



## Opinion

### Give fake accounts a break ... we want to eat grapes, not kill the vineyard's guard

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

SOCIAL media is viewed differently in the West compared to some Gulf countries in the Arab world.

In democratic countries, there is no fear among individuals who post on social media platforms. Instead, the focus is on discussing and evaluating the content, whether it is accurate or not. In contrast, those who post anonymously or under pseudonyms are often disregarded and considered trivial.

In some Gulf countries, social media users, particularly those operating fake accounts, are viewed as a serious threat to the state. Consequently, they are often prosecuted and, if caught, may face long prison sentences. In these cases, the focus is less on the content of what was said or published, whether it is true or false.

Nonetheless, the equation is simple in this regard. If this person was "sound", he would publish under his real name instead of hiding behind a fake identity.

That is why I am surprised by these campaigns against fake social media users. They often gain notoriety overnight, because the prosecutions make them heroes. They have defenders, and the police stations, the public prosecution and the courts are preoccupied with them. The situation is different in the West and democratic countries, as there is no principle of "take him and cuff him".

There is no doubt that this practice comes with a high price, because it occupies several official institutions and costs them a lot of money and time. Moreover, it increases the fame of the owner of the fake account, who is considered a hero by "crazy" people like him. They then imitate him, because fame is very tempting.

I aim to simplify the idea so that both the public and decision-makers understand that social media has positive aspects. It is not just a platform for praise but also a tool for raising awareness about problems that need to be addressed, and for discussing issues that benefit society, the people, and the state.

In Kuwait, some fake accounts gained notoriety. They were run by individuals who exploited the negative conditions that existed prior to the measures taken by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. These measures included suspending the National Assembly and failing to implement certain constitutional articles.

Prior to that, any suggestion about amending the Constitution was regarded by self-interested people as "blasphemy", and a violation of democracy. They argued that demanding justice for Kuwaitis by lifting support and raising the salaries of low-income earners was an attack on the citizens' pockets.

Amidst all this, the owners of fake accounts were inciting people, hoping to influence a parliamentarian who had a vested interest to capitalize on the situation.

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HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince

## HH Amir receives Crown Prince, PM, Interior Minister & officials

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sunday at Seif Palace His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

As well as, His Highness the Amir received the chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council and President of the Court of Cassation Counselor Dr. Adel Majed Boursli and the First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense, Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah.

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# Kuwait deports 7,000-8,000 expats every month in ongoing campaign

No leniency with visit visa violators: Mol



The UAE delegation meets the Kuwaiti Coast Guard officials.

KUNA photo

## UAE team visits Coast Guard Base, seeks expertise

An official National Guard delegation from the UAE's National Search and Rescue Center (NSRC) visited the Sabah Al-Ahmad Coast Guard Base on Sunday. The visit aimed to learn about Kuwait's search and rescue operations and the latest developments at the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC).

Kuwait's Ministry of Defense said in a statement the Director General of Coast Guard Commodore Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Sabah received the NSRC delegation. According to the statement, the visit was part of the ongoing joint security and military cooperation, as well as the exchange of expertise among GCC countries. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef affirms the Ministry of Interior will not be lenient with anyone who violates the visit visa conditions, reports Al-Qabas daily.

He said violators of these conditions and their sponsors will bear the consequences of violating these conditions.

Sheikh Fahad explained that the campaigns to arrest residency violators are ongoing. About 7,000 to 8,000 expatriates are being deported every month. The motive behind these campaigns is to cleanse the country of violators. The ministry will not stop until the target set by the Ministry of Interior at the beginning of the campaigns is achieved.

Meanwhile, the minister affirmed that new deterrent laws on the money laundering file will be approved soon.

He highlighted the existence of ongoing coordination between the concerned authorities to recover the country's looted funds abroad and hold those responsible accountable.

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## NewsWatch

## Little dip in temp as summer end nears

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Al-Ujairi Scientific Center announced the summer season is entering its final stages with the start of the "calabin" season today, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This period, lasting 13 days, marks the final phase of increasing solar temperatures before a transition to more moderate weather.

In a statement to KUNA, the center explained that "calabin" is the sixth stage of summer according to desert Arab tradition and the seventh in the calendar of the sun and moon houses. During this season, the stormy winds known as "toxins" subside, and the Earth's interior begins to cool.

The term "calabin" refers to two stars located within the last group of the Canis Major constellation, known as the "Great Dog" in astronomy.

The center noted that weather conditions will gradually moderate, particularly at night. As the days grow shorter, the length of daylight at the beginning of the season is 13 hours and 18 minutes, while nighttime extends to 10 hours and 41 minutes.

AMMAN: Jordan's King Abdullah II renewed calls on Sunday for the de-escalation of violence in the Middle East, which includes an immediate ceasefire in a bid to avert a full-scale war in the region.

Holding talks with a visiting US congressional delegation, the Jordanian monarch said the worsening conflict in the Middle East undermines the wider region's security and stability, according to a statement by his royal office. (KUNA)

DUBAI: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Sunday proposed former nuclear negotiator Abbas Araghchi as the country's new foreign minister and also sought to appoint a woman as roads and housing minister. If approved, she would be Iran's first female minister in more than a decade.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf read out the list of proposed ministers to lawmakers. The hard-line-dominated chamber will have two weeks to review qualifications and give a vote of confidence to the proposed ministers. (AP)



KUNA photo

Nookhatha offshore field

## Region promising sector for oil, gas findings: KOC

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11, (KUNA): CEO of Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) Ahmad Al-Eidan said that the marine region in Kuwait was a promising sector based on conducted studies and geological and geophysical data found.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Eidan explained that exploratory marine project used two-dimensional seismic surveying, to examine earth layers, its composition, identify best location for drilling, and prepare for logistic operations.

This current phase of the project includes drilling six exploratory fields to find oil and gas reservoirs, expounded Al-Eidan, stating that subsequent phases will be determined by findings of this current one.

He underscored the importance of the offshore exploration project as a national endeavor with the goal of enhancing sustainability of Kuwait's hydrocarbon reserves and meeting global demand.

This would elevate Kuwait's status as a reliable global oil and gas producer, and place it prominently on the regional map of leading offshore operators.

Additionally, the project contributes to developing new technical skills in drilling and offshore production, creating varied employment opportunities for national talents, he pointed out.

Last July KOC had announced discovering massive reservoirs of oil and gas in Nookhatha field in Failaka Island's economic waters, marking a turning point in its operations.

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Al-Eidan

## Kuwait strives to prepare youths for leadership roles, be creative

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait attaches great importance to the youth, supporting and preparing them for leadership roles, creative endeavors and excellence, Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Dr. Amathal Al-Huwailah said, Sunday.

Marking the International Youth Day, celebrated on August 12, the minister said that the support towards the youth came upon the directives His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and with a continuous follow-up of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The Youth Authority -- in partnership with other state institutes -- works to achieve the aspirations and ambitions of young people in most important areas, while the Sports Authority is concerned with the sports aspect, she added.

She affirmed that the Youth Authority implemented many youth-based programs, projects and activities throughout the year in order to provide

young people with important skills and experiences that will help them succeed in their professional lives and provide them with suitable job opportunities.

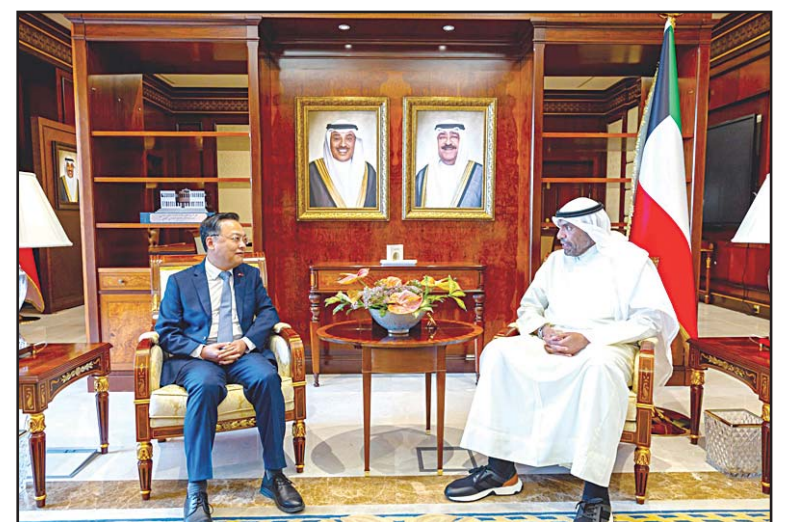
It also annually holds, under the patronage of His Highness the Amir, the Kuwait Award for Youth Excellence and Creativity, she revealed.

The youth centers, spread across the six governorates, embrace programs and projects that boost young people's talents and open up spaces for creativity in fields of science, technology, arts, media, volunteer work and others. Al-Huwailah said.

Al-Huwailah considered Kuwait Technical Complex for Entrepreneurship -- which is being held in partnership between the Public Authority for Youth and Boeing Company -- offers young people with technical and technological knowledge, to enhance the role of youth in the sustainable development of society.

These continuous efforts in promoting youth work and highlighting their role in all aspects of life have resulted in boosting excellence in Kuwaiti youth, which is evident in many international youth forums, she continued.

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KUNA photo

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya in talks with the Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Zhang Jianwei.

## Kuwait FM meets Chinese envoy

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received Sunday the Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Zhang Jianwei.

During the meeting, both sides touched on the bilateral ties between the two friendly countries. (KUNA)



## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 03:47 Asr ..... 15:29  
 Sunrise .. 05:14 Maghrib .. 18:32  
 Zohr ..... 11:53 Isha ..... 19:56

# Local

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

## Weather

## Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

**By Day:** Very hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h.

**By Night:** Hot to rather hot and

relatively humid especially over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 10-28 km/h.

**Station**  
Kuwait City

**Max Exp**  
47

**Min Rec**  
36

Kuwait Airport	47	33
Abdaly	47	30
Jahra	48	33
Salmiyah	44	36
Jal Aliyah	46	31
Nuwaisib	44	32
Wafra	47	30

## National Day greetings

## HH the Amir congratulates Chad

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of congratulations to the President of Chad General Mahamat Idriss Deby, on his country's National Day, wishing him good health and for his country and people progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown

Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President of Chad General Mahamat Idriss Deby, on his country's National Day, wishing him good health.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to President Mahamat Idriss Deby, on his country's National Day.

### Other Voices

## GCC and Arab states 'should rely' on advisory opinions to resolve disputes

By Tareq Yousef Al-Shumaimry

Recently, there has been an increase in requests for advisory opinions from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that relate to vital interests that directly affect the independence of States. Although advisory opinions are not binding and do not require the consent of the States concerned, advisory procedures have been increasingly and strategically used by States and international organizations as procedures to resolve specific legal disputes.



Al-Shumaimry

Procedures to request an advisory opinion constitute a "soft" litigation strategy and a particularly useful tool for small States or non-governmental entities, as they have the potential to balance the inherent power disparities in the international negotiation process by adding the authoritative voice of the ICJ to their disputed position.

Since its establishment in April 1946 the ICJ has addressed some of the most controversial issues in international affairs, including the independence of Kosovo and the use of nuclear weapons. It also addressed issues that directly affect the vital interests of the State, such as the legality of the Israeli wall in the West Bank and, more recently, the end of Israel's illegal occupation (recognition) of the Palestinian territories (the 1967 borders) as soon as possible.

Only two matters are pending before the ICJ – one relating to the obligations of the State in relation to climate change and the other relating to the International Labour Organization on the right to strike.

The ICJ accepts requests for advisory opinions from the UN General Assembly, the UN Security Council, specific international organizations, and authorized UN bodies.

Although an ICJ advisory opinion is not formally binding on States, in advisory opinions the ICJ exercises its authority to determine the precise scope of the rights and obligations of States or organizations and to declare what international law requires the State or organization to do or refrain from doing.

The pursuit of a formal ruling of law by an international court is rarely an end in itself, but rather a step in a broader political process, and the ICJ can therefore play a crucial role in international negotiations.

Advisory opinions can also play an increasingly important role in resolving disputes and can be used as a convenient litigation strategy.

One could also argue that resorting to advisory procedures involves less risk of political costs, as there are no winners or losers in an advisory opinion.

#### Easy

Advisory procedures are fairly easy to access, as the main requirement is to lobby the UN General Assembly and obtain a majority vote, and then refer it to the ICJ. Advisory opinions are issued within a year, usually after the request of the UN General Assembly.

The GCC countries have not used the advisory opinion route in settling disputes. That it is a very feasible option is also evident from the fact that the ICJ itself cites its previous advisory opinions in its judgments and previous opinions, indicating that advisory opinions are considered valid precedent.

Moreover, the advisory opinion procedure also involves less financial costs compared to the procedures related to a dispute by filing a case before the International Court of Justice and it also appears that topics such as borders between states, controversial procedures and advisory procedures that are not clear in theory or practice can be used as a persuasive procedure in an attempt to resolve disputes between states if they cannot be resolved through political means.

The question naturally arises as to why states resort to requesting an advisory opinion instead of the controversial procedures of filing a case before international courts such as the International Court of Justice or the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

In some cases, an advisory opinion is the only available means of giving legal status to issues of international affairs in a world where not all states have agreed or joined the authority of international courts to determine their rights and obligations under international law.

Moreover, requesting an advisory opinion from the International Court

of Justice may be the only mechanism available for settling disputes between recognized states and separatist groups within those states.

An advisory opinion is an attractive option when the state or non-state entity requesting the opinion has high moral standing and distinguished diplomatic and political relations and is likely to win acceptance of the request and obtain an advisory opinion in its favor.

For example, in the Kosovo Advisory Opinion, the dispute between Serbia and Kosovo was Serbia's sole sponsor of the UN General Assembly resolution and believed it would win. However, the ICJ concluded in its advisory opinion that the adoption of the Declaration of Independence did not violate any applicable rule of international law.

A request for an advisory opinion may level the playing field and avoid the imbalance of power that pervades international negotiations to some extent in international judicial proceedings. All states and non-state entities are formally equal parties with respect to their legal standing and ability to make claims.

The ICJ responds to all legal claims in a coherent legal manner regardless of whether the claim is brought by a non-state entity, a powerful state, or a small state.

Vanuatu, an archipelago in the South Pacific and one of the countries most affected by climate change, has led the application, which is still pending before the International Court of Justice.

International request for an advisory opinion on States' obligations related to climate change. The request includes a specific question regarding the legal consequences of these obligations in relation to States, especially Small Island Developing States, which, due to their geographical circumstances and level of development, are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

One potential benefit of an advisory opinion on climate change is that it will help strengthen "States' arguments in international climate change negotiations or undermine the arguments of other States." Kuwait was also a party to this request, as were other GCC States.

Other reasons for seeking an advisory opinion include:

■ The legal position of an advisory opinion constitutes strong support for the legitimate rights claimed.

■ The advisory opinion identifies contradictory texts and illegal actions taken by one party against the other.

■ The advisory opinion sometimes addresses whether compensation is due to the other party, which would be the beginning of a claim for compensation.

■ In dealing with the issue of requesting an advisory opinion, the rest of the countries may have to point out and remind of the illegality of dealing with the usurping party.

■ The advisory opinion reinforces the legal principles that help in the future negotiation process with the other party.

■ The advisory opinion emphasizes the call to respect and implement this fatwa as an important step towards strengthening international legitimacy.

■ The advisory opinion constitutes great moral and political pressure on the other party and the countries supporting it.

■ The advisory opinion reinforces diplomatic and legal pressure on the other party.

■ Although the advisory opinion is not binding, it is considered a step on a long road towards achieving justice for legitimate and disputed claims.

■ Although the advisory opinion is not binding, it has legal weight and moral authority and is often a tool for preventive diplomacy.

■ The advisory opinion helps clarify and develop international law, promote peaceful relations between countries, and maintain international peace.

■ The advisory opinion represents a rejection of any claims that are not based on international law and are based only on the domestic law of the country itself.

■ The advisory opinion achieves regional stability and the security of neighboring countries.

■ The advisory opinion always refers in its details to international treaties, customs and laws that are difficult for the international community to ignore.

■ The advisory opinion refers in some of its context to cases of failure to resolve, whether politically or diplomatically, and international law and its organizations always have a role in confronting and achieving the claims of one party against the other.

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## HH Crown Prince and Prime Minister send similar cables

## HH Amir condoles Brazilian president over plane crash victims

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences Sunday to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed condolences over the victims of the civil plane

crash near the state of Sao Paulo, which claimed the lives of those on board.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince

expressed condolences over the victims of the civil plane crash near the state of Sao Paulo.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva over the victims of plane crash.

# Gov't entities report surplus of KD 3.4 billion for fiscal 2023/24

## Key budget decrees and final accounts highlighted

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Council of Ministers has recently issued three important decrees-law linking the budgets of three key government agencies to the fiscal year 2024/2025.

These decrees, published in the latest issue of the Official Gazette, provide a detailed overview of the financial status for the upcoming fiscal year.

The three agencies are – the Public Institution for Social Security with projected revenues of 6 billion, 696 million, and 20 thousand dinars, and expenditures amounting to 4 billion, 975 million, and 275 thousand dinars; KUNA with estimated revenues of 404 thousand dinars, with expenditures at 14 million, 398 thousand dinars and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development with expected revenues of 218 million, 736 thousand dinars, and expenditures totaling 28 million, 730 thousand dinars.

Moreover, the Council of Ministers has approved 38 decrees concerning the final accounts for 38 government entities for the fiscal year 2023/2024.

This approval, also published in the Kuwait Alyawm newspaper, highlights that these entities achieved total revenues of 10.687 billion dinars, while their expenditures amounted to 7.235 billion dinars.

This resulted in a significant surplus of 3.452 billion dinars.

The government entities covered in this approval include Central Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Credit Bank, National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises Development, PART, KUNA, KISR, PAHW, Kuwait Anti-Doping Agency, CITRA, IRU, KFAED and KPA and several others.

It achieved a surplus of 3.4 billion dinars and its total expenditures amounted to 7.2 billion at the end of the last fiscal year.

## Court overturns verdict ... club's president freed

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Court of Cassation overturned the verdict issued by the Court of Appeals, which had upheld the lower court's verdict to sentence the President of Al-Arabi Club Abdulaziz Ashour to six-month imprisonment with hard labor for insulting and challenging the integrity of a judiciary member. The court instead decided to release Ashour, and suspended the execution of the sentence until the appeal is decided in the Court of Cassation.

The Public Prosecution had charged Ashour and other suspects with publicly disrespecting a judge of the Court of First Instance. They allegedly published on Ashour's Instagram account a video clip of an interview held with Ashour in which he used words and phrases that undermine the judge's integrity and commitment to the law.



Professional Development Program for Kuwaiti Teachers launched.

KUNA photo

### 'Teachers with scientific specializations at MoE'

## Registration opens for the '24 professional development program for Kuwaiti teachers

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11, (KUNA): The Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC), a key initiative of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), has announced the opening of registration for the second edition of its 2024 Professional Development Program. This program, aimed at Kuwaiti teachers with scientific specializations working under the Ministry of Education, will be open for applications until August 28.

Nada Al-Daihani, Director General of the Center, stated in a press release on Sunday that the program is being conducted in collaboration with Harvard University's Graduate School of Education and the Aanab platform from Saudi Arabia. Al-Daihani noted that the inaugural edition of the program was highly successful, involving around 100 teachers from Kuwait's public education sector. She emphasized that this program is crucial as it enhances the effectiveness of teachers, who are pivotal in improving student learning and the overall educational system.

The Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity is committed to leveraging all available resources to

foster talent and creativity within the Kuwaiti educational sector. The collaboration with Harvard University and the Aanab platform aims to promote a culture of creativity and modern technology in Kuwait and significantly contribute to advancing the educational system in the country.

The Harvard Professional Development Program for Teachers offers two accredited courses in Arabic. These courses are designed to train 100 selected teachers from Kuwait. The first course, "Flexible Thinking," focuses on decision-making strategies that help teachers adapt their teaching methods, engage students, and tackle practical classroom challenges to enhance the educational experience.

The second course, "Levels of Assistance," addresses various forms of student support and promotes student independence over reliance. It covers the use of educational aids and supplements to ensure that learning meets students' needs.

Kuwaiti teachers who meet the program's eligibility criteria are encouraged to apply by visiting the following registration link: <https://apply.anaab.com/s3/sacgc-anaab>.

### Necessary documents for registration being outlined

## Egyptian Cultural Attaché Office helps process admission for Kuwaiti students in universities

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Cultural Attaché Office of the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait announced that it will assist Kuwaiti students and residents of other nationalities who wish to study at Egyptian universities. Students interested in enrolling at Egyptian universities can submit their applications to the Cultural Attaché Office, which will facilitate all procedures for admission in Egyptian universities according to established guidelines.

The office has outlined the necessary documents for registering a resident at Egyptian universities. These include:

1. The original Kuwaiti high school certificate, American diploma, or British high school certificate, all attested by Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Egyptian Cultural Office in Kuwait, and the Egyptian Consulate in Kuwait.

2. A copy of the birth certificate, attested by Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Egyptian Consulate in Kuwait.

3. A copy of the passport, also attested by Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Egyptian Consulate in Kuwait.

Additionally, the student or their guardian must visit the office to complete and sign a designated form. The office will then submit the student's initial acceptance request through the registration platform "Study in Egypt" on the official website of the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education.

The office stated that it receives the original documents and then sends them via express mail to the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education, after printing the initial acceptance form from the student's account on the registration platform.

It affirmed that it will continue to communicate with the student throughout the process to complete the registration procedures and address any inquiries the student may have.

It explained that the fees for registration, follow-up services, and delivery of original documents to the General Administration of Expatriates in Egypt, up to

## Indonesian-Kuwaiti ties historic, excellent: envoy

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Indonesian Ambassador to Kuwait, Lena Maryana, praised the strong and enduring relations between her country and Kuwait, describing them as historic and excellent, spanning nearly half a century.

In a speech she delivered at the Dai'ya Youth Center Hall on the occasion of her country's 79th Independence Day, Ambassador Maryana highlighted the remarkable development in bilateral relations across all levels and in various areas of cooperation.

Ambassador Maryana was moved to tears twice during her speech, because she, her family and the Indonesian community are celebrating Independence Day far from their homes.

She thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior for their cooperation with the embassy to make this work a success.

Ambassador Maryana also thanked the ambassadors of all ASEAN countries and the ambassadors of China, Korea, Kenya and Britain, who accepted the invitation. The Deputy Director General of the Youth Sector Dr. Walid Al-Ansari presented her with a commemorative shield in the name of "Da'iyah Youth Center."

Ambassador Maryana also thanked the Head of the Public Relations Department at the Public Authority for Youth Intisar Taqi, as well as the Kuwaiti press.

reserving a seat at the university, are KD 155 for all academic stages - Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate.

For further information, the Cultural Attaché Office of the Egyptian Embassy can be contacted either at their number 25342312 or their Facebook page <https://tinyurl.com/egycul>. The Cultural Attaché Office is located in Jabriya, Block 8, Street 110, Villa 13.



# diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'O corrupt people ... you are internal invaders of Kuwait'

"EVERY YEAR we Kuwaitis remember the brutal Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 34 years ago, when more than 100,000 Iraqi soldiers, supported by 700 tanks, treacherously entered Kuwaiti territory," columnist Prof. Dr. Bahija Behbehani wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"The Kuwaiti government was formed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the city of Taif, where the Amir of Kuwait at the time, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and the Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, may God bless their souls, and many ministers and members of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces were present.



Dr. Behbehani

"The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait continued with its destructive actions for 7 months, and ended with the liberation of Kuwait on February 26, 1991.

"These painful and tragic events came to my mind as I watched the horrific scenes broadcast on Kuwait TV of this shameful occupation by an Arab country of its sister and Arab neighbor, which supported it in the hardships and wars it was exposed to.

"The noble Kuwaiti people -- men and women, young and old -- stood firm and resisted this brutal invasion with all their strength and courage.

"The majority of them were martyred, and their pure blood watered the homeland. Some of them were executed and their bodies thrown in front of their families!

"Other members of the resistance were captured and transferred to Iraqi prisons, where they were tortured. They endured the torture in captivity, and their remains were subsequently found in mass graves. The number of Kuwaiti martyrs reached 1,342.

"These heroes from the people defended their homeland Kuwait fiercely and sacrificed their lives for its freedom. Their pure blood watered its soil so that the tree of its independence could grow, so that we, its people, would later enjoy a free homeland that would grant us security, safety and prosperity.

"We have the right to wonder and ask the corrupt people whose hands have extended to public money, whether by embezzling it without justification, or through forging nationalities, or buying academic certificates, and other common matters that are considered a denial of the homeland's rights and the rights of citizens.

"Are you not ashamed of yourselves while you enjoy the blessings that the tree of freedom has grown, watered with the blood of the martyrs, who sacrificed their lives so that Kuwait would remain free and independent?!

"The decision makers trusted you, and you assumed positions of power to develop and advance Kuwait, but you turned to deception and fraud, and seized public money to achieve your personal interests and ambitions, and you did not learn from the events of the Iraqi invasion of your country, but rather you followed the invaders and stole the property and wealth of your country, and you became an internal invader of Kuwait, and your fate - God willing - is like the fate of the invading army."

Also:

"It's refreshing to revisit the topic of tourism in Kuwait, and it's truly gratifying to see renewed focus on this vital aspect of our country," columnist and former Deputy Director-General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Iqbal Al-Ahmed wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"While neighboring countries, which share similar weather, customs, and tradi-

tions with us, have attracted millions of tourists, I'm not an advocate for tourism centered on tall buildings and skyscrapers.

"What makes Kuwait unique, in my view, is the simplicity of its architecture, the preservation of its heritage, and its focus on family-oriented tourism. Family tourism should be our identity -- a distinctive type of tourism that can set us apart.

"Family tourism is perhaps the most suitable form of tourism for us, and it should be the foundation upon which we build all our plans to create a remarkable and uniquely flavored tourism experience in the region.

"Rather than starting from scratch with urban tourism, high-rise buildings, and massive projects, we should build upon the natural characteristics of Kuwaiti society and the ease of family life within a Gulf society.

"Thankfully, the Gulf society remains closely knit by family ties, and family travel is often done collectively. This makes it all the more important to develop tourism plans that cater to children, mothers, and fathers by creating entertainment areas that appeal to every member of the family.

"High-end, multi-level restaurants, beautiful and innovative transportation, attractive islands, safe streets for various sports, and a well-maintained waterfront as a key tourist destination -- all complemented by year-round events -- are essential elements. We are fortunate to still possess certain landmarks that distinguish us from other countries.

"Jaber Al-Ahmad Entertainment Center, with its rich cultural and artistic offerings; Abdullah Al-Salem Center, with its diverse and beautiful museums; and Al-Shaheed Park, with its wonderful ideas for sports and leisure in a safe and healthy environment -- all contribute to creating a very comfortable family tourism experience in Kuwait.

"It's wonderful to see Gulf countries integrating their tourism identities so that a Gulf tourist can easily choose their destination. For family tourism, I find Kuwait to be the ideal place, provided that we achieve it at a high level of thoughtfulness, ensuring it meets all the needs of the Gulf family from the moment they decide to travel to Kuwait until their departure.

"This is a straightforward matter, but it requires initiative, proactive action, and the involvement of our innovative and creative youth in planning, implementation, and management."

□ □ □

"Salute to Al-Ghawziyya, the mother of four martyrs... Last month, the Israeli forces bombed a prayer hall where civilians had gathered. They had nothing except for their clothes for their protection. A total of 17 of them were killed in the city of Deir el-Balah in the central Gaza Strip" columnist Jaber Al-Hajri wrote for Al-Rai daily.

"The world has not moved and will not move to help you. None of our brothers in Gaza will save you except your faith in God Almighty, which is the protective shield against the aim of the Israelis to brutally destroy the Islamic faith and human nature.

"What is heartwarming is the position of that honorable jihadist fighter - the Gazan woman who lost all four of her children. She did not waver in her stance, and she welcomed their martyrdom with contentment, acceptance, and pride. Standing in front of their bodies, she said, "Praise be to Allah for the martyrdom of my four children. They departed with pride to their Creator, who promised us Paradise. They preceded me, and I, God willing, will soon join them as a martyr".

- Compiled by PFX Fernandes & Mahmoud Ateyieh



Traffic department personnel checking for vehicles, drivers' documents during the campaigns last week.

## 66 juveniles arrested for driving without license

The General Traffic Department announced that during the campaigns last week the men in uniform have arrested 66 juveniles for driving vehicles without licenses, reports Al-Anba daily.

It has been reported the vehicles which have been impounded belong to their parents and have been towed to the ministry's vehicles impounding garage. All the juveniles who have been arrested have been

charged with committing serious violations and then referred to the Juvenile Prosecution.

On the other hand, the Operations and Traffic Sector announced that police officers, between July 28 and August 3, have arrested 26 people for driving under the influence of narcotic and intoxicating substances and 195 persons wanted by law for various reasons and issued 11,826 traffic citations.

# MoCI seizes 30,000 liters of fake oil products; store, shops closed

Truck driver in police net for smuggling men into Kuwait

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Director of the Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Faisal Al-Ansari revealed that the department's auto spare parts and oil inspection team confiscated 30,000 liters of counterfeit and non-compliant oil products during the recent inspection in Jahra Governorate; resulting in the closure of a warehouse and two oil shops.**

Al-Ansari said the Jahra inspection team on Sunday checked oil shops and warehouses in the governorate, during which they seized large quantities of counterfeit oils that do not conform to Kuwaiti specifications in a warehouse. He disclosed the team carried out the inspection in cooperation with the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) to examine the seized quantities and verify if they conform to specifications.

He added that based on the instruction of Ministry of Commerce and Industry Undersecretary Ziad Al-Najem, the team immediately closed the warehouse after preparing a seizure report and referring the violators to the Commercial Prosecution.

He stressed that the inspection teams continue their daily tours in various sectors and governorates, indicating the inspection teams in the fish markets conduct three inspections daily to monitor auctions and uncover commercial manipulations like changing the country of origin and other wrong practices.

He said the Precious Metals Control Team, consisting of specialists in commercial control and the Precious Metals Department, continues the inspection of gold shops in the Capital Governorate, and then they will move to other governorates to stop the weight manipulation and commercial fraud in these shops.

He also affirmed the continuation of inspection campaigns targeting domestic labor offices, revealing that the specialized teams issued 14 warnings and reviewed three violation reports during an inspection tour in Hawally a few days ago. He said these campaigns will continue to ensure strict compliance with the laws and regulations, control prices and guarantee the application of standards.

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**Truck driver held for human trafficking:** The Search and Investigation Office of the Criminal Security Sector, northwest of Sulaibikhat, has taken into custody an unidentified truck driver and charged him with smuggling men into the country via the Nuwaiseeb port, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, he was allegedly charging 1,000 dinars from each person to smuggle him into Kuwait. Two expatriates who had entered the country earlier with the help of the driver have been arrested. The driver is now being investigated to determine the number of those he managed to sneak into the country so that they can be arrested and referred to the competent authority.

A security source suggested that the deportation of the expatriates whom the driver brought in will be sufficient after the end of investigations with them.

According to a security source, this came to light when an expatriate was arrested in the Al-Mutlaa area, and during interrogation he admitted that he did not have any documents. His name was not found in the database and when interrogated further, he admitted that he and another expatriate of the same nationality had entered the country surreptitiously with the help of a truck driver.

He then provided the investigators the expatriate driver's number, and after conducting investigations, the driver's whereabouts were determined and subsequently picked up from Abu Halifa, where he was subjected to investigation and admitted that he had helped the men to enter the country approximately two months ago in exchange for 1,000 dinars from each person.

He added, the money was paid to him in advance and that he dropped them off after they had passed the Nuwaiseeb port.

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**2 expats arrested for stealing diesel:** Two expatriates, one of them 39 and the other 28 years old, were caught red-handed for stealing diesel, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, the case has been classified as a misdemeanor. A security source said the arrest came after the personnel from the General Administration of Security Facilities in the Al-Rawdatain Department reported that they had spotted two bus drivers in the area moving under the cover of darkness with lights of the vehicles turned off, stealing diesel inside the Al-Rawdatain field 2 kilometers northwest of Center 30.

After inspecting the tank, it was noted that there were traces of suspected diesel theft, and a pipe protruding from the tank fitted with a hose to draw diesel from the well.

There was also a shortage in the well tank of approximately 200 to 300 liters.

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**Man behind armed robbery bid nabbed:** Ministry of Interior said on Sunday that the Criminal Investigation General Department arrested the culprit behind an armed robbery attempt on an exchange office in Al-Fintas area, reports KUNA.

The ministry's General Department of Security Relations and Media said in a statement that the culprit stormed the exchange office using a firearm and fled to an unknown destination in a stolen taxi, by threatening the driver with a weapon.

The police investigated and tracked down the suspect using surveillance cameras, where he confessed the crime, adding that authorities were currently taking all necessary legal measures against him.

## Crimes by expats on the rise: study

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11:** According to a study conducted by the daily, crimes committed by expatriates in Kuwait have increased significantly this year, reports Al-Shahed daily.

The study highlighted that a large percentage of expatriates are involved in various illegal activities, including selling, promoting, and smuggling narcotics, selling visit and residency visas, tampering with electricity meters and bills, and stealing manholes and cables from government project sites. Additionally, there are reportedly gangs that are involved in helping housemaids escape from citizens' homes.

Criminal networks have increasingly infiltrated various ministries, with many expatriates using contracts with companies to gain access and commit serious crimes. Recent referrals to the Public Prosecution have provided evidence of these suspicious activities.

Recent revelations by the Ministry of Interior indicate a two-fold increase in crimes related to tampering with entry visas, establishing fictitious companies, and trading in residency permits for expatriates.

The ministry was able to monitor these gangs, arrest them and refer them to the Public Prosecution for necessary legal action.

On an almost daily basis, authorities have been apprehending gangs involved in the promotion and sale of various narcotics. This reveals the ongoing threat posed by networks that endanger young people with deadly substances.

The study confirmed that citizens are directly impacted by these criminal activities, as there are crimes targeting them. This is a dangerous indicator that the issue extends beyond isolated incidents.

In addition, the study highlighted that public funds are being drained due to the continued operation of these criminal networks.

## Internet fraud gangs busted

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11:** A large number of gangs specialized in Internet fraud have been dismantled. Their victims mostly included individuals who fell for the fake phone calls from supposed banks and investment institutions, which led them to disclose their secret bank details. Consequently, these gangs withdrew all the funds from the victims' bank accounts, reports Al-Shahed daily.

According to informed sources, Bahraini authorities have confirmed that millions of dinars were discovered in the bank accounts, the details of which were found on the laptops seized from the gang members.

The Financial Crimes Department of Bahrain's Ministry of Interior uncovered fraudulent groups that use the WhatsApp app for carrying out their deceptive tactics to persuade victims into purchasing fake digital currencies through bogus websites, promising high financial returns.



Some of the items seized during the raid.

## CP opens probe

# Knives, batons, narcotics seized during prison raid

By Mansour Al-Sultan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11:** General Administration of Correctional Institutions Saturday at dawn, in collaboration with the Special Forces, raided the Ward No. 1 at the Central Prison and seized a quantity of narcotic substances and drug paraphernalia, in addition to knives, batons and mobile phones.

The contraband was found hidden in secret places and the belongings of the prisoners and in the bathrooms. The Al-Seyassah daily said the seized weapons are used by the inmates during fights among them.

The Central Prison (CP) authorities have now opened an investigation and are checking the footage of surveillance cameras which have been installed at the facility to find out how the contraband was smuggled into the prison facility.

## GCC and Arab

Continued from Page 2

However, procedures and advisory opinion may not be the most effective way to resolve the dispute because of its non-binding nature.

However, resolving the dispute finally is not the only thing that states may think about when they choose to initiate dispute proceedings before international courts against another state. The advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice may be particularly effective when the motive behind its request is to publicize the matter and gain the support of world public opinion and diplomatic momentum.

Historically, even in the limited number of cases where adversarial procedures are available, states have been reluctant to avail themselves of them. Bringing a dispute against a third party or state is risky and time-consuming, and litigation can also be seen as an unfriendly act on the part of the respondent state and may affect its relationship with the state filing the claim.

### Resolution

The vast majority of requests for advisory opinions are made by the UN General Assembly through a resolution requiring a simple majority of states, so states do not stand alone but rather as a majority bloc against the "respondent" state, if any, and this can mitigate the adversarial nature inherent in contentious litigation.

From 1948 to 2024, the International Court of Justice has issued only 28 advisory opinions. Of the 28 advisory opinions published by the International Court of Justice, 20 of them relate to procedural and/or administrative issues of UN organs, such as the powers of the UN General Assembly to admit a State to the UN and to compensate for damages suffered in the service of the UN, the effects of compensation decisions issued by the UN Administrative Tribunal, requests for

review of recent court decisions, and the interpretation of agreements concluded between UN organizations and States.

The subject matter of some of these opinions may have been of particular importance to some States, such as the interpretation of treaties between international organizations and host States. However, none of these cases affected the vital interests of the State and had a serious impact on international affairs.

During its first 40 years of operation, the ICJ issued only three advisory opinions (two requests to the UN General Assembly and one to the UN Security Council) directly relating to vital state interests and politically controversial issues, including two opinions on the independence of Namibia from South Africa and one on the decolonization of Western Sahara. However, from the mid-1990s onwards there has been an increase in the number of such advisory opinions.

The ICJ has issued four advisory opinions on matters that fundamentally and directly affect a state's vital interests and/or territorial sovereignty, and two equally important requests for advisory opinions are still pending, all of which were submitted to the UN General Assembly.

The advisory opinion given by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) last month (July 19, 2024) to oblige Israel to end its illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories (1967 borders) as soon as possible is a landmark ruling that should serve as an example for considering advisory opinions as an option to conflict resolution.

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**Tareq Youssef Al-Shumaimry**  
He served as a Counselor and President Finance Committee and head of the General Budget Committee at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague (PCA), observer in the Administrative Council of the International Court of Justice, and advisor at the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in The Hague in the Kingdom of the Netherlands during this period from 2013 to 2020.  
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Minister Al-Awadhi inaugurates new pediatric dental clinics

MoH links with 'Wafid' for seamless medical report validation

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs at the Ministry of Health Dr. Al-Mundhir Al-Hasawi has announced the launching of an electronic link between the ministry and the 'Wafid' program for accredited medical centers outside the country and affiliated with the Health Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

In a press statement Saturday, Al-Hasawi confirmed this step aims to

facilitate the process of verifying the validity of medical reports issued by medical centers accredited by 'Wafid' program, as reports and health certificates will be sent directly to Kuwait immediately after issuance.

He said this electronic link also contributes to tightening control over the medical check-up of expatriate workers before their entry into the country to ensure they are free of chronic and infectious diseases such as hepatitis, AIDS and others in order to guarantee health security in the country.

He disclosed that the number of cen-

ters accredited to examine workers outside Kuwait totaled 574 in 29 countries. He added this boosts confidence in the health procedures followed to ensure that expatriate workers are healthy upon their arrival in Kuwait as per the health standards adopted by the country.

Additionally, the Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi has inaugurated new pediatric dental clinics at the Al-Saddiq Health Center, as part of the 100-day plan for the government's work program.

In a press statement, the minister said the opening of these clinics is part of the ongoing efforts to improve the type and quality of health services provided to children.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Undersecretary for Dental Affairs at the Ministry of Health Dr. Ahmad Asad expressed optimism about the ability of these new clinics to meet the needs of children and provide high-quality services.

In a press statement, he explained that this step aims to enhance the treatments and services provided to children in Al-Saddiq and Masayel areas. The new clinics will contribute to providing integrated and specialized health care for children, which will raise the level of care for their oral and dental health.

The opening of these clinics, which will operate during the week from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm, represents an important addition to the health infrastructure in the country, and reflects the Ministry of Health's commitment to developing and improving medical services in line with international standards.



Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi poses for a group photo during the inauguration of new pediatric dental clinics at the Al-Saddiq Health Center.



Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi during a tour at the new pediatric dental clinics. KUNA photos

Science Club marks 50 years of its founding

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Kuwaiti Science Club, established on August 11, 1974, has been a cornerstone in fostering scientific culture and nurturing youth talent in Kuwait, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Founded by visionaries committed to the importance of science and knowledge in societal development, the club has evolved into a significant cultural institution dedicated to advancing scientific research and innovation.

The club's initial goals were to spread scientific culture, enhance scientific competence, and create an environment conducive to youth creativity.

Over the past five decades, it has played a crucial role in training young people in scientific hobbies through various activities, including camps, forums, seminars, lectures, competitions, exhibitions, and scientific trips.

One of the club's major achievements is the International Exhibition of Inventions in the Middle East, launched in 2007, which has become a prominent event on the international invention exhibition circuit. The club also organizes the Kuwait Science and Engineering Competition, the largest of its kind in Kuwait for pre-university students, reflecting its commitment to supporting young researchers and innovators.

In August 2013, the club opened the Al-Ajiri Astronomical Museum, showcasing about 400 astronomical objects and demonstrating its dedication to supporting youth in astronomy and space sciences.

Throughout its history, the Kuwaiti Science Club has achieved numerous accolades, with its members earning high positions in regional and international competitions, showcasing Kuwait's commitment to scientific advancement.

Vacant buildings in Kuwait 'drop' to 8.4% by mid-2024

Growth slows, new trends in unit sizes emerge

PART reports 1.6 million dinar deficit amid fiscal challenges

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The final account approval for the General Authority for Roads and Land Transport for fiscal 2023-2024 reveals significant financial challenges, with losses amounting to 1.605 million dinars.

According to Decree Law No. 52 of 2024, published by Al-Kuwait Alyawm newspaper, the Authority's revenues totaled 5.028 million dinars

and the expenditures reached 1.610 million dinars, leading to a substantial deficit.

These losses are to be carried forward as part of the Authority's capital funded by the state's general budget.

In a related development, the Ministry of Works reported a notable financial performance for the same fiscal year.

The Ministry achieved revenues of 27.834 million dinars, marking a 132% increase over the estimated revenue of 11.946 million dinars.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: According to a report by Al-Shall Center, the total number of buildings in Kuwait reached approximately 219,600 by the end of June 2024, up from about 216,300 at the end of June 2023, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This represents a growth rate of around 1.5 percent over the past year, slightly lower than the 1.6 percent growth recorded during the previous year.

The report also highlighted that the number of building units increased to about 786,800 by the end of June 2024, compared to 778,200 units a year earlier, marking a 1.2 percent increase.

The compound annual growth rate for units from June 2015 to June 2024 was about 1.9 percent, while the compound growth rate for buildings was 1.2 percent. This suggests a trend toward smaller unit sizes within buildings and a shift in demand patterns.

The residential buildings make up the majority of Kuwait's buildings, accounting for approximately 66.6 percent of the total. These are followed by mixed-use buildings and those designated solely for commercial purposes.

The percentage of vacant buildings decreased to 8.4 percent by the end of June 2024, with about 18,400 vacant buildings out of a total of 219,600. This is a reduction from 8.8 percent (19,100 vacant buildings) at the end of June 2023.

The distribution of building units shows that apartments constitute the largest share at 45.3 percent, followed by houses at 21.8 percent, and shops at 20.1 percent.

The compound growth rates from June 2015 to June 2024 for shops, apartments, and houses were 3.4 percent, 1.7 percent, and 1.4 percent, respectively, while growth for annexes declined by about -0.9 percent.

The percentage of vacant units decreased to approximately 20.1 percent in June 2024, down from 21.5 percent a year earlier.

The following table and chart detail the number of buildings and their types of use by governorate as of June 2024, as well as the percentage of vacant and occupied units from 2015 to June 2024.

Expanding ties

Uzbek FM leads trade delegation to Kuwait

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Embassy of Uzbekistan in Kuwait says the Uzbek Foreign Minister Bakhtiar Saidov will visit Kuwait on Monday, August 12. He will be heading a delegation of businesspersons and government officials to participate in the "Uzbek-Kuwaiti Business Forum", which is scheduled to be held at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) on August 14.

According to a statement issued by the embassy, the delegation, which will be headed by Minister Saidov, consists of more than 60 businesspersons and 15 officials representing the Ministries of Industry and Trade, Finance, and Health and from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in addition to representatives of the Uzbek Tourism Authority.

Uzbek diplomatic sources highlighted their hope that the delegation will be able to make successful contacts with Kuwaiti businesspersons and investors to raise the level of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries, and bring it to a higher level than what it is currently.

They said, "Uzbek companies are looking for local agents. These companies and their visiting agents will introduce Kuwaiti investors to what Uzbekistan has to offer in all fields."

Uzbek businesspersons who are part of the delegation are representing companies in the food industry, agriculture (fruits and vegetables), light industries (textiles), medical supplies, sweets, and poultry farming.



Saidov

Hawalli inspection results in compliance notices

MoCI considers sector mergers

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is currently evaluating the potential merger or cancellation of certain sectors, including the Competition Protection Authority and the Insurance Unit, reports Al-Seyassah daily. This review is in line with recent directives from the Council of Ministers aimed at addressing administrative inflation and reducing expenses.

The proposed changes seek to streamline operations by merging or eliminating overlapping sectors to better manage resources and resolve specialization conflicts.

According to informed economic sources, the study on this matter is expected to expand in early September, following the end of the summer holidays and the return of many officials to their duties at the ministry.

The sources indicated that consolidating similar entities could lead to more organized operations and enhance the effectiveness of a single authority, reducing administrative fragmentation and confusion resulting from overlapping functions.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry reported that a recent inspection tour conducted by personnel from the Commercial Control Department in Hawalli led to the issuance of 14 'review notices' and three violations against service offices that failed to comply with the applicable laws and regulations.

Housing plots distribution suspension stays in effect

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has affirmed that the suspension of the distribution of plots in some housing project sites remains in effect, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The authority issued the decision one month ago, including the cancellation of the lottery for the plots in South Saad Al-Abdullah housing project.

On July 7, the daily published news about the temporary suspension of the distribution of housing plots; and that the Board of Directors of the authority would meet in the second week of July to discuss the mechanism for the distribution of plots in a manner that serves the interests of citizens who submitted their housing grant applications.

Sources from the authority later revealed that the PAHW Board of Directors had a brief meeting; presided over by Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Dr. Mahmoud Bushehri, during which no decision was taken regarding the housing plots distribution mechanism.



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JACC's tribute reflects actor's timeless impact

Kuwait's beloved icon: Abdulhussein Abdulredha's enduring legacy

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11, (KUNA): On August 11, 2017, Kuwait had lost one of its most iconic actors Abdulhussein Abdulredha who left an enduring legacy through countless theater performances, television roles, and artistic endeavors.

Despite the passage of time, Kuwaitis young and old continue to browse through Abdulredha's catalog of work and often utter catchphrases by the acting giant whether meant to evoke joy and laughter or move something deep inside people's collective consciousness.

Born on July 15, 1939, Sharq, Kuwaiti city, Abdulredha left an undeniable imprint in the acting scene for 50 years namely in the genre of comedy where he excelled. He also was known for his writing, production, singing, and musical composition prowess.

Abdulredha's theater, radio, television, and film roles spanned many genres and decades and he is known for partaking in 30 iconic series including Darb Al-Zalag (the Slippery Road) Qasid Khair (Seeker of Goodness, and many more.

He took part in 33 theater productions including his classic leading roles in "Bye Bye London", Fursan Al-Manakh, The 50-year-old teenager to name a few.

Abdulredha contributed to the establishment of several theater troupes including the Arab theater group and the national theater group. He founded Funoon (arts) center for production and distribution.

To honor his legacy, the Abdulhussein Abdulredha Theater was opened in 2016 in Salmiya area under the supervision of the National



KUNA photo  
The late artist Abdulhussein Abdulredha

Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL).

This year, the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center (JACC) has organized and produced a play in honor of the iconic actor called Aalam Abdulhussein (Abdulhussein's world) with the production revisiting several of his classic works and career defining roles via actors portraying his likeness during performances.

During his life, Abdulredha had several health relapses in 2003, 2005, and 2015.

He passed away in London on August 11, 2017 on a Friday at age 78.

The passing of Abdulredha had garnered attention from all sectors of Kuwaiti society and the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber AL-Sabah instructed that the remains of the actor would be brought back to Kuwait on an Amir plane from the UK.

Abdulhussein Abdulredha was finally laid to rest on August 16, 2017 with crowds from all walks of life, Kuwaitis and residents all bidding farewell to their beloved actor.



Photo by Mahmoud Jadeed

Baskets of Shrimps at the fish market.

Shrimp prices fall to KD2 per kilo

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Deputy Director of the Fisheries Sector at the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) Marzouq Al-Azmi revealed that the fish market recently received 376 baskets of 'Umm Na'ira' shrimp at prices ranging from KD40 to KD55 per basket; in addition to 188 baskets of 'Shahamiya' shrimp at prices ranging from KD25 to KD30 per basket, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a special statement to the daily,

Al-Azmi disclosed that the price of one kilogram of shrimp dropped from KD3.500 last week to KD2 this week. He expects an increase in shrimp catch quantities in the coming days; owing to the efforts of the PAAAFR in issuing the required licenses, closely monitoring territorial waters and arresting violators with the aim of preserving the shrimp stock. He affirmed that the country started reaping the fruits of such efforts when the shrimp fishing ban was lifted on Aug 1.

Over 160 activities offered

PAYS holds summer program across 11 centers, academies

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Public Authority for Youth announced, Saturday, the launch of more than 160 activities, programs, training courses, and workshops aimed at youth and children across 11 centers and youth academies in Kuwait's six governorates, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

These activities are part of the Authority's summer program plan, with volunteer, craft, and sports activities, and will continue until mid-September.



Al-Ansari

Walid Al-Ansari, Deputy Director General of the Youth Sector at the Authority, stated to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that these activities will be hosted at youth centers in Al-Daiya, Al-Qadisiya, Al-Shamiya, Al-Faiha, Al-Ardiya, Jeeb Al-Shuyoukh, Jaber Al-Ahmad City, and Al-Jahra. Additionally, the craft center at Al-Qadisiya Youth Center and academies for volunteer work at Al-Shamiya Youth Center, as well as arts and media at Al-Daiya Youth Center, will also participate.

One of the highlights of these activities is the launch of a summer camp focused on modern technology and technical sciences. This camp will feature workshops and lectures on creating electronic applications, 3D printing and design, and other scientific activities.

The summer program also includes recreational sports events, such as martial arts and padel, as well as craft courses in pottery making, dhow ship

modeling, and weaving at the craft center. Religious activities will also be held at various youth centers.

Al-Ansari noted the launch of the new season of the "My Hobbies" project, which offers specialized courses to develop youth skills in drawing, photography, cooking, agriculture, fashion design, and more. Additionally, the program includes leadership development and citizenship enhancement courses under the "Future Leaders" and "Youth Homeland" programs.

The Academy of Arts and Media for Youth will provide specialized training in various fields of arts and media, while the Academy of Volunteer Work will offer diverse activities aimed at helping young people discover their interests and talents through hands-on experiences.

The Public Authority for Youth has announced the launch of a summer club for children aged 6 to 12 years as part of its summer activities plan.

The program includes courses aimed at developing and improving children's skills through interactive activities under the supervision of specialists familiar with this sensitive age group.

Additionally, the Authority is offering volunteer opportunities for young men and women who wish to contribute to organizing these summer activities.

Young people interested in participating or volunteering are encouraged to register through the Public Authority for Youth's website and follow their social media platforms for detailed information about the free activities and their schedules.

This initiative aims to make productive use of young people's free time during the holiday, enhance communication, and help them build strong relationships with their peers.

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Permanent Committee for Studying and Responding to the Observations of the State Audit Bureau (SAB) at the Education Ministry, headed by the assistant undersecretary for financial affairs, has finalized its response to the observations of the bureau about revenues, expenditures, employment affairs, stores and warehouses; as well as the failure of the National Center for Education Development to complete the projects included in the State development plan and accounts outside the budget for fiscal 2023/2024, say sources from the educational sector.

Upon receiving the report on the assessment and review of the ministry's work for the fiscal year, the ministry forwarded the report to all of its sectors to study and respond to the observations; requesting a statement on the reasons for their occurrence and ways of preventing their recurrence, sources confirmed.

Sources explained that if violations require identifying the responsible persons, these violations are referred to the Legal Sector for investigation; indicating the ministry has formed a permanent committee tasked to investigate the violations.

Sources stated the committee's tasks include receiving correspondence from SAB, submitting reports to the minister, studying and following up reports from the Council of Ministers, Government Performance Follow-up Agency and National Assembly.

Sources said the Financial Controllers Agency deals with the observations of SAB through the Financial and Administrative Affairs Sector and the committee.

PIFSS posts financial surplus for 2023/24

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) budget for fiscal 2023/2024 reveals that the institution's revenues totaled 9.15 billion dinars, while expenses amounted to 4.3 billion dinars, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This resulted in a net increase of 4.8 billion dinars added to the institution's fund reserves.

KSR and Direct Aid Society dispatch major 'aid convoy' to northern Gaza

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11, (Agencies): The Kuwait Society for Relief (KSR) has dispatched a relief convoy carrying 60 tons of essential food supplies to northern Gaza, where severe shortages have persisted due to ongoing Israeli occupation attacks. The aid was delivered through Rahma Worldwide's offices in Palestine, with joint funding and collaboration from the Direct Aid Society.

Omar Al-Thuwaini, Deputy General Director of KSR and team leader, confirmed the successful arrival of the convoy, which is expected to assist around 30,000 families. Al-Thuwaini emphasized the critical nature of this support, given the region's severe food shortages over the past 10 months.

Abdullah Al-Sumait, Director General of the Direct Aid Society, underscored that these convoys are part of

urgent relief efforts for Gaza. He assured that Direct Aid, in partnership with KSR, remains committed to aiding affected populations in Gaza and other Palestinian cities.

Dr. Shadi Zaza, founder and president of Rahma Worldwide, highlighted the dire situation in northern Gaza, exacerbated by the blockade and lack of food supplies. He praised Kuwaiti organizations for their continued solidarity with Palestine and confirmed that Rahma Worldwide will persist in delivering essential food packages.

In addition to the convoy, the KSR has launched a fundraising campaign to support ongoing food deliveries to Gaza.

Meanwhile, Jamal Al-Nouri, Treasurer of KSR and Chairman of the society's Relief Committee, reported that the third Gaza relief ship has departed from Mersin Port in Turkey, heading to Aqaba Port in Jordan, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This shipment, carrying 1,600 tons of relief supplies, includes 650 tons of food, health, shelter, and personal items. The supplies consist of 35,000 food parcels, 35,000 bags of flour, 20,000 baby milk and nutritional supplement parcels, and other essential items.

The ship is expected to reach Aqaba Port before mid-August, where it will be unloaded and then transported by truck, in cooperation with the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization, to the Gaza Strip for distribution.



KUNA photo

A relief convoy with 60 tons of food to northern Gaza to help and support the residents of the Strip.

KFH warns against investment fraud

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: As part of its continuous support to Diraya campaign, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) advises customers to keep caution when receiving investment offers messages from unknown parties. While the messages may entail investment opportunities with high returns in a short period of time, they are considered one of the latest fraud approaches that mainly aim to steal customers' bank information.

In a press release, KFH explained that fraudsters continue developing new means to lure customers and steal their account data and their money. The latest of which is fake investment opportunities, which entails marketing a deceptive investment offer targeting people who want to profit quickly and pushes them to rush into handing over information that are considered confidential which ultimately results in the theft of their data and funds.

KFH pointed out that some scammers take advantage of people's desire for quick profit by impersonating an in-



Diraya logo

vestment fund, government agency or a famous business influencer. They reach out to customers via phone, e-mail or social media accounts to speculate in currencies, precious metals, foreign

stocks, cryptocurrencies, bonds or fake investment and real estate funds, while the main goal of fraudsters is to obtain bank data when customers log in before they start trading.

KFH invites those wishing to invest to contact licensed banks and companies and deal with trusted parties to provide investment advice. The bank also urges customers to avoid suspicious communications, invitations, fake websites, and online platforms. It stressed the necessity to verify the authenticity of the investment entity before disclosing any information or taking any step.

Diraya awareness campaign, launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait in collaboration with local banks, aims to spread banking literacy among the society and raise awareness on financial issues and how to protect assets from any fraud attempts. It also aims to highlight the role of the banking sector and the products the bank provides by presenting and posting instructions and guidance through media and social media platforms.

Give fake

Continued from Page 1

In reality, officials should not be troubled by fake names. However, when someone openly declares their identity, what they publish should be examined. If the content is accurate, the issue should be addressed or discussed.

Frankly, following the measures taken by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, even traffic on the roads was organized, and the annoying noises subsided or disappeared. Therefore, the Council of Ministers must proceed with its program in the way His Highness envisions, without being distracted by trivial matters.

All ministers must give great importance to what the newspapers publish, as they today represent the voice of the people after the suspension of the National Assembly.

Poison is feared by all, and honey is welcomed by all. Similarly, people want to eat grapes, not kill the guard of the vineyard.

tionality is carrying out its role to the fullest extent and continues to work with great precision.

He announced the withdrawal of nationality from 850 people based on decisions, evidence and proof, revealing that, "Those whose nationalities were revoked did not object to the committee's decisions because the withdrawal decision was supported by evidence and indications."

Regarding the other expected batches of citizenship withdrawals, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef said, "We have not finished this file yet. We are still at the beginning."

He stressed that citizenship withdrawals will continue in batches after complete verification.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef indicated that the hotline number allocated by the Ministry of Interior to report forgers and dual nationals is still receiving reports on an increasing basis, and they are being dealt with, verified and scrutinized with complete neutrality and objectivity.

Delivery companies

Continued from Page 1

without barriers or intermediaries; indicating many topics are referred to decision-makers in an inaccurate manner.

He said the steps that some ministries intend to take in determining the

types of vehicles and conditions for new licenses contribute to increasing traffic congestion and negatively affects the population structure, stressing this contradicts the Ministry of Interior's directive to amend the population structure and find solutions to traffic congestion.

He pointed out that the government agencies' directive to determine the type of vehicles and reduce the number of vehicles will destroy the delivery market. He said the license holders have been committed to all the conditions set for them; such as preserving food and food supplies during delivery by using modern, clean containers and vehicles that comply with the regulations set by the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN).

He added the current fleet of vehicles was established in accordance with the law of the Ministry of Interior and in compliance with the rules of the concerned government agencies. He said this increased the debts of the owners of delivery companies; indicating that specifying other types of vehicles as a condition for licensing could create a black market and illegal labor to deliver orders and raise prices for society in general.

He continued saying that increasing the costs for delivery companies in different ways and by different State institutions contribute to raising the prices for consumers. He added the losers are the citizens and expatriates - the license holders and delivery service clients.

Region promising

Continued from Page 1

A developmental plan will be put in place based on current findings to begin official production as soon as possible.

The plan aims to augment Kuwait's production capabilities and take it a step closer to achieving 2040 strategy.

This project is the culmination of cohesive collaboration across KOC sectors, continuous support from Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's (KPC) management, and ongoing cooperation with all relevant government entities, paving the way for the successful exploration and investment in oil and gas drilling operations in the area, commented Al-Eidan.

HH Amir

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Sunday at Seif Palace the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince also received the chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council and President of the Court of Cassation Counselor Dr. Adel Majed Boursli and the First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense, Interior

MoE starts book distribution for 2024/2025 academic year

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: As part of the Ministry of Education's preparations for the 2024/2025 academic year, which begins on September 17, the Supplies and Warehouses Department of the Ministry of Education has started distributing primary school books from its warehouses. This follows the recent completion of awarding and signing all contracts related to school books for the semester.

According to informed sources, the Curriculum Department coordinated the process, and the books are being supplied to the warehouses in stages

after they are printed.

The Ministry of Education has begun distributing school books for grades one to five for the first semester of the 2024/2025 academic year. All books available in the warehouses have been distributed, and the remaining books are expected from the printing presses to ensure complete distribution to schools before the first semester starts.

The ministry is closely following up the preparation of textbooks for all educational stages to ensure timely delivery to sub-stores in the educational zones. This is part of a comprehensive plan to meet the textbook needs of government schools for the new academic year.

Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah.

Kuwait strives

Continued from Page 1

The Minister praised the important role of Kuwaiti youth represented by the success of the authority's pro-

grams and projects through participation and organization, in addition to their distinguished achievements in many fields at the local and foreign levels.

The International Youth Day, designated by the United Nations on August 12, 1999, focuses this year on developing young minds to harness technology in creating digital paths with the aim of achieving sustainable development for all societies.



## World News Roundup

## Europe

## 2 killed in Kyiv

## Ukraine 'indirectly' confirms incursion

KYIV, Ukraine, Aug 11, (AP): Days after Ukraine began a surprise military incursion into Russia's Kursk border region, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy broke the government's silence on it late Saturday by indirectly acknowledging ongoing military actions to "push the war out into the aggressor's territory" in his nightly address.

Overnight into Sunday, a Russian drone and missile barrage on Kyiv killed two people including a 4-year-old boy. In Russia, Kursk's regional governor said that a Ukrainian missile shot down by Russian air defenses fell on a residential building, wounding 13 people.

Russia attacked Ukraine with four ballistic missiles and 57 Shahed drones, Ukraine's Air Force said. Air defenses shot down 53 drones.



Zelenskyy

The bodies of a 35-year old man and his son were found under rubble after fragments of missiles fell on a residential area in Kyiv's suburban Brovary district, according to Ukraine's State Emergency Service on Sunday. Another three people in the district were also injured in the attack.

Serhii Popko, head of the Kyiv City Military Administration said it was the second time this month Kyiv was targeted. Popko said ballistic missiles did not reach the capital but that suburbs took the hit, while drones aiming for the capital were shot down.

Zelenskyy, citing preliminary information, said that Russia had used a North Korean missile in the strike. Ukraine and the U.S. have previously said that Russia has used North Korean missiles in the war.

Zelenskyy reiterated calls to Western allies to step up in assistance to Ukraine, and that "to really stop Russian terror, we need not only a full-fledged air shield that will protect all our cities and communities, but also strong decisions from partners - decisions that will remove restrictions on our defensive actions."

Ukraine's incursion into Russia continued for a sixth day. The largest such attack since the full-scale invasion and unprecedented for its use of Ukrainian military units on Russian soil, it caught Moscow unaware and was an embarrassment to Russian military leaders who have scrambled to contain the breach.

Meanwhile, Belarus said it was sending more troops to its border with Ukraine on Saturday, saying Ukrainian drones had violated its airspace as part of Kyiv's military incursion into Russia's Kursk region.

Authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko said Belarusian air defense forces destroyed dozens of targets flying from Ukraine over the Mogilev region, which borders Russia, on Friday evening.

□ □ □

**Russia blocks Signal messaging app:** Russia's state communications watchdog said it has blocked access to the Signal messaging app, the latest move in the authorities' efforts to tighten controls over information amid the fighting in Ukraine.

The agency, Roskomnadzor, said it made the decision because of Signal's "violation of the requirements of Russian legislation which must be observed to prevent the messenger's use for terrorist and extremist purposes." Signal uses end-to-end encryption, making it difficult for the Russian government to intercept communications.

Russian authorities expanded their crackdown on dissent and free media after Russian President Vladimir Putin sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022. They have blocked multiple independent Russian-language media outlets critical of the Kremlin, and cut access to Twitter, which later became X, as well as Meta's Facebook and Instagram.

In the latest blow to the freedom of information, YouTube faced mass outages on Thursday following repeated slowdowns in recent weeks.

Russian authorities have blamed the slowdowns on Google's failure to upgrade its equipment in Russia, but many experts have challenged the claim, arguing that the likely reason for the slowdowns and the latest outage was the Kremlin's desire to shut public access to a major platform that carries opposition views.

□ □ □

**Greek customs agents seize cocaine:** Customs agents have seized around 93 kilograms (205 pounds) of cocaine at the port in the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki, authorities said.

The cocaine was found on a ship that had sailed from Ecuador to Thessaloniki carrying bananas, which would then be delivered over land to Romania by a French company, according to Greece's Independent Authority for Public Revenue, or IAPR, which oversees customs operations.

Customs agents X-rayed a container and found 80 packages hidden inside the container's cooling mechanism. IAPR said in a statement released late Friday.

"Inspectors immediately impounded the drugs and the container and handed over the drugs to the police ... the investigation to track down the recipients of the drugs continues," the statement said.

The estimated street value of the cocaine was more than 2.9 million euros (\$3.16 million), authorities said.

□ □ □

**Serbians protest lithium mining:** Tens of thousands of protesters rallied on Saturday against lithium mining in Serbia, despite officials' warnings of their alleged plot to topple populist President Aleksandar Vučić and his government.

Vučić said earlier he had been tipped off by Russian intelligence services that a "mass unrest and a coup" were being prepared in Serbia by unspecified Western powers that wish to oust him from power.

The crowd chanted: "There will be no mining" and "Treason, treason." After one of the biggest protests in downtown Belgrade in years ended, some people in the crowd marched toward the capital's two main railway stations, pledging to block train traffic until their demands that lithium mining be officially banned are met.

Government officials and state-controlled media have launched a major campaign against the rally, comparing it to the Maidan uprising in Ukraine's capital, Kiev, that led to the toppling of the country's then pro-Russia President Viktor Yanukovich in 2013. Organizers of the Belgrade protest have said the protest would be peaceful.

The demonstration came after weeks of protests in dozens of cities throughout Serbia against a government plan to allow lithium mining in a lush farming valley in the west of the country. This plan had been scrapped in 2022 after large demonstrations were held that included the blocking of key bridges and roads. But it was revived last month and received a boost in a tentative deal on "critical raw materials" signed by Vučić's government with the European Union.



US Republican presidential nominee former president Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally in Bozeman, Montana on Aug 9. (AP)

## Politics

## Hawaii Sen Hirono wins Democratic primary

## Emails hacked, says Trump's campaign

WASHINGTON, Aug 11, (AP): Former US president Donald Trump's presidential campaign said Saturday that it has been hacked and suggested Iranian actors were involved in stealing and distributing sensitive internal documents.

The campaign provided no specific evidence of Iran's involvement, but the claim comes a day after Microsoft issued a report detailing foreign agents' attempts to interfere in the US campaign in 2024.

It cited an instance of an Iranian military intelligence unit in June sending "a spear-phishing email to a high-ranking official of a presidential campaign from a compromised email account of a former senior advisor."

Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung blamed the hack on "foreign sources hostile to the United States." A spokesperson for the National Security Council said in a statement that it takes any report of improper foreign interference "extremely seriously" and condemns any government or entity that attempts to undermine confidence in U.S. democratic institutions, but said it deferred to the Justice Department on this matter.

Iran's mission to the United Nations, when asked about the claim of the Trump campaign, denied being involved. "We do not accord any credence to such reports," the mission told The Associated Press. "The Iranian government neither possesses nor harbors any intent or motive to interfere in the United States presidential election."

## Targeting

However, Iran long has been suspected of running hacking campaigns targeting its enemies in the Middle East and beyond. Tehran also long has threatened to retaliate against Trump over the 2020 drone strike he ordered that killed prominent Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

The US Justice Department this past week unsealed criminal charges against a Pakistani national with ties to Iran alleged to have plotted assassination attempts against political figures in the United States, including potentially Trump, and to have sought to hire purported hitmen who were actually undercover law enforcement officials. Court documents in that case

pointedly noted a desire by Iran to conduct operations against perceived enemies of the regime and to avenge the killing of Soleimani.

Politico first reported Saturday on the hack. The outlet reported that it began receiving emails on July 22 from an anonymous account. The source - an AOL email account identified only as "Robert" - passed along what appeared to be a research dossier the campaign had apparently done on the Republican vice presidential nominee, Ohio Sen. JD Vance. The document was dated Feb. 23, almost five months before Trump selected Vance as his running mate.

"These documents were obtained illegally" and "intended to interfere with the 2024 election and sow chaos throughout our Democratic process," Cheung said.

## Coincides

He pointed to the Microsoft report issued Friday and its conclusions that "Iranian hackers broke into the account of a 'high ranking official' on the US presidential campaign in June 2024, which coincides with the close timing of President Trump's selection of a vice presidential nominee."

"The Iranians know that President Trump will stop their reign of terror just like he did in his first four years in the White House," Cheung said, adding a warning that "any media or news outlet reprinting documents or internal communications are doing the bidding of America's enemies and doing exactly what they want."

Cheung did not immediately respond to questions about the campaign's interactions with Microsoft on the matter. Microsoft said Saturday it had no comment beyond its blog post and Friday report.

In that report, Microsoft stated that "foreign malign influence concerning the 2024 US election started off slowly but has steadily picked up pace over the last six months due initially to Russian operations, but more recently from Iranian activity."

The analysis continued: "Iranian cyber-enabled influence operations have been a consistent feature of at least the last three U.S. election cycles. Iran's operations have been notable and distinguishable from Russian campaigns

for appearing later in the election season and employing cyberattacks more geared toward election conduct than swaying voters."

Specifically, the report detailed that in June 2024, an Iranian military intelligence unit, Mint Sandstorm, sent a phishing email to an American presidential campaign via the compromised account of a former adviser.

## Also:

**HONOLULU:** US Sen Mazie Hirono and the state's incumbent congressional representatives won their races in the Democratic Party's primary election on Saturday.

**Hawaii** is a vote-by-mail state. Ballots were mailed to registered voters who must return them through the mail or to drop-off boxes located around the islands. Voters also were given the option to cast ballots in person at a handful of voter service centers in each county.

Ballots had to be received by county elections offices by 7 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.

Here's a look at key Hawaii races: Hirono is seeking a third term after first being elected to the office in 2012 to replace **Daniel Akaka**, who was the first Native Hawaiian to serve in the U.S. Senate after statehood.

She won a three-way race against **Ron Curtis** and **Clyde McClain Lewman**. Curtis lost to Hirono in the general election six years ago when he was the Republican nominee for the same seat. Lewman placed seventh in the Democratic primary for governor in 2022 with 249 votes.

Hirono became a state legislator in 1980, Hawaii's lieutenant governor in 1994 and a member of the US House in 2007. She underwent surgery for kidney cancer in 2017, a year before she was last elected to a second six-year term in the Senate.

Former state Rep. **Bob McDermott** beat five lesser-known candidates for the Republican nomination for Senate. McDermott last ran for Senate two years ago when he lost to U.S. Sen. **Brian Schatz**, a Democrat, in the general election by a 44-point margin.

U.S. Rep. **Ed Case** won the Democratic Party primary to represent Hawaii's 1st Congressional District in Congress by defeating Cecil Hale.



In this photo provided by the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, smoke rises from a wildfire near La Pine, Oregon on June 25. Wildfires in Oregon have burned more acres of land in 2024 than in any year since reliable records began, authorities said on Aug 9 with the mid-August peak of fire season still on the horizon. (AP)



Doyle



Justice

## America

**Officer critically injured at protest:** A Ferguson, Missouri, police officer was critically injured outside the city's police station during protests on the 10th anniversary of the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, a pivotal moment in the national Black Lives Matter movement, police said Saturday.

Ferguson police chief **Troy Doyle** said Officer Travis Friday suffered a severe brain injury Friday after being knocked to the ground.

"He is in an area hospital right now fighting for his life," Doyle said.

Two other officers also were hurt, one sustaining an ankle injury and another an abrasion. Both were treated at the scene.

The team of officers went out to make arrests Friday for destruction of property at the police station, where protesters gathered to remember Michael Brown, the unarmed Black 18-year-old who was killed by Darren Wilson, a white police officer in 2014.

One of the suspects was charged Saturday with assault of a special victim, resisting arrest and property damage. He was ordered held on \$500,000 cash only bond. No information was immediately listed in online court records, so it wasn't known if he had an attorney yet. (AP)

**'I don't want to die':** As law enforcement officers hung back outside Khloie Torres' fourth-grade classroom in Uvalde, Texas, she begged for help in a series of calls to 911, whispering into the phone that there were "a lot" of bodies and telling the operator: "Please, I don't want to die. My teacher is dead. Oh, my God."

Calls from Khloie and others, along with body camera footage and surveillance videos from the May 24, 2022, shooting at Robb Elementary School, were included in a massive collection of audio and video recordings released by Uvalde city officials on Saturday after a prolonged legal fight. The Associated Press and other news organizations brought a lawsuit after the officials initially refused to publicly release the information. The massacre, which left 19 students and two teachers dead, was one of the worst school shootings in US history.

At one point, the operator asks Khloie if there are many people in the room with her. The delayed law enforcement response to the shooting - nearly 400 officers waited more than 70 minutes before confronting the gunman in a classroom filled with dead and wounded children and teachers - has

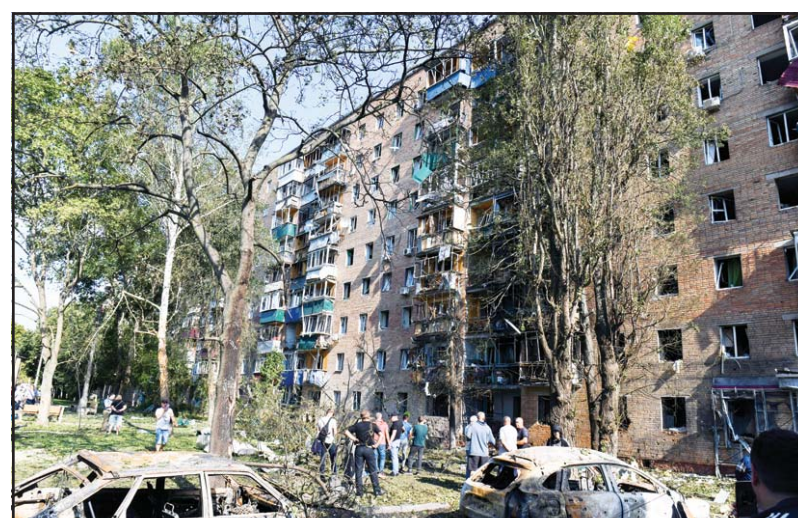
been widely condemned as a massive failure. (AP)

**Coal miner dies in accident:** A coal miner was killed on the job in northern West Virginia earlier this week. Gov **Jim Justice** announced Friday.

William "Joe" Crandall was killed in an

incident at Arch Resource's ACI Tygart Valley Mine in Taylor County, West Virginia, on Monday. Crandall is the second worker to die as a result of a mine accident in the last month in the coal-producing state.

A 33-year-old woman died in July after being injured at the Wyco Surface Mine, near the border of Raleigh and Wyoming counties.



People gather at an apartment building damaged after shelling by the Ukrainian side in Kursk, Russia on Aug 11. (AP)

"It surely is honorable, but it's a tough business, and we should be so respectful and thankful of our miners every day," Justice said at a news briefing Friday, adding: "Joe Crandall died trying to make your lives and my life better. We should always remember that. Please keep him in your prayers."

Monday's accident involved power haulage, or equipment such as shuttle cars, scoops, locomotives and front end loaders, according to the US Mine Safety and Health Administration. (AP)

## Corrections officers plead guilty:

Two West Virginia correctional officers accused of failing to intervene as their colleagues beat an incarcerated man to death in 2022 pleaded guilty in federal court Thursday.

Former Southern Regional Jail employees Jacob Boothe and Ashley Toney admitted to violating 37-year-old Quantez Burks' civil rights by not protecting him from being physically assaulted by other correctional officers.

Toney and Boothe, who appeared before US District Court Judge Joseph R. Goodwin in Charleston, were among six former correctional officers indicted by a federal grand jury in November 2023.

Burks was a pretrial detainee at the Southern Regional Jail in Beaver who died less than a day after he was booked into the jail on a warrant endangerment charge in March 2022. (AP)



## Africa

## Building collapse kills 3

## 24 SLeone soldiers get 'long' jail terms

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone, Aug 11, (Agencies): Twenty-four soldiers in Sierra Leone were sentenced to lengthy prison terms, some for up to 120 years, after being convicted by a military court for their roles in an attempted coup in the West African nation last year.

A seven-member jury convicted the soldiers following an 8-month trial in the foiled coup against President **Julius Maada Bio** which occurred in November. Dozens of gunmen at the time broke into the country's army in the capital city and into a prison where the majority of the more than 2,000 inmates were freed. The clashes left 18 security forces dead. Authorities at the time said they arrested around 80 suspects, and a dozen were charged in January, including former president Ernest Bai Koroma, later granted medical leave.



Bio

The soldiers convicted on Friday were sentenced to varying prison terms, most imprisoned for dozens of years. The most senior among them - Lt. Col. Charles James Mische Yamba - was given a 120-year sentence. They faced up to 88 counts on charges of murder, mutiny, communicating with the enemy, and willful damage to public or military property among others.

Friday's verdict comes two weeks after a local court sentenced 11 civilians for their role in the attempted coup. Among them was Amadu Koita Makalo, the man accused of leading the attack, who was sentenced to 182 years in prison.

Makalo is an ex-bodyguard of former Sierra Leonean president Ernest Bai Koroma, who was also charged for his alleged role in the incident but was later granted medical leave.

**Chad building collapse kills 3:** Three children have been found dead beneath the debris of a collapsed wall in Chad's Kanem region after torrential rain, an official said on Saturday.

The tragedy happened on Friday at the Ligra locality of the region when a local house collapsed, resulting in the death of two girls and a two-year-old boy, said Brahim Alifa Ali, the prefect of the Kanem-Centre department.

Last week, Chadian President Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno warned of the risk of flooding after heavy rain battered the Central African nation for days.

The government was working to achieve "lasting solutions throughout the national territory from now on," he said.

**8 dead in Uganda landslide:** At least eight people, including two children, were killed following a landslide at a garbage dump in Uganda's central district of Wakiso on Saturday.

The Kampala Capital City Authority, the manager of the city waste, said the Saturday morning landslide came after torrential rains.

"The Kampala Capital City Authority Landfill in Kiteezi has had a structural failure in waste mass this morning, resulting in a collapsed section of the landfill," the KCCA said in a press release posted on its official handle on X, formerly Twitter, on Saturday.

The authority said concerted efforts with police, related ministries, and the Uganda Red Cross Society had successfully rescued 14 people.

"On a very sad note, eight people have so far been found dead, six adults and two children," KCCA added.

Patrick Onyango, the Kampala Metropolitan police spokesperson, earlier told journalists before the forces arrived that three other people had been rescued by civilians.

"So far, the rescue mission is still ongoing to try and retrieve more bodies, if any," Onyango said.

**Zimbabwe road accidents kill 13:** A total of 13 people were killed in two road accidents in Zimbabwe on Friday, according to police.

"The Zimbabwe Republic Police confirms two fatal road traffic accidents which occurred this evening in Masvingo and Gokwe where a total of 13 people have died," police spokesperson Paul Nyathi said late Friday on X, formerly Twitter.

He said the first accident happened in the city of Masvingo, Masvingo Province, around 4:30 p.m. local time when a bus went off the road while the driver was negotiating a steep gradient.

"Seven people died while 99 were injured," he said, adding that 65 of the injured were treated at Topora Clinic for minor injuries and discharged, while the others who suffered serious injuries were taken to other hospitals.

The other accident, which happened just outside the town of Gokwe, Midlands Province, around 6 p.m. local time, resulted in the deaths of six people after a car hit a pothole and then collided with a van that had nine occupants on board, Nyathi said.

"Six people died, three from each vehicle. Eight people were injured, three critically, and five sustained moderate injuries," he added.

**Sfrica dam collapse displaces hundreds:** Hundreds of people have been displaced after retention dams collapsed, causing flooding and destroying homes in South Africa's southwestern province of Western Cape, local authorities said on Friday.

The incident occurred on Thursday near the town of Malmesbury in Swartland, north of Cape Town, the legislative capital of South Africa.

According to a statement released by the Swartland Municipality on Friday, the cause of the incident was that three dams on a property known as Dassenberg breached, causing severe flooding in parts of Riverlands, outside Malmesbury.

"Following intense investigations yesterday, it was discovered that the third dam in a series of four dams initiated the breach, resulting in the first and second dams being overwhelmed, resulting in the extensive and devastating flood affecting Riverlands," said the municipal government in the statement.

"The fourth dam is currently stable and is continuously monitored. Efforts to partially drain this dam, as a precautionary measure, will commence later today," it noted, adding that "the dams are located within the municipal borders of the City of Cape Town."

The Swartland Municipality also said the flood caused severe property and infrastructure damage to the affected area, and the water network and supply has been destroyed leaving the town without potable water.



An aerial drone photo shows emergency workers clearing a section of the national highway No. 318 hit by a flash flood and mudslide in Ridi Village of Kangding City, southwest China's Sichuan Province on Aug 5. (Xinhua)

## China's Sichuan evacuates 80,000 people amid heavy rains

More than 80,000 people have been evacuated in southwest China's Sichuan Province amid the most recent rainstorms to hit the region, local authorities said on Sunday.

Heavy rains have battered several of Sichuan's cities and prefectures since Friday, triggering flash

floods and destroying homes, according to the province's emergency management authorities.

No casualties have yet been reported as a result of the latest rainstorms.

Local authorities have enhanced spot checks, patrols and monitoring work to guard against rain-

triggered secondary disasters, informing precautionary decisions to evacuate locals from flood-prone areas.

Intense rain on Aug. 3 unleashed a flash flood and mudslide in the city of Kangding, Sichuan, resulting in 27 people reported dead or missing. (Xinhua)



A view of the roof of a house damaged by bombs dropped from a drone in Ali village in Maungdaw township, Rakhine state, Myanmar on Aug 10. (AP)



Petro



Fujimori

## Lat/Am

**Experts work to identify the dead:** Families of victims of an airliner crash in Brazil are gathering Sunday at a morgue and hotels in Sao Paulo as forensics experts work to identify the remains of the 62 people killed in the accident.

Local authorities said the bodies of the pilot, Danilo Santos Romano, and his co-pilot, Humberto de Campos Alencar e Silva, were the first to be identified by forensics experts.

Sao Paulo state government said in a statement Saturday evening that the remains of all the victims had been recovered. There were 34 male and 28 female bodies in the wreckage, it said.

The ATR 72 twin-engine turboprop operated by Brazilian airline Voepass was headed for Guarulhos international airport in Sao Paulo with 58 passengers and four crew members when it went down Friday in Vinhedo, 78 kilometers (49 miles) north of the metropolis. (AP)

**Peru gov't enacts 'law':** Peru's government on Friday enacted a law that prevents the prosecution of crimes against humanity committed before 2002, a decision that favors former president **Alberto Fujimori** as well as hundreds of military personnel investigated or prosecuted for massacres and murders during the country's internal armed conflict (1980-2000).

The law, which had no comments from President Dina Boluarte, was promulgated, despite a July order from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the highest regional court in this matter, indicating to Boluarte, Congress and the Judiciary that they should annul what was then still a bill, because it contravened international law.

The United Nations on Friday denounced the enacting of the bill.

Peru's new law "contravenes the country's obligations under international law and is a troubling development, amid a broader backlash against human rights and the rule of law in Peru," said Volker Türk, UN human rights chief, in a statement. (AP)

**'Petro target of possible attack':** Colombian President **Gustavo Petro** was the target of a possible attack in July, when he took part in a public event in downtown Bogotá, Defense Minister Iván Velásquez said Thursday, without providing evidence or elaborating further.

"There was information about that... an attack," Velásquez said, but declined to provide additional details when pressed by

## Asia

## Thailand's Move Forward regroups as People's Party

## AA suspected of deadly attack in Myanmar

BANGKOK, Aug 11, (AP): At least 150 civilians from Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority may have been killed this week in an artillery and drone attack in the western state of Rakhine that survivors suspect was carried out by a major force in the resistance to military rule.

The Arakan Army (AA) the military wing of the state's Rakhine ethnic group, denied responsibility for the assault Monday on Rohingya trying to flee fierce fighting in Maungdaw town by crossing the Naf River into Bangladesh.

A statement issued Friday by an international medical assistance group, Doctors Without Borders, said that in the past week, it has been treating increasing numbers of Rohingya people with violence-related injuries who managed to cross the border into Bangladesh.

The statement said some patients "reported seeing people bombed while trying to find boats to cross the river into Bangladesh and escape the violence. Others described seeing hundreds of dead bodies on the riverbanks."

## Blamed

Two self-described survivors contacted by The Associated Press blamed the Arakan Army, as did Rohingya activists and Myanmar's military government. The attack, if confirmed, would be one of the deadliest involving civilians in the country's civil war.

Gruesome videos circulating on social media purport to show dozens of bodies of adults and children strewn along a road near the riverside.

Neither the video nor details of the attack can be easily verified due to tight restrictions on travel and ongoing combat in the area.

Pro-democracy guerrillas and ethnic minority armed forces have been attempting to oust the country's military rulers since they seized power in 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

However, the fighting in Rakhine

has raised fears of a revival of organized violence against members of the Rohingya minority.

In 2017, a military counter-insurgency campaign drove at least 740,000 members of their community to Bangladesh for safety. Almost all still remain there in overcrowded refugee camps, unable to return home because of the continuing instability.

Many Rohingyas have lived in Myanmar for generations, but face widespread prejudice and are generally denied citizenship and other basic rights in the Buddhist-majority country.

The Arakan Army, seeking autonomy from Myanmar's central government, began its Rakhine offensive in November and has gained control of nine of 17 townships, along with one in neighboring Chin state. It has been trying since June to seize the border town of Maungdaw.

## Capture

It has been accused of major human rights violations before, particularly involving its capture of the town of Buthidaung in mid-May. It was accused of forcing its estimated 200,000 residents, largely Rohingyas, to leave, and then setting fire to most of the buildings there. The Arakan Army denied such allegations, though witnesses have described the group's actions to the AP and other media.

Allegations of abuses by the Arakan Army are controversial because the group's armed force has played a major role in winning battlefield victories for the resistance movement against military rule.

There is much credible evidence of atrocities carried out by the military government's forces, but reported abuses by resistance groups have minimal.

A 17-year-old Rohingya from Maungdaw who survived the artillery and drone attacks said that just after 6 pm Monday, he saw four drones flying from the southern part of Maungdaw toward the riverbank where about 1,000 Rohingyas, including himself,

were waiting for boats to cross into Bangladesh.

The man, speaking to the AP by phone Friday from Bangladesh on the condition of anonymity to protect his relatives remaining in Maungdaw, said he and other people jumped into the water as the drones dropped three bombs near where he and 12 of his family members had been standing.

## Also:

**BANGKOK:** Just days after being disbanded by court order, Thailand's main progressive political party regrouped Friday under a new name and vowed to continue its fight for reforms despite continuing opposition from the conservative establishment that blocked the party from taking power despite finishing first in last year's election.

Leaders of the dissolved Move Forward Party announced they were forming a new party to be called the People's - or Prachachon - Party.

Critics say the party's dissolution was the latest attack on the country's progressive movement in a years-long legal campaign by conservative forces.

Thailand's Constitutional Court on Wednesday unanimously ruled that the Move Forward Party violated the constitution by proposing to amend a law that criminalizes insulting the royal family.

It also banned former Move Forward executives, including popular former chief Pita Limjaroenrat, from politics for 10 years.

Move Forward won the most seats in the 2023 general election, but conservative, military-appointed Senators voted down its candidate for prime minister. The party's surprise victory was seen as reflecting widespread desire for democratic reforms, especially among younger voters, after years of military rule.

Lawmakers of a dissolved political party who are not banned from politics can keep their seats in Parliament if they join another party within 60 days. Move Forward had 148 lawmakers in Parliament, but five are now-banned executives who cannot continue to serve.

reporters.

Petro participated in the traditional military parade on July 20 to commemorate the 214th anniversary of Colombia's independence from Spain, after arriving several

hours late to the event.

Petro said at the time that his tardiness was due to "information that had to be corroborated with the United States embassy, and a lack of coordination among my secu-

rity detail."

On Wednesday, Gustavo Bolívar, one of Petro's closest allies in his cabinet, insisted to the press that the president arrived late on July 20 because there were "security concerns" and a warning from the US embassy. (AP)



Police vehicles used to carry bodies leave at the gated community where a plane crashed in Vinhedo, Sao Paulo state, Brazil on Aug 10. Families of victims of an airliner crash in Brazil are gathering on Aug 11 at a morgue and hotels in Sao Paulo as forensics experts work to identify the remains of the 62 people killed in the accident. (AP)

**'Zambada ambushed, kidnapped':** Mexican drug cartel leader Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada said he was ambushed and kidnapped when he thought he was going to meet the governor of the northern state of Sinaloa, then was taken against his will to the United States, according to a letter released Saturday by his lawyer.

In the two-page letter, Zambada said fellow drug lord Joaquín Guzmán López asked him to attend a meeting July 25 with local politicians, including Sinaloa Gov. Rubén Rocha Moya, from the ruling Morena party.

But he was led into a room where he was knocked down, a hood was placed over his head, he was handcuffed, and then taken in a pickup truck to a landing strip where he was forced into a private plane that finally took him and Guzmán López, one of the sons of imprisoned Sinaloa drug cartel leader Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, to U.S. soil, according to the letter.

Zambada's comments were released a day after the US ambassador to Mexico confirmed that the drug lord had been taken to the United States against his will, when he arrived in Texas in July on a plane along with Guzmán López. (AP)



## oil prices rise 4% weekly amid easing demand concerns

Oil prices ended higher on Friday, marking a weekly gain of approximately 4 percent, driven by easing demand concerns and positive economic signals, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Brent crude futures rose by 50 cents, closing at \$79.66 per barrel, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures increased by 65 cents to \$76.84 per barrel.

Brent crude saw a weekly gain of over 3.5 percent, and WTI crude climbed more than 4 percent. This

positive trend was supported by encouraging economic data and indications from Federal Reserve policymakers suggesting potential interest rate cuts as soon as September.

On Thursday, three Federal Reserve policymakers expressed increased confidence that inflation is decreasing sufficiently to warrant a reduction in interest rates.

Moreover, the data revealed a larger-than-expected drop in new unemployment claims in the US, alleviating concerns about a weak

labor market and reducing recession fears.

Further supporting oil prices, China's consumer price index rose slightly faster than anticipated last month, according to the statistics bureau.

However, supply risks persist due to ongoing geopolitical tensions. Israeli air strikes on the Gaza Strip intensified on Thursday, resulting in the deaths of at least 40 individuals, adding to the uncertainties surrounding oil supply.

## KIPIC floats tender for Al-Zour refinery maintenance

The Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) has floated a tender for the maintenance work at the Al-Zour Refinery, specifically the company's liquefied natural gas (LNG) import facility, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The tender, for which 21 companies have been invited to participate, will be officially opened 30 days from its publication in the Kuwait Alyawm newspaper.

KIPIC has stated that any com-

pany not on the invitation list can submit a formal request to participate. This request must include supporting documents and be addressed to the Chairman of the Higher Purchasing Committee for Tenders of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries, within 30 days from the date of publication.

Moreover, KIPIC has initiated a public tender for media services, which started on August 4 and will run until October 1, 2024.

In related news, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation has awarded a tender for the installation, operation, and maintenance of internet and communication lines.

The contract, valued at 47,900 thousand dinars, was awarded to the Gulf Network Communications Company, which was selected as the lowest price bidder meeting all technical specifications and conditions set by the Higher Purchasing Committee for Tenders of KPC and its affiliates.

## Market Movements

11-08-2024

		Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
SAUDI	Tadawul	+104.57	11,771.69			
EGYPT	EGX 320	+781.85	29,532.67			

# Business

## Kuwait projects KD2.04 billion budget deficit for FY 2024/'25

Non-oil revenues projected at 2.428 billion dinars

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11:** According to the weekly report from Al-Shall Center, Kuwait's general budget for the fiscal 2024/2025 is expected to face a deficit of 2.040 billion dinars, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This projection is based on anticipated total budget revenues of 22.515 billion dinars, which includes 2.428 billion dinars in non-oil revenues, against expenditure appropriations of 24.555 billion dinars.

The report noted that as of the end of July 2024, the average price of Kuwaiti oil was about \$85.8 per barrel. This is approximately \$15.8 per barrel higher, or 22.6 percent, than the budget's estimated price of \$70 per barrel. For the previous fiscal year 2023/2024, the average price

## Capital Intelligence affirms 'BBB-' rating for NIGH's KD 40 mln bonds

NIGH reports 86% profit increase in Q1 2024

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11:** Capital Intelligence Ratings has affirmed a 'BBB-' rating for the proposed KWD 40 million senior unsecured bonds issued by National Industries Group Holding (NIGH), which are listed on both the Kuwait and Dubai stock exchanges. The outlook is stable, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The rating reflects several positive factors such as

was \$84.4 per barrel.

The July 2024 average price represents a 1.7 percent increase from the previous fiscal year's average but is \$4.9 per barrel below the new breakeven price of \$90.7.

Oil revenues for July are projected to be 1.679 billion

the debt servicing capabilities, profitability, earnings growth, liquidity and market access and asset diversity.

This is in addition, the company reporting an 86% year-on-year increase in profits for Q1 2024, reaching 29.51 million dinars compared to 15.88 million dinars in Q1 2023.

dinars. Assuming stable production levels and prices, oil revenues could total 20.087 billion dinars after accounting for production costs. This would be 3.853 billion dinars higher than the budget's estimated oil revenue of 16.234 billion dinars.

## Eurozone retail sales declines by 0.3% in June

## Business activity expansion in US services sector, lower jobless claims help alleviate recession fears

By National Bank of Kuwait

United States

**July's Services PMI Back in Expansion**

Business activity in the US services sector returned to expansion territory in July, with the PMI reading coming in at 51.4 from 48.8 previously. Several components of the index also surprised to the upside, including employment at 51.1 from 46.1 in June, and new orders rising to 52.4 from 47.3. Furthermore, the prices component also ticked higher to 57.0. The reading helped slightly ease concerns of muted growth and a potential recession following last week's NFP jobs data and the subsequent sell-off in equities.

**Unemployment Claims Fall**

Initial jobless claims in the US fell more than expected, alleviating some concerns that the labor market is in free fall, with the reading coming in at 233,000 initial claims, down from 250,000 previously and below the 240,000 forecasted figure. The print represents the first reading related to the labor market since last week's weaker than expected jobs report that had markets worried about recession. Additionally, it offers some semblance of relief for the Fed, after several economists and market participants criticized the central bank for not cutting rates earlier, citing a deteriorating labor market as a reason to lower interest rates. Following the reading, markets are pricing in a 52% probability that the Fed will deliver a 25 bps rate cut in the upcoming September meeting, after previously heavily favoring a 50 bps cut.

The US Dollar index closed the week at 103.13.

Europe

**Retail Sales in the Eurozone Disappoints**

Eurozone's retail sales declined by 0.3% in June after increasing by 0.5% in May, highlighting the struggles faced by European consumers amid elevated interest rates. The reading missed the consensus estimate of a 0.1% rise. The Eurozone failed to achieve two consecutive months of retail sales increases so far this year,

### Highlights

- Services PMI in the US increased to 51.4 from 48.8 previously.
- Initial jobless claims in the US fell to 233,000 from 250,000 claims.
- Eurozone retail sales declines by 0.3% in June versus 0.5% increase in May.
- Reserve Bank of Australia held the cash rate at 4.35%, signaled higher for longer.
- China CPI rose 0.5% versus 0.2% previously.

highlighting the volatile nature of consumer spending and the complicated path towards lower rates. The European Central Bank (ECB) delivered a widely expected 25 bps rate cut in June, taking the deposit rate down to 3.75%. However, the central bank has since held interest rates steady, citing concerns over inflationary pressures, and reiterating that future moves will depend on the data. Markets are currently pricing in three more 25 bps rate cuts until year-end, taking the deposit rate all the way down to 3%.

The EUR/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.0916.

Asia-Pacific

**Bank of Japan Meeting Minutes**

The BOJ kept rates steady in June, however they hiked at the subsequent meeting in July. Minutes from the June meeting show that at least two of the nine voting members called for early hikes. Additionally, "Members agreed that the yen's recent falls were among factors that push up inflation, and must warrant close attention in guiding monetary policy." The discussions in June's meeting underline how the movement of the yen and concerns about inflation were key

factors influencing the central bank to tighten in July and raise interest rates to levels not seen in 15 years. Ever since the June meeting, the yen staged a remarkable recovery to hit a 7-month high, reaching 141.67 at one point before easing. At present, BOJ Governor Kazuo Ueda refuses to rule out another rate hike following July's decision, while markets are pricing in a potential hike in December's meeting.

The USD/JPY currency pair closed the week at 146.61.

**RBA Maintains Cash Rate at Current Levels**

The Reserve Bank of Australia held the cash rate at 4.35%, in line with market expectations. RBA Governor Michele Bullock delivered hawkish guidance, stating that inflation might take longer to return to the target range, and that interest rates could remain higher for longer. In their policy statement, the board said that "inflation in underlying terms remains too high, and the latest projections show that it will be some time yet before inflation is sustainably in the target range. Data have reinforced the need to remain vigilant to upside risks to inflation and the Board is not

ruling anything in or out. Policy will need to be sufficiently restrictive until the Board is confident that inflation is moving sustainably towards the target range." The AUD/USD pair gained following a hawkish RBA rate decision and guidance.

The AUD/USD currency pair closed the week at 0.6572.

China Inflation

Consumer prices in China rose more than expected, with annual CPI up 0.5% versus 0.2% previously and 0.3% expected. High temperatures and rainfall played a big role in pushing food prices up, therefore partially contributing to the overall rise in CPI. Meanwhile, producer price inflation came in unchanged, falling 0.8% annually. The readings come amid concerns about shrinking manufacturing and weak consumer demand. Authorities in the world's second largest economy introduced a series of stimulus measures, including lowering key rates, lowering downpayment requirements for real estate purchases, and lowering the reserve ratio requirement.

However, a prolonged property sector crisis, higher unemployment among nationals, especially youth, and high levels of local government debt are weighing on consumer's ability to purchase and the government's ability to introduce further easing measures.

The USD/CNY currency pair closed the week at 7.1660.

Kuwait

**Kuwaiti Dinar**  
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30560.

### Rates - 11<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.0921	1.0881	1.1008	1.0916	1.0800	1.1200	1.0962
GBP	1.2805	1.2662	1.2817	1.2759	1.2600	1.3000	1.2772
JPY	146.50	141.86	147.89	146.61	144.00	150.00	144.75
CHF	0.8588	0.8430	0.8674	0.8652	0.8400	0.8800	0.8562

## Alternative credit scoring could help 45 million Americans with no credit history

## Grocery shopping habits predict credit card payment reliability, study finds

By Joonhyuk Yang

University of Notre Dame

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

How you shop and what you buy at the grocery store can predict whether you pay your credit card bills on time, our new research shows.

As marketing professors, we wanted to learn about alternatives to traditional credit scores. So we teamed up with a multinational conglomerate that, among other things, runs a large supermarket chain and a credit card issuer.

By analyzing consumer-level data from those two business units, we were able to see how 30,089 individuals shop and manage their finances.

We found that people with more consistent grocery shopping habits are more likely to pay their credit card bills on time. These are people who tend to shop on the same day of the week, spend about the same amount each month, buy similar items across trips and take advantage of deals regularly.

We also found that what people buy predicts how they manage their finances. For example, shoppers who frequently purchase cigarettes or energy drinks are more likely to miss credit card payments. Those who often buy fresh milk or salad dressing tend to be more diligent about paying their bills.

In general, buying healthier but less convenient food predicted responsible pay-

ment behaviors. This was true even when we held consumer characteristics such as income, occupation, credit score and family size constant.

Building on those findings, we developed a credit scoring algorithm that scores people based on their grocery shopping habits along with traditional credit risk indicators. When we simulated approval decisions with this algorithm, we found that using grocery data could help lenders predict defaults more accurately while boosting their per-customer profits.

According to the World Bank, more than 1 billion people worldwide lack access to formal financial systems and, as a result, have no credit scores. In the U.S. alone, about 45 million adults have no credit history or not enough of one to generate a score. (AP)

## Prices rebound by 1.2%

## Gold prices rise on dollar & treasury yield declines

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11:** Gold prices improved as both the dollar and US Treasury bond yields declined, thus attributing the rise in gold prices to speculation about the potential start of a US interest rate reduction cycle in September, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The spot gold rose by 1.2 percent to \$2,410.69 per ounce, ending a five-session losing streak, while US gold futures contracts increased by 0.7 percent to \$2,450.40 per ounce.

The dollar index fell by 0.1 percent, making gold cheaper for buyers using other currencies, and the yield on 10-year US Treasury bonds also decreased. Gold is often seen as a safe-haven asset during times of economic uncertainty and low interest rates.

Other precious metals also saw some movement: silver increased by 1.5 percent to \$27.02 per ounce, platinum fell by 0.3 percent to \$916.35 per ounce, and palladium rose by 0.6 percent to \$887.75 per ounce.

Bitcoin rises 3.74%, Ethereum up 3.31%

## Market sentiment cautious amid cryptocurrency gains

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11:** The cryptocurrency prices saw a notable rise, with Ripple (XRP) experiencing the most significant gain. Following a recent court ruling, Ripple's price surged by 18.49 percent to \$0.60, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This boost came after a federal judge fined Ripple Labs \$125 million, substantially less than the \$2 billion sought by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The SEC's case against Ripple Labs, initiated in 2020, accused the company of issuing and selling Ripple tokens without proper registration as a financial asset.

In addition to Ripple, Bitcoin increased by 3.74 percent to \$56,923.88, and Ethereum rose by 3.31 percent to \$2,428.92. Ripple's price initially jumped by 25 percent following the court ruling but later moderated.

Despite these gains, Bitcoin and Ethereum prices are still below their levels from last week due to a broad market sell-off earlier in the week, which affected both stocks and cryptocurrencies.

Benjamin Silerlager, co-director of investment at Magnet Capital, noted that market sentiment remains cautious due to ongoing nervousness from recent events.

## Global stocks recover nearly all losses

## US economic recession concerns overblown, says Energy Aspects

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11:** Amrita Sen, director of research at Energy Aspects, has dismissed fears of an imminent US recession, asserting that the global economy is not on the brink of a sudden downturn, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Speaking at the Reuters Global Markets Forum, Sen highlighted that despite recent market volatility, particularly a massive selloff earlier in the week due to a decline in yen-funded trades, there is no concrete evidence suggesting a looming U.S. economic recession.

Sen noted that both the US and Chinese economic indicators have been disappointing, leading to caution among policymakers.

However, she emphasized that these challenges do not necessarily signal an impending global economic collapse.

"We're likely to see a few more rounds of macro collapse, but the fundamentals of oil are holding up," she stated.

In the context of oil markets, Brent crude prices have demonstrated resilience, with a projected weekly gain of over 3 percent. This follows a decline of more than 18 percent from April highs.

Despite the recent selloff, global stocks have shown a recovery, almost erasing the losses incurred earlier in the week.

Energy Aspects anticipates that global oil demand will increase by more than 1 million barrels per day in 2024, aligning with growth rates seen during past global slowdowns.

This outlook suggests that the fundamentals of the oil market remain robust, even amid broader economic uncertainties.

## FDI stock up 61% and inflows surge 158%

## Saudi Cabinet approves updated investment law

**RIYADH, Aug 11, (KUNA):** The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Cabinet announced on Sunday approval of updated investment law in alignment with the 2030 vision and the National Investment Strategy.

Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih stated in a press statement to Saudi News Agency (SPA) that the law reaffirms Saudi Arabia's commitment to creating a welcoming and secure environment for both domestic and international investors, driving economic growth, and enhancing the Kingdom's position as a premier global investment destination.

Al-Falih said that since the 2030 vision was outlined, Saudi Arabia has introduced pro-investment meas-

ures including the introduction of the Civil Transactions Law, Private Sector Participation Law, Companies Law, Bankruptcy Law and Special Economic Zones.

He added that reforms have helped drive rapid investment growth, with gross fixed capital formation increasing by 74 pct from 2017 to nearly \$300 billion in 2023. Additionally, FDI stock increased by 61 pct from 2017 to 2023, reaching almost USD 215 billion in 2023, and FDI inflows have surged by 158 percent, jumping from USD 7.5 billion in 2017 to USD 19.3 billion in 2023.

The executive regulations will come into effect beginning in 2025.



South-South co-op keeps fortifying, rightfully and necessarily so

The upbeat momentum of South-South cooperation recently got a new boost, as the list of countries keen to join the BRICS keeps expanding, making the mechanism an increasingly critical force in building a multilateral world.

In June, Malaysia and Thailand declared intentions to join the BRICS cooperation mechanism. Originally formed by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, the group welcomed Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iran and Ethiopia as new BRICS members on

Jan. 1, 2024, doubling its membership from five to 10 and accounting for half the world's population and two-fifths of trade.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has also demonstrated strong cohesion and development prospects. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has revealed that his administration was putting together a proposal to join the BRI.

Behind the renewed momentum of South-South cooperation is the developing world's growing consensus on boosting development through cooperation in

the face of rising global protectionism and unilateralism. Moreover, those Western developed economies are attempting to "kick away the ladder," aiming to solidify the "center-periphery" global division of labor. Through various means, they seek to keep the Global South locked into the lower end of the value chain. Their actions have provoked strong dissatisfaction among Global South nations.

Similar historical experiences, common development goals, and similar positions on international affairs have led Global

South countries to respect each other's chosen development paths, view each other's differences with an open mindset and spirit of cooperation, treat each other as equals, and advance together.

Over the years since its inception, the BRI has grown into a vital global development platform, particularly for nations in the Global South, fostering mutually beneficial cooperation. The initiative, which adheres to the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, also contributes to infrastructure

connectivity in developing countries.

From the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the BRI projects have helped connect Global South countries to the world and embark on a "fast track" to poverty alleviation and prosperity. The BRICS cooperation mechanism is also flourishing. BRICS members keep deepening strategic partnerships as well as unity and cooperation with other emerging market countries and developing countries, and are taking new strides towards solidarity. (Xinhua)

The Conversation

Offshore wind 'farms' connected by an underwater power grid for transmission could revolutionize how the E. Coast gets its electricity

By Tyler Hansen, Dartmouth College; Abraham Silverman, Johns Hopkins University; Elizabeth J. Wilson, Dartmouth College, and Erin Baker, UMass Amherst

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

Offshore winds have the potential to supply coastlines with massive, consistent flows of clean electricity. One study estimates wind farms just offshore could meet 11 times the projected global electricity demand in 2040.

In the U.S., the East Coast is an ideal location to capture this power, but there's a problem: getting electricity from ocean wind farms to the cities and towns that need it.

While everyone wants reliable electricity in their homes and businesses, few support the construction of the transmission lines necessary to get it there. This has always been a problem, both in the U.S. and internationally, but it is becoming an even bigger challenge as countries speed toward net-zero carbon energy systems that will use more electricity.

The U.S. Department of Energy and 10 states in the Northeast States Collaborative on Interregional Transmission are working on a potentially transformative solution: plans for an offshore electric power grid.

At the core of this grid would be backbone transmission lines off the East Coast, from North Carolina to Maine, where dozens of offshore wind projects are already in the pipeline.

The plans envision it supporting at least 85 gigawatts of offshore wind power by 2050 - close to the U.S. goal of 110 GW of installed wind power by mid-century, enough to power 40 million homes and up from 0.2 GW today. The Northeast States Collaborative formalized their goals in July 2024 through a multistate memorandum of understanding.

Emerging research from the Department of Energy, the research company Brattle and other groups suggests that an offshore electric power grid could mitigate key challenges to building new transmission lines on land and reduce the costs of offshore wind power.

Project

Cutting costs would be welcome news - offshore wind project costs rose as much as 50% from 2021 to 2023. While some of the underlying causes have subsided, such as inflation and global supply chain disruptions, interest rates remain high, and the industry is still trying to find its footing in the U.S.

Today's offshore wind projects use a point-to-point, or radial design, where each offshore wind farm is individually connected to the onshore grid.

This method works if a region has only a few projects, but it quickly becomes more expensive due to the cabling and other infrastructure. Its lines are also disruptive to communities and marine life. And it requires more costly onshore grid upgrades.

Coordinated offshore transmission can avoid many of those costs with what the Department of Energy calls "meshed" or "backbone" designs.

Rather than individual connections to land, many offshore wind farms would be connected to a shared transmission line, which would connect to the onshore grid through strategically placed "points of interconnection." This way, electricity produced by an offshore wind farm would be transmitted to where it is most needed, up and down the East Coast.

Even better, electricity generated onshore could also be transmitted through these shared lines to move energy to where it is needed. This could improve the resilience of power grids

and reduce the need for new transmission lines over land, which have been notoriously difficult to gain approval for, especially on the East Coast.

Coordinated offshore transmission was part of early U.S. discussions on offshore wind planning and development. In the late 2000s when Google and partners first proposed the Atlantic Wind Connection, an offshore transmission project, the benefits in both offshore renewables and the entire energy system were intriguing. At the time, the U.S. had just one utility-scale offshore wind project in the pipeline, and it ultimately failed.

Today, the U.S. has 53 GW of offshore wind projects being planned or developed. As energy researchers, we believe coordinated offshore transmission is important for the industry to succeed at scale.

By enabling power from offshore wind farms and onshore electricity generators to travel to more places, coordinated transmission can enhance grid reliability and enable electricity to get to where it is most needed. This reduces the need for more expensive and often more polluting power plants.

Report

A 2024 report from the National Renewable Energy Lab found the benefits of a coordinated design are nearly three times higher than the costs when compared with a standard point-to-point design.

Studies from Europe, the U.K. and Brattle have pointed to additional benefits, including reducing planet-warming carbon emissions, cutting the number of beach crossings by a third and reducing the miles of transmission cables needed by 35% to 60%.

In the U.S., offshore transmission lines would be almost entirely in federal waters, potentially avoiding many of the conflicts associated with onshore projects, though it would still face challenges.

Building an offshore grid will require some important changes.

First is changing government incentives. The federal investment tax credit for offshore wind, which covers at least 30% of the upfront capital cost of a project, does not currently help pay for coordinated transmission designs.

Second, planning needs to take everyone's concerns into account from the beginning. While the overall benefits of coordinated transmission designs outweigh overall costs, who receives the benefits and who bears the costs matters. For example, more expensive power generators could earn less, and some communities feel threatened by offshore development.

Third, greater coordination will be needed among everyone involved to dispatch power to and from the regional grids. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's recent Order 1920, requiring power providers to plan for future needs, may serve as a blueprint, but it does not apply to interregional projects, such as an offshore transmission backbone connecting over a dozen states across three regions.

The U.S. reached an important milestone in March 2024 with the completion of South Fork Wind, the country's first utility-scale wind farm, bringing U.S. offshore wind power capacity to nearly 200 megawatts. Eight more projects are under construction or approved for construction. Once built, they would bring installed capacity to over 13 gigawatts, roughly the same as three dozen coal-fired power plants. An offshore transmission backbone could support offshore wind development and the East Coast's energy needs for generations to come. (AP)

WS ends a wild and scary week almost exactly where it began

More tests loom next week

NEW YORK, Aug 11, (AP): After a manic week that began with Japanese stocks falling to their worst loss since 1987's Black Monday, only for U.S. stocks to soar later to their best day since 2022, slight gains on Friday carried Wall Street almost exactly back to where it began the week.

The S&P 500 rose 0.5% to shave what had been a brutal loss for the week down to a barely registerable 0.04%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 51 points, or 0.1%, and the Nasdaq composite climbed 0.5%.

The gains pulled the S&P 500 back within 5.7% of its all-time high set last month, after it had sunk nearly 10% below that record during the week. It was a vicious return of volatility for a market that had been rising smoothly, and a measure of fear on Wall Street briefly surged toward its highest level since the 2020 COVID crash. It also may not be over. Worries are still high about the strength of the U.S. economy, and reports are due next week on inflation, sales at retailers and other measures of strength.

But on Friday, at least, the mood was one of calm after more big U.S. companies joined the pile reporting better profit for the spring than analysts expected.

Expedia Group jumped 10.2% after delivering stronger results than forecast, though it saw a softening of demand in July like some other companies. Take-Two Interactive rose 4.4% after the company behind the Grand Theft Auto and NBA 2K video games likewise reported better results than expected.

Earlier in the day, indexes rose for many other stock markets worldwide. They've also been frenetic since last week because of a number of factors slamming together at once. At the forefront is the value of the Japanese yen, whose sudden and sharp strengthening recently forced hedge funds and other traders to scramble out of a popular trade en masse.

They had been borrowing Japanese yen at very low cost and then investing it elsewhere around the world. But a hike to interest rates by the Bank of Japan forced many to abandon the trade at the same time and sent global markets reeling. A promise by a top Bank of Japan official in the middle of the week not to raise rates further as long as markets are "unstable" helped stabilize the yen.

Also weighing on the market have been worries about the slowing U.S. economy. A raft of weaker-than-expected reports forced questions about whether the Federal Reserve has kept interest rates at too high of an economy-crunching level for too long in order to beat inflation. A report last Friday showing much weaker hiring by U.S. employers than expected was the lowlight.

Such worries dragged Treasury yields lower in the bond market, and they fell again Friday. Yields sank as investors looked for safer places for their money and as expectations built for deeper cuts to rates coming from the Fed. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 3.94% from 3.99% late



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris speaks at a campaign rally at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024. (AP)

Harris pledges to end taxes on tips for service industry employees, echoing Trump promise

LAS VEGAS, Aug 11, (AP): Vice President Kamala Harris promised Saturday to work to eliminate taxes on tips paid to restaurant and other service industry employees, echoing a pledge that her opponent, Republican Donald Trump, has made, and marking a rare instance of political overlap from both sides.

Harris made the announcement at a rally on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where the economy relies heavily on the hotel, restaurant and entertainment industries. Trump vowed essentially the same thing at his own rally in the city in June - though neither he nor Harris are likely to be able to fully do that without actions from Congress.

"It is my promise to everyone here that, when I am president, we will continue our fight for working families of America," Harris said. "Including to raise the minimum wage and eliminate taxes on tips for service and hospitality workers."

Trump responded on his social media site a short time later, posting that

Harris "just copied my NO TAXES ON TIPS Policy."

"The difference is, she won't do it, she just wants it for Political Purposes!," the former president wrote. "This was a TRUMP idea - She has no ideas, she can only steal from me."

Harris' campaign said afterward that as president she would work with Congress to draft a proposal that includes an income limit and other provisions to keep hedge fund managers and lawyers from structuring their compensation to try to take advantage of the policy. She also would push for the proposal alongside one to increase the federal minimum wage.

Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, came to Nevada as the final stop of a five battle-ground-state blitz in which their party has shown new energy after President Joe Biden exited the race and endorsed Harris. On Sunday, the vice president is holding a San Francisco fundraiser that has already raised more than \$12 million, her campaign said, with House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi

among those set to speak.

There were 12,000-plus people inside the campus basketball arena on Saturday and, before the event started, local law enforcement halted entry to the event because people were becoming ill while waiting outside in 109-degree heat to go through security. About 4,000 people were in line when the entrances were closed.

Walz referenced that during his speech, but turned it into an applause line by telling Nevada, "don't worry, we're going to be back a lot."

As part of the trip, Harris is hoping to build greater support among Latino voters. In 2020, Biden narrowly defeated Trump by 2.4 percentage points in Nevada.

The 60,000-strong Culinary Workers Union announced its endorsement of Harris. About 54% of the union's members are Latino, 55% women and 60% immigrants. The union also issued a statement supporting Harris' call for a higher minimum wage and to "ensure that there are no taxes on tips for service and hospitality workers."

Thursday

After seemingly getting the Bank of Japan to stop hiking rates for now, Wall Street's goal "now appears to be bossing the Fed into big rate cuts." Bank of America strategist Michael Hartnett said in a BofA Global Research report.

Reports next week could drive more swings for the market. On Thursday will come an update on how much shoppers are spending at U.S. retailers. Households at the lower end of the income spectrum have been struggling for a while to keep up with still-rising prices, but economists expect the report to show a return to growth after a stall in retail spending during June.

Another report on Thursday will show how many U.S. workers are applying for unemployment benefits. The most recent such report raised hopes for the economy after the prior week's frightened investors.

Looming over them all will be the latest updates on inflation. A worst-case scenario would be if Tuesday's and Wednesday's inflation reports show higher-than-expected rises in prices at the wholesale and consumer levels, while the week's other reports show a sharp weakening of the economy.

The Federal Reserve wouldn't have an easy way to fix such a toxic mess.

Are you a Cash App user? You may be eligible for a piece of this \$15 million settlement

NEW YORK, Aug 11, (AP): Current and former Cash App users could be eligible for a hefty piece of a proposed class-action settlement from the popular online payment service.

Earlier this year, Cash App Investing and its parent company Block Inc. agreed to pay \$15 million to settle a lawsuit that alleged a "failure to exercise reasonable care" in protecting user information leading up to and after recent data breaches. The class-action complaint cited two incidents where access to some account data was compromised, saying this resulted in numerous unauthorized charges impacting Cash App customers.

Now, those consumers can submit a claim for a settlement payment - which

could include reimbursement of up to \$2,500 in out-of-pocket losses - ahead of final approval. Here's what you need to know.

Cash App and Block, which is based in Oakland, California, were sued over their response to security breaches in recent years and allegations that they failed to implement sufficient security measures to protect customers.

The class-action pointed to a 2021 incident, which the company disclosed in 2022, where a former employee downloaded reports of some U.S. users without permission. It also noted another breach disclosed in 2023, when an unauthorized user accessed some Cash App accounts using phone numbers that were linked to them.

Cash App and Block have denied any wrongdoing. But to settle the litigation, they agreed to pay \$15 million. Beyond attorneys fees and administration costs, that money will go to impacted customers who submit eligible claims.

Cash App and Block also agreed to take steps toward strengthening data security as part of the settlement. The company did not comment further when reached by The Associated Press Friday.

To get a payment, you'll have to submit a claim on the official settlement administrator's website. The current deadline to submit a claim is Nov. 18 - with the settlement's final approval hearing slated for Dec. 16.

Those eligible include current or former Cash App customers who have been impacted by unauthorized access of their personal information or fraudulent withdrawals between Aug. 23, 2018 through Aug. 20 of this year. You may have received a personalized notice informing you about eligibility for the settlement by mail or email - but if not, there's also an option to manually provide information about your situation online.

Settlement payments will vary for each person depending on eligible losses - and also how many people end up submitting a claim.

Class members can potentially receive payment for three types of claims: out-of-pocket losses, lost time and transaction losses. With documenta-

tion, you may be able to receive reimbursement of up to \$2,500 in out-of-pocket losses, \$25 an hour for lost time (capped at three hours) and additional relief for transaction losses.

However, the settlement administrator's website notes, payments may be reduced if there's not enough money in the net settlement fund for every approved claim. If that ends up being the case, payments will proportionally decrease depending on the share of each class member's claim.

If you want to exclude yourself from the settlement, class members have the option to "opt out" before Nov. 1. This allows you sue or be part of another related lawsuit against the defendants down the road. You can also object to

the settlement agreement by writing to the court before Nov. 1.

Finally, you can choose to do nothing. But if you opt for no action, you will not get any payments and potentially also give up the right to pursue another lawsuit with claims covered in the settlement.

Avoiding data breaches entirely can be tricky in our ever-digitized world, but consumers can take some steps to help protect themselves going forward.

The basics include creating hard-to-guess passwords and using multifactor authentication when possible. If you receive a notice about a breach, it's good idea to change your password and monitor account activity for any suspicious transactions.



## Training program combines in-person and micro-learning for flexibility

# NBK partners with Coaches Circle Academy for leadership training

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) signed an exclusive collaboration agreement with Coaches Circle Academy – Vancouver Canada, under which the academy provides training for the bank's leaders to enhance their training skills in coaching, so that they can develop the capabilities and skills of the bank's employees.

This step aligns with the bank's continuing investment in its human capital, regarding them as its most valuable asset, by providing the best-in-class training programs and workshops, to enhance their skills in the areas of leadership, strategy implementation, change management and innovation, in order to keep pace with the fast-paced developments in the banking industry.

According to the agreement, NBK's leaders will participate in Coaches Circle Academy training program titled 'The Transcendence Leader-Coach' (TLC). The program's objectives include developing coaching competencies, enhancing communication and problem-solving skills, increasing employee engagement and performance, promoting leadership development, building trust and collaboration, and driving organizational success.

The exclusive agreement with Coaches Circle Academy will enable the bank's leaders to benefit from the TLC training program to emerge as Neo-Leaders who can navigate a world of Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity (the VUCA world). The program also develops participants' skills, which will enable them to train and qualify the Bank's employees to play a greater role in the development of the business and assume leadership



Emad Al-Ablani

**Al-Ablani:** NBK strives to develop its leaders and employees in collaboration with the best local and international educational institutions

positions within the Bank in the future.

The program seeks to develop a set of key organizational health and leadership skills including transparent leadership skills, strategic thinking, decision making, enhancing communication and developing employees, creating positive environment and motivation, fostering accountability through role clarity, and managing expectations and generation gaps.

Commenting on this collaboration, Mr. Emad Al-Ablani, GM – Head of Group Human Resources at National Bank of Kuwait said, "This program is part of our broad-

er strategy to extend the coaching culture within the bank. NBK holds a firm conviction that employees are its most valuable assets, as work team efficiency guarantees the quality of the various banking services provided by the bank. Therefore, it always strives to develop its human capital, including leaders and employees, by providing them with the best-in-class training and development programs, in collaboration with the best local and international educational institutions."

"This transformative four-month program aims to empower our leaders by expanding their knowledge, skills, and mindset. The program adopts a hybrid training model, blending in-person sessions with on-demand micro-learning to provide maximum flexibility and accessibility. Participants will engage in seven days of in-person sessions and complete Gallup Strengths Assessments, ensuring a comprehensive and impactful learning experience," he explained.

"This training program comes in continuation of our efforts to develop the bank's human capital, which will reflect positively on the services provided to customers, as NBK considers its employees as the cornerstone of all its successes achieved over more than seven decades," he noted.

NBK stands out as one of the most attractive employers by offering equal opportunities and embracing diversity in the workplace and focusing on training and upskilling employees to help them build a successful career and position themselves as future leaders within the bank. This makes NBK the private sector employer of choice for Kuwaiti fresh graduates.



Photo from the branch opening.

General manager inaugurates latest branch

## Al-Muzaini Exchange unveils its newest branch in Hawally

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The number one money exchange company in Kuwait, Al-Muzaini Exchange Company recently opened its newest branch in Kuwait in Hawally on August 8, 2024. This opening was extremely significant and the rapid expansion reflects the company's endeavor to always be near its customers. It also reinforces the company's commitment to providing the highest quality of financial services such as money transfers, foreign currency exchange and bill payments with convenience, comfort and safety and at the most competitive prices, seven days a week.

The General Manager of Al Muzaini Exchange Company, Mr. Hugh Fernandes and the company's department managers and various senior personnel inaugurated the new branch in Hadiya Co-op and Mr. Fernandes stated: "We take great pride in strengthening our leading position in the local market and always place focus in ensuring that we provide the best financial services expe-

rience to our customers in order to meet all their money transfer needs. We always want to stay true to our mission; to always be near to our customers and to add to their convenience."

In addition to its strong network of branches, Al Muzaini application provides simple and safe financial solutions and offers a variety of features to its customers. Customers can also use Al Muzaini self-service kiosks placed at strategic locations to perform transactions.

Customers can also participate in Al Muzaini's new Transfer to Egypt and Win Campaign. Transfer your money through Al Muzaini and use any of Al Muzaini Exchange services for a chance to win incredible prizes up to 4,000,000 EGP. Daily, weekly and monthly prizes are up for grabs with the grand prize being 1,500,000 EGP. The campaign lasts from August 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

Al Muzaini, always near you!

## Honda commits to carbon neutrality by 2050

# BPG wins Honda Motor Co. CX & social media account for MEA

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Award-winning agency BPG (Bates Pan-Gulf, part of WPP) has added another high-profile client to its burgeoning portfolio. After winning a highly competitive, multi-agency pitch, BPG is now the only agency entrusted with CX and social media content for Honda Motor Co. (Middle East and Africa) across 13 markets. BPG will also offer strategic support on digital assets, creative development, and media as the global mobility leader transitions to an exciting new product portfolio that will help achieve its NetZero by 2050 ambitions.



BPG partners with Honda for brand transformation and netzero ambitions

Avi Bhojani, Group CEO, BPG said: "Team BPG is excited to be the agency partner for Honda Middle East and Africa through a vibrant period of growth and evolution. Just like our newest client Honda, we are building on decades of history to embark on a new phase of transformation. After a successful 2022 and 2023, BPG's upward trajectory continues with new and expanded integrated mandates for social media, customer experience (CX), PR, Creative and media for multi-sectoral clients. We are channeling a truly integrated mindset, which blends culture, creativity, data, and technology, to deliver incremental value for our clients."

Anup Ravindranath, Senior General Manager, Honda Motor Co. (Middle East and Africa), said: "BPG's tactically efficient and creatively powerful pitch demonstrated they are the right agency partner for us at this strategically important time in our brand transformation. We will be tapping their vast automotive experience to enhance our brand presence across the region. We look forward to deepening our customer

relationships with relevant, impactful and imaginative omni-channel communications campaigns."

BPG is supporting Honda Motor Co. (Middle East and Africa) in expanding its digital presence with brand-new social platforms @ hondamena across Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn, serving Honda's diverse portfolio, including automobiles, motorcycles, power products, and marine business lines. Additionally, they will highlight Honda's motorsports activities from around the world, showcasing its commitment to high-performance and innovation.

As Sitecore Associate Partner, BPG will leverage its expertise to manage and enhance digital assets and efficiently maintain Honda's digital platforms. BPG will thus drive consumer engagement at scale across Honda's digital platforms, as well as manage insights and analytics, data, customer insights, and digital strategy, creating personalized interactions with customers across various digital channels.

Honda's global brand slogan, "The Power of Dreams – How we move you", emphasizes the company's commitment to creating mobility solutions that empower people. Honda has set a goal of achieving carbon neutrality for all its products and corporate activities by 2050, with a target of 100% electric and fuel cell vehicle sales globally by 2040. Honda is a driving force in the future of mobility, committed to both green and sustainable.

Darius LaBelle, President, BPG UAE said: "Given BPG's integrated expertise and proven track record in the automotive sector, we're confident about delivering impactful brand experiences for Honda Middle East and Africa during a pivotal time in its brand transformation. What's more, BPG's CX-first solutions align perfectly with Honda's strategic vision for deeper customer engagement. We look forward to supporting Honda's ambitious goals for sustainable mobility solutions and consolidating its market leadership."

## Al-Tijari announces 'winner' of Al Najma account weekly draw

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Commercial Bank of Kuwait conducted the weekly draw for Al Najma Account on Sunday August 11, 2024. The draw was conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Mr. Mansour Al-Dhafiri.

The result of the draw as follows:

Al Najma weekly draw – the prize of 5,000/- Kuwaiti Dinars went to the winner Mr. Mahmoud Hasan Saleh Ahmad Saleh. The Bank stated that Al Najma Account prizes are distinguished by the diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that the account offers weekly prize of KD 5,000/-, monthly prize of KD 20,000/- and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 in addition to the mega annual prize of KD 1,500,000.

Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 200, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 200 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

The Bank revealed that Al Najma account is available to everyone, and anyone can open Al Najma account through CBK



Al Najma account flyer

mobile application in simple steps from anywhere and at any time.

## Event graced by H.E. Malik Muhammad Farooq, Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait, and Dr. Ameera Al-Hassan of UN-Habitat

# PAKDONORS successfully conduct 25th Blood Donation Drive in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: PAKDONORS proudly organized its 25th Blood Donation Drive in Kuwait, an event dedicated to celebrating the Independence Day of Pakistan and promoting the spirit of humanity. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of H.E. Malik Muhammad Farooq, Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait, and Dr. Ameera Al-Hassan, Assistant Head of Office at UN-Habitat, along with many other distinguished Pakistani dignitaries.

Held with the theme of "Serving Humanity, Celebrating Independence," the blood donation camp brought together members of the Pakistani community and friends of Pakistan in Kuwait, united by a common goal; to give the gift of life. Despite the challenges, the drive saw a heartfelt participation from donors, highlighting the community's commitment to making a difference.

H.E. Malik Muhammad Farooq, in his address, lauded the efforts of PAKDONORS and emphasized the importance of such initiatives in strengthening the bonds between the people of Pakistan and Kuwait. He also ex-



Photo during the 25th Blood Donation Drive.

pressed his gratitude to the volunteers and donors who contributed to the success of the event.

Dr. Ameera Al-Hassan, in her remarks, applauded the dedication of the Pakistani community in Kuwait towards humanitarian causes and emphasized the significance of blood donation in saving lives.

PAKDONORS, a volunteer-based organization, has been at the forefront of organizing blood donation drives in Kuwait, providing much-needed support to hospitals and patients in need. This 25th drive marks a significant milestone in the organization's journey of service, reflecting the collective effort of the Pakistani community and its friends.

Each contribution was a testament to the spirit of giving and the power of community action. PAKDONORS remains committed to its mission of saving lives through blood donation and looks forward to continued support in future initiatives.

May Allah accept our efforts and bless all those who participated in this noble cause.



# Ford, Bassett, Cyrus named Disney Legends for 2024

ANAHEIM, Calif., Aug 11, (Agencies): Disney will bestow "legends" status to 14 artists, including Harrison Ford, Angela Bassett and Miley Cyrus, who have shaped the company.

The honorees, who the company says have had a "significant impact" on Disney's legacy, include director James Cameron, iconic film composer John Williams, Jamie Lee Curtis and Kelly Ripa, among several others.

This year's class of Disney Legends will be inducted into the company's version of the hall of fame in a ceremony Sunday at The Honda Center in Anaheim, California, as a part of the D23 fan convention. Ryan Seacrest is set to host the evening.

Director James L. Brooks is also joining the starry club, along with Williams, known for the scores of the "Star Wars" and "Indiana Jones" franchises, among many others.

The star of those franchises, Ford, will have his signature and handprints done up again over 20 years after he was inducted into the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The revered actor is joining the Marvel Cinematic Universe in the upcoming "Captain America: Brave New World."

At Comic-Con International, Ford surprised the packed house at a panel discussing new Marvel projects and flexed his muscles to the roaring crowd, channeling his character, who transforms into the Red Hulk.

Fellow MCU actor Bassett, who appeared in "Black Panther" and "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," also is being honored. Bassett also

stars in ABC's "9-1-1."

Cyrus, who rose to fame after starring in the Disney Channel show "Hannah Montana" in 2006, is the youngest recipient of the Legends honor. Following her time on the sitcom, Cyrus has had a long-running career in music, winning her first Grammy Award in February.

Curtis has appeared in her fair share of projects under The Walt Disney Studios banner, from "Beverly Hills Chihuahua" to "You Again." She is set to reprise her role in the upcoming sequel of the fan-favorite movie "Freaky Friday," opposite Lindsey Lohan.

## Reunite

ABC talk show host and mainstay Ripa will reunite with her former co-host Seacrest. Her career at the television network spans over 30 years and she now hosts "Live with Kelly and Mark" with her husband, Mark Consuelos.

Disney also is honoring six behind-the-scenes creatives who have contributed to groundbreaking films, art and Disney experiences.

Those honorees include Colleen Atwood, an Oscar-winning costume designer, Mark Henn, a prominent animator, Steve Ditko, the late comics artist known for characters like Spider-Man and Doctor Strange, Frank Oz, a noted puppeteer and filmmaker, Martha Blanding, a longtime manager at The Walt Disney Company and Disneyland, and Joe Rohde, a former Disney Imagineer.

Previous Disney Legends include Elton John, Steve Jobs, Betty

White, Dick Van Dyke, Robert Downey Jr. and Whoopi Goldberg. They are among more than 300 honorees since the program's inception in 1987.

## Also:

**BEIJING:** Chinese animated film "White Snake: Afloat" topped the daily box office chart on the Chinese mainland on its first day of release on Saturday, grossing 94.26 million yuan (about 13.19 million US dollars), according to the China Movie Data Information Network.

Based on the Chinese classic tale of the White Snake, one of the most popular Chinese folk love stories that tells the romance between a young man and a snake spirit that has attained the form of a human woman through cultivation, the film, the third installment of the "White Snake" series, hit the silver screen on the traditional Qixi Festival, also known as Chinese Valentine's Day.

In the film, the two eventually marry, but **Fa Hai**, a powerful monk seeking to separate the pair, reveals the snake's true identity.

Domestic comedy "Successor" finished second, grossing about 92.9 million yuan on the day, leading to an accumulated box office of 2.93 billion yuan over 26 days.

Realistic drama "Upstream," which debuted on Friday, came in third with 85.35 million yuan in revenue on Saturday.

On Saturday, the total box office revenue on the Chinese mainland was around 364.2 million yuan.

Film

Variety

# Features

ARABIC TIMES

MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Hong Chau, (from left), Casey Affleck and Matt Damon in a scene from 'The Instigators.' (AP)

Film

Damon, Affleck, Chau dive into Boston heist comedy

## 'Instigators' stars share film secrets, jokes

LOS ANGELES, Aug 11, (AP): Matt Damon and Casey Affleck play complete strangers thrown into their first heist in the new action comedy "The Instigators." The robbery of a corrupt politician goes very wrong, and their characters are left on the run in Boston (with Damon's character's therapist, played by Hong Chau, in tow).

The film is written by Affleck and Chuck MacLean and directed by Doug Liman. It is a throwback to the kind of movies that people say don't get made anymore, like "Midnight Run," with a stacked cast of great character actors (Alfred Molina, Michael Stuhlbarg, Ron Perlman, Toby Jones, Ving Rhames and so on). And it's also completely modern: It's made by a streaming company, AppleTV+ with Damon and Ben Affleck's artist-led production company Artists Equity.

Damon, Affleck and Chau spoke to The Associated Press about the film, shared histories and old jokes. A fair amount of "gentle ribbing," as Chau called it, ensued.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity. **AP:** Doug Liman said going to Boston and making a film with Damon and the Affleck brothers was like being dropped into someone else's family. Hong, did that ring true for you?

**Chau:** It felt very family barbeque, and I was just hoping I could bring a yummy dish. I love being able to see the back and forth between these two and all of the gentle ribbing that went on.

**AP:** Casey, what was the impetus for writing a comedy?

**Affleck:** I wasn't expecting that anyone was just going to send me their great comedy and ask me to come do it. So I thought I'd better come up with one of my own. (Chuck) had a really good idea and some great characters in it. He didn't really want to work on it anymore, and so he said, why don't you take it and see what you can do. I did that, but that was just sort of the beginning of it.

**AP:** I've had multiple friends say recently how they rewatch "Manchester by the Sea" because "it's funnier than you remember."

**Damon:** Maybe not so much in that movie.

**Affleck:** I thought that I'd done some comedy in the past. But everyone has said, like "wow it's really good to see you try comedy this time." I guess it never landed as funny in the past.

**AP:** And Matt, you tossed out Liman's name. What

made you think of him?

**Damon:** I love all of Doug's movies and I love working with him too. He has a way of taking something that might be down the middle and just kind of tilting it off kilter a little bit in a really fun way.

**AP:** You had a huge, shared moment with "The Bourne Identity," but around that time, there were also some articles about his process and "Limania." I wonder how that fits with the Artists Equity model? Does it feel like taking a gamble?

**Damon:** No. And one thing that I really wanted to do with this movie, and that we did, was Artists Equity and Doug and me put up our own money for overages. So, if there were overages, they were going to fall on us personally. I was really happy to do that because I feel like he's been unfairly kind of painted with this brush for 20 years. I don't think there's any better way to validate how you feel about somebody than putting your own paycheck up and saying, "look I believe in him so much that if we go over budget, I'll pay for it." The process is chaotic creatively, but that's a very different thing from being reckless or irresponsible.

**Affleck:** I was willing to put my paycheck up, but it was so insignificant to the budget that it wouldn't have made much of a difference.

**AP:** You've been in a number of movies together, and even several where you don't actually share any scenes.

**Damon:** That's Chris Nolan. I feel like he likes both of us, but he doesn't trust us together. In "Interstellar" he put us on entirely different planets. But in "Oppenheimer" we're on the same planet, and my character actually refers to him. I feel like we're slowly getting closer, and I'm hoping that eventually Chris has a movie where we can be together on screen.

**Affleck:** I heard the prequel to "Oppenheimer."

**Damon:** "Groves and Pash."

**AP:** Hong, you went to college in Boston after "Good Will Hunting" came out. Did that movie loom large in your mind?

**Chau:** Yeah, that was the only reason I decided to go to college period. But I mean, who hasn't heard "how do you like them apples" a billion times in their life. It's a movie that's so iconic and memorable.

**Damon:** By the way, that's the one line that my dad,

when he read the script, he said "Matthew, this is just not going to work." And then after that he said he'd never give me a note again.

**AP:** Were you feeling nostalgic about those days, shooting this movie in Boston?

**Damon:** I feel that way when I walk around the city sometimes. But when you're shooting, you're very aware during production you're basically lighting money on fire. So all of your energy is towards making the day. There's not a lot of time for nostalgia.

**AP:** And Ben was involved as a producer but no role for him here?

**Damon:** He was running the company. Somebody needed to stay in the office. But he was really active in the pre-production stage, reading everything and giving notes and then in post. We're looking for as many ways to work together as possible. Casey writes and produces, directs and acts, and Ben is the same, and I'm the same. We try to partner up in any way that we can. It's fun to play different roles in different ways. I'm looking at the third act of life or the second half or whatever you want to call it, and it's like, I love my job so much and the only thing better than doing it, is doing it with people that I care about and love and respect and admire.

**AP:** There were quite a few jabs about Matt's age. Were those all Casey Affleck originals?

**Damon:** Those were all improvised on the day.

**Affleck:** Those are things I've heard other people say about Matt and I thought they were funny, and I wanted to put them in a movie.

**Damon:** It's funny because in "Ocean's 12" George was in his late 40s and Casey made a joke about him being 50. And we were talking about it on set, and I think it was that day Casey made the joke about me being 60. So, he's just trotting out the same old.

**Affleck:** He was like 48?

**Damon:** I think he was like 45. And you go how old are you 48? And he's like 48? And you go 52.

**Affleck:** It was actually 56. A long time ago. And now he's running for president.

**Damon:** Oh yeah, let's start that up with the AP. It's a scoop.

**Affleck:** George said yes! He's going to do it.

**Damon:** You heard it from Casey Affleck.

their former landlord to come work for their company.

Wojcicki joined Google, now known as Alphabet, as its marketing manager in 1999 and served in various positions as Google grew its online advertising presence by acquiring YouTube in 2006 and DoubleClick in 2008. She served as Google's senior vice president



Eilish



Wojcicki

of advertising and commerce from 2011 to early 2014 and CEO of YouTube from 2014 to 2023.

"Her loss is devastating for all of us who know and love her, for the thousands of Googlers she led over the years, and for millions of people all over the world who looked up to her, benefited from her advocacy and leadership, and

felt the impact of the incredible things she created at Google, YouTube, and beyond," Google and Alphabet CEO **Sundar Pichai** said in a note to employees.

Former Facebook COO **Sheryl Sandberg**, who was vice president of Google's sales and operations from 2001 to 2008 before decamping to Facebook, said in a

Facebook post that Wojcicki was formative in her tech career.

"She taught me the business and helped me navigate a growing, fairly chaotic organization at the beginning of my career in tech," Sandberg wrote. "She was the person I turned to for advice over and over again. And she was this person for so many others too." (AP)



## People & Places

### Art

#### Landmarks brighten

## Olympic spirit colors Paris with 'street art'

PARIS, Aug 11, (Agencies): Paris is getting a colorful splash of Olympic creative spirit with nearly 30 vibrant street art pieces that have popped up on bustling metro station walls, a large billboard at the airport and in front of city hall.

One shows a drawing of French fencer **Ysaora Thibus** in action. Another has canoers paddling down the Seine River. Some others include people enjoying themselves in a busy district. The original art was spread throughout Paris and other nearby host cities around the Olympic and Paralympic sites.

"During this time of the Olympics, it's a lot of energy and people coming from all over the world," said New York native JonOne, who has lived in Paris for the past three decades and is viewed in the street art



Thibus

world as a graffiti pioneer. He's one of six renowned street artists from four continents whose work is currently on display at train stations, airports, taxis, digital screens and billboards.

The artists were selected through a campaign spearheaded by Visa to help support small businesses. They hail from France (Marko 93 and Olivia De Bona), Brazil (Alex Senna), Australia (Vexta) and the United States (Swoon).

"Why not use street art?" said JonOne, 60, whose artwork can be found in several places in Paris including the Palais Royal-Musee du Louvre station. It took two months with five collaborators to finish the blue, white and red abstract expressionist-style graffiti, which covers 250 square meters (300 square yards) of the wall at the busy station.

"It projects a lot of energies and youth culture," he said. "It's a good moment to show our artwork."

The campaign was designed as an open-air exhibition curated by Nicolas Laugero Lasserre, an expert in urban art. The 28 pieces of original artwork will remain on display until Sept. 8.

"Just like high-level athletes, artists share values of tolerance, open-mindedness, questioning and self-surpassing," said Lasserre, who has organized over 50 exhibitions with public and private institutions, including an exhibition at the Paris City Hall.

#### Creation

"Associating art and sport is one of the cornerstones of Olympism."

Each creation highlights the spirit of the neighborhoods - such as Saint-Denis, Montmartre and Rue Montorgueil - capturing the vibrancy of cafes, bookstores and shops that have become an essential fabric of Paris and the wider Ile-de-France region. They can also be found at the airports of Lille, Lyon and Marseille, hosts of some Olympic events.

"We asked the artists to show us their version of Paris in the most authentic way," said Juan Arturo Herrera, a business administrator and marketing executive at Visa International. Last month, he carried the Olympic flame over a 200-meter course in eastern France.

"Street art is the most accessible of arts," he said. "It's universal. We've seen it for decades now in cities. It has made its way through museums and we wanted to bring it back out. We see this as the biggest exhibition of open-air art in the public space."

De Bona, a Parisian, feels proud to bring her artwork to her hometown, family and visitors from around the world.

"It was so moving," she said. "I see how the art makes my city so beautiful. It's a privilege to represent France for all these people who are coming to Paris from all over the world."

De Bona, 39, remembered when street art and graffiti were not widely accepted by the masses. But now, she's witnessed a positive shift in the perception and within the industry, which was once male-dominated.

"People need pictures in the streets," she said. "It needs to be welcoming the arts. We are the bridge between people who don't think it fits in the museum. We bring art to the people. This is our way to express ourselves and exist."

Marko 93 said his passion for street art kept him pushing through the words of skeptics. At a young age, he was intrigued by watching the evolution of graffiti during the 1980s hip-hop era in New York, which he called the "promised land" of graffiti.

"It's all about perseverance," said the 51-year-old during his live performance, painting a fencer along the Seine. "Art is also about perseverance. This passion pushes us to move forward and beyond our limits."

One day, JonOne would like to see arts reintroduced as competition at the Olympics.

Art competitions first came into fruition at the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm, with medals awarded in five categories: architecture, literature, music, painting and sculpture. The International Olympic Committee ended the competitions in the 1948 Games, and an attempt to bring it back was denied four years later.

"Artists are like athletes, too," JonOne said. "I respect athletes in basketball and runners. Art is not really a sport, but it should be included in the Olympics. Just surviving as an artist is an Olympic sport."

#### Also:

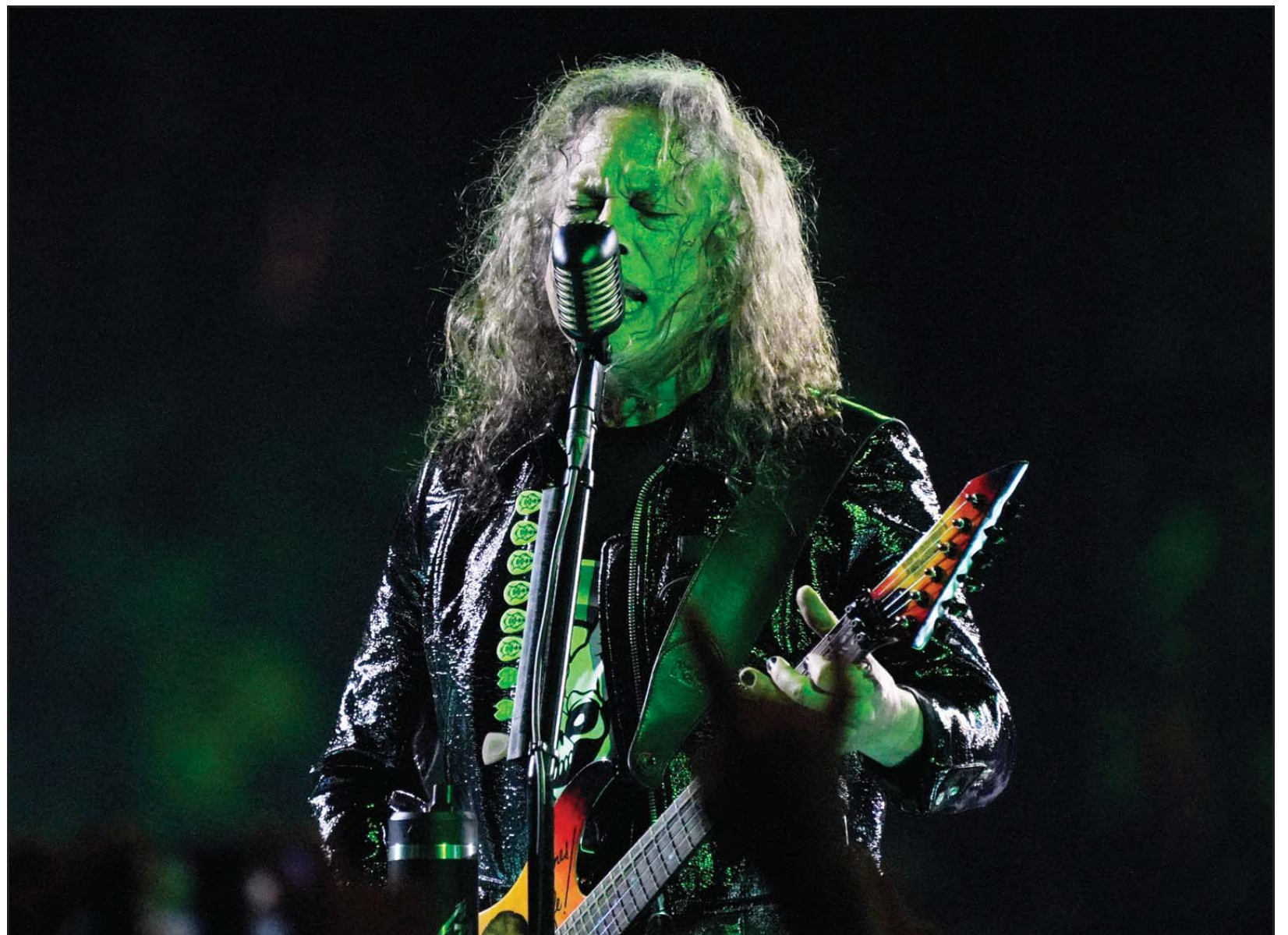
**AUCKLAND:** Book and painting lovers in New Zealand indulged themselves in over 2,000 books from China at a book exhibition in Waipa District on Saturday.

The book exhibition, which coincides with the Panda Meets Kiwi Youth International Art Exhibition, also included 235 paintings drawn by children from both countries. Both exhibitions were organized by China International Book Trading Corporation (CIBTC), New Zealand Culture and Arts Foundation and Prime Media Group of New Zealand.

**Chen Shijie**, Chinese consul-general in Auckland, noted reading is one of the most important ways that Chinese people realize equal dialogue, mutual learning and common development with other countries, including New Zealand.

"China's relations with the world changed dramatically. The world needs to understand China better, and China also needs to introduce itself to the world better. China's publishing industry has made remarkable achievements in its globalization, supporting China to expand its influence in major book fairs and increase the popularity of Chinese publishing enterprises," he added.

**Yang Lufeng**, vice president of CIBTC, said that CIBTC is a pioneer and main force in the promotion of Chinese culture going global, committing to building a bridge of cultural exchange and friendship between China and other countries, constantly leading Chinese publishing units to go global, and continuously building a platform for Chinese culture to go global.



Kirk Hammett of Metallica performs at Soldier Field on Friday, Aug. 9, in Chicago, Ill. (AP)

### Music

#### "Patterns' accurate snapshot of her life"

## New album will surprise: Ballerini

NEW YORK, Aug 11, (AP): Kelsea Ballerini is beaming. It's not a nervous smile, though she admits to feeling scared. She's been hard at work at her fifth full-length album, "Patterns," and on Oct. 25 the world is finally going to hear it - hear her, in a collection of songs she describes as an "accurate snapshot" of her life. And lately, people have been curious. The story they're going to get, she assures, is not the one they're anticipating.

"I think that people probably expect this really happy-go-lucky, love, mushy, gushy record from me. That's not the case," she tells The Associated Press. "And I'm really proud of that. It would have been easy to, I think, just collect the really beautiful parts of my life that I've dusted off and found the last couple of years. But that's not the fullness of my experience."

She's referring, in some ways, to 2023's super-successful "Rolling Up the Welcome Mat," an EP and short film that told the story of the dissolution of a marriage, a not too-thinly veiled reference to her own life, where, in 2022, Ballerini found herself divorced from Australian country singer Morgan Evans. These days, she's partnered with "Outer Banks" star Chase Stokes, a relationship the public has fallen in love with. But her love life is not the sole heart of "Patterns."

"There's a lot of narrative of learning how to go from fighting with something or with someone, to fighting for something or for someone. And there's a lot of that journey for the whole record," she says.

Unlike "Rolling Up the Welcome Mat," which she describes as a reflective release, "Patterns" is active and in the moment. "The heartbeat" of the album is about "analyzing yourself and the people that you love the most in order to grow."

That comes across in the previously released track "Cowboys Cry Too,"

featuring Noah Kahan - the only collaboration on the album and an empathic look at toxic masculinity from a female perspective - and the new single "Sorry Mom," out Friday. It is a swaying, guitar-pop confessional with intergenerational appeal, and it will no doubt strike a chord.

"It's an intimate song," she says. "The first line is, 'Sorry, mom. I smelled like cigarettes.' You know, it's the things that your mom doesn't really want to hear. But then you get to the chorus and the meat of it and the heart of it, and it's a letter of thanks to my mom for raising me the way she did."

#### Theme

"Sorry Mom" is one of many love songs on the album: Like "Cowboys," which was written for the men in her life, or a lush song of self-preservation and celebration called "First Rodeo," that's romantic in theme. These are the kind of songs that can be realized in a safe writing and recording environment.

To make "Patterns," Ballerini enlisted an all-woman team. She co-produced and co-wrote the album with Alysa Vanderheyem, and also worked with songwriters Jessie Jo Dillon, Little Big Town's Karen Fairchild and Hillary Lindsey. "I've never felt so safe making an album before, top to bottom. There was more pressure on this record just because of all the ears and eyeballs that 'Welcome Mat' got," Ballerini says. "And so, I wanted to safely make this one where I didn't feel the pressure from the inside."

They went on writing retreats together, and the process "produced something that felt streamlined without feeling too monotonous, and something that naturally has a lot of warmth and empathy and heart," she says. "Because that's what we do as women."

That level of comfortability al-

lowed for exciting experimentation as well. Ballerini is a country musician, through-and-through, but she has is unafraid to take genre-bending risks, particularly on this album. "To me, what makes me undoubtedly country is my storytelling and my songwriting. And that will never waver or change. But, per usual, I didn't overthink whether there was a banjo or a beat drop. And there are both on this record, as there have been on my other ones," she says. "I think lyrically and content wise, I really just was team no rules. Nothing's off limits."

There are lighter songs here, and darker ones, self-discovery and insecurity, as well as different geographies. New York and South Carolina are characters, Ballerini exploring her "hair down human me and the more dressed up, nervous, outward facing me," she says.

"It's my job to make a record that has something for everyone. But that comes from making a record that's true to me, and that's what I did," she concludes. "And so, I just hope people feel something," while listening. "Whatever it is."

#### Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** Was Post Malone's journey into country music inevitable? On Friday, Aug. 16, Malone will release "F-1 Trillion," a country album. While more and more pop acts venture into country music, Malone's approach is different: He's participating in the Nashville music industry, working with acts like **Luke Combs**, **Morgan Wallen** and **Blake Shelton**, instead of operating inside the genre and outside of its politics. It's working: His forthcoming album is one of the year's most anticipated in and out of the country music machine, and with good reason. "I Had Some Help" is already one of the year's biggest songs, and it doesn't appear to be slowing down.



Indian actor Shah Rukh Khan poses on the red carpet during the 77th Locarno International Film Festival, in Locarno, Switzerland, Saturday, Aug. 10. (AP)



Scott



MrBeast

### Variety

**PARIS:** Travis Scott was released from French police custody without a charge after his arrest at a Paris hotel following an altercation with a security guard, French prosecutors said Saturday.

In a statement, the Paris prosecutor's office said, "the police custody order for Travis Scott has been lifted and all proceedings (against him) were terminated because the incident was minor."

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 a statement from the Paris prosecutor's office. The hotel security guard had intervened in the altercation between the rapper and his bodyguard.

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. (AP)

**PARIS:** Freshly cooked bread and a selection of French pastries were meant to be the stars of the Olympic village where athletes from across the world have packed the on-site bakery. But the gold medalist was a surprise: The American-inspired chocolate muffin is what went viral on social media.

Norwegian swimmer **Henrik Christiansen** has been dubbed "muffin man" after he posted a series of videos featuring the "choccy muffin," accumulating millions of views on TikTok. He gave it an "insane" 11/10 star review.

"It's been an unreal experience," Christiansen told The Associated Press on Saturday.

"I never imagined it to become this big, but it's fun," said Christiansen, who swam in the 800-meter freestyle, the 1,500-meter freestyle and the 10-kilometer marathon races. (AP)

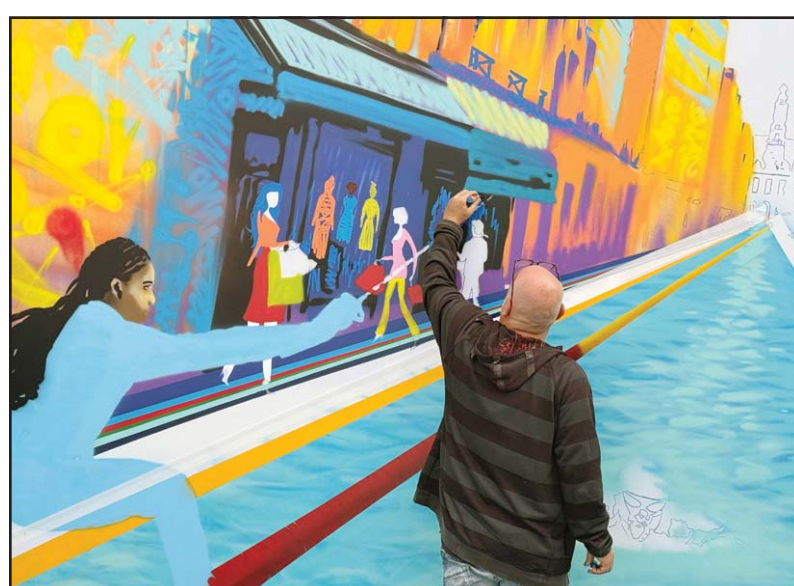
**NEW YORK:** MrBeast has ordered a full assessment of the internal culture in his YouTube empire as well as an investigation into "allegations of inappropriate behavior by people in the company," ac-

ording to a confidential memo obtained by The Associated Press.

Addressed to "Team Beast" employees, the message sent Wednesday outlines infrastructure changes including plans to hire a chief human resources officer and require company-wide sensi-

tivity training.

The expanded probe signals that troubles inside YouTube's biggest channel could go deeper than the "serious allegations" facing a longtime collaborator acknowledged last month by MrBeast, whose real name is **Jimmy**



Street artist Marko93 works on a piece during a live artistic performance at City Hall, during the 2024 Summer Olympics, Wednesday, July 31, 2024, in Paris, France. (AP)

**Donaldson.** (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Fifty years after his iconic high-wire walk between the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center, Philippe Petit recreated the death-defying stunt with a performance about 7 miles north of the trade center at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

The artist, 74, sought to celebrate the "glorious days of the twin towers" rather than focus on their tragic end in a terrorist attack on Sept. 11, 2001.

"I don't have to remind people of the doomed day," Petit told The Associated Press after Wednesday's performance. Petit said he aimed to honor both his remarkable feat and the legacy of the towers. (AP)

**SHANGHAI:** Shanghai Disneyland will introduce a new Spider-Man-themed thrill coaster, its first major attraction that will tell a Marvel story, the Shanghai Disney Resort said Sunday.

The high-speed, immersive roller coaster incorporates elements of Spider-Man, one of the most popular Marvel super heroes, according to **Josh D'Amaro**, chairman of Disney Experiences, who made the announcement during Disney's global fan expo.

It marks the latest expansion of Shanghai Disney Resort. In December 2023, Shanghai Disney Resort unveiled the world's first Zootopia land, to which the new roller coaster is adjacent. (Xinhua)



## Sport climbing is the ideal workout for beginners and pros

## Looking for fun and fitness? Give sport climbing a try

NEW YORK, Aug 11. (AP): Watching climbing at the Paris Olympics makes it seem as if it's a sport that would be completely out of the question for a weekend athlete. The speed, strength and dexterity with which the competitors scale the walls appear impossible to match.

Think again. Climbing might look terrifying on television, with and without ropes. Whether it's watching "Free Solo" or roped climbers making an ascent on one of the world's highest peaks, one thing is clear: it's not for the easily queasy. That's not the climbing we are talking about here.

"Climbing's a terrific workout from your fingers to your toes and right through your core," said Eric Horst, who runs the website trainingforclimbing.com. "The beauty of climbing gyms is you have this very controlled setting where anybody can walk in and take a climbing lesson and in the first hour start climbing the walls."

Recreational climbing doesn't look much different from what's being performed in the Olympics. Don't worry, you won't have to hang from a hold by your fingertips at a crazy angle - at least at first! Climbing has a level for everyone.

With over 600 climbing gyms in the United States, the opportunity to get started is there. Gyms offer climbing with ropes and without for beginners. Whichever you choose, you can be certain that given a little time you will get a well-rounded workout.

"The advent of indoor climbing walls has changed accessibility, so it's easier for people to join and take part in the sport" said Nick Draper, professor of sport and exercise science at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. "One of the things that limits people being active is accessibility."

## Protection

New climbers can start with bouldering, climbing without ropes on shorter walls up to about 15 feet (4 1/2 meters), with padded floors to cushion their landing when they fall or jump down. Another option is top rope climbing in which the climber is tied into a rope and belayed by a partner. Top rope walls are typically in the 40- to 60-foot range (12-18 meters). More advanced is lead climbing - a climber clips their rope into protection called a quickdraw as they ascend to prevent a long fall - and, of course, there is outdoor climbing on real rock.

Walking into a climbing gym for the first time can be intimidating, said Ivan Barcin, general manager of Reach Climbing and Fitness in Bridgeport, Pennsylvania.

"The biggest thing is taking that first step and committing to it," he said.

Barcin recommends taking an introductory class such as a top rope belay lesson. You'll be taught how to put a harness on the proper way and to tie your figure eight follow-through knot. He said you learn "how to properly belay, managing your rope, so your partner can safely climb or get lowered."

But if you don't want to mess around with ropes or prefer to stay closer to the ground your first time out, you can try the boulder wall, he added. Most gyms offer an orientation on how to properly fall so you don't injure yourself.

"The thing about bouldering is, because its low to the ground, because a lot of times you're resting, you're actually hanging out and talking to people so it's more of a community vibe," he said.

The key is to start where you feel comfortable. Climbing gyms make it easy to work at your level. Draper suggests starting with bigger holds on walls with lower grade climbs.

He recommends new climbers, "start really steadily and build up your muscular endurance and your flexibility."

Horst has established over 400 first



Rachel Chalik climbs a boulder problem at Philadelphia Rock Gym in Wyncote, Pa., on Wednesday, July 31, 2024. (AP)

## Paris embraces new tech

## Tech innovations help visually impaired fans enjoy Olympics

PARIS, Aug 11. (AP): As Paris shines under the global spotlight of the Olympic Games, technological innovations are enabling people with visual impairments to take it in.

Each Olympic venue is a mosaic of singular stories, from the athletes to the spectators. Even before the Paralympic Games begin later this month, Paris 2024 organizers strove to make the Olympics more accessible.

"For these Games, we wanted to carefully listen to the ecosystem of people with disabilities," said Ludvine Munos, a former Paralympic swimming medalist responsible for integrating accessibility as part of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organizing Committee.

"Our goal is precisely to provide an experience with as few barriers as possible. People with disabilities have specific needs and sometimes find it difficult to understand what is happening on the field," she said.

A standout innovation is the Vision Pad, a tactile tablet designed to add another layer of interaction for those with visual impairments. It features a moving magnetic ball, representing the ball in play on a court or a field. Users run their fingers across the tablet to keep track of the movement of the ball.

With a whole basketball court at her fingertips, Olympic enthusiast Zoé Thierry described her first experience with the pad, at the Bercy Arena for the Greece-Germany quarterfinal on Tuesday. "This time, we are truly immersed in the action, we can really follow the ball."

"In addition to the great atmosphere, of course, because I could always feel that. But it's a great addition to the game," she adds.

A total of 45 tablets are available, and can only cover ball games for now. It's being used for basketball, soccer

ascents - the first time a climber takes a route or makes it to top of a mountain - in more than 40 years of climbing. In his books and seminars he emphasizes the benefits to your physical health.

Even as a beginner you quickly will feel the effects of climbing several times a week - and not just in your fingers and arms.

Climbing "physically works most of your body parts in a variety of ways," he said. "There are elements of strength when you have to grab a small hold and pull really hard. Then there's elements of endurance when you're climbing a longer route, and you get pumped."

He added: "Just getting on a climb-

ing wall, especially one that's slightly overhanging - it only has to overhang 5 or 10 degrees - and it really starts to demand that the core come into play to get your body into proper positions."

For those who are afraid of heights, sport climbing in a controlled environment has its mental health benefits, too.

"There's the mental skillset that involves fear management and arousal control, trying to relax as much as possible and regulate your breathing," Horst said.

The workout you get from climbing isn't just for the young and already fit. It's an activity you can keep participating in even as you age.

Other new technologies also address visual impairments. One app helps visually impaired people find their seats in trains. Another is the Low-Vision Helmet, which allows users to zoom in on an athlete, race or action. Visually impaired individuals wear it on their eyes, like a VR headset. It's connected to the venues' broadcast feed, letting users switch between live-action and televised coverage, Munos explains.

In France's largest stadium, the Stade de France - where the thrill is the strongest but the athletes look the smallest - the Low-Vision Helmet really comes into its own.

## Sports

French visitor Florian Trichaud, who has visual impairments and considers sports his "drug," wore the helmet for a track and field final in the Stade de France on Thursday. A big soccer fan, he usually likes going to sporting events "just for the atmosphere and the fan culture."

"With this headset, I was able to experience things visually, and it's hard to realize, but being able to see the elements and feel included makes a real difference for us," he said.

Trichaud noted a few limitations: "The resolution could still be improved, and the headset can be quite tiring for the eyes."

The products were designed by companies including GiveVision, Touch2See and Ezymob, which partnered with the Paris 2024 organizing committee to introduce the technologies to the Olympic realm.

Another vital technology for visually impaired people is audio description.

## Children play a large role in virus transmission

## School season brings spike in infectious diseases: Key tips

By Libby Richards  
Purdue University

## Eradicate polio by 2025: Pak

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

Ready or not, back-to-school season is here, and kids will be bringing home more than homework. They'll be carrying germs, too.

These viruses and bacteria will be agents that cause the common cold, influenza, norovirus, COVID-19, strep throat and more. There's a reason why boxes of tissues and sanitizing wipes show up on most school supply lists.

As a nursing professor with experience in public health promotion, I have spent the past several years helping the public understand how to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, especially the flu and COVID-19.

Here are some ways to minimize illness transmission from school to home.

In what health care providers call the summer wave, COVID-19 infections have been increasing throughout the summer of 2024. As of July 30, 2024, the number of COVID-19 infections has grown or is likely to grow in 35 states and territories in the US.

Summer heat waves force people inside and into close proximity. And as record-setting temperatures continue driving this trend, the number of COVID-19 cases is expected to increase. This increase is expected to extend into the 2024-25 school year.

Currently, COVID-19 variants KP.3 and KP.3.1.1 are the dominant circulating virus strains. These variants are among the FLIRT variants, nicknamed after the locations of their spike protein mutations. These variants spread more easily from person to person and are able to evade vaccine-induced immunity better than previous strains.

These highly contagious COVID-19 strains, combined with the relaxed isolation guidelines that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released in March 2024, are likely to increase classroom disease transmission this coming school year. These updated CDC guidelines apply to all respiratory viruses, not just COVID-19.

## Guidelines

The new guidelines recommend that everyone stay home when they are sick but also suggest that a person can return to normal activities once symptoms are improving and the person is fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. While it is too early to know the transmission impact of these guidelines, they may lead to more people coming out of isolation while still infectious.

Children play a large role in transmitting the COVID-19 virus. Children often do not have overt symptoms when they are infected with COVID-19, leading to increased contact and spread.

A two-year study following over 160,000 households composed of both adults and children found that just over 70% of viral transmissions, including COVID-19, in these households were pediatric index cases, meaning they started with a child. Further, these pediatric index cases were reduced by 60% to 80% during school breaks.

MANILA, Aug 11. (Xinhua) - The Philippines' Department of Health (DOH) on Saturday directed all hospitals in the capital to "activate their leptospirosis surge capacity plan" amid rising cases following the massive July 24 flooding.

"Due to the increasing leptospirosis cases in (Metro Manila) and preparation for the anticipated increases over the coming days, the ability to respond timely and significantly is being challenged, specifically in the augmentation of human and non-human resources such as the deployment of health workers to serve with the surges and increasing the critical care capacity," the DOH memorandum read.

The DOH memorandum was released after the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKT) and San Lazaro Hospital reported more admissions of leptospirosis patients.

The NKT converted its gymnasium into a leptospirosis ward where patients can be administered dialysis. The 66-bed makeshift gym ward and emergency room are full.

Both hospitals are adding more beds to accommodate more patients and are clamoring for more doctors and nurses to care for the increasing number of patients.

Romina Danguilan, the deputy executive director for medical services at the NKT, said the hospital cares for at least 72 patients, and 62 of them are undergoing dialysis because the patients' kidneys have "shut down." Two have died.

"The patients also have acute pancreatitis, liver function abnormalities, and hepatitis. Some of them have severe lung damage, so they need to be intubated. Some of them are attached to respirators," she added.

This data suggests that COVID-19 infections will continue to increase once the school year starts.

In May 2024, the CDC also released guidance for preventing classroom spread of infectious disease, including COVID-19 and other common infectious diseases such as the flu, norovirus and strep throat. This guidance places emphasis on proper respiratory etiquette, hand-washing and vaccination.

Proper cough and sneeze hygiene is especially important to reduce transmission of diseases such as COVID-19 and the flu, which are commonly transmitted through respiratory droplets. Coughs and sneezes create respiratory droplets that can be full of viruses or bacteria. Because these droplets are forcefully expelled, they can be spread around the environment and inhaled by another person.

That's why it is important to turn your face away from others and cover up coughing or sneezing with a tissue and then quickly dispose of the tissue. If a tissue is not available, your sleeve is the next best option. Which-

**Polio:** Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that his country is committed to completely eradicating poliovirus by 2025 and special measures are afoot to further enhance the vaccination coverage.

"A whole-of-government approach has been adopted to eradicate polio. We are doing our best to eradicate this deadly virus by 2025," said the prime minister while chairing a review meeting on anti-polio on Friday.

He said that all the resources of the state are being utilized for the complete elimination of polio from the country, adding that multiple doses of vaccine will be given to every child in Pakistan.

The provision of the polio vaccine should be ensured to every child in areas where there are security challenges, Sharif said, highlighting that the country has made significant progress against polio with the dedication of frontline workers and the support of partners.

**Dengue:** Over 3,000 cases of dengue fever have been imported into mainland France so far this year, setting a new record, local media reported on Friday, quoting the country's public health agency SPF.

Between May 1 and Aug. 6, SPF recorded nearly 1,000 imported dengue fever cases in mainland France. The years 2023 and 2024 have seen record numbers of dengue fever cases not only in France but also globally, the authority said.

The dengue fever virus is often introduced into mainland France by travelers, and can be transmitted to others via the tiger mosquito.

Dengue fever is more prevalent in tropical and subtropical climates, and is a viral infection transmitted by mosquitoes to humans.

ever method you use, it is important to wash your hands afterward. In addition to encouraging proper respiratory etiquette, classrooms should also have appropriate ventilation.

The CDC's classroom guidance also focuses on proper hand-washing. Up to 80% of infectious diseases are spread through touch. Classrooms have countless high-touch surfaces, including light switches, tabletops, shared supplies, doorknobs, sports equipment and toys.

Proper hand-washing can prevent about 30% of diarrhea-related illness and about 20% of respiratory infections, such as colds and flu. The CDC also reports that proper hand-washing reduces absenteeism due to gastrointestinal illness by up to 57%.

Another important part of reducing classroom spread of infectious disease is keeping children up to date on vaccinations. Proper vaccination can reduce disease transmission rates 40% to 50% for flu and COVID-19, 80% for child pneumococcal cases, upward of 90% for chickenpox and 100% for diseases such as polio and smallpox. (AP)

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## More heartbreak for Marta

## USWNT pip Brazil to clinch fifth Olympic gold

PARIS, Aug 11, (AP): At just the right moment, Mallory Swanson yelled at teammate Sophia Smith not to go near the ball as it came through.

Swanson knew Smith was offside. But Swanson wasn't.

With that 57th-minute goal, the U.S. women's soccer team won its fifth Olympic gold medal by beating Brazil 1-0 in the tournament final at the Parc des Princes.

The Americans, who hadn't won gold since the 2012 London Olympics, closed out an undefeated run to the title in their first international campaign under new coach Emma Hayes.

Goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher preserved the win with a one-handed save on Adriana's header in stoppage time at Parc des Princes. At the final

whistle, the U.S. players celebrated as Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the U.S.A." played in the stadium.

The result is more heartbreak for Brazil and its iconic star, Marta. The six-time world player of the year has never won a Women's World Cup or an Olympics. This is expected to be her last major international tournament.

## SOCCER

It was the third victory for the United States over Brazil in an Olympic final. The Americans also beat the Brazilians in 2004 at Athens and four years later in Beijing.

The United States also won gold

medals at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics - the first time women's soccer was played at the Olympics - and in 2012 at London.

Brazil has never finished better than runner-up at the Olympics.

Three years ago in Tokyo, the U.S. had to settle for the bronze medal. The Americans were knocked out in the quarterfinals at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.

Marta was playing in her sixth Olympics. Her first was in 2004 - when she was just 18 - which ended with a silver. But she started on the bench after a two-game suspension for a hard foul on Spain's Olga Carmona in the team's final group match.

Hayes was hired as coach of the U.S. team in November but she didn't join

the squad until May so she could finish out the season with Chelsea - guiding the Women's Super League squad to its fifth straight title.

Hayes was tasked with turning around a U.S. team that crashed out of last summer's Women's World Cup earlier than ever before. Despite her short time with the Americans, she quickly fostered chemistry within the young squad, particularly between forwards Sophia Smith, Trinity Rodman and Swanson.

The trio scored 10 of the 12 U.S. goals in France. Naeher and the U.S. defense allowed just two goals.

"I think we're on this steady climb," Crystal Dunn said.

Brazil had the best chances early. Ludmila was alone in front of the goal

in the second minute but her shot went straight into Naeher's arms. Ludmila appeared to score in the upper far corner in the 16th minute but was offside.

Naeher kept the game scoreless at the break by punching away Gabi Portilho's shot in first-half stoppage time.

Brazilian midfielder Vitoria Yaya was carried from the field with an injury early in the second half.

The U.S. continued to threaten after Swanson's goal. Smith nearly scored on a break in the 66th but her attempt went wide.

Lindsey Horan smashed a free kick into the wall in the 82nd after Tarciane fouled Smith just outside the box.

Hayes made one change to her lineup for the final, starting Korbin Albert in place of Rose Lavelle. It was the

second youngest U.S. lineup to start a gold medal match, with an average age of 26.7. The average age of the team that started the 1996 final was 25.8.

Brazil had finished third in its group in France, earning one of two third-place spots in the knockout round.

The U.S. advanced to the final with a 1-0 extra-time victory over Germany in Lyon, where Smith scored the lone goal. Brazil earned its spot with a wild 4-2 victory over Women's World Cup champion Spain.

Germany went on to win the tournament's bronze medal with a 1-0 victory over Spain in Lyon on Friday.

Asked if the U.S. team was confident it would ultimately wear gold medals in France, defender Naomi Girma was succinct.

## It puts her into the LPGA Hall of Fame

## Ko finally gets Olympic gold

SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES, France, Aug 11, (AP): One gold short of the Olympic medal collection, one win away from the LPGA Hall of Fame, Lydia Ko pondered what it would be like to knock out both at the same time and said when she arrived, "It would be a hell of a way to do it."

What the 27-year-old Kiwi didn't share was her decision that the Paris Games would be her last Olympics. The goal in the women's golf competition was never more clear.

## GOLF

"I knew the next 18 holes were going to be some of the most important 18 holes of my life," Ko said. "I knew being in this position was once in a lifetime." She delivered a dream finish at Le Golf National with a 1-under 71 for a two-shot victory. The win pushed her career total to 27 points for the LPGA Hall of Fame.

Ko watched the documentary of gymnastics great Simone Biles, "Rising," and was so inspired by one quote from Biles that she wrote it in her yardage book: "I get to write my own ending." This final chapter featured Ko building a five-shot lead, watching it cut to one over the final hour and then delivering a steady diet of pars until she made a 7-foot birdie putt at the end to finish at 10-under 278.

Esther Henseleit of Germany finished birdie-birdie for a 66 to make Ko work for it. Henseleit wound up with the silver. Xiyi Lin of China birdied the final hole for a 69 to take the bronze.

Ko won the silver medal in Rio de Janeiro. She won the bronze in Tokyo. The missing one turned out to be more valuable than its weight in gold.

For Nelly Korda, Rose Zhang, Morgane Metraux and so many others, it was a day to forget. All of them were in range early. All of them fell back with mistakes that paved the way for Ko.

This is the latest prize in a remarkable career for Ko, who won her first LPGA title as a 15-year-old amateur and rose to No. 1 in the world for the first time at 17. She began this year with a victory in Florida, leaving her one point short of the Hall, and had a spell this summer when she doubted she would get the last one.

Ko becomes the 35th player to qualify for the LPGA Hall of Fame, and the second-youngest behind Australian great Karrie Webb to earn the required 27 points - two points for each of her two majors, one point for her other 18 LPGA victories, one point for winning



Lydia Ko, of New Zealand, poses for the cameras with her gold medal following final round of the women's golf event at the 2024 Summer Olympics at Le Golf National, in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France. (AP)

LPGA Player of the Year (twice) and for the Vayer Trophy for lowest scoring average (twice).

And one big point for Olympic gold. Ko needed only two putts from short range to win, and when the putt fell, she stepped away with her hand over her mouth and it wasn't long before she began to sob.

The final round was harder than it needed to be. Ko was ahead of a tight chasing pack when it suddenly, shockingly, came undone for everyone but her.

Ruoning Yin of China, who got to within one shot of the lead, bogeyed two of three holes after she made the turn. Hannah Green was two behind until her tee shot went left into the water on the 10th for a double bogey, ruining her bold comeback from a 77 in the opening round.

Miyu Yamashita and Rose Zhang each played tennis on the ninth green, chipping from one side of the green to the other, back and forth, until both made double bogey.

And just like that, Ko was five clear of the field and the only drama appeared to be a wild race for the other two medals. At one point, 12 players were separated by two shots in what amounted to the B-Flight.

If only it were that simple for Ko. She was cruising along, birdie looks on every hole, until she found the water on the 13th for a double bogey. That cut her lead to three shots, still plenty safe until Henseleit made Ko play her best down the stretch.



The United States soccer team players pose with their gold medals after the women's soccer gold medal match between Brazil and the United States at the Parc des Princes during the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

## US wrap up best Summer Oly Games for cycling in 40 years

Valente defends omnium gold

MONTIGNY-LE-BRET-ONNEUX, France, Aug 11, (AP): Jennifer Valente made a dominant defense of her Olympic omnium title on Sunday, earning her second gold medal of the week and wrapping up the most successful Summer Games for the U.S. cycling team in 40 years.

Valente finished with 144 points in the multidiscipline event, well ahead of Daria Pikulik of Poland, who had 131. Ally Wollaston of New Zealand held off Lotte Kopecky of Belgium at the end of the 80-lap concluding points race to take bronze.

Valente helped the Americans win gold in the team pursuit earlier in the week, along with Kristen Faulkner, who also won two gold medals after her road race triumph. In all, the U.S. team captured three gold medals and six in cycling events, its best haul since the team won four golds and nine medals at the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

## CYCLING

Earlier in the final session of cycling, Harrie Lavreysen won his third gold medal of the Paris Games by holding off Australians Matthew Glatzer and Matthew Richardson in the finals of the men's keirin, and Ellesse Andrews of New Zealand captured her second gold and third medal overall by sweeping Lea Friedrich of Germany in the sprint finals.

The session began with the scratch race, the first event in the omnium, where riders try to cover 30 laps as quickly as possible. And just as Valente did at the Tokyo Games, she played the cat-and-mouse game perfectly to secure maximum points.

Just as the peloton was hitting the bell lap, two of her biggest threats - Kopecky and Neah Evans of Britain - touched wheels. Kopecky wound up 17th, which may have cost her a medal in the end, while Evans hit the deck and finished last.

In the tempo race, where a point is awarded to the leader of each of the final 25 laps, Valente was joined by Pikulik and Georgia Baker of Australia in an early attack, and they worked together to share the 21 remaining sprint points.

The top three riders entering the

## Talakhadze three-peats as Oly weightlifting champion

Wenwen wins women's +81kg

PARIS, Aug 11, (AP): Lasha Talakhadze of Georgia has won his third consecutive Olympic title in the heaviest weightlifting division, taking gold in the men's +102 kilograms.

Talakhadze won gold in the men's +102 kilograms after winning at +109 kilograms in Tokyo three years ago and +105 kilograms in 2016 at Rio de Janeiro. He won with a total of 470. Varazdat Lalayan of Armenia got silver with 467 and Gor Minasyan of Bahrain took bronze with 461.

Norway's Solfrid Koanda won the women's 82-kilogram division and China's Liu Huanhua won the men's 102 kilograms. Each is a new after the weight divisions were reclassified and reduced for the Paris Games.

China has won five weightlifting gold medals after Li Wenwen claimed the women's +81kg title on the last day of the Paris Olympics on Sunday in the South Paris Arena.

It marks China's 40th gold medal in Paris, the country's best result at an

overseas Olympic Games.

The Tokyo Olympic champion lifted 136kg in the snatch and 173kg in the clean and jerk, both ranking first, achieving a total of 309kg.

South Korea's Park Hye-jeong won the silver medal with 299kg, followed by bronze medalist Emily Campbell of Britain with 288kg.

## WEIGHTLIFTING

Liu beat Tokyo champion Akbar Djuraev of Uzbekistan in a reclassified division, as weightlifting was reduced from 14 to 10 events. Djuraev won gold three years ago at 109 kilograms and had to cut down from 240 to 224 pounds (109 to 102 kilograms) for the Paris Games.

"It was a little difficult to lose the weight," Djuraev said. "That's why I (only got) the silver medal. For the next Olympics, maybe there will be another change to the weight (catego-

ries), so maybe I can get a better result."

China won seven gold medals in weightlifting at the Games three years ago. But the country had never won at a level above 100 kilograms.

"I believe the gold medal is a great proof, and it is also a breakthrough for the Chinese weightlifting team," said Liu, who was making his Olympic debut at age 22. "It will give more confidence to the heavyweight weightlifters from China that we can win gold and achieve great results on the world stage."

Liu won with a total of 406. Djuraev got silver at 404 and Belarusian Yauheni Tsikhantsou, who is competing as a neutral athlete, took bronze at 402. Ramiro Mora, a Cuba native living in Britain and representing the Refugee Team, was seventh.

The U.S. has its first gold since 2000 after Olivia Reeves won in the women's 71 kilograms, and two medals total with Hampton Morris taking bronze in the men's 61 kilograms.

That gave Valente a 10-point lead entering the points race, where the top four riders in sprints every 10 laps get points. Riders also can earn a 20-point bonus by taking a lap on the field, though, and that is what the American did with 36 laps to go.

Valente was so far ahead that she merely had to avoid any catastrophes to stand atop another Olympic podium.

In the keirin, world champion Kevin Quintero of Colombia and two-time world silver medalist Jeffrey Hoogland of the Netherlands were eliminated in the same quarterfinal, where only the first four in the six-rider field advanced to the semis.

While the favorites safely made the finals, Hamish Turnbull of Britain and Luca Spiegel of Germany crashed heavily near the end of their semifinal. Medics tended to both for several minutes, though each of them managed to walk off the track.

It wasn't the last crash of their competition.

elimination race, where one rider is taken from the field every two laps, were also the last three on the track.

Valente again went to the front and held off Baker at the finish to earn the maximum points.



Jennifer Valente of the United States competes during the women's omnium event, at the Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

## US women hold off France to win 8th straight Olympic gold medal

PARIS, Aug 11, (AP): A'ja Wilson scored 21 points and the U.S. women's basketball team survived the biggest challenge of its unprecedented run to eight straight Olympic gold medals with a 67-66 win over France at the Paris Games on Sunday.

No team had been able to push the Americans during this impressive streak of 61 consecutive wins. Only two of those victories had been by single digits before the game against France.

The eight straight golds broke a tie with the American men's program that won seven in a row from 1936-68. The women's victory came less than 24 hours after the U.S. men's team also beat France in the title game. This was the first time in Olympic history that both gold medal games featured the same two teams.

Unlike the men's game this one came down to the final minute and one last shot by France that was just inside

the 3-point line.

The Americans were up 67-64 with 3.9 seconds left after Kahleah Copper hit two free throws. Marine Johannes brought the ball up the court to Gabby Williams who caught the ball just inside the 3-point line and banked in over the outstretched arms of Breanna Stewart for the final margin.

## BASKETBALL

There was a brief delay before the officials signaled that it was a two-point shot, which led to the beginning of a celebration and a lot of happy hugs for the Americans and left the French players standing in disbelief as they fell just short.

Williams, who finished with 19 points, had hit a deep 3 a few seconds earlier to get France within one before Copper's free throws.



United States' A'ja Wilson, (9) shoots for a basket as Marieme Badiane (22), attempts to block, during a women's gold medal basketball game between the United States and France at Bercy Arena at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)



## Netherlands take bronze

### Ortiz stars, perfect Spain top Australia for water polo gold

NANTERRE, France, Aug 11, (AP) — Beia Ortiz scored four goals and Spain won its first Olympic gold medal in women's water polo, beating Australia 11-9 in the final at the Paris Games.

Maica García Godoy had three goals as Spain finished with a perfect 7-0 record. Anni Espar Llaquet scored twice, and Martina Terre made 15 saves.

It was a sweet moment for Ortiz and Spain after they lost 14-5 to the United States in the final at the Tokyo Olympics. Spain also lost to the U.S. in the gold-medal match in London in 2012, but the country finally finished on top in Paris.

"We wanted the gold," Espar Llaquet said. "We fought and we finally achieved that Olympic gold."

Coach Miguel Angel Oca Gaia took off his shoes as the final seconds ticked off and the celebration started to ramp up. When his players swam over to pull him into the water, he held hands with his staff and jumped in instead.

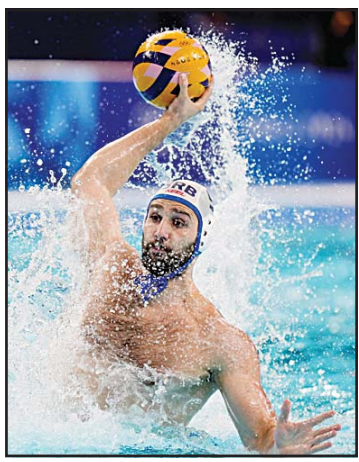
Alice Williams scored five goals for Australia, which earned the country's first silver medal in women's water polo. It won gold in 2000 and took home bronze in 2008 and 2012.

"We were undefeated until the gold-medal game. No one expected that but us," Williams said. "We surprised the world and I think we should really be proud of ourselves for what we have done."

Coach Bec Rippon played for Australia when it won bronze in Beijing. This time, she became the first woman to serve as the head coach for a medal-winning team in the women's water polo tournament at the Olympics.

"I take that as a real honor," Rippon said. "And I just want to do it because I love it, and I want to do it the way I believe and stay true to that. And if that is inspiring to other people, then I'm happy with that."

Australia pulled within one when Sienna Hearn scored with 5:45 left. But Ortiz and García Godoy responded with power-play goals, and García Godoy helped close it out when she made it 11-7 with 1:49 remaining.



Serbia's Milos Cuk scores during the men's water polo gold medal match between Serbia and Croatia, at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

The Netherlands won bronze when it beat the United States 11-10 on Sabrina van der Sloot's last-second tie-breaking goal. The Dutch trailed 7-3 at halftime and 10-7 midway through the fourth quarter.

The Netherlands got the ball back following a U.S. turnover with 9 seconds left. Coach Eva Doudesis had goalkeeper Laura Aarts join the attack for a 7-on-6 opportunity, and Van der Sloot beat Ashleigh Johnson into the right side.

"I thought that they were going to attack me because I already scored five balls," she said of the final sequence. "So yeah, I was like, 'Well if you're not going to attack me, I'm going to shoot it,' and it was amazing that it went in."

It was the second women's water polo medal for the Netherlands after it won gold at the 2008 Olympics. The United States had been the only country to medal in each tournament at the Olympics since it started in 2000.

"We've talked about just trying to learn from our mistakes and getting better," U.S. captain Maggie Steffens said. "And I feel today we struggled to continually learn from our mistakes."

## Al-Salmiya renew Misha's deal

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Al-Salmiya's board of directors has renewed the contract of Croatian coach Ante Misha for an additional two seasons, extending his leadership of the team until June 2027.



Ante Misha

Misha, who was initially signed by Al-Salmiya last January for a season and a half, guided the "Sky Blues" to the Amir Cup final last season, where they narrowly lost to Al-Qadisiya by a single goal. Notably, Misha had previously led Al-Arabi to its first Premier League title in 20 years.

### SOCCER

Al-Salmiya beat Al-Nasr in 3-1 in opening round of the Zain Premier League.

Following the win, Misha commented, "The first match is always challenging. We didn't have many friendly matches during the camp," but expressed his satisfaction with his players' performance against Al-Nasr, acknowledging their solid effort.

He added, "We deserved the win. We created numerous opportunities and controlled most of the match," and expressed hope that his team would maintain this level of performance in the upcoming rounds.

## Al-Qadisiya handball team prepares for new season with Bosnia training camp

By Khaled Al-Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Al-Qadisiya Club's handball team kicked off its training last week in preparation for the upcoming season. The club's management has planned an external training camp in Bosnia from August 28th to September 12th. This camp will take place before the team competes in the 39th Arab Handball Clubs Championship alongside Kuwait Club the reigning champion and host, as well as Al-Salmiya Club. The championship will be held at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex Hall from September 15-25. Following this, Al-Qadisiya is set to play in the quarter-final match of the Federation Cup for the 2023-2024 season on

### HANDBALL

October 2nd.

Meanwhile, Al-Qadisiya management has renewed the contract of Croatian head coach Slavko Klosa, following the strong performance of the team last season, where it secured second place in the Premier League. It has also extended the contracts of his Macedonian assistant Ivan and Montenegrin goalkeeping coach Vlanko.

Additionally, the club renewed the contract of Montenegrin professional Vladan Lipovina. During the Bosnian camp, the team will assess two potential professional players – one of Arab nationality and the other European – to determine the best fit for its squad in the Arab Championship and other lo-



Al-Qadisiya player attempts to score in this file photo.

# Curry late barrage seals 'another' Oly title for US

Wembanyama brilliant for France

PARIS, Aug 11, (AP) — Stephen Curry was thinking about this two years ago, after winning his fourth NBA title with the Golden State Warriors. The only thing left for him to win was Olympic gold.

And in the ultimate moment, he made sure that medal would be his.

The U.S. is atop the international men's basketball world once again, after Curry scored 24 points - all on 3-pointers - and led the way to a 98-87 win over France in the final at the Paris Games. It was the fifth consecutive gold medal for the U.S. and the 17th in 20 all-time appearances for the Americans at the Games.

Added U.S. coach Steve Kerr: "Steph earned this." Curry made four 3-pointers in the final 2:43, including the one that just sealed the win with 1:19 remaining. It put the U.S. up 93-84 and he skipped down the court letting out a yell, shaking his jersey so everyone could see the "USA" across the front.

If that wasn't enough, one more followed with about 30 seconds left - along with the go-to-sleep move where he puts his hands together on the side of his face. "Night night," he calls it, and he came prepared, with a special shirt to wear after the game for a champagne-and-cigars celebration. "Nuit nuit," it said, the French translation. Good night. Game over. Gold won.



United States' LeBron James (6) dunks during a men's gold medal basketball game against France at Bercy Arena at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

Again.

Kevin Durant - the first four-time men's gold medalist in Olympic basketball history - scored 15 for the Americans, as did Devin Booker. LeBron James, wearing metallic gold shoes that needed no explanation, scored 14 for the U.S. as he won his fourth Olympic medal and third gold.

"Super humbled that I can still play this game," James said. "Played at a high level, played with 11 other great players and a great coaching staff and went on and did it for our country. It was a great moment around." For the second consecutive Olympics, the French had to watch the Americans

hold up U.S. flags in celebration after the title game. The French lost to the U.S. 87-82 in Tokyo three years ago, and this one was down to the final minutes.

That is, until Curry took over.

Victor Wembanyama, the NBA Rookie of the Year for San Antonio in his first Olympic final, was brilliant for France, scoring 26 points - the second-most ever against the U.S. in a gold-medal game, one behind the 27 that Drazen Dalipagic scored for Yugoslavia in 1976.

Wembanyama covered his face in a towel afterward as the Americans celebrated. Guerschon Yabusele scored

20 for the hosts.

The U.S. lead was 14 early in the third, looking poised to pull away. But the offense quickly went cold and when Evan Fournier connected on a 3-pointer with 3:05 left in the quarter the lead was down to 65-59 after a 12-4 run by the hosts.

And with a chance to go up double digits headed to the fourth, a big U.S. blunder gave France another jolt of momentum. Anthony Edwards and

### BASKETBALL

Durant got their signals crossed on a pass that led to a turnover, Nando De Colo scored to beat the buzzer and the U.S. lead was only 72-66 going into the final 10 minutes.

It got as close as three. No closer, thanks to Curry. He hit four 3-pointers in a span of 2:12, the last one of them a bit of the circus variety, and they all immediately went into Olympic lore.

It was the eighth time in Olympic history - and Sunday's women's final between the U.S. and France will mark the ninth - that the home team got to play for basketball gold.

Home teams are now 5-3 in those games, 2-1 on the men's side. The U.S. men and women both won in 1984 and 1996; the women of the Soviet Union won in 1980, while Australia's women lost to the U.S. in 2000 and Japan's women also lost to the U.S. at the Tokyo Games three years ago.



The United States team celebrates after winning a men's gold medal basketball game against France at Bercy Arena at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

USOPC says it will appeal

## Chiles stripped of gymnastics bronze medal

PARIS, Aug 11, (AP) — U.S. Olympic officials say they will appeal a court ruling that resulted in American gymnast Jordan Chiles being asked to return the bronze medal she won in the Paris Olympics floor exercise.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) voided an on-floor appeal by Chiles' coach that vaulted her to third, saying the appeal came 4 seconds beyond the 1-minute time limit for scoring inquiries.

The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) said Saturday night it would respect the court's decision and elevate Barbusu to third. The International Olympic Committee confirmed the ruling Sunday, announcing that it was reallocating the bronze from last Monday's women's floor final to Romanian Ana Barbusu.

"We firmly believe that Jordan rightfully earned the bronze medal, and there were critical errors in both the initial scoring by the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) and the subsequent CAS appeal process that need to be addressed," the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee statement said.

CAS ruled Saturday that Team USA coach Cecile Landi's inquiry to have 0.1 added to Chiles' score came outside the 1-minute window allowed by the FIG. The CAS ad hoc committee wrote that Landi's inquiry came 1 minute, 4 seconds after Chiles' initial score was posted.

The IOC said in a statement it will be in touch with the USOPC regarding the return of Chiles' bronze and will work with the Romanian Olympic Committee to discuss a reallocation ceremony honoring Barbusu.

"The initial error occurred in the scoring by FIG, and the second error was during the CAS appeal process, where the USOPC was not given adequate time or notice to effectively challenge the decision," said the USOPC statement, which was released Sunday.

It was unclear the exact process the appeal would take first. The two potential places the USOPC could take the appeal would be to Switzerland's highest court, the Swiss Tribunal, or the European Court of Human Rights.

CAS wrote Saturday that the initial finishing order should be restored, with Barbusu third, Romanian Sabrina Maneca-Voinea fourth and Chiles fifth. The organization added the FIG should determine the final ranking "in accordance with the above decision," but left it up to the federation to decide who would get the medal behind gold winner Rebeca Andrade of Brazil and silver medalist Simone Biles of the U.S.

The FIG said it was the IOC's call on whether to reallocate the medal. The IOC confirmed Sunday it would respect FIG's decision and seek to have Chiles' medal returned.

The rapid turn of events adds another layer to what has been a difficult few days for all three athletes.

Romanian gymnastics legend and 1976 Olympic champion Nadia Comaneci feared for Barbusu's mental health because of the wrenching sequence in which she went from bronze medalist to fourth-place finisher.

"I can't believe we play with athletes mental health and emotions like this... let's protect them," Comaneci posted on X earlier in the week.

Comaneci, at the same time, criticized the judges for the way they scored Maneca-Voinea's routine - the gymnast was docked 0.1 points for stepping out of bounds, but viral replays showed she narrowly stayed inbounds. Comaneci urged the Romanian Olympic Committee to protest, which it did, but CAS denied that appeal.

Chiles hinted at the decision in an Instagram story on Saturday, indicating she is heartbroken and is "taking this time and removing myself from social media for my mental health, thank you."

Jazmin Chiles, Jordan's sister, said on Instagram that Chiles was stripped of a medal "not because she wasn't good enough. But because the judges failed to give her difficulty and forced an inquiry to be made."

U.S. teammates offered support to Chiles, a two-time Olympian.

"Sending you so much love Jordan," American star Simone Biles posted on Instagram. "Keep your chin up 'Olympic champ' we love you."

"All this talk about the athlete, what about the judges?" six-time Olympic medalist Sunisa Lee added on Instagram. "Completely unacceptable, this is awful and I'm gutted for Jordan."

USA Gymnastics said in a statement on Saturday it is "devastated" by the ruling.



Jordan Chiles, of the United States, performs on the floor during the women's artistic gymnastics team finals round at Bercy Arena at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)





Egypt's Ahmed Elgendy celebrates winning gold medal in men's Modern Pentathlon at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Versailles, France. (AP)

# Sports

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## Egypt's Elgendy wins historic gold

### Akhmed claims Bahrain's first Oly wrestling gold



Bahrain's Akhmed Tazhudinov celebrates after defeating Georgia's Givi Matcharashvili in their men's freestyle 97kg final wrestling match, at Champ-de-Mars Arena, during the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

PARIS, Aug 11: Bahraini wrestler Akhmed Tazhudinov clinched the gold medal in the 97 kg freestyle wrestling category on the final day of the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Tazhudinov's path to victory included three wins on Saturday: a 4-3 triumph over Iran's Amir Ali

Azarbera, a 14-2 victory against Kazakhstan's Alisher Yirgali, and a 6-4 win over American Kyle Frederick Snyder. In the final, he secured a 2-0 win against Georgia's Givi Matcharashvili.

After his victory, Tazhudinov said, "After a year of training, I was

very focused." Explaining his points win, he added, "He made a counter-attack, and I capitalized on it."

This gold marks Bahrain's second at the Paris Games, following Winfrid Yafi's win in the 3,000m steeplechase. It is also Bahrain's fourth overall medal, adding to the silver medals won by

runner Salwa Eid Naser in the 400m and weightlifter Gor Minasian in the +102kg category.

Notably, this is Bahrain's first-ever Olympic medal in wrestling, after Minasian became the first Bahraini athlete to win a medal outside of athletics earlier in the Games.

### Wanyonyi wins 800m gold

## US women extend 4x400m dominance

PARIS, Aug 11, (Xinhua): The United States continued their women's 4x400m dominance while Kenya's Emmanuel Wanyonyi won a thrilling men's 800m final at the Paris Olympics.

In the last evening athletics session of the 2024 Games, Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone ran an explosive second leg as the United States secured their eighth consecutive Olympic women's 4x400m relay title.

McLaughlin-Levrone, who won the 400m hurdles gold in Paris, powered away from her rivals with a split of 47.71 seconds after taking the baton from Shamier Little.

Gabrielle Thomas and Alexis Holmes maintained the lead as the U.S. finished in three minutes, 15.27 seconds. The Netherlands took silver in 3:19.50 and Britain bronze in 3:19.72.

Earlier, Wanyonyi held off a late challenge from Canada's Marco Arop to win gold in the men's 800m.

Wanyonyi crossed the finish line in a personal best time of one minute, 41.19 seconds, just 0.01 seconds ahead of Arop, who took silver. Algeria's Djamel Sedjati claimed bronze in 1:41.50.

"This race was tough. I felt more pressure because I knew it wasn't going to be easy," Wanyonyi said. "I needed to set a fast pace and that's why I led from the start." The winning

#### ATHLETICS

time was only 0.59 seconds shy of the world record, set by Kenya's David Rudisha at the London 2012 Games.

There were six other track and field gold medals decided at the Stade de France on Saturday.

Rai Benjamin, the 400m hurdles champion at these Games, withstood a late charge from Botswana's Letsile Tebogo as the United States won the men's 4x400m relay final.

The U.S. quartet - which also included Christopher Bailey, Vernon Norwood and Bryce Deadmon - finished in an Olympic record time of two minutes, 54.43 seconds, shattering its own previous mark by almost a second.

Botswana took silver in 2:54.53 and Britain bronze in 2:55.83.

American sprinter Masai Russell continued her rapid ascent by winning gold in the women's 100m hurdles.

The 24-year-old clocked 12.33 seconds to finish just one hundredth of

## Hassan beats Assefa to win women's Oly marathon

PARIS, Aug 11, (AP): Sifan Hassan traded elbows with Tigst Assefa with 150 meters left in the women's marathon, then passed her along the railing to win the race for her third distance medal of the Paris Games on Sunday.

Hassan, an Ethiopian-born racer who runs for the Netherlands, finished in an Olympic record time of 2 hours, 22 minutes, 55 seconds. Assefa won silver for Ethiopia, and Kenya's Helen Obiri took the bronze.

Hassan raised her hands and yelled as he crossed the line, then wrapped the Dutch flag around her head as she celebrated. Wearing an orange bucket hat, she wrapped an arm around Nepal's Shantoshi Shrestha, whose smile was as bright as the sun pouring down on them.

Then, taking in the enormity of her win, Hassan plunged her head in her hands and appeared to weep with joy.

a second ahead of France's Cyrena Samba-Mayela, who took silver. Puerto Rico's Jasmine Camacho-Quinn claimed bronze in 12:36.

"I'm the fourth-fastest woman ever in this event, so it wasn't about knowing if I could or couldn't do it," Russell said. "It was just about remaining focused on what I could do, and honestly, just get over those hurdles and get to the line first." It marked Russell's first medal at a major international competition. She competed in the event at the 2023 world championships but did not qualify for the final.

Norway's Jakob Ingebrigtsen lived up to his pre-race favorite billing by clinching gold in the men's 5,000m.

The 23-year-old reigning world champion broke away from the leading pack with 200m remaining to charge home in a season best time of 13 minutes, 13.66 seconds.

Kenya's Ronald Kwemai took silver in 13:15.04 and American Grant Fisher bronze in 13:15.13.

"For me, the 5,000m is over triple my usual distance, so it was a very tough race," Ingebrigtsen said. "With the level being so high, people are

The 31-year-old Hassan also won bronze in the 5,000 and 10,000.

By simply completing the marathon, she ran more than 62 kilometers. She now has six Olympic medals. In Tokyo, Hassan won the 5,000 and 10,000 and finished third in the 1,500.

Breaking from tradition, the women's Olympic marathon was held on the final day instead of the men's race. Hassan used the same tactic in the hilly, 26.2-mile course as she does on the oval. She lingered behind the leaders for the bulk of the race before summoning up the energy for a late-race kick that will go down as one of the best the sport has seen.

This one, amazingly, had more the look of a crowded race on the oval down the stretch. As Hassan gathered to make her last pass, Assefa tried to block her path. Hassan moved to the inside around a bend.

Assefa tried to squeeze her against the barrier separating the course from

running so fast this year, I knew I had to be at my very best to be able to fight for medals." The result marked a redemption of sorts for Ingebrigtsen, who failed to win a medal in the 1,500m.

Kenya's Faith Kipyegon set a new Games record as she secured her third straight Olympic 1,500m title.

Kipyegon finished in three minutes, 51.29 seconds to shave almost two seconds off her own Olympic record set in Tokyo three years ago.

Australian Jessica Hull claimed silver in 3:52.56 and Britain's Georgia Bell took bronze in 3:52.61 Hamish Kerr bagged New Zealand's first athletics gold medal in Paris by winning the men's high jump final.

Kerr took the title after clearing an area-record height of 2.36 meters, finishing ahead of American Shelby McEwen. Qatar's Mutaz Barshim pocketed the bronze medal.

Japan's Haruka Kitaguchi produced a season-best throw to win gold in the women's javelin.

The reigning world champion prevailed with a winning throw of 65.80m, almost 2.00m ahead of South Africa's Jo-Anne van Dyk, who took silver.

Sato, Malan complete the podium

VERSAILLES, France, Aug 11, (AP): Ahmed Elgendy of Egypt became the first athlete from Africa to win the Olympic gold medal in modern pentathlon at the Paris Games.

Elgendy had dealt with shoulder injuries since he won the silver medal in Tokyo three years ago. He said he had some nerves after nearly falling from his horse in Friday's semifinals but was faultless in the show jumping in the final.

"I was in doubt and under stress, under pressure," Elgendy said. "We were planning for it after yesterday's riding and we corrected the mistakes."

Elgendy had a 17-second head start for the laser run - the final event combining distance running and shooting - after his earlier strong showings in the horse-riding, fencing and swimming events.

Elgendy's lead was never seriously threatened on the laser run, where he won by 13 seconds over Taishu Sato of Japan. Giorgio Malan of Italy captured the bronze. Elgendy's total score of 1,555 points was a world record.

The Paris Olympics are the last time modern pentathlon will include horse riding as part of its program

before it brings in "American Ninja Warrior"-style obstacle courses for the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

Tokyo gold medalist Joe Choong was an opponent of the change and had been considering retirement. The British athlete said Saturday he will likely carry on for another year and try the obstacle courses before deciding on his future.

Choong placed ninth in the final standings. He was the fastest in swimming and among the best in laser run but couldn't make up for a disappointing fencing score.

The decision to drop horse riding and bring in obstacle courses was made after a coach on the German team struck a horse during the Tokyo competition, prompting an outcry over animal welfare.

Annika Zillekens, then competing as Annika Schleu, was the rider then and had been in gold-medal contention until the horse, Saint Boy, refused to jump.

Zillekens competed again at the Paris Olympics and announced her retirement after missing out on a place in the final Saturday. She again lost valuable points when her horse refused a fence.

"I think for us, for the older generation, it's really hard to accept," Zillekens said. "But I see the younger ones and I see that they have fun in the new format and in the new sport. Me, I will stop."

## Sheikh Al-Badr commits to preparing Kuwaiti 'divers' for Los Angeles 2028

PARIS, Aug 11: Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr, President of the Kuwaiti and Asian Aquatics Federations, took part in awarding the winners of the men's 10-meter diving competition at the Olympic Games in France.

Sheikh Al-Badr noted that the diving events were marked by intense competition, strength, and determination from all participants, each striving for a place in the history books of the Olympic Games. He highlighted the success of athletes from the Asian continent, who secured medals and stood on the podiums after a fiercely contested competition, reinforcing Asia's continued prominence in aquatics competitions.

He emphasized that the Kuwaiti Aquatics Federation will begin preparations to qualify athletes for the upcoming Olympics in Los Angeles 2028.

During the Paris Olympics, Sheikh Al-Badr also met with Hussein Al-Musallam, President of the International Aquatics Federation, and Qunlila Lindlebig, a member of the



Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr and Hussein Al-Musallam pose with an IOC official.

International Olympic Committee and Secretary of ANOC, to discuss ways to further develop the sport.

## Kuwait judo team win 4 medals at Asian Open Championships

BEIJING, Aug 11, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti national judo team achieved impressive results on the first day of the Asian Open Championship for Youth and Juniors, held in the Macau Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

On Saturday, the team secured one gold, one silver, and two bronze medals. Abdullah Al-Daihani won gold in the over 90 kg weight class, while Khaled Al-Kandari earned silver in the

under 60 kg weight class. Sultan Al-Otaibi and Hani Al-Shammari both claimed bronze medals in the under 50 kg and under 73 kg weight classes, respectively.

Faisal Al-Hamad, treasurer of the Kuwait Judo Federation, expressed to KUNA that the national team's performance at this event mirrored the excellence they demonstrated at the recent West Asian Championship in Jordan.



KUNA photo

A Kuwaiti on the podium with an opponent during the awarding ceremony.