants. Their challenge involves securing cheaper feedstocks, such as ethane, rather than the more expensive naphtha, and cutting costs. This may require transitioning to more cost-effective methods to avoid losses. Naphtha as a raw material appears increasingly unviable, except for ventures in highly specialized industries, such as the medical and pharmaceutical sector, which can take full advantage of such a highly sophisticated, exclusive industry.

This raises questions about the \$22 billion joint venture between Saudi Aramco and Dow, which is still awaiting its financial and profit-and-loss results.

The rationalization process in Europe and Asia will likely continue, with current difficulties extending beyond the typical five years to seven years due to prolonged capacity buildup, especially in China.

In conclusion, the message for our Arabian Gulf petrochemical business partners is clear - Kuwait must be selective in choosing A-class petrochemical partners, like our current partner, Dow, despite the past challenges.

It is crucial to act decisively, as time is not favorable for new entrants into this industry.

Email: naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com



Al-Harami

EPS of 7.26 fils per share

Kamco Invest reports KD 2.5 mln net profit for H1 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced its financial results for the six months period ended 30 June 2024. The Company reported a net profit of KWD2.5mn (EPS:7.26 fils) compared to KWD102 thousand during the same period in 2023 (EPS:0.30 fils).

Total revenue rose by 50.7% to reach KWD12.9mn (6M 2023: KWD8.5mn), whereas revenues from fees and commissions increased by 30.1% to reach KWD8.1mn (6M 2023: KWD6.2mn).

During the period, assets under management grew by 7.0% to reach USD15.9bn as of 30 June 2024, due to new money raised in various products during the period, as well as the performance of portfolios and funds. Equity funds and managed portfolios continued to outperform their respective benchmarks. Kamco Islamic Fund continued to be the best performing in the Kuwait Islamic equity funds category, achieving a return of 4.9% during the period. Similarly, the Kamco Investment Fund and Kamco Premier Market Index Fund maintained their positions amongst the top performing conventional equity funds ranking second and fourth with performances of 6.4% and 4.7%, respectively. The ranking is based on the funds' disclosures on Boursa Kuwait.

The Alternative Investments team continued working on new initiatives and products and evaluating several investment opportunities in real estate, private equity, and venture capital. This led to a partnership agreement with Santander Asset Management, specialists in private debt instruments, and advising clients on various transactions including an e-commerce platform that is planned to list on the Saudi market.

The Investment Banking team continued to advise their clients with several transactions in the pipeline ex-



Faisal Sarkhou

pected to close during the year across Equity Capital Markets, Debt Capital Markets, and Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A). During the period, the team successfully facilitated the execution of one of the largest Mandatory Tender Offers in the insurance sector in Kuwait and acted as Joint Lead Manager on five Sukuk and Bond issuances for companies and banks in Kuwait, Saudi and the UAE with a total value of USD2.2bn.

First Securities Brokerage Company, Kamco Invest's brokerage arm, continued to strengthen its competitive position and attracted new clients through its online trading platforms.

Regional offices continued to strengthen their presence in their markets by improving their services and contributing more to the company's core businesses, particularly in asset management. Kamco Invest - Saudi signed a strategic partnership with FLEXAM Invest to offer leasing opportunities to their clients.

Total assets increased by 4.1% during the period to reach KWD134.1mn, whereas shareholders' equity rose by 1.4% to KWD60.5mn. The Company's book value increased from 174 fils as of end of 2023 to 177 fils as of 30 June 2024. The Company also enjoys a strong financial position and a "BBB" long-term credit rating and "A3" short-term rating with stable outlook by Capital Intelligence in their latest review in May 2024.

Commenting on the results, Faisal Mansour Sarkhou, Chief Executive Of-

KAMCO INVEST

6M 2024 Financial Performance

Net Profit

KWD2.5mn

(6M 2023: KWD0.1mn)

Total Income

▲ 50.7%

(compared to 6M 2023)

Fee Income

▲ 30.1%

(compared to 6M 2023)

AUM

▲ 7.0%

(compared to 31 Dec 2023)

Total Assets

▲ 4.1%

(compared to 31 Dec 2023)

Financial results

ficer, said, "We are proud to announce a significant improvement in the performance of our core businesses, highlighted by a substantial increase in fee income. This growth not only reflects the robustness of our strategy but also underscores our unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of our earnings. By prioritizing high-quality and sustainable revenue streams, we will strengthen our financial position

and deliver greater value to our stakeholders."

Sarkhou concluded "The growth in our business is a testament to our team's dedication to excellence, the contribution of our subsidiaries, and our ability to adapt to market demands. We will remain focused on refining our approach and ensuring that our growth is both sustainable and aligned with our overarching vision and goals."

Boursa sees KD 890 million loss amid global downturn

Market recovers in final sessions

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Boursa Kuwait experienced a challenging week, with losses totaling 890 million dinars.

The decline was driven by intense selling pressures on most listed stocks, following a global stock market downturn and concerns about a potential US recession, coupled with regional geopolitical tensions.

Despite the substantial losses early in the week, the market showed signs of recovery in the final three sessions. The indices rebounded partially, aided by positive financial results from banks and companies for the first half of 2024.

As of Friday, the Kuwait Stock Exchange's general index rose by 8.1 points to reach 7,065 points, marking a 0.1 percent increase. Trading volume was 172.7 million shares, with 14,634 transactions amounting to

43.2 million dinars (approximately \$131 million).

The Main Market Index climbed by 9.1 points to 5,970.99 points, a 0.15 percent increase, with 68.9 million shares traded in 4,694 transactions, totaling 9.87 million dinars (around \$29.8 million).

The Premier Market Index increased by 8.22 points to 7,697.02 points, up 0.1 percent, through trading 103.7 million shares in 9,940 transactions, worth 33.3 million dinars (around \$101.5 million).

The (Main 50) index fell by 2.1 points to 5,822.32 points, a decrease of 0.04 percent, with 38.8 million shares traded in 2,776 transactions, worth 6.3 million dinars (about \$19.2 million).

The sector performance varied, with the banking sector accounting for 61% of the market capitalization, totaling 25.2 billion dinars. The communications sector valued at 3 billion dinars, financial services at 4.44 billion dinars, and consumer services shares remained steady at one billion dinars.

During the session, seven sectors saw increases, led by consumer goods at 1.22%, while four sectors declined, with benefits falling by 3.13%. Two sectors remained stable.

Among the 55 stocks that saw gains, Al-Deera stock led with a notable increase of 9.71%. In contrast, KAMFIK experienced the largest decline among the 61 falling stocks, with a decrease of 10.11%. The prices of 11 stocks remained stable during this period.

The Warba Bank stock was the leader in trading volume, with 21.91 million shares exchanged. Meanwhile, liquidity was dominated by Kuwait Finance House (KFH) stock, with transactions totaling 7.23 million dinars.

In financial news, Al-Ahlia Insurance Company reported a significant rise in profits. For the second quarter of this year, the company's profits increased by 46.8% year-on-year, reaching 2.69 million dinars compared to 1.84 million dinars in the same quarter of 2023.

For the first half of the year, Al-Ahlia Insurance achieved profits of 11.49 million dinars, marking a 21.8% increase from the 9.43 million dinars reported in the first half of 2023. The company attributed this profit growth to higher net operating profit and investment returns. Net operating profit surged by 47.4% in the second quarter to 3.23 million dinars and by 23% in the first half of the year to 12.76 million dinars.

Driven by semi-annual profits

Boursa sees balanced trading

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Kuwaiti economists have observed that the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) is currently experiencing balanced trading, largely driven by the semi-annual profits of banks and major companies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This positive trend has been reflected in the main indicators related to values, quantities, and the number of transactions. Both individual and institutional investors, including funds and financial portfolios, have been selectively buying shares in banking, services, logistics, and real estate sectors. This trend is expected to continue throughout August.

Walid Al-Houti, Chairman of Al-Durra Oil Company, noted that the stock market's performance is entering a calm phase typical of summer and vacation periods.

He expressed hopes for higher trading values than the current range of 35 to 40 million dinars (about 107 to 122 million dollars), which he considers below expectations. Al-Houti pointed out that the market has recently responded positively to announcements of

company results and cash dividend distributions, which are expected to attract more interest.

He also mentioned a growing trend in acquisition requests among companies, which could positively influence their positions and those of their affiliates.

However, he warned that geopolitical news, security situations in Gaza and Lebanon, US elections, and Federal Reserve decisions could affect market performance.

Talal Al-Yousef, Deputy Director of Asset Management at Al-Safat Investment Company, noted a noticeable decline in the strong stock market transactions observed earlier in the year.

Despite increased bank profits, the effect on stock prices has been limited due to uncertainties surrounding interest rates, the Federal Reserve's decisions, and inflation.

Al-Yousef observed that July's market performance saw an improvement, compensating for losses from June, and expects this positive trend to continue in August, supported by strong second-quarter results from listed companies.

In line with bank's strategy to finance infrastructure and sustainable development projects

National Bank of Kuwait - Egypt grants EDECS \$93 mln funding to support container terminal development at Ain Sokhna Port

CAIRO, Aug 10: In line with the role of the Egyptian banking sector in the country's economic development, National Bank of Kuwait - Egypt has granted EDECS International Engineering and Contracting Company credit facilities totaling \$93 million. This funding is intended to support the development of the superstructure and the infrastructure of the container terminals at Ain Sokhna Port, commissioned by the Red Sea Containers Terminals Company.

The contract was signed by Mr. Amr El-Alfy, Chief Business Officer of National Bank of Kuwait - Egypt, and Mr. Hussein El-Dessouky, Chairman and Managing Director of EDECS, in the presence of Mr. Yasser El-Tayeb, Vice Chairman, CEO, and Managing Director, along with senior management and executives from both the bank and EDECS.

Supporting the State's Plans

On this occasion, Mr. Yasser El-Tayeb, Vice Chairman, CEO, and Managing Director of National Bank of Kuwait - Egypt, stated that the bank's participation in funding this major project reflects the Egyptian banking sector's role in national economic development, and aligns with its strategy to support the State's plans for financing large national projects. Ports are among the most important of these projects, as they stimulate foreign trade activity, reinforce Egypt's status as a key logistical hub in the Red Sea, and positively impact the national GDP and economic growth. Ports are vital to the economic and national security of any country.

Mr. El-Tayeb emphasized that the bank's successful arrangement of such a significant facility reflects its readiness and capability to finance large-scale projects that support the State's development plans, drive production, create jobs, and contribute to achieving Egypt's Vision 2030.



National Bank of Kuwait - Egypt supports national projects, enhancing economic growth.

Clear Strategy

Mr. Amr El-Alfy, Chief Business Officer of National Bank of Kuwait - Egypt, noted that NBK - Egypt has pursued a clear strategy for several years to support and finance major projects, infrastructure, and sustainable development that assist the State's future

plans for progress and prosperity for all Egyptians. Providing this financing to EDECS exemplifies this strategy, as the project will significantly increase Ain Sokhna Port's capacity by 1.6 million TEUs annually, positioning it as a leading seaport in Egypt.

Mr. El-Alfy further noted that this substantial fi-

ancing confirms the bank's confidence in the project's feasibility and the executing company, which is one of the leading contracting firms in Egypt. This is not the first large-scale project financed by the bank; previous projects include expansions at Damietta Port, the multi-purpose terminal "Tahya Misr" at Alexandria Port, Abu Qir Port, and the Max Port breakwaters, along with other infrastructure projects in electricity, energy, and roads. The bank is also studying several other major projects for future funding.

Strategic Partnership

On his part, Mr. Hussein El-Dessouky, Chairman and Managing Director of EDECS, stated that the strategic partnership between EDECS and the National Bank of Kuwait - Egypt for the Sokhna Port container terminals project is not just a financing operation but a testament to the solid trust in the Company's technical and financial capabilities. This financing marks the beginning of a strategic partnership that will continue for many future projects in Egypt and the region.

Mr. El-Dessouky, added that this ambitious project aligns with the Egyptian Ministry of Transport's vision to transform Egypt into a global trade hub, reinforcing its status as a regional economic power. The project is more than just constructing a new port; it is a gateway to a more prosperous and interconnected future, in line with Egypt's vision.

"EDECS, with over three decades of experience in marine construction and infrastructure projects, is committed to delivering the highest standards of quality, safety, and technology, ensuring that this terminal sets a benchmark for efficiency and sustainability. This project will be a milestone in the economic development of Egypt and the Middle East, building a brighter future for future generations," he concluded.

BUSINESS

US gov't will loan \$1.45b to help a S. Korean firm

The federal government is making its first loan to a crystalline silicon solar plant, loaning \$1.45 billion to support a South Korean company's bid to build up key parts of the solar supply chain inside the United States.

The loan from the U.S. Energy Department, announced Thursday, will be key to funding a \$2.2-billion complex that Qcells, a unit of South Korea's Hanwha Group, is building. The company plans to take polysilicon refined in Washington state and make ingots, wafers and solar cells - the building blocks of finished solar modules - in Cartersville, Georgia, northwest of Atlanta.

President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, be-

sides offering an extra tax credit on American-made solar equipment, lets manufacturers earn incentives for every unit of polysilicon they refine and every wafer, cell and module they make.

"This loan is special, because it's one of the first facilities where we're not just making modules, but we're making cells and wafers as well," Jigar Shah, director of the Energy Department's loan programs, said in a telephone interview Wednesday with The Associated Press. "So we're bringing a lot more of the supply chain into the United States."

Qcells in April began assembling modules in part of the complex, which will have a capacity of 3.3 gi-

gawatts of solar panels each year. The plant in Cartersville currently has about 750 employees and is projected to have 2,000 when complete. Qcells says it's on track to complete the wafer and cell portions of the plant by December.

The company also has a \$630 million plant in Dalton, farther northwest in Georgia, with a capacity of 5.1 gigawatts a year. That 1,800-employee plant was built without government loans. The company imports the cells for the Dalton plant.

The Cartersville plant would be the largest ingot and wafer plant built in the United States, the Energy Department said. Between the Dalton and Carters-

ville plants, Qcells will produce enough solar panels to power nearly 1.3 million homes per year, reducing carbon dioxide emissions from power generation.

Microsoft Corp. has contracted to buy a significant portion of the Cartersville plant's output over eight years.

Qcells must meet certain conditions for the loan, and Marta Stoecker, a company spokesperson, said Qcells is confident that it will meet the requirements.

"The loan that we're getting is going to be massive-ly critical for us to stay on track with our goal of really onshoring the supply chain and making it in America," Stoecker said. (AP)

Mortgage rates retreat from 23-year highs

US homeowners race to refinance their loans

LOS ANGELES, Aug 10, (AP) - A recent pullback in mortgage rates is spurring more homeowners to refinance their home loan and lower their monthly payments.

The Mortgage Bankers Association's refinance index, which tracks home loan application volume, surged 16% last week from the previous week to its highest level in two years, the association said Wednesday.

Refinance applications were up nearly 60% versus the same week last year. Home loan applications rose overall last week to their highest level since January, though much of that was due to the surge in refinance applications.

Despite the lower borrowing costs, applications for loans to buy a home rose only 0.8% from the previous week and were down about 11% from a year earlier, the MBA said.

For many home shoppers, mortgage rates remain too high, given record-high housing prices and a chronic shortage of properties on the market.

"For-sale inventory is beginning to increase gradually in some parts of the country and homebuyers might be biding their time to enter the market given the prospect of lower rates," said Joel Kan, the MBA's deputy chief economist.

The average rate on a 30-year mortgage was 6.73% last week, its lowest level since early February, according to mortgage buyer Freddie Mac. The average rate declined again this week, falling to 6.47%, the lowest level in more than a year.

After jumping to a 23-year high of 7.79% in October, the average rate has mostly hovered around 7% this year - more than double what it was just three years ago.

The elevated mortgage rates, which can add hundreds of dollars a month in costs for borrowers, have discouraged home shoppers, extending the nation's housing slump into its third year.

Rates have mostly eased in recent weeks as signs of easing inflation and

Average rate on a 30-year mortgage falls to 6.47%, lowest level in more than a year

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, Aug 10, (AP) - The average rate on a 30-year mortgage fell this Augweek to its lowest level in more than a year, a welcome affordability boost for prospective home shoppers and homeowners looking to refinance their home loan to a lower rate.

The rate fell to 6.47% from 6.73% last week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday. A year ago, the rate averaged 6.96%.

This is the second straight weekly drop in the average rate. It's now the lowest it's been since mid-May last year, when it was 6.39%.

Borrowing costs on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, popular with homeowners refinancing

their home loans, also fell this week, pulling the average rate down to 5.63% from 5.99% last week. A year ago, it averaged 6.34%, Freddie Mac said.

"The decline in mortgage rates does increase prospective homebuyers' purchasing power and should begin to pique their interest in making a move," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist. "Additionally, this drop in rates is already providing some existing homeowners the opportunity to refinance."

After jumping to a 23-year high of 7.79% in October, the average rate on a 30-year mortgage has mostly hovered around 7% this year - more

than double what it was just three years ago.

The elevated mortgage rates, which can add hundreds of dollars a month in costs for borrowers, have discouraged home shoppers, extending the nation's housing slump into its third year.

Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes fell in June for the fourth month in a row. And sales of new single-family homes fell last month to the slowest annual pace since November.

Rates have mostly eased in recent weeks as signs of easing inflation and a cooling job market have raised expectations that the Federal Reserve will cut its benchmark interest rate next month.

a cooling job market have raised expectations that the Federal Reserve will cut its benchmark interest rate next month. Mortgage rates are influenced by several factors, including how the bond market reacts to the Fed's rate moves.

"If the recent drop in longer-term rates is sustained, then we expect to see another uptick in refinance applications and subsequent refinance mortgage volumes this week," said Doug Duncan, chief economist at Fannie Mae. The mortgage buyer's own index of refinance activity shows that refinance applications climbed 20% last week from the previous week.

Rates will have to fall further before more homeowners are incentivized to refinance, given that some 86% of all outstanding home mortgages have an interest rate below 6%, and more than three quarters have a rate 5% or lower, according to Realtor.com.

Still, expectations that rates will continue to ease and prompt more homeowners to refinance have helped lift shares in mortgage companies so far in the third quarter.

Rocket Cos. is up 28.5%, United Wholesale Mortgage gained 19.5% and LoanDepot is up 47.9%.

Applications remain elevated

Fewer Americans filed for jobless benefits last week

WASHINGTON, Aug 10, (AP) - The number of Americans filing for jobless benefits fell last week but remain at slightly elevated though not troubling levels.

Jobless claims for the week of Aug. 3 fell by 17,000 to 233,000 last week, the Labor Department reported Thursday.

That's fewer than the 240,000 analysts surveyed by FactSet were expecting.

Weekly unemployment claims are widely considered representative of layoffs, and though they have trended higher recently, they remain at historically healthy levels.

Continuing claims, which represent the total number of Americans collecting unemployment benefits, rose by 6,000 for the week of July 27 to 1.88 million. That's the most in more than three years, but also not particularly worrisome, analysts say.

Thursday's report was the first snapshot of the U.S. labor market since last week's deeply disappointing jobs data for July sent financial markets spiraling on fears that the economy might be edging toward a recession. Some analysts had suggested that the Federal Reserve might respond by accelerating its timetable for cutting interest rates or cut rates more deeply than previously envisioned.

In recent days, though, most economists have cautioned that the July jobs report did not portend a recession. They noted that by most measures, the economy, while slowing, remains resilient.

Last week, many economists and traders had grown concerned after the government reported a much lower-than-expected job gain for July and the unemployment rate reached 4.3%, its highest point since October 2021, when the economy was still recovering from the pandemic recession. The fact that continuing claims for unemployment aid ticked up only slightly last week was reassuring.

"It's not in free-fall," said Nick Bunker, economic research director for North America at the Indeed Hiring Lab. "It's just continuing the moderation that we've been seeing."

Bunker was hesitant to give a specific number of jobless claims that would worry him. However, a sustained increase - combined with other bad data - would be cause for concern, he said.

Stocks on Wall Street opened higher as investors welcomed the better-than-expected layoffs number.

Most Fed watchers still expect the

central bank's policymakers to begin cutting their benchmark rate by a modest quarter-point when they meet in mid-September.

The Fed raised its benchmark borrowing rate 11 times in 2022 and 2023 to fight the worst streak of inflation in four decades, which coincided with the economy's powerful rebound from the pandemic recession of 2020. The Fed's intention was to cool a hot labor market and slow wage growth.

Inflation has plummeted from its highs to near the Fed's 2% target, and now the central bank appears more focused on the need to support the economy with gradually lower borrowing rates.

Filings for unemployment benefits have been consistently higher beginning in May. Last week's 250,000 claims were the highest in a year. Since May, applications have averaged about 232,000 per week. In the three months before that, weekly claims averaged just 212,000.

On Friday, the government reported that U.S. employers added just 114,000 jobs in July, a sharp decline from June and well below analyst forecasts of 175,000. The unemployment rate rose for the fourth straight month, to 4.3%. That report struck fear in markets around the world because a sturdy U.S. economy has been a key driver of global economic growth.

Other recent economic data has been telling a similar story of a slowing U.S. economy. Manufacturing activity is still shrinking, and its contraction is accelerating. Manufacturing has been one of areas of the economy hurt most by high rates.

High interest rates have also taken their toll on the housing market, which has seen sales of existing homes decline for four straight months. The slump dates back to 2022, with existing home sales hitting nearly 30-year low last year.

Retail sales were flat in June from May and many retailers say that Americans are being more judicious about their spending.

None of the data necessarily portends an imminent recession, experts say, but combined it is building a case for the Fed to cut its benchmark rate in September.

Thursday's report also said that the four-week average of claims, which eases out some of the weekly volatility, rose by 2,500 to 240,750.

There have been job cuts across a range of sectors this year, from the agricultural manufacturer Deere, to media outlets like CNN, and elsewhere.

aligns with the UN's primary goals of promoting sustainable development.

"Juncao technology is affordable. Many times when we talk of the need to transfer technology, you recognize that there is a technology gap between the rich and poor countries. But this technology is applied in such a way that it can be affordable to the person that is applying it at a very local level, and that I think is the key benefit of it," Rattray said.

"It is really about transferring technology to the local level, transferring technology from China in a way that makes sense and is relevant and practical for the people of developing countries throughout Africa, and that is what we are seeing, a tangible demonstration of that," he added.

California's private sector job growth stagnates as businesses 'flee' state

Only 5,400 workers added between Jan '22 and June '24

SACRAMENTO, Aug 10, (Xinhua) - California's private sector job growth reached a virtual standstill, with only 5,400 jobs added in the state's businesses between January 2022 and June 2024, a Hoover Institution report indicated.

According to the report authored by Lee Ohanian, a professor of economics at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), these jobs represented a mere 0.07 percent of the 7.32 million jobs created in U.S. private businesses during the same period.

The report, published on Wednesday, revealed a striking contrast between California's job market and the rest of the United States. If California had matched the national growth rate, it would have added over 970,000 jobs, nearly 180 times more than the actual increase.

The situation has escalated in recent months, with California's private sector employment plummeting by over 46,000 workers since January 2023, the report said, noting this unprecedented collapse was significantly affecting the national economy, given that California represented nearly 12 percent of the country's population.

The report attributed this decline to a mass exodus of businesses and residents from the state, a trend that is significantly impacting the state's economy.

Between 2022 and 2023, California's population decreased by approximately 75,000. High-profile companies such as Tesla, Oracle, Hewlett Packard Enterprises, and, most recently, Chevron have relocated their headquarters out of the state.

Economic factors are driving this exodus, it noted.

California's median single-family home price exceeds 900,000 U.S. dollars, while the state ranks fifth highest in electricity prices and second highest in gasoline prices nationally, according to the report, which said that public schools are also underperforming, with only 25 percent to 30 percent of students proficient on core subjects.

Furthermore, the business climate, such as tax policies and regulatory burdens, in California is equally challenging, said the report.

The Tax Foundation, a research center that focuses on tax policies, ranked California as having the fifth worst tax climate in the nation, while the Chief Executive magazine rated the Golden State



This aerial photo taken on July 4, 2023, shows the construction site of a residential housing project in the start-up area in Xiong'an New Area, north China's Hebei Province. China announced plans to establish the Xiong'an New Area on April 1, 2017, located about 100 km southwest of Beijing, aiming to build the area into a national model of high-quality development and a new engine for the modern economic system. The Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee held a meeting on June 30, 2023 to review the guidelines on a raft of policies and measures supporting the high-standard and high-quality construction of the Xiong'an New Area. The focus of the work involving Xiong'an has shifted to high-quality construction and high-level management, the meeting pointed out. XIONG'AN, July 7, 2023 (Xinhua)

China's housing rental industry key to future of real estate mkt

BEIJING, Aug 10, (Xinhua) - The housing rental industry in China, which is expected to see robust demand and stable supply, is a "crucial direction" for the new development model of the country's real estate market in the future, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) said on Saturday.

Given the profound changes in the supply and demand dynamics of the real estate market, the scale of existing housing in China is already very large, the central bank noted in a report on monetary policy implementation.

On the demand side, market institutions project that the population in China with rental needs will exceed 200 million, and the market potential is relatively large, the PBOC said, adding

as the least business-friendly

state in the country. As to the regulatory burdens, California was ranked second worst among all states, the report said.

that demand is rising among key groups, including recent graduates entering the workforce and low-income individuals in recent years.

On the supply end, with the recovery of the rent-to-sale ratio and the reduction of financing and operational costs, the commercial sustainability of the housing rental industry has been enhanced in recent years.

As a result, an increasing number of housing rental enterprises have entered the market, and their large-scale and intensive operations are expected to deliver high-quality and more stable rental housing services, the PBOC said.

The central bank has beefed up financial support for government-subsidized housing by establish-

ing a re-lending facility for such projects, according to the PBOC.

By the end of June, China's financial institutions issued 24.7 billion yuan (about 3.46 billion U.S. dollars) in rental housing loans, with the balance of government-subsidized housing re-lending facility amounting to 12.1 billion yuan.

In the next step, China will improve the financial support system for housing rentals and direct more social capital investment into the sector, the central bank said.

It added that a sustainable business model will be established to support the de-stocking of existing commercial housing and help promote the transformation and development of the country's real estate industry.

Despite these concerning trends, California Governor Gavin Newsom recently claimed that "California continues to lead the nation's economy and create good jobs throughout the state."

However, Ohanian noted that this growth is primarily driven by government hiring, which accounted for 96.5 percent of the state's total job growth between January 2022 and June 2024.

UN officials praise Juncao tech

KIGALI, Aug 9, (Xinhua) - UN officials have commended China's efforts to transfer Juncao cultivation technology to local communities in Africa, highlighting its potential to drive economic transformation and create job opportunities.

Earle Courtenay Rattray, chief of Staff to the United Nations (UN) Secretary General, and Amson Sibanda, chief of the National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch Division for Sustainable Development Goals at the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, shared their insights in recent interviews with Xinhua, on the sidelines of a Juncao technology training workshop in Huye District, Rwanda, for African participants.

Rattray said that Juncao technology

To provide updates on latest services, programs, and applications

KFH organizes international business trip for Forssah trainees

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) organized a business trip for Forssah Program trainees to major international companies. The aim was to expose them to the latest systems and work methods, providing valuable experience as part of their human resources development. Demonstrating its commitment, KFH carefully selected the location for each group based on their specialization, with "Forssah-Tech" heading to Istanbul and "Forssah-Business" visiting Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

The training program for the Forssah-Business group included visits to major companies such as Visa and Mastercard. During these visits, officials and specialists shared their expertise with the trainees, discussing the latest services, systems, and cutting-edge customer service technology.

Meanwhile, the Forssah-Tech group visited Architect, a renowned Istanbul-based information technology company. Trainees had the opportunity to work within various departments of the company on a daily basis, gaining hands-on experience with the latest services, programs, and applications that can benefit the bank and enhance the overall customer experience.

Group Chief Human Resources and Transformation Officer, Zeyad AlOmar emphasized that KFH consistently utilizes all resources to develop its employees. He highlighted the Forssah program as one of the most critical training initiatives, providing significant value to both trainees and the bank.

He added that the Forssah program was established in 2009 and has since successfully produced exceptional employees who have made significant contributions to KFH's growth and helped maintain its leading position. The program continually evolves each year to align with the demands of the job market, incorporating new methods, intensive courses, and comprehensive training initiatives.

He stated that providing training to employees and honing their skills will



Zeyad AlOmar

AlOmar: Honing employees' skills, boosts their confidence to positively impact overall performance of KFH

lead to a clear understanding of their duties and the necessary expertise to complete tasks effectively. This, in turn, will boost their confidence and enable them to make a positive contribution to the organization's overall performance.

AlOmar explained that KFH is committed to providing training and developing employees through various courses and workshops. This approach aims to enhance their skills, nurture their talents, and align their growth with a comprehensive vision that benefits both individuals and the organization, ultimately improving customer service. He emphasized KFH's focus on building competencies and preparing employees for future leadership roles.

It is worth noting that KFH initiated the "Forssah" program in 2009 as a pioneering initiative to train outstanding Kuwaiti graduates from both local and international universities in relevant fields. Keeping pace with the latest global banking industry trends, the program serves as a gateway, opening up vast opportunities for exceptional students to build professional careers enriched with knowledge, development, and skill acquisition.



Photos of the Forssah trainees.



Group photo during the collaboration.

Agreement offers internships for students

KIB inks innovation agreement with AU for 'banking solutions'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the signing of an innovation cooperation agreement with the Australian University (AU), which aims to involve university students in a specialized innovation boot camp designed to help them address various banking challenges and propose innovative solutions. The agreement also seeks to provide undergraduate students with internships and employment opportunities that align with their interests and aspirations, setting them up for

successful start to their career journey. The new agreement reflects the Bank's commitment to its comprehensive social responsibility strategy, providing full support to educational institutions and enhancing the education sector's role in achieving sustainable social and economic development.

Commenting on the cooperation agreement, Mohamed Atef El-Shareef, General Manager of the Digital Innovation and Data Intelligence Department at KIB, said: "We are thrilled to join forces with one of the distin-

guished private universities in Kuwait and look forward to witnessing the fruits of this cooperation in the upcoming period. The agreement represents a significant step in our efforts to support a vital segment of our society, as we strive to continue nurturing young national talents and enhancing their capabilities. More importantly, it marks a milestone in KIB's 2024 Innovation Roadmap, aimed at empowering students to develop cutting-edge solutions for real-world banking challenges."

El-Shareef added: "This cooperation agreement underscores our commitment to the success of the Human Intelligence Innovation Program 'H.I.', which the Bank launched in 2023 as a foundational initiative and a roadmap for future innovation. By collaborating with various universities in Kuwait, we aim to enhance innovation and prioritize today's students and tomorrow's leaders. Additionally, this agreement paves the way for more cooperation with higher education institutions, benefiting both the students and the Bank."

On his part, Prof. Isam Zabalawi, President of the Australian University, said: "We are delighted to be part of this agreement, which plays a vital role in preparing the students for joining the labor market and achieving consistent success in their future careers. On this note, we extend our gratitude to KIB for their dedicated efforts in reinforcing the skills of our national calibers and offering them a holistic professional experience. Through KIB's boot camps, our students will have the opportunity to hone their skills, bolster their analytical skills and scientific thinking, and gain insight into optimizing their academic journey and turning its outcome into tools for their future professional success."

It is worth noting that KIB is committed to establishing long-term strategic agreements. As one of the leaders among local banking institutions, KIB actively engages in innovative educational initiatives and programs. The Bank also focuses on enhancing the capabilities of its own distinguished personnel. Furthermore, KIB plays a crucial role in sustainable development strategies that encompass all vital sectors, with a special emphasis on education and innovation.



Photos during the agreement signing.

Acting executive manager highlights commitment to employee growth

Burgan Bank celebrates first graduates of expanded 'Burgan Cares' program

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Burgan Bank recently celebrated three of its employees who completed their undergraduate studies and earned their bachelor's degrees as part of the "Burgan Cares" program, which has now expanded to encompass post graduate support. This comes in line with the Bank's dedicated human capital development strategy and its unwavering commitment to embedding Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices in its operations and culture.

Since its launch in 2022, the "Burgan Cares" program has centered on advancing employees in their careers by supporting their academic endeavors. In its initial phase, the program focused on sponsoring employees' efforts to earn a bachelor's degree. This year, the program's scope has been extended to offer more opportunities for those interested in pursuing an MBA, which serves as a testament to the Bank's pledge to create a supportive and enriching environment for its employees, where learning is encouraged and achievements are celebrated.

"At Burgan Bank, we believe that nurturing talent, fostering growth, and investing in our employees is the foundation of our institutional development, making every individual achievement a win for the Bank," said Mr. Bashar Al-Qattan, Acting Executive Manager - Learning and Talent Development at Burgan Bank. "Since the launch of the 'Burgan Cares' program, we have seen determined em-



Mr. Bashar Al-Qattan, Acting Executive Manager - Learning and Talent Development at Burgan Bank.

employees rekindle their aspiration to earn a bachelor's degree. Today, we are delighted to celebrate the first three Burgan employees to complete their undergraduate studies under the umbrella of 'Burgan Cares.'"

"On behalf of the Burgan Bank family, I would like to commend the graduates on their hard work, perseverance, and dedication to balancing their professional and academic responsibilities," he added. "We believe that many growth opportunities await them along their journeys. More importantly, we

vow to exert all that is in our power to ensure that Burgan employees receive the necessary support to reach their full potential, especially through pursuing undergraduate or postgraduate degrees."

In addition to the three recent graduates, 15 Burgan employees remain enrolled in their undergraduate studies on their way to earning a bachelor's degree under the "Burgan Cares" umbrella, with more aspiring employees expected to join the program.

As a certified Great Place to Work®, Burgan Bank continues to develop its growth and development scheme in a bid to offer its employees a wide range of learning opportunities that match their diverse personal needs and professional aspirations. Among the Bank's most notable learning and development programs is its flagship Ro'ya program, which aims to prepare the Bank's top talents to assume leadership positions within Burgan and across Kuwait's banking sector.

The Bank's learning and development efforts also include the Entelqaq program, which caters to the needs of new hires and ensures that they get an insightful head-start in their banking careers. Furthermore, Burgan Bank offers flagship programs internally and in partnership with distinguished universities to nurture the skills of its talents. This further solidifies the Bank's commitment to investing in human capital, developing Kuwait's vast talent pool, and contributing to the domestic economy.

35 students complete training at summer program

DDI organizes Annual Student Research Posters Day

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Dasman Diabetes Institute, founded by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, concluded this year's summer internship program, a program organized annually by the Institute for students of scientific and medical specialties in its various fields. The Institute organized a day to display scientific posters summarizing the research conducted by students during their training period under the supervision of specialists from the Institute. This scientific day was attended by Dr. Faisal Hamed Al-Refaei, Acting Director General of the Institute, in addition to many researchers and doctors of the institute.

On the sidelines of this scientific day, Dr. Al-Refaei stated that he is proud of what the students presented during this program, adding that it provides practical opportunities for students to be trained in an integrated and advanced work

environment at the Institute, specifying that this year has witnessed various research projects and initiatives on diabetes. Dr. Al-Refaei said that the aim of this training program, which extends over a period of 3 months, is to establish and provide the participating students with the necessary skills and practical knowledge in the research and scientific aspects, and to help them enhance their research capabilities.

This year, 35 students were enrolled in various projects to explore, develop and refine their scientific abilities, under the guidance of senior members of the scientific and medical team at the Institute and with the support of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences.

Dr. Al-Refaei concluded that Dasman Diabetes Institute, is pleased to provide the appropriate environment for developing the skills of researchers of the new generation in this field, wishing them success.



Photo during the campaign.

Third person arrested in foiled plot targeting Swift shows

VIENNA, Aug 10, (AP) — Austrian authorities on Friday announced a third arrest in connection with the foiled conspiracy to attack three now-canceled Taylor Swift concerts, even as disappointed fans charmed Vienna by trading friendship bracelets and singing the pop star's songs in the streets.

The main suspect, a 19-year-old, planned to target onlookers gathered outside Ernst Happel Stadium — up to 30,000 each night, with another 65,000 inside the venue — with knives or homemade explosives during the concert on Thursday or Friday. The suspect hoped to “kill as many people as possible,” authorities said.

He was taken into custody on Tuesday, along with a 17-year-old, officials said. Both are Austrian citizens.

The third suspect, an 18-year-old Iraqi citizen, was arrested Thursday evening, the interior minister said at an unrelated news conference Friday.

A 15-year-old was also interrogated but was not arrested. Their names were not released, in line with Austrian privacy rules.

Swift is still set to travel to London's Wembley stadium for five concerts between Aug. 15 and 20 to close the European leg of her record-setting Eras Tour.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said that while he understood Vienna's reasons for canceling, “We're going to carry on.”

Still, the Vienna plot drew comparisons to a 2017 attack by a suicide bomber at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England, that killed 22 people. The bomb detonated at the end of Grande's concert as

thousands of young fans were leaving, becoming the deadliest extremist attack in the United Kingdom in recent years.

Coldplay is scheduled to play four nights at the same Vienna stadium later this month.

Authorities said the scheme was inspired by the Islamic State group and al-Qaida. The main suspect, as well as the 18-year-old arrested Friday, pledged “an oath of allegiance” to the Islamic State group.

Investigators discovered bomb-making materials at the main suspect's home, as well as Islamic State group and al-Qaida material at the 17-year-old's home. That suspect, who has so far refused to talk, was employed a few days ago by a company providing unspecified services at the venue for the concerts.

Investigation

Although the 18-year-old swore the oath and “comes from the social environment” of the main suspect, Interior Minister Gerhard Karner said, he is not directly linked to the plot.

The Austrian Interior Ministry, in a statement Friday to The Associated Press, said “his arrest underscores the broad scope of the ongoing investigation. Authorities are taking decisive action against anyone who might be involved in terrorist activities or exhibits radical tendencies.”

Investigators are scrutinizing the “networks” of the suspects, the statement said, and have turned to evaluating physical and electronic evidence.

White House national security spokesman John Kirby spoke to reporters Friday regarding the US role in providing intelligence to Austria related to the Swift concerts.

“The United States has an enduring focus on our counterterrorism mission. We work closely with partners all over the world to monitor and disrupt threats. And so as part of that work, the United States did share information with Austrian partners to enable the disruption of a threat to Taylor Swift's concerts there in Vienna,” he said.

Shiraz Maher, an expert on Islamic extremism with the Department of War Studies at King's College London, said in a statement to the AP that attackers “prioritize casualties and therefore choose soft targets where they know large numbers of people will be congregating.”

Concert organizer Barracuda Music said it canceled the three-night Eras Tour run, scheduled to begin Thursday, because the arrests were too close to showtime.

Heartbroken Swifties consoled each other on social media and in the streets of Vienna. After traveling from across the globe, hundreds gathered on Corneliusgasse, a small street just 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the stadium whose name echoes that of “Cornelia Street,” a contemplative synth-pop track from Swift's 2019 album, “Lover.”

They sang Swift's top hits, took selfies and traded friendship bracelets hanging from the branches of the only tree on the street. Swift fans often swap the beaded bracelets, typically bearing Swift's song titles or popular phrases, with strangers at her concerts.

Music

Variety



This image released by 20th Century Studios shows Cailee Spaeny, (left), and David Jonsson in a scene from 'Alien: Romulus.' (AP)

Film

Cast on the thrill of acting opposite realistic terror

Realistic aliens enhance 'Romulus' scares

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Aug 10, (AP) — While filming “Alien: Romulus,” Cailee Spaeny didn't have to dig too deep to muster up sheer terror. She was often facing off against real creatures on set — or as close to real as they could get.

Under director Fede Álvarez, a prominent horror filmmaker, the actors played opposite animatronic and puppet alien creatures, including the famed “face huggers” and the dreaded xenomorph.

“From an acting standpoint, it's such a gift because you're not having to act against a tennis ball, so it's right there. There's less work you have to do,” Spaeny said in a recent interview.

Spaeny said using practical effects whenever possible was a priority for Álvarez from the beginning of the film's production.

“It needed that kind of close encounter feeling of seeing that the actors are in the same environment with whatever's the threat,” Álvarez, known for “Evil Dead” and “Don't Breathe,” said. “It works not just for the audience, but for us, as well. When it comes to making the movie, it just makes everything way more complicated, but I think it makes for better movies.”

The lifelike creatures and commitment to practical effects proved to create a chilling final product — at least for those in the crowd at Comic-Con International, who were treated to some extended scenes and clips during a panel promoting the movie. The audience of over 6,000 people gasped and cheered during the scenes, which Álvarez said he edited deceptively to avoid spoilers ahead of the Aug. 16 theatrical release.

To accomplish the practical effects, Álvarez enlisted a team of filmmakers who have worked with the infamous Stan Winston, the special effects artist known for his work in the “Terminator” series, the first three “Jurassic Park” films and, of course, “Aliens.” Several of the behind-the-scenes creatives on “Romulus” have worked on previous “Alien” movies — including Ridley Scott, who is a producer on the upcoming movie.

“From a film lover's standpoint, these guys — they're responsible for some of the best creatures in Hollywood, so to have them around it sort of adds to the joy of what filmmaking and entertainment is all about. That was just a real treat,” Spaeny said. “I think it makes

such a difference, not just for the actors and the crew making the movie, but hopefully for the audience, as well.”

Despite recruiting “Alien” alums behind the scenes, casting fresh actors who aren't readily associated with larger-than-life characters was important to Álvarez. “Romulus” is nestled between “Alien” and its sequel, “Aliens,” but Álvarez has made clear that the new film is a standalone. He said he valued giving every audience member, regardless of whether they've seen any other “Alien” movies, a “full meal” as they watched “Romulus,” ensuring no one felt like they were missing any key details.

Still, as someone who grew up watching the “Alien” movies and admires the franchise deeply, Álvarez had to include some nods to his predecessors.

Pleasure

“When certain things happen that tie in with the other movies, if you're an older audience, or even if you're younger and you're a fan and have seen all of them, you'll get that pleasure of discovering and finding and connecting — and also sound like a smart ass next to your non-fan friend,” Álvarez continued.

With Álvarez's eye for detail, cast member Isabela Mercedes said much of the production process was “meticulous,” down to the specks of fake blood on her face that had to be applied in the same exact spots for continuity. “It's a perfect pattern,” she said.

As anticipation for “Alien: Romulus” grows and the response to clips at Comic-Con and online continues to be overwhelmingly positive, Álvarez said he and his collaborators are finally getting to feel their work paying off after the long creative process, which he calls “torture.”

“You do it for that audience. You do it to cherish that moment,” he said. “For me, to watch the movie that you made with an audience that is enjoying it is the biggest gift you can get.”

Spaeny said she hopes audiences will appreciate how “special” it is to watch a movie like this on a big screen.

“To get to sort of walk into a theater and have that experience with a group of strangers is one of the many beauties of movies.”

Also:

WASHINGTON: National Geographic Documentary Films has announced that the exhilarating Base jumping documentary “Fly” will have an exclusive limited engagement in 300+ IMAX theatres on Sept. 2 and 3, followed by its television and streaming debut.

The film, which world premiered in March at SXSW and screened at Hot Docs, offers audiences an opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the film's thrilling, gravity-defying adventures on the largest screens possible. Following the IMAX release, will have its broadcast debut on National Geographic Channel on Sept. 24 and will stream the following day on Disney+ and Hulu.

In “Fly,” directors **Shaul Schwarz** and **Christina Clusiau** (“Shaun White: The Last Run,” “Immigration Nation,” the Emmy Award-winning “Trophy”) immerse viewers into the adrenaline-fueled yet perilous world of Base jumping. Equally heartfelt and hair-raising, “Fly” offers truly awesome big-screen viewing, inviting audiences to take the leap into a visceral experience that celebrates living your life and following your dreams through the beauty of human flight. While the risk of injury and death are a part of the life Base jumpers have chosen, shows the passion for living that guides three couples whose love stories are unique and extraordinary. In getting to know them, audiences are introduced to the tight-knit community of Base jumpers, athlete adventurers bound by their shared love for each other and the exhilaration of defying gravity.

Hailed as “truly awesome big screen viewing” by POV Magazine and “thrilling and gut-wrenching” by In The Seats, follows three couples entwined in the world of BASE jumping, risking everything for the rush of feeling truly alive: **Jimmy Pouchert** and **Marta Empinotti**, pioneering figures affectionately known as the Mom and Pop of BASE jumping; the fearless wingsuit pilot **Scotty Bob Morgan** and his newfound love, **Julia Botelho Morgan**; and the resilient duo **Amber Forte** and **Espen Fadnes**, whose bond is tested by triumph and tragedy. Through breathtaking aerial footage, vérité scenes and intimate interviews, the film explores the complex balance between passion and sacrifice. A poignant love story that celebrates the spirit of those who dare to defy gravity, capturing the essence of what it truly means to live on the edge.

PARIS: Rapper **Travis Scott** remained in police custody after his arrest at a Paris hotel following an altercation with a security guard, French prosecutors said Saturday.

A statement from the Paris prosecutor's office said the custody order for Scott was extended Friday night. It did not provide further details. Police are still investigating.

Scott's US-based representative and his lawyer did not immediately respond to questions from The Associated Press on the development.

Scott was arrested early Friday after police were called to the Georges V hotel to detain a man “nicknamed Travis Scott for violence against a security guard,” according to the prosecutor's earlier statement. The hotel security guard had intervened in an altercation between the rapper and his bodyguard.

After Friday's arrest, a representative of the rapper said they were “in direct communication with the local Parisian authorities to resolve this matter swiftly and will provide updates when appropriate.” The representative spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing.

The rapper was in Paris for the Olympics. He watched the **United States** rally over **Serbia** in the men's basketball semifinal on Thursday night.

Scott, one of the biggest stars in hip hop whose birth name is **Jacques Webster**, has more than 100 songs that made the Billboard Hot 100 and released four singles that topped the chart: “Sicko Mode,” “Highest in the Room,” “The Scotts,” and “Franchise.”

He has two children with his former girlfriend, media personality and businesswoman **Kylie Jenner**. (AP)

PARIS: H.E.R. will perform during the closing ceremony at the Paris Olympics.

The five-time Grammy winner is expected to sing the US national anthem live at the Stade de France as part of the handover for the **Los Angeles** Summer Games in 2028.

H.E.R. has won an Oscar, Emmy and Grammy awards during her decorated career. The 27-year-old from **California** won the Grammy for song of the year in 2021 for her protest anthem “I

Can't Breathe.” In the same year, she took home best original song for the soulful “Fight for You” from the “Judas and the Black ...” soundtrack at the Academy Awards. She co-wrote both songs. The singer also wrote the Netflix animated series “We the People,” which won her an award at the Children's and Fam-



Scott



H.E.R.

ily Emmys. H.E.R. starred in the adaptation of “The Color Purple” that was produced by **Oprah Winfrey** and **Steven Spielberg** in 2023. She made an appearance as a guest performer alongside **Usher** at the Super Bowl halftime show in February. (AP)

BEIJING: The 27th Beijing Music Festival, scheduled from Oct. 5 to 13, will present 10 concerts featuring artists from countries including **China**, the **United States**, **Britain**, **Germany**, **South Africa**, **Austria**, **France** and **Italy**. The opening concert will be performed by the China National Symphony Orchestra under the

baton of the internationally acclaimed composer **Tan Dun**, according to a press briefing of the music festival.

Audiences will be treated to flash mob performances along Beijing's central axis, a 700-year-old line of historical and cultural landmarks recently added to the United Nations' cultural heritage list. (Xinhua)

People & Places



This image released by Walt Disney Animation Studios shows a scene from 'Moana 2,' expected in theaters November 2024. (AP)

Obit

Feminist icon

Pioneering publisher Betty Prashker dead

NEW YORK, Aug 10, (AP) — Betty Prashker, a pioneering editor of the 20th century who as one of the first women with the power to acquire books published such classics as Kate Millet's "Sexual Politics" and Susan Faludi's "Backlash" and helped oversee the careers of Jean Auel, Dominick Dunne and Erik Larson, among others, died July 30 at age 99.

Prashker died at a family home in Alford, Massachusetts, according to her daughter, Lucy Prashker, who cited no specific cause of death. At various times, Prashker held executive positions at Crown and Doubleday, both now divisions of Penguin Random House.

"Without Betty, there would have been no Crown Publishing as we know it," a Penguin Random House executive vice president and publisher and former Crown publisher Tina Constable said in a statement Friday. "I am just one of many colleagues who benefited greatly from her experience, and from her unwaveringly championing advancement and higher pay for women in publishing."

Born Betty Arnoff in New York City and a graduate of Vassar College, Prashker was a longtime bookworm, storyteller and tennis player whose life and career mirrored those of many women after World War II. She started out as a reader-receptionist at Doubleday in 1945, married labor lawyer Herbert Prashker in 1950 (they divorced in 1974) and took off the next decade to raise their three children. With the help of the emerging feminist movement of the 1960s, she returned to work and became an associate publisher. She had initially been turned down by Doubleday, in the early 1960s, but a few years later was unexpectedly asked to lunch by Editor-in-Chief Ken McCormick.

"Doubleday doesn't have enough women in top jobs," Prashker remembered him telling her, as quoted in Al Silverman's "The Time of Their Lives," a publishing history. "And if we want to continue to do business with the government, we have got to do something in the way of affirmative action and have more women in our group."

Back in the 1940s, Prashker had failed to convince Doubleday to take on a promising young writer she had met at a Greenwich Village party, James Baldwin. Now, her judgment was welcomed. In the late 1960s, she learned of a Columbia University graduate student writing a Ph.D. dissertation on how women were depicted in Western literature. Prashker signed up the student, Millet, and published what became "Sexual Politics," a cornerstone of second-wave feminism that Prashker would call an "educational experience for a dilettante like me."

Devoted

Over the following decades she would publish hundreds of books, including such hits as Larson's "The Devil in the White City," Auel's "The Clan of the Cave Bear" series and Dunne's "The Two Mrs. Grenvilles." In the early 1990s, when she was editor-in-chief at Crown, she acquired a book on the anti-feminist wave of the previous decade that several other publishers had rejected, Faludi's "Backlash: The Undeclared War Against Women."

"My determined and devoted agent tried everything, including pitching the book as 'a female 'In Search of Excellence'" (a long-running bestseller then) — with both of us praying no one would ask what that meant," Faludi wrote on medium.com in 2014. "In the end, the one person who was interested was Betty Prashker, editor-in-chief at Crown Publishers and, not coincidentally, a feminist pioneer."

Not long after releasing "Backlash," Prashker signed up an author whose first book had sold poorly and who was seeking a new publisher: Erik Larson had been working on an exploration of guns in the US, "Lethal Passage," which Crown published in 1994.

"I first met with Betty in her office and after a while she started to get up and said 'I have another meeting now,' and I thought, 'That's it for me.'" Larson told The Associated Press during a telephone interview Friday. "But it turned out the meeting was for me. She leads me into a conference room and there all these people primed to work on the book — marketing, editorial, publicity, the whole deal. It was a terrific experience."



Prashker



Geena Davis arrives at the premiere of 'Blink Twice' at DGA Theater Complex on Thursday, Aug. 8, in Los Angeles. (AP)

Variety

PHOENIX: An appeals court on Friday overturned the conviction and life sentence of a man found guilty of killing a US Border Patrol agent whose death exposed the botched federal gun operation known as "Fast and Furious" has been overturned, a US appeals court said Friday.

The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals vacated the convictions of **Heracio Osorio-Arellanes**, saying his constitutional due process rights had been violated, and sent the case back to the US District Court in Arizona for further proceedings.

Osorio-Arellanes was sentenced in 2020 in the Dec. 14, 2010 fatal shooting of Agent **Brian Terry** while he was on a mission in Arizona.

Osorio-Arellanes was convicted of first-degree murder and other charges after being extradited from Mexico. He was among seven defendants who were tried and convicted in Terry's killing.

The appeals court said Osorio-Arellanes had confessed to "essential elements" of the US government's case against him while being interrogated in a Mexico City prison.

On appeal, he argued that he was entitled to a new trial because his confession was taken in violation of his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination, as well as his Sixth Amendment right to effective assistance of counsel. He also argued that he did not have a fair trial, and his attorney said he is illiterate and didn't understand the proceedings.

The Obama administration was widely criticized for the "Fast and Furious" operation, in which U.S. federal agents allowed criminals to buy firearms with the intention of tracking them to criminal organizations. But the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives lost track of most of the guns, including two found at scene of Terry's death. (AP)

NEW YORK: Disney and the owner of the Universal theme parks each reported softer results from their amusement parks in their most recent quarters, which signals the travel surge that fueled high attendance in theme parks after the pandemic may be waning following steep price increases and greater interest by travelers in other destinations, reported The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) on Friday.

"The lower-income consumer is feeling a little bit of stress. The high-income consumer is traveling internationally a bit more," Disney Chief Financial Officer **Hugh Johnston** said in the company's earnings call on Wednesday.

In its most recent quarter, Comcast CMCSA which owns Universal Destinations & Experiences reported a 10.6 percent decline in revenue in its park division from the previous year.

Six Flags said its attendance declined 2 percent, which was partly due to fewer operating days than the year-ago quarter. Disney said its attendance was stable, though operating income in its domestic park division declined 6 percent.

"The results come as a range of businesses from McDonald's to Airbnb have

Film

Live performances, stars appearances thrill fans

Disney teases new films, franchises

ANAHEIM, Calif., Aug 10, (AP) — Disney teased upcoming its movies and television series including "Moana 2" in a rousing showcase featuring sneak peaks, live performances and surprise appearances from actors including Dwayne Johnson, Zoe Saldana and Jude Law.

Fans at Disney's D23 convention welcomed CEO Bob Iger with a standing ovation Friday at the top of the showcase. "The world needs to be entertained maybe even more so now than ever before and we take that responsibility seriously," he said before presentations teased new movies in the "Avatar," "Toy Story" and "Incredibles" franchises.

In the evening's first surprise, Auli'i Cravalho and Dwayne Johnson of "Moana" jolted the crowd of over 15,000 at the Honda Center with a performance of a song featuring drummers and dancers in costumes styled after the beloved animated movie.

Both actors are reprising their roles as Moana and Maui, respectively, in "Moana 2," which is set to hit theaters Nov. 27. Before showing an extended sneak peek of the film, Johnson said that working on the films has been special to him, noting that his daughters, who are 6 and 8 years old, were in the crowd.

Disney subsequently released the film's first full-length trailer online. The footage introduces characters new (Moana now has a little sister) and familiar, like her pet pig Pua and the Kakamora, a band of dart-blowing coconut-clad pirates.

Johnson also announced that he'd be continuing his long-running work on Disney projects to create a "Monster Jam" live-action movie. The studio did not announce any updates to Johnson's other Disney project, the live-action "Moana," that is in development.

Jon Favreau and Dave Filoni teased the May 2026 Star Wars film "The Mandalorian & Grogu," which they said only started filming recently. Favreau said he felt compelled to "put something together" for the showcase and showed a brief clip featuring the title characters, as he put it, "on a whole new journey."

Law spoke about "Star Wars: Skeleton Crew," announcing it will be coming to Disney+ on Dec. 3.

"I fell in love with 'Star Wars' when I was a 10-year-old boy," Law said before he sharing footage from the show, which has been billed as a coming-of-age tale.

Pixar Animation Chief Creative Officer Pete Docter announced the studio is developing a third installment of

"The Incredibles" franchise.

Andrew Stanton, who directed the first two "Toy Story" films, has returned to lead "Toy Story 5."

Stanton said the battle Woody, Buzz and the rest of the crew take on in this film is toys versus tech, noting that kids often opt for gadgets instead of classic toys today. The film is slated for theaters in summer 2026.

Jennifer Lee, the chief creative officer of Walt Disney Animation Studios, shared concept art from "Frozen III" that features Anna, Elsa and Olaf looking onto the horizon with an ominous creature lurking close behind them. The film will arrive in 2027.

Director James Cameron and actors Zoe Saldana and Sam Worthington reunited on stage to share new information about the third installment of "Avatar." They announced the official title, "Avatar: Fire and Ash" and shared concept art that shows new glimpses of Pandora. Cameron said the film was too early in the production phase to show clips.

Announcements

"The new film is not what you expect, but it's definitely what you want," said Cameron, who will be bestowed "Disney Legends" status in a ceremony to close out D23 on Sunday.

Fans were also treated to an exclusive look at "Zootopia 2," coming to theaters November 2025. The film's star, Ginnifer Goodwin, also announced Ke Huy Quan will be joining the cast of "Zootopia 2" as a snake.

Following the blitz of announcements from Marvel at Comic-Con International, Marvel president Kevin Feige came out after a welcome video from "Deadpool" star Ryan Reynolds, where he thanked the crowd for their support of the box office record-breaking "Deadpool & Wolverine."

Ryan Coogler, the director of the "Black Panther" movies, joined Feige to share information about the upcoming series "Ironheart," starring Dominique Thorne and Anthony Ramos. The cast introduced a first look at the series that follows Thorne's character, Riri Williams, who was first introduced in "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever."

Feige also spoke about "Marvel's first family," the Fantastic Four. Pedro Pascal, Vanessa Kirby, Joseph Quinn and Ebon Moss-Bachrach said hello to the audience in a short video clip in their costumes from the set in the U.K., where filming began late last month. Before showing a brief edit of pre-production clips, Feige said they embraced the retro style of the 1960s

for the film's aesthetic.

Music will be a key part of "Mufasa: The Lion King," the upcoming live-action prequel to the 1994 classic. Jenkins also brought out Lin-Manuel Miranda, who created original music for the new movie. Beyond his success with "Hamilton," Miranda penned songs for "Moana" and "Encanto."

The duo introduced a clip from the film featuring a new song, "I Always Wanted a Brother," which depicts the early relationship between Mufasa and Scar.

Rachel Zegler and Gal Gadot, who are starring in the live-action "Snow White" movie, which is scheduled for March 2025. Zegler plays the original Disney princess and "Wonder Woman" Gadot plays the evil queen. The stars shared a sneak peak of highly anticipated adaptation, which will feature new songs from duo Benji Pasek and Justin Paul, known for "La La Land" and "Dear Evan Hansen."

"Tron: Ares" will have a soundtrack composed by Nine Inch Nails.

Kathryn Hahn performed a new song from her upcoming Marvel series "Agatha All Along," another earworm for fans of the 2021 "WandaVision" musical number. Hahn praised the "Agatha All Along" songwriters Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, who also penned hits for "Frozen" and "Coco." The duo also wrote the hit song from "WandaVision" that the series is named after.

Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsey Lohan announced the official title for the highly anticipated "Freaky Friday" sequel, "Freakier Friday."

Curtis, who will be honored as a Disney Legend on Sunday, said she felt like no time had passed since they filmed the original 2003 movie as they shared the first images from the new film.

Docter also announced an original Pixar film, "Hoppers," starring Bobby Moynihan and Jon Hamm, and shared exclusive looks at upcoming film "Elio." The young star of "Elio," Yonas Kibreab, brought Saldana back on-stage and announced her as a leading character, joining America Ferrera and Jameela Jamil in the cast. The movie will hit theaters June 13, 2025.

Pixar will also have two new series hitting Disney+ in a first for the studio. Following the record-breaking success of "Inside Out 2," the studio is creating "Dream Productions," a show set in between "Inside Out" and "Inside Out 2," that will start streaming on Disney+ in 2025. "Win or Lose," the first Pixar longform series, will hit Disney+ Dec. 6.

reported softening demand, putting investors on high alert for signs of an economic slowdown," noted WSJ. (Xinhua)

NEW YORK: Wrexham is at the halfway stage of its unlikely journey toward the Premier League.

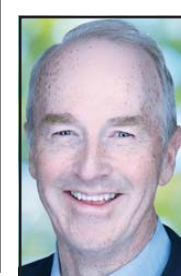
Next stop: League One. Hot off a successful preseason tour to the west coast of the United States, the Welsh club co-owned by actor **Ryan Reynolds** begins its domestic season on Saturday with a home match against Wycombe Wanderers in the third tier of English soccer.

Wrexham hasn't played at this level for 19 years, a sign of the progress made by the team since it was bought by Reynolds and another actor, **Rob McElhenney**, for \$2.5 million in 2021.

Another sign is the success of "Welcome to Wrexham" — the Emmy Award-winning, fly-on-the-wall documentary chronicling the Hollywood stars' first foray into soccer

ownership that is into a third season, with the promise of a fourth.

Another is the sight of up to 35,000 spectators flocking to watch Wrexham's exhibition matches on its North American tour, which started in California with draws against Premier League teams **Chelsea** (2-2) and **Bournemouth** (1-1) and ended in Reynolds' home town of Vancouver. Wrexham beat Vancouver Whitecaps



Johnston



Reynolds

4-1, with Reynolds in attendance soon after a whirlwind press tour for the movie "Deadpool & Wolverine."

It was telling that, in announcing its four-year deal to show matches from the English Football League (the three divisions below the Premier League), American broadcaster CBS Sports prioritized the attraction of Wrexham.

"How to watch Wrexham, Burnley, Leeds and Americans," CBS stated in its statement.

Indeed, eyes from around the world are now on the team known as the Dragons, especially after back-to-back promotions from the National League to League One, which features eight clubs to have previously played in the Premier League — Barnsley, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bolton, Charlton, Huddersfield, Reading and Wigan.

It's the Premier League, the most popular soccer league in the world, where Reynolds and McElhenney want to take Wrexham. (AP)

An emergency treatment for severe reactions

FDA approves first nasal spray to treat allergic reactions

NEW YORK, Aug 10, (AP) — US health officials on Friday approved a nasal spray to treat severe allergic reactions, the first needle-free alternative to shots like EpiPen.

The Food and Drug Administration said it approved the spray from drugmaker ARS Pharmaceuticals Inc. as an emergency treatment for adults and older children experiencing life-threatening allergic reactions known as anaphylaxis.

Anaphylaxis occurs when the body's immune system develops a sudden, unexpected reaction to a foreign substance, such as food, insect stings or medications. Common symptoms include hives, swelling, itching, vomiting and difficulty breathing.

The device, marketed as Neffy, could open treatment for the 33 million to 45 million Americans with severe allergies to food and other triggers. Anaphylaxis sends more than 30,000 people to emergency rooms



This image provided by ARS Pharmaceuticals on Friday, Aug. 9, shows the company's Neffy nasal spray to treat severe allergic reactions. (AP)

and results in more than 2,000 hospitalizations and more than 230 deaths in the U.S. each year.

Of the 6 million prescriptions written for auto-injectors each year, more than 40% are never filled, Dr. Thomas Casale, an allergist at the University of South Florida, told an FDA advisory panel last year. Even when they are available to caregivers, many auto-injectors are used incorrectly, he said.

"There's a real unmet medical need for a large portion of the population," he said.

Neffy is intended for people who weigh at least 66 pounds. It is given in a single dose sprayed into one nostril. A second dose can be given if the person's symptoms don't improve.

The new treatment could be life-changing for people with severe food allergies, said Dr. Kelly Cleary, a pediatrician and director with the Food Allergy Research & Education, a non-profit advocacy group.

"I have seen the look of worry or fear," said Cleary, whose 11-year-old son has multiple food allergies. "I worry about what happens if someone hesitates."

Requiring an injection in an emergency is as scary to some children as the allergic reaction itself. Some parents have had to restrain thrashing children to inject them, sometimes causing cuts that require stitches. About 3,500 caregivers a year are injured when they accidentally inject themselves in the hands, ARS said.

Priscilla Hernandez, of Pasadena, California said her 12-year-old son, Zacky, who is allergic to sesame, peanuts, tree nuts, avocado and other foods, was traumatized when he had a reaction at school about six years ago and a nurse treated him with an auto-injector. "Having to do a shot creates this whole different level of anxiety," she said.

She said, "we are over the moon"

about the FDA's approval of the spray, which Zacky will start carrying when it becomes available.

First marketed in 1901, epinephrine predates the FDA itself. Products like the EpiPen auto-injector, approved in 1987, were authorized based on chemistry and manufacturing data and were not required to prove safety and efficacy.

Clinical trials of people experiencing potentially deadly reactions are difficult for ethical and pragmatic reasons. Instead, ARS officials compared the effect of the nasal spray on biological markers to existing epinephrine treatments.

Results showed Neffy worked about as well as injected epinephrine to boost heart rate and blood pressure, which counter severe reactions. The drug is combined with a patented agent that allows it to be easily absorbed through nasal membranes.

Other needle-free epinephrine de-

vices are being developed to treat allergic reactions. In the pipeline are nasal sprays from Bryn Pharma, of North Carolina, and Nausus Pharma, of Israel; a needle-free auto-injector from Crossject of France; and an epinephrine film that is administered under the tongue from Aquestive Therapeutics, of New Jersey.

Neffy is designed to be easy to carry and easy to use, especially for children, said Richard Lowenthal, president and chief executive of San Diego-based ARS.

"We don't want fear. There's no needle, there's no pain with this product," he said. "It's basically like spraying saline into your nose."

Neffy will come in packs of two and is expected to cost about the same as a two-pack of auto-injectors, around \$300 to \$700. Lowenthal said he hoped insurance companies would cover the cost to patients for a low copay amount.

Call for more study

FDA rejects psychedelic MDMA as PTSD therapy

WASHINGTON, Aug 10, (AP) — Federal health regulators has declined to approve the psychedelic drug MDMA as a therapy for PTSD, a major setback for groups seeking a breakthrough decision in favor of mind-altering substances to treat serious mental health conditions.

Drugmaker Lykos Therapeutics said the FDA notified the company that its drug "could not be approved based on data submitted to date," and requested an additional late-stage study. Such studies generally takes several years and millions of dollars to conduct. The company said it plans to ask the agency to reconsider.

Lykos and other psychedelic companies had hoped that MDMA would be approved and pave the way for other hallucinogenic drugs to enter the medical mainstream. If the FDA had granted the request, MDMA, also known as ecstasy or molly, would have become the first illegal psychedelic to become a federally approved medicine.

Problems

The FDA's decision was expected after a panel of government advisors voted overwhelmingly against the drug's use for post-traumatic stress disorder in June. The negative vote came after an all-day meeting in which experts scrutinized Lykos' study data, research methods and possible risks of the drug, including heart problems, injury and abuse.

FDA said Friday the MDMA application had "significant limitations" that "prevent the agency from concluding that the drug is safe and effective for the proposed indication." The agency said it will continue encouraging "innovation for psychedelic treatments and other therapies to address these medical needs."

Lykos said the issues FDA raised in what's called a complete response letter echoed the concerns during the June meeting. "The FDA request for another study is deeply disappointing," Lykos CEO Amy Emerson said Friday in a statement. "Our heart breaks for the millions of military veterans, first responders, victims of sexual and domestic abuse and countless others suffering from PTSD who may now face more years without access to new treatment options."

Lykos is essentially a corporate spinoff of the nation's leading psychedelic advocacy group, the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic

Spread feared

Africa mpox needs urgent action: CDC

ADDIS ABABA, Aug 10, (Xinhua) — The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) on Thursday called for urgent action to avert the "concerning spread" of mpox across the continent.

Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya, addressing a media briefing on the multi-country mpox outbreak in Africa on Thursday, said at least 16 countries across all five regions of Africa have been affected by mpox.

He said some 38,465 cases and 1,456 deaths have been reported in Africa since January 2022, including 887 cases and five deaths during the last week. Data from the Africa CDC show that six new African countries have been affected by mpox during the past 10 days alone, while 18 other African countries are at high risk of being affected by the disease.

Calling for urgent action against the rapid spread of mpox in Africa, the Africa CDC chief said mpox was declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organization from July 2022 to May 2023.

Noting that the number of new mpox cases reported this year represented a 160 percent increase compared to the same period in 2023, Kaseya underscored the need to take strong actions against the current spread of mpox in Africa. "When we had the public health emergency of international concern and if we compare it with where we are today, we saw a huge increase justifying the action that we are taking," he said.

Studies, or MAPS, which funded the initial studies of MDMA by raising millions of dollars from wealthy backers.

The group has been a pioneer in researching the medical use of psychedelics, which major pharmaceutical companies have been unwilling to fund. Two small studies submitted to the FDA suggested combining MDMA with talk therapy led to significant easing of PTSD symptoms.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Aug 10, (AP) — NASA is wrestling over how and when to bring two astronauts back from the International Space Station, after repeatedly delaying their return aboard Boeing's troubled capsule.

Do they take a chance and send them home soon in Boeing's Starliner? Or wait and bring them back next year with SpaceX?

Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams have been up there since early June, their planned eight-day mission at the two-month mark and possibly surpassing eight months.

Testing continues, with Boeing expressing confidence in its spacecraft but NASA divided. A decision is expected next week.

This is Boeing's first time launching astronauts, after flying a pair of empty Starliners that suffered software and other issues. Even before Wilmore and Williams blasted off June 5, their capsule sprang a leak in propulsion-related plumbing. Boeing and NASA judged the small helium leak to be stable and isolated, and proceeded with the test flight. But as Starliner approached the space station the next day, four more leaks erupted. Five thrusters also failed.

Malfunctions

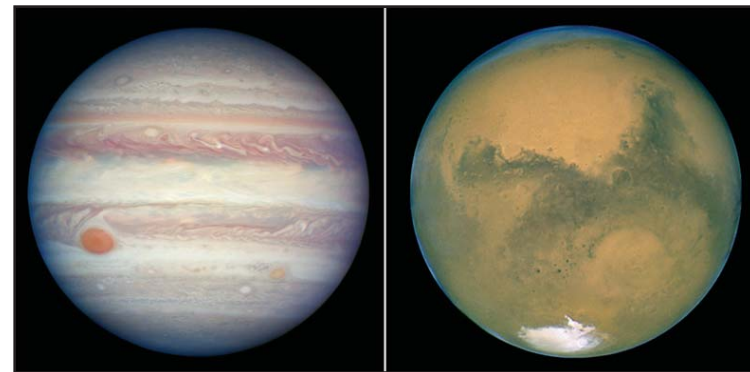
The capsule managed to dock safely, and four of the thrusters ultimately worked. But engineers scrambled, conducting thruster test-firings on the ground and in space. After two months, there's still no root cause for the thruster malfunctions. All but one of the 28 thrusters seem OK, but the fear is that if too many conk out again, the crew's safety could be jeopardized. The thrusters are needed at flight's end to keep the capsule in the right position for the critical deorbit burn.

NASA bristles at suggestions that Wilmore and Williams are stranded or stuck. NASA has stressed from the get-go that in an emergency at the space station - like a fire or decompression - Starliner could still be used by the pair as a lifeboat to leave. A former NASA executive said Thursday the astronauts are "kind of stuck," although certainly not stranded. They're safe aboard the space station with plenty of supplies and work to do, said Scott Hubbard.

If NASA decides to go with a SpaceX return, Starliner would be

Delay return or switch to SpaceX

Could two NASA astronauts be stuck at the space station until next year?



This combination image, created from two photos provided by NASA, shows Jupiter pictured on April 3, 2017, (left), and Mars pictured on Aug. 26, 2003, (right). (AP)

The Perseids are here

Mars and Jupiter won't get this close again until 2033

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Aug 10, (AP) — Mars and Jupiter are cozying up in the night sky for their closest rendezvous this decade.

They'll be so close Wednesday, at least from our perspective, that just a sliver of moon could fit between them. In reality, our solar system's biggest planet and its dimmer, reddish neighbor will be more than 350 million miles (575 million kilometers) apart in their respective orbits.

The two planets will reach their minimum separation - one-third of 1 degree or about one-third the width of the moon - during daylight hours Wednesday in most of the Americas, Europe and Africa. But they won't appear that much different hours or even a day earlier when the sky is dark, said Jon Giorgini of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California.

The best views will be in the eastern sky, toward constellation Taurus,

before daybreak. Known as planetary conjunctions, these cosmic pairings happen only every three years or so.

"Such events are mostly items of curiosity and beauty for those watching the sky, wondering what the two bright objects so close together might be," he said in an email. "The science is in the ability to accurately predict the events years in advance." Their orbits haven't brought them this close together, one behind the other, since 2018. And it won't happen again until 2033, when they'll get even chummier.

The closest in the past 1,000 years was in 1761, when Mars and Jupiter appeared to the naked eye as a single bright object, according to Giorgini. Looking ahead, the year 2348 will be almost as close. This latest link up of Mars and Jupiter coincides with the Perseid meteor shower, one of the year's brightest showers. No binoculars or telescopes are needed.

cut loose first to open up one of two parking spots for US capsules. Before that happens Wilmore and Williams would fashion seats for themselves in

the SpaceX Dragon capsule currently docked at the space station. That's because every station occupant needs a lifeboat at all times. Once Starliner's

docking port is empty, then SpaceX could launch another Dragon to fill that slot - the one that Wilmore and Williams would ride.

Like Boeing's Starliner, SpaceX's Dragon is meant to carry four astronauts. To make room for Wilmore and Williams, NASA said Wednesday it could bump two of the four astronauts due to launch to the space station next month with SpaceX. The empty seats would be reserved for Wilmore and Williams, but they would have to remain up there until February. That's because station missions are supposed to last at least six months. Some have lasted a year. Two Russians up there right now will close out a yearlong stint when they return in a three-seat Soyuz capsule in September alongside a NASA crewmate. There's no thought given to ordering up a special SpaceX express, and the Dragon at the station now is the ride home next month for four residents.

This isn't the first time a U.S. astronaut has had their stay extended. NASA astronaut Frank Rubio and his two Russian crewmates ended up spending just over a year in space after their docked Soyuz capsule was hit by space junk and leaked all its coolant. An empty Russian capsule was sent up to bring them back last September.

Wilmore and Williams are both retired Navy captains and longtime NASA astronauts who already have long space station missions behind them. Wilmore, 61, and Williams, 58, said going into this test flight that they expected to learn a lot about Starliner and how it operates. At their only news conference from space in July, they assured reporters they were keeping busy, helping with repairs and research, and expressed confidence in all the Starliner testing going on behind the scenes. There's been no public word from them yet on the prospects of an eight-month stay.

Wilmore and Williams' suitcases were removed from Starliner before liftoff to make room for equipment urgently needed for the space station's urine-into-drinking-water recycling system. So they made do with spare clothes already up there. A supply ship finally arrived this week with their clothes, along with extra food and science experiments for the entire nine-person crew.

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Wu, Khelif also win gold in boxing

Golden evening performance for Uzbekistan

PARIS, Aug 10, (Xinhua): The penultimate day of boxing at Roland Garros saw four gold medals awarded on Friday, as China's Wu Yu, Algeria's Imane Khelif, and the Uzbekistan duo of Asadkhujia Muzydinkhujaev and Lazizbek Mullojonov all won gold.

In the women's 50kg final, China's Wu Yu defeated Buse Naz Cakiroglu of Türkiye via split decision 4-1 to win China's second gold medal in boxing.

In the opening round, Wu used her superior speed to enter the rangy Cakiroglu's guard and deliver from inside. While both women exchanged on the inside, it was the final 30 seconds of unanswered shots that swung the round for Wu on four of the five scorecards.

The second round carried on from the first with both women trading blows in and out of the clinch, but it was Wu who landed the most consequential of the punches to again win on four of the scorecards.

The awkward clinches caused the referee to deduct points for blows to the back of the head and one sharp shot to Cakiroglu's buttocks, yet the Chinese maintained her superiority throughout the round and wrapped up the win by scoring big on the inside.

Cakiroglu came out hard in the third, advancing towards the Chinese with little impact, other than creating awkward clinches that at one point almost caused the pair to fall out of the ring.

However, despite more openings

presenting themselves as Cakiroglu moved forward, Wu stayed disciplined in her approach.

"If I were to rate my performance out of 100, I'd give myself a 60 to 70. I feel there's a lot more I could have done, but I didn't fully show it. Even though I won, in the earlier rounds, I was focused on staying steady. I didn't want to lose control by becoming too aggressive, which could have negatively impacted my performance. Once I secured the win, I felt more at ease. I don't like the feeling of being out of

BOXING

control," Wu admitted.

"Winning this medal has always felt like my mission. When a new weight category was introduced, I felt like my chance had come. I didn't have opportunities like this before, so I cherished every day of training, pushing myself through every challenge without complaining, because not everyone gets this kind of opportunity," Wu said, reflecting on her journey following her win.

Yang Liu (in blue) of China competes against Imane Khelif of Algeria during the women's boxing 66kg final at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, Aug. 9, 2024. (Xinhua/Jiang Wenya) Yang Liu, on the other hand, could not add to China's gold medal tally after she lost via unani-

Brazilian duo claim women's beach volleyball title

PARIS, Aug 10, (Xinhua): World No. 1 Ana Patricia Silva Ramos and Eduarda Santos Lisboa from Brazil beat Melissa Humana-Paredes and Brandie Wilkerson of Canada in a three-set thriller in the final to claim the gold medal of the women's beach volleyball at the Paris Games. The Brazilian duo were crowned

with their seventh straight win at the Eiffel Tower Stadium 26-24, 12-21, 15-10 while Humana-Paredes and Wilkerson took home Canada's first Olympic medal in women's beach volleyball.

Having had to fight through from the lucky loser round to the final, the Canadians surprisingly jumped to an

8-2 lead in the first set, only to find the unbeaten Brazilian tandem pull it back at 17-all. Then the two sides exchanged leads for a tie at 24-24 before Silva Ramos and Santos Lisboa took two points in a row for the opener.

Humana-Paredes and Wilkerson pulled away from a 10-all to wrap up

the second set with a 11-2 burst and forced the tiebreak, where the Brazilians raced to a 5-2 lead and never looked back.

Earlier, Tanja Hueberli and Nina Brunner of Switzerland swept Marifate Artacho del Solar and Taliqa Clancy from Australia 21-17, 21-15 for the bronze medal.

mous decision to Imane Khelif in the women's 66kg final.

Supported by a passionate Algerian fanbase, Khelif walked out to massive cheers, while Yang was greeted with a far more hostile reaction on her walk with the Algerian fans desperate for gold.

Wary of the Algerian's superior power, Yang started the fight sitting on the outside, looking to use her superior boxing skill and speed to open Khelif. However, Khelif was prepared to wait for Yang to throw first before fighting ugly on the inside and catching Yang on entry.

Khelif's superior power began to pay its dues. Despite landing fewer punches than Yang, every time Yang was caught by Khelif's right, it sent her marching back a few paces.

In the third, down unanimously, Yang tried to be more aggressive but could not overcome Khelif's iron-like right which continued to send her off balance a few steps and look poor aesthetically in the judges' eyes and scorecards.

Following the match, Yang, at the age of 32, reflected on her future in the sport. "I want to take some time to rest. The preparation for the Olympics has been exhausting, especially since the focus has been entirely on this event. Now that it's over, I feel a bit worn out and just want to relax for a while," Yang said. "My next goal is the National Games next year. After that, I'll reassess my plans for the next stage of my career."

"If I have the opportunity, I would love to continue fighting in future

Olympics."

Asadkhujia Muzydinkhujaev (in red) of Uzbekistan is announced the winner after defeating Marco Alonso Verde Alvarez of Mexico in the men's boxing 71kg final at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, Aug. 9, 2024. (Xinhua/Du Yu) In the men's 71kg final, Marco Verde, chasing Mexico's first Olympic gold since 1968, fell to the supreme Asadkhujia Muzydinkhujaev of Uzbekistan.

Muzydinkhujaev's footwork exposed the Mexican over the three rounds as the Uzbek ran rings around Verde, using his shoulder roll to effectively slip punches.

Despite an onslaught in the third as Verde looked for the knockout, Muzydinkhujaev never looked troubled despite playing defense.

The result represents Uzbekistan's

second boxing gold of the Games.

Uzbekistan were soon celebrating their third gold after Lazizbek Mullojonov defeated Loren Alfonso of Azerbaijan in the men's 92kg final via unanimous decision.

In the first, southpaw Mullojonov boxed confidently from the outside, maintained his shell defense, and was able to comfortably roll with Alfonso's ineffective counterpunches.

Alfonso came out in the second more relaxed with his hands down and was able to land more on Mullojonov. However, the Uzbek was still able to keep control of the round and beat the Cuban-born fighter to the punch.

In the third, Mullojonov switched to a high guard and was content to coast through the rounds, absorbing the timid offense of Alfonso.

Spain hold off France in 8-goal thriller

Super-sub Camello scores two

PARIS, Aug 10, (Xinhua): Sergio Camello scored two goals in extra time to help Spain beat France 5-3 to win the men's football gold medal at the Paris Olympics.

Camello, who came on in the 83rd minute, finished off the pulsating match with his personal second goal of the game after he was put on a solo run by a long pass from Spain goalkeeper Arnau Tenas in the first minute of extra time.

His deft lob made it 4-3 for Spain in the 100th minute when a pass from teammate Adrian Bernabe found him unmarked in the area of France goalkeeper Guillaume Restes.

Spain had scored three goals in ten first-half minutes, but France equalized with a penalty in injury time to drag the match into extra time.

Midfielder Enzo Millot put the hosts 1-0 ahead in the 11th minute

SOCCER

as he capitalized on a failed clearance at the right-hand side of the box and drove in an angled shot.

Fermin Lopez pulled level for Spain in the 18th minute when he met a pass from the right flank unchallenged before firing home.

In the 26th minute, Lopez tapped in a rebound after Restes failed to hold a shot, making it 2-1.

Two minutes later, Alex Baena curved in direct free kick to put Spain 3-1 in front.

France stepped up their offense after the break, and midfielder Manu Kone almost found the net in the 57th minute when his header hit the bar.

Halfway through the second half, Spain's defense began to falter under the mounting attack from France, with Tenas making three saves against shots from Michael Olise, Jean-Philippe Mateta and Kone from the 62nd to 72nd minutes.

But Tenas could do nothing in the 79th minute when France midfielder Maghnes Akliouche deflected in a free kick by Olise.

In the last minute of regular time, France was awarded a penalty af-



Spain's players celebrate after winning the gold medal during the victory ceremony at the end of the men's soccer gold medal match between France and Spain at the Parc des Princes during the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

Netherlands defend women's hockey gold

PARIS, Aug 10, (Xinhua): The Netherlands defended their title in the women's hockey tournament at Paris 2024, besting China 3-1 in a shootout after a 1-1 draw in regular time.

This represents the sixth consecutive Olympic Games in which the Netherlands have reached the final of the women's hockey competition.

China took an early lead thanks to a goal from Chen Yi in the sixth minute.

Thereafter, the Netherlands took control of the ball for most of the first half, and Frederique Matla's effort hit the post in the second quarter. However, China defended well to keep their one-goal lead by the

halftime whistle.

The Netherlands kept up their pressure in the second half. In the 51st minute, Yibbi Jansen converted a penalty corner to level the score.

The match remained 1-1 in the rest of the regular time, and the two teams went to shootout.

China had edged out Belgium in the semifinals through a shootout, but in the final, Dutch goalkeeper Anne Veenendaal managed to save China's first two efforts while her team scored their first two shots.

Zhong Jiaqi's shot kept China's hopes alive, until Veenendaal blocked the fourth shot to seal the victory.

"It was a very close game," said

Netherlands coach Paul Van Ass. "Because they got a goal so early, they had the time to defend, and they defended very well." China ultimately took the silver medal, equaling the team's best Olympic record set at Beijing 2008.

"Six months ago, a year ago, two years ago, we wouldn't have thought we'd be here," said China coach Alyson Regina Annan. "This is just amazing." Earlier in the day, Argentina beat Belgium 2-2 (3-1) after a shootout to get the bronze.

The Netherlands' victory comes 24 hours after the country also took the men's hockey gold with a 3-1 shootout win over Germany after a 1-1 draw in regular time.

The hosts, however, found no way to deal with Camello's subsequent strikes.

Chinese dancer grabs bronze

B-Girl Ami of Japan takes 'inaugural' breaking gold

PARIS, Aug 10, (Xinhua): The atmosphere was electric at Place de la Concorde in Paris as breakdancing - known at Paris 2024 as breaking - made its Olympic debut. In the women's event, Japan's B-Girl Ami (Ami Yuasa) captured the gold medal, while China's B-Girl 671 (Liu Qingyi) clinched the bronze.

B-Girl Ami, donning her oversized hoodie, signature baseball cap, and big earrings, dominated Group C after the round robin, defeating B-

BREAK DANCING

Girl Anti of Italy, Morocco's B-Girl Elmamouny, and China's B-Girl Ying Zi (Zeng Yingying), losing only two judges' votes.

The 25-year-old, a two-time world champion (2019 and 2022), advanced to the final after overcoming B-Girl Syssy of France and the Netherlands' B-Girl India in the quarterfinals and semifinals, respectively.

In a tightly contested final, B-Girl Ami secured more votes from the nine judges, all former breakdancing legends, defeating Lithuania's B-Girl Nicka 3-0 with a score breakdown of 16-11.

"I still feel like I'm in a dream," B-Girl Ami remarked after winning gold. Reflecting on the support from her home country, she said, "Before the Games, a lot of people back home cheered me on with 'good luck' and 'enjoy,' and I hope everybody was here." She emphasized Japan's strong cultural and sporting affinity for breakdancing, adding, "[The atmosphere] was great every weekend at those gyms, both the big ones and the cool smaller ones." While she views breakdancing as her "artistic expression," B-Girl Ami added that she hopes to see the sport grow in global influence.

China's B-Girl 671 finished the round robin with a 2-1 record, her only loss coming against B-Girl In-

dia, who had qualified through Friday's Olympic pre-qualifier. The 18-year-old Hangzhou Asian Games gold medalist quickly rebounded, defeating Ukraine's B-Girl Kate 3-0 in the quarterfinals.

Despite losing to B-Girl Nicka in the semifinals, B-Girl 671 found her rhythm in the bronze medal match, securing a 2-1 victory over B-Girl India.

Although she admitted she wasn't "100 percent hyped by the electrifying Olympic atmosphere," B-Girl 671 expressed pride in her performance. "I tried my best," she said, adding, "I was aiming for the gold, but you know what happened in the semifinal. Being able to adjust quickly, pull myself together, and get into my zone for the third-place battle - that's something I'm truly proud of." Reflecting on her journey to the Olympics, B-Girl 671 shared, "Throughout my preparations for the Olympic Games, I gained a deeper understanding of hip-hop and gradually developed my style." Having trained for five years to reach the Olympic stage, she also highlighted the growing popularity of breakdancing in China, thanks to its inclusion in the Games.

Fellow Chinese athlete, B-Girl Ying Zi, finished eighth in the one-day competition.

IOC President Thomas Bach, World DanceSport Federation President Shawn Tay, and Beijing 2022 gold medalist freestyle skier Gu Ailing were among those present during the knockout rounds, adding to the vibrant atmosphere at La Concorde.

"It was absolutely amazing with the crowd and the passionate sport. I could feel it, especially sitting on the stage side," Gu told Xinhua.

Breakdancing was first introduced at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games in Argentina, where the event attracted over one million viewers, demonstrating its appeal to younger audiences and sparking interest among older generations.

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Garnbret defends her Olympic gold in sport climbing; Raboutou wins a silver

LE BOURGET, France, Aug 10, (AP): Janja Garnbret and Brooke Raboutou cried together in joy as they hugged after the boulder and lead sport climbing final at the Paris Games on Saturday.

Garnbret had just enhanced her status as one of the biggest stars in the sport by defending her Olympic title. Raboutou was celebrating the first ever climbing Olympic medal for the U.S. women's team.

"We have an incredible friendship to where we both want each other to do our best, and that's what happened today," said Raboutou, who calls Garnbret her idol. "And that feels really good to share that with somebody, and to represent the sport in a way that we know we're doing it right and we're doing it for ourselves." Garnbret, the Slove-

nian who won the combined gold when sport climbing made its Olympic debut at the Tokyo Games three years ago, overcame Raboutou for the victory on the last climb of the day in Le Bourget to secure the gold.

"This was our wish," Garnbret said. "This was our pact, stand on the Olympic podium together. So she went through a lot. And I'm so happy for her that she made it." Raboutou, who trained with Garnbret in Slovenia, said the silver was extra special because of her family connections with France.

"Being half French and having my French family out here and just the support from the crowd, I did feel it," the 23-year-old Raboutou said. "I know that they're so dedicated to their nationality, so it feels good

to have them support me as well and to have my roots be here and be able to combine them." The first climbing medal for the U.S. in Paris came with Sam Watson's bronze in the men's speed event. The only other

medal ever won by the U.S. climbers was Nathaniel Coleman's silver in Tokyo in the combined event.

Jessica Pilz of Austria won the bronze.

Aleksandra Miroslaw of Poland won the women's

gold in speed on Wednesday.

Leonardo Vedriq of Indonesia won the men's speed gold, and Toby Roberts of Britain won the men's gold in lead and boulder.

In Tokyo, boulder and lead were combined with speed, and only one medal each was awarded for the men and women.

No other athlete has won as many international climbing titles as Garnbret, who attracts just as many headlines for her dominance in the sport as she does for being an advocate for eradicating eating disorders from sport climbing.

The eight-time world champion had to be sidelined for a while after breaking her toe last year.

She said anything other than the gold would have meant an "unsuccessful"



Janja Garnbret of Slovenia reacts after winning the gold during the women's boulder and lead final for the sport climbing competition at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Le Bourget, France. (AP)

Change Name

I, George Joao Dias r/o H. No. 408, near old post office, Caranzalem, Tiwari, North Goa. Pin: 403001, would like to change my name from George Joao Dias to George Dias. Hereafter in all my dealings, transactions and documents I will be known by the name George Dias.

Fans await action-packed new season of Dawri Zain

Zain continues to support the biggest local competition for the 3rd year running



Qadisiya SC players celebrate winning H.H. the Amir's Cup.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Football fans in Kuwait are eagerly tuning in for an action-packed new season of the Zain Premier League (Dawri Zain). The 63rd edition of the topflight competition officially kicked off last Thursday, with Zain continuing its support for the third consecutive year in strategic partnership with the Kuwait Football Association (KFA).

Zain is the Official Sponsor of the KFA's competitions for the 2022-2026 seasons, including the two most thrilling local football leagues: the Zain Premier League (Dawri Zain), won by Kuwait SC last season, and the Zain First Division League, won by Yarmouk SC last season.

Under this partnership with the KFA, Zain also extends its support to the most cherished cup of them all: H.H. the Amir's Cup, won by Qadisiya SC last season, along with H.H. the Crown Prince's Cup.

Biggest prize pool

This season, Zain continues to deliver on its promise to support athletes, players, and fans with cash prizes, dedicating the biggest prize pool in the local league's history with a total of over KD 60,000 per season. With this contribution, the



Kuwait SC players lift the Dawri Zain trophy.



Fans await action-packed new season.

Enhanced broadcasting with SHASHA Sports

SHASHA Sports, the league's exclusive broadcaster, continues this season to provide an exceptional broadcasting experience for Dawri Zain. SHASHA uses the latest streaming technologies to air matches and analysis studios throughout the season via its digital platforms, available on a wide range of smart devices. This brings new experiences for fans to enjoy the day to day action and writes a new chapter for Kuwaiti sports media.

In its debut season (2023-2024) as the exclusive broadcaster of Dawri Zain, SHASHA achieved record viewership, with a total of 7.3 million views by the penultimate round. The two most exciting matches between Qadisiya SC and Arabi SC were the most watched, attracting nearly 1.5 million views.

Committed to delivering high-quality experiences, SHASHA Sports has brought in European specialists for

match coverage and production, ensuring world-class broadcasting. The platform also features extensive match analysis with local pundits and experts like Musaad Al Fouzan, enriching the viewing experience for fans across Kuwait and the GCC.

Excellence Awards ceremony

At the end of every season, Zain holds a prestigious Excellence Awards ceremony to recognize top athletes. The league's very best players are awarded on stage for their top performance after winning the affection of thousands of fans throughout the season.

Last season, Zain presented its Excellence Awards to Mohammed Daham (Player of the Season), Bader Al Mutawa, Yousef Nasser, and Mohammed Daham (co-winners of Season's Top Local Scorer), Hamza Khaba (Season's Top Pro Scorer), Saud Al Houshan (Season's Best Goalkeeper), Nabeel Maloul (Season's Best Coach), and Muath Al Osaima (Season's Ris-



From last season's Excellence Awards.



One of Zain's fan zones.

ing Star).

These awards underscore Zain's commitment to supporting distinguished athletes. By recognizing top performers, the company aspires to encourage players to pursue excellence, promising an even more thrilling season for fans to enjoy.

Thrilling season ahead

Dawri Zain's previous season was highly competitive, with a total of 132 thrilling matches played and 400 goals scored. Building on this excitement, the new season features 10 top-tier clubs that will compete for the championship title: Kuwait SC (led by Nebojša Jovović), Qadisiya SC (led by Mohammed Al Meshan), Yarmouk SC (led by Goran Matkovic), Tadamon SC (led by João Mota), Khaitan SC (led by Florin Motroc), Fahahil SC (led by Firas Al Khateeb), Arabi SC (led by Nasser Al Shatti), Kazima SC (led by Mohammed Duhailees), Salmiya SC (led by Ante Miše), and Nasser SC (led by Dhafer Al Adwani).

Additionally, 5 teams compete in the Zain First Division League: Sulai-bikhat SC, Shabab SC, Sahel SC, Jahra SC, and Burgan SC. Zain wishes all clubs participating in the Zain Premier and First Division Leagues all the best of luck and looks forward to an exciting, action-packed season.

Private sector's role

Zain firmly believes that the private sector has a key role in contributing to the success and growth of the local sports sector. The company makes this belief a reality by supporting the biggest nation wide sports competitions like this one.

This partnership with Kuwait's top-flight football competition reflects Zain's leading role in supporting the local sports sector. The company's comprehensive corporate social responsibility strategy aims to support local athletes across disciplines to empower them to shine in the biggest local, regional, and international sporting arenas.





Ethiopia's Tamirat Tola celebrates after crossing the finish line to win the gold medal at the end of the men's marathon competition at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

Sports

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Defending champion Kipchoge struggles

Tola wins men's marathon in Oly record to end Kenya dominance

PARIS, Aug 10, (AP): Ethiopian runner Tamirat Tola won the men's marathon at the Paris Olympics on Saturday to end Kenya's dominance of the race.

Tola finished in an Olympic record time of 2 hours, 6 minutes and 26 seconds, with Belgium's Bashir Abdi finishing 21 seconds behind and Benson Kipruto taking bronze for Kenya, 34 seconds back.

The 32-year-old Tola looked back as he neared the line, but he was well clear and had time to soak up the applause. Two weeks ago, he entered the Olympic marathon as a substitute for

injured teammate Sisay Lemma.

"I was the reserve in the Ethiopian team, but when Sisay had injuries then I had a chance," Tola said. "I was fully prepared and knew I could fulfil my dream. I am very proud, very happy."

It was Tola's second Olympic medal, with the other coming in the 10,000 meters at the 2016 Rio Games.

"After I came from track I achieved a lot in marathon," said Tola, who broke a 12-year course record when he won last year's New York marathon.

It was a second Olympic medal for the 35-year-old Abdi, too, and the So-

malia-born athlete went one better than his bronze medal at the Tokyo Games three years ago.

MARATHON

Tola again got the better of Abdi in marathon at a major race. He beat him in the 2022 world championships, where Abdi finished third.

Britain's Emile Cairess placed fourth on Saturday and even had enough energy for a sprint finish - of sorts - after 42 kilometers (26 miles)

in the sun.

Two-time defending champion Eliud Kipchoge struggled throughout. He was more than eight minutes behind Tola at the 30-kilometer mark and did not finish.

The last non-Kenyan to win was Ugandan Stephen Kiprotich at the London Games in 2012.

The 39-year-old Kipchoge was looking to become the first man to win the race three times. Ethiopian Abebe Bikila won it consecutively in 1960 and 1964 and Waldemar Cierpinski did the same in 1976 and 1980 representing then-East Germany.

Canada, US clinch relay titles as Bahrain's Eid Naser takes silver

Paulino grabs 400m glory as Diaz continues meteoric rise

PARIS, Aug 10, (Xinhua): Andre de Grasse anchored Canada to victory in the men's 4x100m relay final while Sha'Carri Richardson led the United States to the women's 4x100m title at the Paris Olympics.

De Grasse held off a challenge from South Africa's Akani Simbine in the final leg as he combined with Aaron Brown, Jerome Blake and Brendon Rodney to claim Canada's first track gold of these Games in 37.50 seconds. South Africa took silver in 37.57 and Britain bronze in 37.61.

"It feels pretty amazing," De Grasse said. "To be out with these guys, my brothers, I've been with them since the beginning of time, so it's amazing. We talked about this moment for years." The United States' poor re-

ATHLETICS

cent record in this event continued as they were disqualified for a changeover outside the box.

Earlier, Richardson ran a scintillating final leg as the U.S. came from behind to win the women's 4x100m relay.

Richardson, who took the baton with her team in fourth place, completed her split in 10.09 seconds to cross the finish line in 41.78 seconds. Great Britain took silver, 0.07 seconds further back and Germany claimed bronze, 0.19 seconds behind the U.S..

The U.S. foursome also included Melissa Jefferson, Twanisha Terry and Gabrielle Thomas.

"The moment we realized we won was a phenomenal feeling for all of us," Richardson said. "I just remember trusting my third leg, trusting Gabby [Thomas] and knowing that she's going to put this thing in my hand no matter what, and to leave my best on the track." There were six other athletics gold medals decided in an action-filled night session at Stade de France on Friday.

The Dominican Republic's Marileidy Paulino set a new Olympic record to take gold in the women's 400m, crossing the line in 48.17 seconds.

Her time eclipsed Marie-Jose Perec's previous mark of 48.25 that had stood since 1996.

Bahrain's Salwa Eid Naser took silver in 48.53 and Poland's Natalia Kaczmarek bronze in 48.98.

"I'm very happy, I still cannot believe that just happened," Paulino said. "It was either going for the world record or the Olympic record, and thankfully, I achieved the Olympic record." American Rai Benjamin took gold in the men's 400m hurdles with a season best time of 46.46 seconds. Defending champion Karsten Warholm of Norway took silver in 47.06 and Brazilian Alison dos Santos bronze in 47.26.

Benjamin, who has five podium finishes at the world championships, was the silver medalist at the Tokyo 2020 Games.

Spain's Jordan Diaz continued his meteoric rise by clinching the men's triple jump gold. The 23-year-old, who announced himself on the international stage by securing the European title in June, won with a distance of 17.86 meters at Stade de France.

Portugal's Pedro Pichardo claimed silver and Italy's Andy Diaz bronze.

Yemisi Ogunkunle clinched Germa-



Rai Benjamin, of the United States, wins the men's 400-meter hurdles past Karsten Warholm, of Norway, at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Saint-Denis, France. (AP)



Women's 400-meter silver medalist Salwa Eid Naser, of Bahrain, wipes away tears while standing on the podium at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Saint-Denis, France. (AP)

ny's first athletics gold medal at Paris 2024 in a dramatic women's shot put final. The 25-year-old took the lead with her last throw of 20.00m, relegating New Zealand's Maddison-Lee Wesche to the silver medal.

China's Song Jiayuan claimed bronze while her compatriot and defending Olympic champion Gong Lijiao finished fifth.

Belgium's Nafissatou Thiam secured her third straight Olympic pentathlon title with a combined score of 6,880 points. Great Britain's Katarina Johnson-Thompson took silver while Thiam's compatriot Noor Vidts claimed bronze.

Kenyan world record holder Beatrice Chebet held off a late challenge from Italy's Nadia Battocletti to claim gold in the women's 10,000m. Chebet, who became the first woman to break the 29-minute barrier in May, finished in 30 minutes, 43.25, just a tenth of a second ahead of Battocletti.

The Netherlands' Sifan Hassan took bronze in 30:44.12.

Yuan wins another gold in men's platform

China complete unprecedented diving sweep

SAINT-DENIS, France, Aug 10, (AP): Cao Yuan defended his title in the men's 10-meter platform on Saturday and gave China an unprecedented sweep of the diving gold medals at the Paris Olympics.

The Big Red Machine won all eight golds at the Olympic Aquatics Centre, most of them with dominating victories.

That wasn't the case in the final diving event of the Games. With teammate Yang Hao having an uncharacteristically poor day and Rikuto Tamai of Japan keeping the pressure on until a botched dive in the next-to-last round, the burden of completing the sweep fell entirely on Cao's slender shoulders.

He was up the task.

The 29-year-old Cao essentially locked up the gold with big scores on his toughest dive of the competition, a forward 4 1/2 somersaults in the fifth of six rounds. He finished with 547.50 points to become the first male diver since Greg Louganis in 1988 to win a second straight gold off the big tower.

Cao now has four golds in his career. He also won the springboard at Rio de Janeiro in 2016 and a 10-meter synchro gold at London in 2012.

Tamai bounced back on his final dive to lock up the silver with 507.65. The bronze went to Noah Williams of Britain at 497.35.

Yang already had captured a gold at these Games, teaming with Lian Junjie to win the platform synchro title during opening week at the diving pool.

Cao and Yang were 1-2 in the morning semifinals, but Yang totally fell apart after a big splash in the second round. He had only one stellar dive the rest of the way, finishing last in the 12-man final.

But Cao made sure China stayed on top of the medal podium, making his nation the first to claim all eight golds

China pull off a stunner in rhythmic gymnastics

PARIS, Aug 10, (AP): China pulled off a stunner in rhythmic gymnastics Saturday, becoming the first non-European country to win Olympic gold in the group event by finishing just ahead of Israel and Italy.

The five-woman Chinese team posted a total of 69,800 points in the final, which was divided into two routines: one using hoops, the other with the athletes using ribbons and balls. China topped the eight-team final in hoops and ranked third in the other portion of the final to edge Israel by 0.950 points.

Italy earned the bronze, 1,700 points behind China. The silver is the first in rhythmic gymnastics for Israel,

which won the world championship last fall. Bulgaria, the defending Olympic champion, slipped to fourth.

Russia has dominated the team competition since it made its Olympic debut in Atlanta in 1996, winning five golds. Yet Russia's absence in Paris due to the war in Ukraine opened the door for others.

China arrived at the Olympics as the only non-European team to medal in the group final, earning silver in Beijing in 2008. It doubled its medal total over two hours at Porte de La Chapelle Arena hit at the expanding footprint of a sport whose center of power has been concentrated for decades.

since the diving program was expanded from four to eight events at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Three times China has won seven of eight golds, but never all eight.

Until Saturday.

The last sweep of any kind was the

United States taking all four golds at Helsinki in 1952.

Tamai actually grabbed a slender lead over Cao with his second dive - only the second time in the entire meet that a China diver or synchro team was not atop the leaderboard at the end of

a round.

Cao edged back ahead in the third round and was still on top by a mere 2.75 points after the fourth set of dives. But Tamai badly over-rotated his next dive - actually one of his easiest in a very tough list - and a big splatter of water shot up from the pool as he disappeared under the surface.

A groan went up from the crowd. Tamai's gold medal hopes were essentially over after he received marks of ranging from 3.5 to 4.0.

The U.S. once dominated the diving events, but China began its rise to prominence with its first gold in 1984 at Los Angeles. Beginning in 2000, the Asian powerhouse has captured an astonishing 46 of 56 gold medals in diving.

With teams limited to two divers in the individual events, China claimed gold and silver in women's platform and men's springboard. Before Yang's dismal performance, the only slippup was Chang Yani settling for a bronze behind Maddison Keeney of Australia in women's springboard.



The Kuwaiti skating team.

Kuwait's speed skaters 'shine' at the Malaysia Championship

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 10, (KUNA): Kuwait's speed skating team achieved remarkable success at the Malaysia Skating Championship, organized by the Malaysian Federation as a one-day event.

Kuwaiti skaters Adeeb Suleiman and Omar Mohammad secured first place in the 1000-meter and 333-meter races in the adult and youth categories (A and B), respectively. Hussein Al-Ansari also clinched first place in the youth group (A).

In the 500-meter races, Abdullah Al-Shatti and Abdulrahman Waleed dominated the adult category (B and A), while Fahad Al-Abdullah and Bader Al-Sarraf triumphed in the youth group (B and A), each winning their respective races.

Kuwait's Ambassador to Malaysia, Rashed Al-Saleh, congratulated the team on their achievements, highlighting the growth of speed skating in Kuwait. Head of the Kuwaiti delegation, Meshal Fulaitah, attributed this success to the players' rigorous preparation, including a training camp held in Malaysia ahead of the championship.

In a statement to KUNA, Fulaitah praised the Kuwaiti skaters for their outstanding performances. He emphasized that their participation in this championship was a key part of their preparation for the upcoming Asian Winter Games in China this February.

Both Ambassador Al-Saleh and Fulaitah, along with Malaysian officials, participated in the prize distribution ceremony.

Speed skating, a prominent winter sport, is one of the main events in the Winter Olympic Games.



Team China poses for a photograph after winning the gold medal in the group all-around rhythmic gymnastics at La Chapelle Arena during the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)