

HH Sheikh Salem Al-Ali

No issues found with certificates

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12, (KUNA): Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, confirmed on Monday that the committee responsible for reviewing the academic certificates of the ministry's employees has completed its work. The committee examined and verified the academic qualifications of 3,019 out of 3,053 employees with secondary qualifications, finding no issues. The remaining 34 employees are being contacted by the Civil Service Bureau to determine their legal status.

Dr. Al-Ajmi told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that this review is in line with the Cabinet's decision to verify all university certificates of citizens and residents working in the government sector

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Probe panel freezes funds of former PM

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The investigation committee responsible for the trial of ministers has issued a significant decision to seize the cash, movable assets, and real estate properties belonging to 11 individuals, including a former prime minister, a former minister of defense, a former minister of interior, and also a company, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

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KNG Chief Sheikh Salem Al-Ali passes away: Amiri Diwan

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12, (KUNA): The Amiri Diwan announced on Monday that Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Saleem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah passed away.

The Deputy Commander of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, along with the National Guard Undersecretary Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Rifai, and others mourned the demise of the head of the KNG His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Saleem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Saud Al-Sabah has extended, on Monday, heartfelt condolences to the political leadership of Kuwait on the passing away of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Chief of the Kuwait National Guard.

In a statement, the Ministry of Defense conveyed Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Al-Sabah's prayers for Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah and his sincere sympathies with

His Highness the Amir, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and the entire Al-Sabah family.

In a press statement, the National Guard expressed deep pride and respect for Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah's distinguished contributions to the establishment of the Kuwait National Guard and offered heartfelt sentiments and prayers.

Kuwait lost on Monday a patriarch of the Al-Sabah Family, Chief of the National Guard, His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah who passed away at the age of 98, after spending long years in the service of his country.

Throughout his career, Sheikh Salem occupied a number of significant official and honorary positions, alongside an abundance of charitable projects and societal endeavors inside and outside of the country.

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Spotlight on new trends in cash cleansing, fraud

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: Recent statements by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef have reinvigorated efforts to address the growing issue of money laundering in Kuwait. Experts and legal professionals view these remarks as a significant step toward curbing financial crimes that threaten both society and the national economy.

In an exclusive investigation by Al-Seyassah daily, legal experts highlighted the emerging trends in money laundering, particularly the use of bank links to deceive victims. These links often involve fictitious employment schemes or similar tactics

to launder illicit funds.

Lawyer Jarrah Mubarak Al-Wawan praised Sheikh Fahad

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Day by Day

THE supplications of the oppressed are always heard, as is recognized across all religious traditions. Sometimes, the answer to these prayers may be delayed, unfolding in due time for reasons understood only by those who do not oppress others.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Kuwait ups emergency preparedness strategy

US sub, carrier enhance Mideast presence

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12, (Agencies): The Ministry of Health (MoH), under the directive of its Undersecretary, has established an emergency committee within hospitals to review and update the comprehensive plans de-

signed to address potential emergencies and crises facing the country.

The committee is led by the Chief of Medical Staff, with the Hospital Director serving as the Vice-Chair.

The committee's rapporteur is the Head of the Emergency Department. Other members include the heads of clinical and diagnostic departments, the Deputy Director for Administrative Affairs, the Head of Pharmaceutical Services, the Chief Nursing Officer, the Head of Engineering Affairs, the Regional Ambulance Commander, a representative from the Quality and Accreditation Department, the Head of Medical Records, the Head of Infection Prevention, and the Head of Nutrition and Catering.

Meanwhile, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has ordered a guided missile submarine to the Middle East and is telling the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group to sail more quickly to the area, the Defense Department said Sunday.

The moves come as the U.S. and other allies push for Israel and Hamas to achieve a cease-fire agreement that could help calm soaring tensions in the region following the assassination of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and a senior Hezbollah commander in Beirut.

Officials have been on the lookout for retaliatory strikes by both Iran and Hezbollah for the killings, and the U.S. has been beefing up its presence in the region.

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PM Diwan photo

HH the PM Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets the Omani Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Saleh Al-Kharousi.

PM receives Oman envoy

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received, Monday, at Bayan Palace Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Kuwait

Dr. Saleh Al-Kharousi.

Head of the Prime Minister's Diwan Abdulaziz Dakhil Al-Dakhl attended the meeting. (KUNA)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ جَاءَكَ الْمُرْسَلُونَ
الَّذِينَ يَأْتِيكَ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ
وَأَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكَ الْقُرْآنَ
مُحْكَمًا تَوَكَّلْ عَلَيْهِ
صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ

It is with deep sadness and a heavy heart that

Zain Group

mourns the passing of the Patriarch of Al-Sabah Family,

Chief of the National Guard, His Highness

Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah

may he rest in peace.

We extend our deepest condolences and sincerest sympathy to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait

Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

to His Highness the Crown Prince

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah

and to the entire Al-Sabah family.

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:48 Asr 15:28
 Sunrise .. 05:14 Maghrib .. 18:32
 Zohr 11:53 Isha 19:55

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 moderate northwesterly wind to northeasterly wind, with speeds of 12-35 km/h.

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

areas with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 10-32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	49	36

Kuwait Airport	48	32
Abdaly	48	31
Jahra	49	34
Salmiyah	44	36
Jal Aliyah	47	32
Nuwaisib	46	31
Wafra	48	30

Maryam stresses need for sufficient fitness to endure most conditions

Sultan ... Kuwaiti prolific globetrotter with 197 countries under her belt

By Arwa Al-Wugayan

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12, (KUNA): Globetrotter Maryam Sultan had achieved an outstanding feat by traveling around the world visiting 197 countries, a daunting task which sure had many challenges, wonders, and delights.

In an interview with KUNA on

Monday, Sultan provided her more insight into her wondrous journeys that saw her conclude her quest in Uruguay last June.

She spoke about her experiences and the difficulties faced on those trips, one of them during a group-climbing trip in Nepal, where a member was fatigued and unable to continue, so a helicopter with the help

of the Saudi embassy extracted the person.

She faced other risks including being in countries where diseases and epidemics were widespread, going to places that lacked security in some areas, as well as experiencing the ground shaking while climbing a volcano in Ethiopia. She stressed the need for sufficient fitness to endure

most conditions.

Sultan revealed that her passion for traveling began in 2006 with a group of friends, noting that in 2012 she turned to solo traveling, and her passion amplified the want to visit dangerous and remote places even if they were countries suffering from wars and epidemics.

She added that traveling alone

helped her discover different cultures, as she was curious to know more countries and taste local foods.

She said that she preferred countries such as North Korea, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Madagascar and Mauritania that did not have foreign involvement in their culture.

She explained that during her trav-

els, she learned tolerance and acceptance to things that were culturally, intellectually, and ideologically different, noting those differences must be built on mutual respect.

Perhaps Sultan's journey is one of many shared around the globe, but surely her achievement adds to the inter-connectivity of humanity and people all over the world.



KUNA photo

FM Al-Yahya with Uzbekistan Minister of Foreign Affairs Saidov.

FM receives his Uzbekistan counterpart

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received Monday his Uzbekistan counterpart Bakhtiyor Saidov and his

accompanying delegation, on the occasion of their official visit to Kuwait. (KUNA)

Opinion

Salem Al-Ali ... the name is enough

By Sulaiman Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah

Deputy Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

HIS HIGHNESS Sheikh Salem Al-Ali, a name that means a lot to Kuwait, is no more. This man, great in his stances and humble in his dealings with everyone, is no more.

Yes, Kuwait has lost one of its great men who dedicated his life to serving the country.

He was a wise man and teacher to all, known for his steadfast principles, whose era spanned the time of the country's rulers since his early childhood. He learned from his elders and taught those who were younger than him.

He also offered opinions with his characteristic wisdom and provided a vision of what would benefit the country.

He presented effective advice to all members of the ruling family, of which he was the chief for many years.

His Highness the late Sheikh Salem held various positions including leadership positions, and served his country with all his effort from the time he assumed his first position in 1959.

He worked to establish departments in the modern style of the time, and continued this approach until he became head of the National Guard. He then transformed the National Guard into a modern institution that was dedicated to national security and providing humanitarian services.

From the start, the late Sheikh Salem made his office a meeting place for all Kuwaitis. Visitors were encouraged to express their concerns, complaints, and opinions, which he would then refer to the leadership for resolution. Hence, his weekly meetings became a true assem-

bly of the people in every sense of the word.

His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali was an institution of work and perseverance. He developed a deep sense of humanity through his keenness to listen to the public's voice. This is why he was so honored and loved by the country and its people, as he was a "shoulder to lean on" in good times and bad. His absence has left a profound void in the hearts of the people of Kuwait.

From the moment he assumed the role of head of the National Guard in 1967, the late Sheikh Salem was dedicated to supporting the institution with all the resources and personnel needed to excel in their work.

Everyone was keen to learn from His Highness, as this man was not just an official, but a brother and father to them. That is why the words of the renowned tenth century poet Abu Tayeb Al-Mutanabbi are true when he said, "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."

This great soul, who is cherished for his national vision, spared no effort for the sake of Kuwait, which mourns for him today.

Kuwait grieves the loss of a remarkable man, a loyal patriot, a man who was capable of dealing with challenges and turning them into opportunities for development, and a morale booster. His wise candles of hope lit up the path in times of darkness.

Kuwait has lost a dear man, a rare and invaluable individual who thrived through all stages and under the most difficult circumstances due to his pragmatic vision and steadfast faith in his Lord, for the sake of his country, his people, and his honorable family.

Among his many achievements was the establishment of an Informatics Award, because he realized that this is an era of information innovation.

The passing of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali is a profound loss, but there is no one who can alter fate. May Almighty Allah reward us and Kuwait greatly for this national loss.

PAFN reports significant budget deficit

MoH acts to enhance medical services

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The Ministry of Health is making strides in enhancing medical services with significant developments at two key facilities.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Fars, Assistant Undersecretary for Supporting Medical Services, emphasized the need to address the challenges faced by the Physiotherapy Department at the new Farwaniya Hospital.

During a field tour of the department, Dr. Al-Fars underscored the importance of overcoming these difficulties to ensure the highest quality of care for patients. This initiative is part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to improve healthcare services and boost performance across various departments.

In another development, Dr. Ahmed Asad, Assistant Undersecretary for Dental Affairs, inaugurated the Children's Night Dental Emergency Clinic at the Jaber Al-Ahmad Specialized Dental Center in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate.

The opening was attended by Coordination and Follow-up Supervisor Dr. Jaber Taqi and Head of the Children's Emergency Unit Dr. Nasser Al-Mulaifi, marking

a significant step in providing specialized dental care for children.

PAFN shows budget deficit: The final account for the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition for the fiscal year 2023/2024 has disclosed a substantial budget deficit of approximately 23.1 million dinars.

The authority's total expenses reached about 25 million dinars, while revenues were only 1.9 million dinars. To address this shortfall, Decree Law No. 88 of 2024, published in the Official Gazette, stipulates that the deficit will be covered by reallocating funds from the budgets of various ministries and government departments, specifically through the Ministry of Finance's general accounts.

Similarly, the final account of the Medical Liability Authority for the same fiscal year revealed a budget deficit exceeding 2 million dinars.

Total expenses amounted to roughly 2.17 million dinars, against revenues of 138.1 thousand dinars. In response, Decree No. 69 of 2024 mandates that the deficit be covered by drawing on the Ministry of Finance's general accounts, highlighting a need for additional funding from government budgets.

DGCA overhauls trolley and luggage handling at airport

Directorate faces employee backlash over shift allowance cuts

By Mohammad Al-Misleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a decision to reorganize the trolley and luggage handling service for arriving and departing passengers.

As per the new decision, passengers can use a trolley for free without involving a porter. If porter service is required, a fee of KD 1 will apply for a small trolley and KD 2 for a large trolley.

According to informed sources, this change aims to address the dissatisfaction expressed by passengers about workers requesting additional fees and transporting their luggage in an uncivilized manner. The new system includes a dedicated employee and a counter for trolley and luggage handling services, as well as a contact number for complaints and inquiries, to better serve travelers and resolve issues efficiently.

Meanwhile, the sources revealed that dozens of employees at DGCA plan to submit grievance letters in the coming days concerning the administrative decision to end the shift system for certain employees.

They said these employees will highlight in their grievances that the withdrawal of allowances is unfair and unjust, as it has led to the suspension of financial allowance of up to KD 300 for some job grades.

The sources indicated that the affected employees will request that the decision be reconsidered and canceled due to the significant financial impact it has had on them.

They revealed that the decision was based on a request from regulatory authorities, particularly the State Audit Bureau, to suspend shift allowance for certain employees effective September 1.

They explained that the nature of some employees' work is administrative and does not align with the technical work associated with the shift system. Therefore, these allowances may not be disbursed to them, as per the regulatory authorities' directive.

Major reforms eyed in gasoline subsidies

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: Kuwait is currently exploring proposals to reform the subsidy system, particularly focusing on gasoline prices, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to ongoing studies, the government is considering limiting subsidies exclusively to Kuwaiti citizens, potentially exempting expatriates and companies from subsidized gasoline prices.

The proposal under consideration includes several scenarios, such as partial or full liberalization of gasoline prices, which could result in significant savings, potentially around 600 million dinars if gasoline is sold at international prices.

The studies are part of a broader government initiative aimed at rationalizing subsidies and directing them to those deemed eligible. However, no final decision has been made yet. The Ministry of Finance is still evaluating various scenarios, and the final concepts will be presented to the Council of Ministers for approval.

One of the key proposals suggests that subsidies could be limited to Kuwaiti citizens holding driving licenses, but the exact mechanism for this has not yet been finalized.

If approved, expatriates and companies might have to purchase gasoline at international prices, while the government may explore alternative ways to compensate Kuwaiti citizens for any potential price increases.



Al-Seyassah photo

Al-Mazyied in a group photo taken during the visit to PAM shelter.

Al-Mazyied pays visit to PAM shelter center

Aseel Al-Mazyied, Director of the Public Relations Department and official spokesperson for the Public Authority for Manpower, announced that the Patients' Aid Fund Society recently organized an inspection tour of the authority's shelter center, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The tour, which included members of the Permanent Coordi-

nation Committee, was part of efforts to enhance collaboration between the authority and civil society institutions and public benefit associations.

The purpose of the visit was to review the processes for receiving workers, understand the roles of public benefit associations and government agencies at the center, and assess the

services provided to female workers.

These services include health, psychological, and legal support, as well as the daily activities of the residents.

During the visit, the Patients' Aid Fund Association had their inquiries addressed and received detailed information about the center's operations.

PAM keen to facilitate hiring of Ethiopian domestics

Kuwait, Sudan discuss cooperation in healthcare

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, recently met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to Kuwait, Awad Al-Karim Balah, to discuss ways to enhance cooperation between the two countries in the health sector, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The meeting, which was also attended by Dr. Hisham Kalander, Assistant Undersecretary for External Health Services Affairs, focused on strengthening bilateral relations and sharing expertise to improve healthcare outcomes in both nations.

During the discussion, the Sudanese ambassador expressed his gratitude to the minister of health for his participation and valuable contributions at the World Health Organization's Eastern Mediterranean Region meeting.

He emphasized the important role that Kuwait plays in fostering regional and international health cooperation.

PAM lures Ethiopian workers:

The Public Authority for Manpower has announced its commitment to facilitating the employment of Ethiopian workers to Kuwait, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This initiative aims to enhance cooperation with the Ethiopian Embassy and streamline the process of bringing Ethiopian workers to Kuwait, ensuring they benefit from the protection and advantages offered by Kuwaiti Labor Law.

The announcement followed a meeting between Musaed Al-Mutairi, Acting Deputy Director General for Labor Affairs at the authority, and Saeed Mohammed Jibril, the Ambassador of the Republic of Ethiopia,



Al-Seyassah photo

Kuwait and Sudan officials pose for a photo after the meeting.



Al-Seyassah photo

Al-Mutairi receives Ethiopian Ambassador Jibril.

along with his delegation.

The discussion focused on strengthening collaboration between the two countries in recruiting local and domestic workers.

Al-Mutairi assured that all employees of the authority are ready to work with government agencies and diplomatic missions to support Ku-

wait's development and humanitarian objectives.

The Ethiopian ambassador expressed his appreciation for the authority's efforts and support for Ethiopian workers in Kuwait. He also highlighted the ongoing efforts to enhance bilateral relations in a way that benefits both nations.

200 vehicles and motorcycles impounded

Traffic police issues 63,000 citations; tackles 1,351 accidents

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The General Traffic and Rescue Police departments at the Interior Ministry's Operations Sector, headed by Major General Yousef Al-Khaddah, issued almost 63,000 traffic violation citations last week, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily obtained a copy of the weekly statistics covering the period from Aug 3-9, showing that the General Traffic Department (GTD) personnel issued 50,175 citations for various traffic violations; while

the Rescue Police Department personnel issued 12,000 similar citations. It also confirmed that 1,351 accidents were reported within the same period; including 209 accidents that resulted in injuries or deaths and the accidents which caused material losses reached 1,142.

In addition, 182 vehicles and 18 motorcycles were impounded, 71 violators were detained at the Traffic Police Station and 32 juveniles were detained in preparation

for referring them to the Traffic Court.

The Operations Sector issued 105 traffic violation citations and the highway patrols issued 8,888 similar citations. The Capital traffic officers issued the highest number of violation citations with 16,049; followed by their counterparts in Hawally with 8,180; Farwaniya with 5,158; Mubarak Al-Kabeer with 4,340; Ahmadi with 3,041 and Jahra with 3,636; in addition to the GTD officers with 712.

'Evolving Kuwaiti diplomacy ... navigating realities and challenges'

"THE late Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, as Minister of Foreign Affairs, adhered to the principles that emerged from the crisis of Abdul Karim Qasim's claims that Kuwait was subordinate to Iraq," columnist, former permanent envoy of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations (UN), the former Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) secretary general **Abdullah Bishara** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"These principles form the foundation of Kuwaiti diplomacy, emerging from extensive consultations between Kuwait, Cairo, Saudi Arabia, and the Arab League. Central to these principles is the goal of strengthening Kuwait's political and diplomatic ties with the Arab League and aligning with the League's decisions, particularly the July 22, 1961, resolution that accepted Kuwait as a member.



Bishara

"At its core, these principles affirm Kuwait as an Arab state, safeguarded by the commitments of the Arab League and supported by broader Arab consensus against Iraq's claims. Kuwait's security is thus seen as inseparable from collective Arab security, emphasizing that Kuwait should refrain from forming alliances with major powers and instead remain firmly within the Arab sphere.

"The Kuwaiti leadership recognized the Arab League as the protector of its independence, the guarantor of its sovereignty, and the ultimate authority on its security. This understanding prompted Kuwait to develop a multifaceted relationship with the League, encompassing political, economic, and developmental collaboration, with a particular focus on preserving Kuwaiti identity, which the Arab League has become central to.

"Kuwait demonstrated this unique relationship by consistently adhering to the League's decisions across various domains and affirming its support for these decisions, especially in political, developmental, and defense matters.

"Additionally, Kuwait welcomed diverse Arab communities, embracing the slogan 'Kuwait, the Land of the Arabs'.

"Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad remained steadfast in his commitments, honored his promises, and took it upon himself to help heal the divisions within the Arab League caused by intra-Arab conflicts.

"The late Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad was a devoted advocate for the Arab League's causes, tirelessly traveling across the Arab world, visiting Arab capitals, and embodying the sincerity of Kuwait's intentions in his efforts to build bridges between these nations. His actions were driven by a deep belief in Arab solidarity, a shared destiny, and the importance of fostering understanding among Arab peoples.

"During his travels between 1964 and 1971, I had the privilege of accompanying him as his office manager. I witnessed firsthand his unwavering conviction that the strength of Arab relations and the depth of mutual trust were the most reliable safeguards for Kuwait's security, especially after Kuwait embraced the Arab League's decision and committed itself as a faithful member to upholding the principles that came with its membership.

"The sharp conflict between Saudi Arabia and Egypt over Yemen was one of the most complex crises and posed a significant threat to the cohesion of joint Arab action. This confrontation between two of the most influential Arab capitals presented a grave challenge.

"Sheikh Sabah viewed Kuwait's role in addressing this conflict as a crucial responsibility, recognizing it as the greatest threat to the Arab League and a dangerous factor for division among the Arabs. With this understanding, he actively engaged in diplomacy, particularly focusing on Riyadh, Jeddah, and Cairo. Kuwait also hosted quiet meetings with representatives from both countries, though these efforts did not lead to any breakthroughs that might have offered a glimmer of hope.

"Undeterred by the lack of progress, Sheikh Sabah's commitment to the Arab League and Arab unity remained strong. He continued to demonstrate his resolve by heading the Arab Seven-Party Committee on Lebanon, despite the limited response from various Arab parties to his reconciliation efforts.

"Unfortunately, the dominant influence of national interests, often referred to as 'Qatari interests' overshadowed his attempts, preventing the success of his voluntary endeavors for peace.

"The calculations of benefits and interests that obstructed Arab consensus never wavered Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad's commitment to the cause of joint Arab action. His unwavering dedication led to his selection as the head of the Arab Committee for the Defense of Iraq. He answered this call with conviction, working tirelessly to defend Iraq's position by mediating to halt the conflict between Iraq and Iran. Iran's leadership, determined to topple the Iraqi regime, eventually agreed to a ceasefire in August 1988 after realizing they could no longer sustain the war.

"In the aftermath of the war, Iraq's leadership turned its attention to Kuwait, initiating discussions about border demarcation under the pretense of appreciating Kuwait's steadfast support during the conflict. In February 1990, Sheikh Sabah traveled to Baghdad, where Iraqi Minister Saadoun Hamadi presented a proposal that sought

to undermine Kuwait's sovereignty, effectively reducing it to a mere satellite of Baghdad.

"Sheikh Sabah firmly rejected this proposition, recognizing it as an affront to Kuwait's statehood and a blatant attempt to dismantle its autonomy. He responded with a strong letter condemning Iraq's stance, which was delivered by undersecretary ambassador Suleiman Al-Shaheen.

"These developments were clear warning signs of a brewing conspiracy against Kuwait, which soon materialized in the form of an invasion. Without prior planning, I found myself in Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad's car as we headed to the Saudi border, driven by his designated driver, accompanied by the late Fahd Al-Hassawi and Suleiman Al-Mutawa, both of whom were ministers in the last cabinet before the invasion.

"During the entire journey Sheikh Sabah remained silent, the gravity of the situation weighing heavily on him. The invasion was an unimaginable shock to the Kuwaiti leadership, which had engaged with Saddam Hussein's regime with the utmost sincerity, making significant sacrifices and contributions.

"The pain intensified as the invasion exposed not only an Arab conspiracy involving some who sided with Saddam but also the inability of others to condemn the invasion, with some even choosing to remain absent, evading history's judgment of their actions.

"However, this official Arab moral decay and the betrayal by some pushed Kuwait, its people, and its government to confront the harsh realities of the Arab world. In response, Kuwait began to look optimistically towards the deliberations of the UN Security Council, which represented the voice of the global community.

"It was from this global forum that the voice of human conscience rose, responding to the plight of the oppressed and the subjugated. With the support of the international community and Gulf allies, Kuwait was liberated, and from this global solidarity, Kuwait recognized the ongoing need for international deterrence to curb the ambitions of regional aggressors.

"This realization led to the adoption of strategies with partners who share mutual interests and who uphold the global commitment to preserving the safety and security of the Gulf -- an acknowledgment of the Gulf's unique strategic importance in the global security framework.

"This dramatic shift stemmed from a deep-seated conviction among both the leadership and the populace that the threat to Kuwait was existential, not just a media fabrication, and that it must be addressed with the same mechanisms the world employs to contain such dangers -- namely, through deterrence.

"The painful experience of the invasion gave rise to bilateral strategic arrangements between Kuwait and the United States, as well as between Kuwait and Britain, which had been aligned with Kuwait since 1899. Kuwait then embarked on a process of adaptation, harmonizing itself with these alliance arrangements and emphasizing the importance of continuous collective dialogue across all channels, including the vitality of comprehensive bilateral diplomacy and ongoing consultations.

"In the late 1980s, Sultan Qaboos of Oman visited the United States and met with President George Bush. During their discussions, Bush praised the strong relations between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Washington, but he also expressed concern about Kuwait's apparent lack of enthusiasm and engagement in maintaining vital bilateral relations.

"Bush requested that this observation be communicated to Kuwait. At a GCC meeting, Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi conveyed this message to me, though he hesitated to relay it directly to Sheikh Sabah to avoid causing embarrassment. I, however, did inform Sheikh Sabah of Bush's words. This was in 1988, and it was the invasion that ultimately led to a significant shift in Kuwait's approach, driven by the pressing needs of the time."

Also:

"We will not rush to make harsh judgments on Sheikh Ahmed Al-Abdullah's government, as some others might. It's clear to everyone that three months is not enough time to address the deep-rooted issues in our political, social, and administrative systems, which have been caused by the misguided policies of previous governments," columnist **Abdul Latif Al-Duajj** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"These governments, in their attempts to appease successful national councils and avoid confrontation, allowed themselves to be manipulated by council members and ignored the ongoing corruption practiced by representatives in government agencies and institutions.

"The current government does not possess a magic wand or miraculous remedies to instantly fix what has been damaged by corruption, nor can it immediately stop the irresponsible actions of politicians and administrators that have accumulated over the years and even decades.

"However, the government does have patience, careful consideration, and a commitment to thoroughly review previous policies and decisions. By doing so, it aims to contain mistakes and halt the decline and disorder that have persisted for years."

— **Compiled by PFX Fernandes**



One of the food trucks being lifted on the Municipality's trailer truck.

Al-Seyassah photo

Municipality lifts 10 abandoned cars, 5 food trucks

The Public Relations Department of the Kuwait Municipality reported that the Road Cleaning and Occupancy Department of the Jahra Governorate Municipality branch during a tour of the area removed 10 abandoned and scrap cars and lifted 5 food trucks,

reports Al-Seyassah daily. Moreover, four violations were issued to street vendors, and 5 stickers were placed on neglected cars, which will be removed after the legal grace period expires.

'Mol's building 92% complete'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The General Department of Criminal Evidences (GDCE) building project, which is being executed by the Ministry of Public Works for the Ministry of Interior, is now 92 percent complete, reports Al-Anba daily quoting informed sources.

They explained that the project, which is critical for combating and preventing crime, involves the construction, maintenance and furnishing of a state-of-the-art facility. This building will serve as a leading global laboratory for collecting, testing, and recording evidence in criminal cases using the latest technologies.

The facility spans 30,000 square meters, with the building itself covering 47,965 square meters. It consists of five floors, including administrative offices, a theater, and two basements with parking lots and a shelter.

The project includes general administration, criminal laboratories, crime scene management, forensic medicine, anti-counterfeiting, identity verification, automated search, quality control, research and development, training, and support services.

The sources revealed that the establishment of the new headquarters for the General Department of Criminal Evidences is aimed to elevate its role from merely collecting and preserving evidence to becoming a vital organization for crime prevention and investigation.

Iraq extradites to Kuwait Gulf national over terror-tied cases

Ex-Public Prosecution officer given one-year sentence

By **Jaber Al-Hamoud**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The Misdemeanor Court has sentenced a former Public Prosecution director and an official of the Sentences Execution Department to a suspended jail term of one-year.

The two defendants were referred to trial on charges of leaking information related to ongoing cases and sending them to a member of the National Assembly, who in turn published it on his social media accounts.

It is worth noting that the Judicial Council decided to suspend the Public Prosecution director from his position, lift his immunity, and file a complaint against him.

Iraq extradites Gulf national to Kuwait: The Iraqi authorities handed over to Kuwait a Gulf national wanted by law for involvement in terrorism cases, reports Al-Anba daily.

A reliable source from the security sector told the daily that the suspect was rumored to have been arrested at Abdally border; clarifying the suspect was not arrested at the border, but was handed over to the Kuwaiti authorities in response to the extradition request that Kuwait sent to Iraq earlier.

The source elaborated that Kuwait previously sent a request to extradite the suspect through the Interpol, since the Kuwaiti authorities received a cable from the Iraqi authorities about the suspect's arrest. The source stated that the suspect will serve the prison sentence imposed on him in Kuwait; then he will be extradited to his country, where he was convicted in terrorism-related cases in 2011.

Lawyer released on bail: The Court of First Instance has granted bail of KD 1,000 with a travel ban to a lawyer who is accused of smuggling through customs. He is one among the defendants in the KD 120 million money laundering network.

Currently, 26 defendants remain in custody, including Kuwaiti citizens, Arabs, and Asians, who are implicated in laundering over KD 120 million.

The Public Prosecution has charged these individuals with money laundering, based on reports from the Financial Investigation Unit and State Security Department. They had formed a criminal network to launder more than KD 120 million within a short period, and illegally transfer and invest the funds in local banking systems to conceal their source.

Highest level of vigilance urged: Lieutenant General Pilot Bandar Al-Muzain, Chief of the General Staff of the Army, underscored the critical importance of maintaining the highest levels of readiness and vigilance within the military, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During his inspection of the Mohammed Al-Ahmad Naval Base and the 94th Saleh Al-Mohammad Mechanized Brigade recently, he commended the efforts of the Kuwaiti Army personnel.

He also highlighted the ongoing need for dedication and hard work to ensure the security and safety of the homeland.

'Do not post certain phrases on X': The Criminal Court, headed by Judge Khaled Al-Omara, has warned against posting certain phrases to gain fame or increase the number of followers among users of the X platform.

The court stressed in its ruling to acquit an X platform user identified only as, F. M., of broadcasting false news that fame should be about good morals and knowledge. It emphasized the need to post only the truth and anything good for other people, rather than using the platform for posting phrases or words that might put those behind such posts under criminal accountability as per the State security laws in and outside the country.

It also pointed out there is no doubt that a person's respect for himself and others makes him a role model; particularly if he carefully chooses the best words and his way of posting everything good for other people, instead of pursuing imitative fame based on a large number of followers on his social media account.

Fire to warehouse put out: The Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) put out fire to a warehouse in Amghara, reports Al-Seyassah daily. The fire was extinguished without causing any significant injuries or casualties. The prompt response of the fire teams averted loss to life and property.

Indian embassy intervenes

'Domestic worker' finds himself herding camels in Kuwait desert

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: An Indian worker, identified as Rathod Namdev,



Namdev

51, from Telangana district in India, found himself in a dire situation after arriving in Kuwait under the promise of a job as a domestic worker, only to be forced into herding camels in the Kuwaiti desert, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Desperate for help, he recorded a video from his mobile phone and sent it to A. R. R., the head of his district back home in India, pleading for help.

The video quickly went viral across India, catching the attention of various media outlets. This prompted the Indian Embassy in Kuwait to intervene.

The embassy announced on the "X" account (formerly Twitter) that they had managed to contact R.N., who revealed that he was now in Saudi Arabia. The embassy is coordinating with their counterparts in Saudi Arabia to provide him with the necessary assistance, with ongoing efforts to secure his safe return to his home province.

Municipality to fill up 145 vacant posts

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: Deputy Director General for Financial and Administrative Affairs at Kuwait Municipality Farhan Al-Ajmi announced that the municipality will receive applications from eligible candidates for 145

vacant supervisory positions, reports Al-Anba daily.

He stressed that those who meet the required conditions can submit their applications through the municipality's website.

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PAHW pushes forward with expanding housing projects

53 industrial plots completed in Wafra expansion

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has achieved remarkable progress in the South Saad Al-Abdullah and South Sabah Al-Ahmad housing projects, in addition to the completion of 53 industrial plots in Wafra expansion project.

Deputy Director General for Public Relations and Development Affairs and official spokesperson of the authority Omar Al-Ruwaih disclosed that the South Sabah Al-Ahmad Housing City project recorded a completion rate of 25.9 percent, while the South Saad Al-Abdullah Housing City project recorded a completion rate of 3.2 percent.

Al-Ruwaih added the completion rate of the first contract for East Sabah Al-Ahmad housing project -- which consists of 1,184 housing units -- reached 93.4 percent; while the second contract reached 86.2 percent.

Regarding the public buildings, he said the authority is currently working on 122 public buildings including 68 in Mutlaa City, one each in Jaber Al-Ahmad City and South Khaitan, 14 in Sabah Al-Ahmad City, and seven in East Sabah Al-Ahmad City.

He affirmed that PAHW signed three construction contracts; the first of which is to establish, complete and maintain roads and infrastructure networks for 6,189 housing units for suburbs N4, N6 and N8 in South Sabah Al-Ahmad housing project. He stated the second contract is for the establishment, completion and maintenance of public buildings in suburbs N1, N2, N3 and N4 in Mutlaa City.

He added five tenders were floated including those related to the supply, installation and implementation of two main power stations with a voltage of 400/132/11 kV in South Saad Al-Abdullah Housing City P. He said the number of citizens who received "To Whom it May Concern" certificates for the issuance of building permits in Mutlaa City reached 27,454; while 3,236 certificates were issued to owners of plots in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak housing project and 1,392 to owners



A file photo of Saad Al-Abdullah housing residential project.

KUNA photo

CAPT overrules recommendation for West Funaitees water station tender

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The Central Agency for Public Tenders has rejected the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy's recommendation to award the tender for establishing a new water filling station in West Funaitees, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This station is intended to replace the existing one in the Mishref area. The proposed contract, valued at 1.819 million dinars, was set to be awarded to the company with the fourth lowest bid that met the conditions and specifications.

CAPT has now asked the top three bidders -- those with the lowest bids -- to submit their initial insurance within five working days.

of plots in South Khaitan project.

He confirmed that 45,344 services were provided to 96,647 housing grant applicants in July; while the number of electronic services provided in the same month reached 29,139 and responding to 14,607 tel-

Meanwhile, the Ministry's Water Filling Stations Department aims to improve access to fresh water by establishing new filling stations in response to citizen needs and housing expansions.

The decision to relocate the Mishref station to West Funaitees is part of a broader strategy to enhance water distribution and address complaints from the citizenry about the current Mishref station. The Ministry's plan to relocate and establish a new filling station remains a priority, and the rejection of the tender recommendation may lead to a reevaluation of the bidding process or further actions to ensure the project's completion.

phone calls and chatbot messages. He stated that the total number of allocation requests for South Saad Al-Abdullah housing project as of this month reached 4,305; while the total number of plots distributed in the same project reached 16,643.

Misalignment with qualifications

Student association urges review of psychology graduate appointments

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The College of Education Student Association has called on the Civil Service Commission to reassess its recent decision regarding the appointment of graduates from the college's Psychology Department, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The association is requesting that these graduates be considered for positions as psychology teachers in the Ministry of Education, rather than being nominated for roles as psychological researchers.

In a statement, the association expressed concern that the decision was made without a thorough evaluation of the Ministry's needs, particularly the requirement for psychology teachers in schools.

The association noted that this new approach deviates from previous practices where Psychology graduates were appointed as teachers in line with their academic qualifications.

The association criticized the Civil Service Commission's recent nominations, arguing that the role of psychological researcher does not align with the educational background and training that these graduates received.

They emphasized that the graduates were prepared for teaching roles based on their university education and that their qualifications were specifically geared toward teaching.

The association has urged the Ministry of Education to intervene and address this issue, advocating for a review of the nominations to ensure that graduates are placed in positions that match their qualifications. They also called for coordination between the Ministry and the Civil

5,604 students accepted into internal scholarship

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The General Secretariat of the Council of Private Universities has announced that it has accepted 5,604 male and female students into the Ministry of Higher Education's internal scholarship program for the first semester of the 2024/2025 academic year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This decision has the blessings of Dr. Adel Al-Adwani, the Minister of Education and Minister of Scientific Research, and applies to students holding a high school diploma or its equivalent.

Adel Al-Badr, the Secretary-General of the Council, emphasized the importance of accepted students promptly visiting the private universities and colleges where they have been admitted.

He urged students to complete their admission and registration processes, including the submission of their original high school certificates, according to the dates announced by each institution. Al-Badr also highlighted the need for students to adhere to the regulations of the internal scholarship program to ensure smooth academic progress throughout their studies.

Service Commission to rectify the situation and better meet the needs of both the graduates and the educational sector.



Al-Adwani

MoE employees seek scholarships

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The Ministry of Education has announced it is receiving applications for scholarships to pursue Master's and Doctorate degrees at the University of the Arabian Gulf in Bahrain for the 2024/2025 academic year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This opportunity is available to Ministry employees, the details and conditions of which are outlined on the Ministry's official account.

The scholarships cover several specialized fields, including a PhD in Learning Difficulties and Developmental Disabilities

(with specializations in learning difficulties, mental disability, and autism), a Master's in Science in Next Generation Computing (focusing on artificial intelligence and formal methods for cybersecurity), and a Master's in Digital Education.

The Ministry is encouraging all eligible employees interested in these scholarships to submit their applications online within the next two weeks. The deadline is August 29. Applications can be submitted through the Ministry of Education's official website.

Al-Adwani's reform efforts continue

Education Minister refers third batch of forged certificates to Public Prosecution

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Adel Al-Adwani on Monday referred the third batch of forged scientific and medical certificates of the Education Ministry employees to the Public Prosecution.

This is a confirmation of the report that the newspaper published exclusively on July 26 under the title, "Education refers the second batch of forged certificates to the Public Prosecution."

In a press statement Monday, the Ministry of Education disclosed that the third batch of forged certificates referred to the prosecution is part of ongoing efforts to strictly implement the law to eliminate forged certificates in line with the education minister's commitment to continue the reform process and prevent violations.

It affirmed that Al-Adwani approved the recommendations of the investigation committee in the Ministry of Education regarding the high school certificates issued by Arab countries and approved by the General Administration of Private Education to refer the forged certificates to the prosecution, withdraw the equivalency of these certificates, and address the concerned authorities to correct the procedure.

It also asserted that this is one of the firm steps taken by Al-Adwani to ensure the integrity of the educational system, maintain its credibility, uphold the principles of honesty and justice, and confront everything that threatens the educational system.

It stressed the need for the competent departments to verify the medical certificates submitted by employees and to implement the administrative systems and regulations in this regard by strictly following the oversight and control rules, while ensuring the highest level of transparency and accountability in all sectors and exposing violations or transgressions in the work systems. It is noteworthy that the competent sector in the ministry that is responsible for authenticating secondary school certificates in and outside the country formed three specialized teams to assess all secondary school certificates issued since 2000 till date in accordance with the directives and direct follow up of the minister.



A young diver collecting oysters from the sea bed.

Young divers embark on promising journey

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The 33rd Diving Commemoration Trip, organized by the Marine Heritage Committee at the Marine Sports Club and held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, began with great enthusiasm from August 10 to 15, reports Al-Rai daily. The young participants, including captains, sailors, and mariners, commenced their diving activities yesterday morning under the guidance of trip advisor and renowned heritage historian Thamer Al-Sayyar.

Captain Hamed Al-Sayyar, the general supervisor of the trip, reported that all diving vessels reached the diving port safely, skillfully led by the young captains. This successful start followed the "Dasha" ceremony, which took place last Saturday morning. Despite high temperatures and humidity, the sea conditions remained stable, and the young divers were undeterred by the weather. They tackled their tasks with remarkable energy and determination, quickly adapting to the environment as they progressed through each stage, from departing the club's coast to arriving at the diving port in Al Khiran, where the ships are anchored.

Al-Sayyar further shared that the actual diving began at Herat (Al-Khiran), an area rich in oysters. The young divers, driven by enthusiasm and the knowledge gained from a training camp held under challenging time constraints, demonstrated their readiness and skill. Although the initial catch was modest, it was of high quality, aligning with the trip's primary objective of quality over quantity. The diving activities will continue until Wednesday, after which the ships will return to the club's coast in Salmiya. The return journey will culminate in the "Qaf-fal" ceremony at 5:30 pm on Thursday, celebrated with a large public gathering.

Awqaf launches inmate rehabilitation

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs announced a new initiative aimed at the rehabilitation and integration of inmates in correctional institutions, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Rehabilitation and Evaluation Department has collaborated with the General Department of Correctional Institutions at the Ministry of Interior to develop a work

plan for workshops and incubators scheduled for September. These initiatives are designed to correct inmate behavior and facilitate job placement upon their release.

The ministry outlined plans to establish agricultural and environmental reserves in various prisons and enhance sports fields, which are crucial for the psychological and physical rehabilitation of inmates.



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PPP Projects Authority fuels Kuwait's energy expansion

3 power plants set to generate 5,400 megawatts

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: A government report revealed that the Public-Private Partnership Projects Authority has adopted three projects to build power plants within the New Kuwait Vision through partnership projects in the energy sector.

The report disclosed that the current three station construction projects are North Zour Power and Water Desalination Plant -- Phases II and III -- with the aim of generating about 2,700 megawatts of power and desalinating 120 million gallons of water per day for the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy; indicating that a consulting body has been appointed for the two projects.

The second project is Khairan Power and Water Distillation Plant (Phase I) with the aim of generating about 1,800 megawatts of power and desalinating around 33 million imperial gallons per day for the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.

The total production of the plant is 5,400 megawatts. The first phase will start soon and the rest will follow.

A total of five companies and alliances have been qualified for the Khairan Phase I and North Zour Phases II and III projects.

The third project is the Dabdaba Power Plant and Shaqaya Renewable Energy for the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Re-

newable Energy. A consultant has been appointed for this project; which has a total production capacity of 4,500 megawatts of renewable energy divided into four phases. The first phase will have a capacity of 1,100 megawatts and the project qualification documents have been prepared.

The report indicated that after the implementation of the three projects and the completion of their trial operation; a company will be established for each project in accordance with Law No. 116/2014, which stipulates the establishment of a public joint-stock company for projects whose cost exceeds KD60 million in partnership with the authority on behalf of citizens by 50 percent, while the winning investor's percentage may reach 44 percent and the public entities are permitted to acquire six to 24 percent shares.

It affirmed that the authority established North Zour Power and Water Company K.S.C.P.C in 2013 with the aim of developing and operating the first phase of the North Zour Power and Water Generation Plant.

On Nov 29, 2019; 550 million shares were distributed to citizens at a rate of 127 percent in the first public subscription for an independent water and electricity plant project in Kuwait (North Zour I) -- equivalent to 50 percent of the company's capital.

The report added that offering and implementing the three station projects under the partnership system has many benefits; the most important of which is reducing government spending and financing, sharing risks with the private sector, using resources more effectively, enhancing and accelerating economic growth, and providing new job opportunities.

It also encourages the private sector to participate, innovate and improve efficiency; in addition to achieving better value for money in relation to the general agreement, as well as economic diversification. In the case of Kuwait, it entails reducing the

Floods worsen humanitarian situation

KRCS reaffirms support for Sudan

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12, (KUNA): The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) reiterated on Monday Kuwait's dedication to humanitarian support and international efforts aimed at alleviating the suffering in Sudan.

KRCS Deputy Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi told KUNA that the current humanitarian situation, exacerbated by floods and heavy rains in various states of Sudan, has led to widespread displacement and severe damage to property and buildings.

Al-Hasawi emphasized the urgent need for intervention from humanitarian organizations, un-

derlining that KRCS will persist in its support due to the dire humanitarian conditions, which have caused thousands of deaths and displaced millions.

These relief efforts are part of Kuwait's broader role in global disaster response, he ex-

plained.

Al-Hasawi

plained.

KRCS has worked with the Embassy of Kuwait in Khartoum and the Sudanese Red Crescent Society to quickly deliver aid that addresses shortages in essential supplies and offers crucial necessities like food, medicine, and shelter.

Kuwait was among the first to establish an air bridge to Sudan amidst the ongoing conflicts, while sending medical supplies, relief materials, and setting up water and shelter projects, Al-Hasawi pointed out.

Additionally, KRCS has launched a fundraising campaign titled "Help Sudan" to further support those in dire conditions.

relative share of the gross domestic product of the oil sector, and achieving a sustainable economy and better outputs than what each team can achieve alone.

It confirmed that the authority is responsible for the financial and technical evaluation of partnership projects in general; including the three power generation stations of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy in order to ensure the

achievement of the financial and technical objectives of the projects.

This stems from the authority's mission to evaluate distinguished investment opportunities through the application of public-private partnership systems based on the best international practices in a bid to achieve sustainable development and improve the quality of public services.

KNG Chief

Continued from Page 1

He was born in 1926 in the Al-Shuyoukh Neighborhood in the heart of what is currently Kuwait City, and began his tutelage at the hands of Al-Mulla Hamada and Al-Mulla Marshad Al-Sulieiman as was the tradition at the time.

Following this, Sheikh Salem enrolled in the first official school of the country, Al-Mubarkiya, and after which Al-Ahmediya school, where he received both scientific and literary education.

In the early 50s and after oil revenues began to accelerate development in the country, Sheikh Salem joined public service, as he headed a number of projects that contributed to the construction of the country and modernizing its lifestyle.

In the early stages of his career, Sheikh Salem had been closely working with Sheikh Fahad Al-Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, as he served as his deputy when the latter was chief of municipality and public works departments.

Sheikh Salem, in the year 1959, headed the constructions council tasked with development and planning projects, as well as served as chief of the public works department tasked with executing these projects.

In the early 60s, Sheikh Salem took over the position of Chief of Municipal Council, laws of which at the time stipulated that its speaker would be of the ruling family.

In the aftermath of Kuwait's independence in 1961, Sheikh Salem became a member of the constitutional assembly, and contributed to the writing of the constitution.

He occupied position of Minister of Public Works in the country's first formed government following independence, during the reign of late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

He continued serving as Public Works Minister until 1964, and was also first granted his first honorary position in 1963 as head of Kuwaiti Engineering Society.

Crowning his long career, in the year 1967, Sheikh Salem became Chief of Kuwait National Guard, establishing it as a vital national entity responsible for the safety, security and stability of the country.

During his presidency, Sheikh Salem was intent on supporting the army in defense of the country, against all who attempt to violate its borders, as well as cooperate with police force in safekeeping stability, and protecting the frontlines against all threats.

Sheikh Salem also handled a number of notable security and military positions, including member of higher defense council since 1969, and member of national Security Council since 2005.

In appreciation of his devotion and service to the country's late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah issued a decree bestowing title of His Highness upon him.

The late Sheikh Salem was also known for his contribution to humanitarian and social projects including his donation of KD 100 million in the year 2007 for citizens in need, and parents of martyrs as well as KD 10 million for families of martyrs.

In the year 2000, he launched the Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Informatics Award, an exemplary activity on local and regional levels, aiming to raise awareness, and encourage talents.

Sheikh Salem also had a special interest in nature, as he was enamored with both the desert, hunting trips, and nautical activities.

GCC Secretary General

Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassem Al-Budaiwi expressed Monday his sincere condolences to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Al-Sabah Family for the passing away of the commander of the Kuwait National Guard His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

The Secretary-General said that the deceased was one of the men who built the modern State of Kuwait, and a well-known symbol of giving and charity in Kuwait and abroad, and he made significant achievements and contributions in serving his country and people, leaving clear imprints on the path of development and charitable work in Kuwait.

Al-Budaiwi prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow His boundless mercy and forgiveness upon the deceased, and to grant his family strength, patience, and solace during this time of mourning.

Italian Ambassador's message

The Ambassador of Italy, H.E. Lorenzo Morini, is deeply saddened to learn of the death of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Chief of the National Guard and extends his deepest condolences to his family and the people of Kuwait.

His Highness was a friend of Italy and a keen supporter of the deep and longstanding partnership between our two countries. We mourn his passing and remember his significant contributions to the development and progress of his country.

British envoy's message

I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, the Dean of the Al-Sabah Family. Sheikh Salem Al-Ali was a respected leader and a pillar of the Kuwaiti community. His dedication to public service, his unwavering commitment to the welfare of his people, and his contributions to the nation will be remembered with great respect and admiration.

On behalf of the British Government, I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to His Highness the Amir, the Al-Sabah family and the people of Kuwait during this time of loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all, and I am confident that Sheikh Salem Al-Ali's legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

Ambassador Belinda Lewis

Indian envoy's message

I convey my deepest condolences to the Al Sabah family, the Government and the people of Kuwait on the passing away of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, the Chief of National Guard of Kuwait and the oldest member of the Al Sabah family. His sad demise marks the departure of a prominent leader of Kuwait.

Ambassador Dr. Adarsh Swaika

French embassy message

It is with great sadness that we received the news of the death of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Chief of the National Guard. In my name and in the name of France, I extend my sincere heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and to the honorable ruling Al-Sabah family and the Kuwaiti people on the passing of their deceased.

Ambassador Claire Le Flecher

Mexican embassy message

It is with deep sorrow and heartfelt sympathy that I extend my condolences on behalf of the Government and people of Mexico upon the passing of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Chief of the National Guard and Dean of the Al-Sabah family.

His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah was a towering figure in Kuwait's history, whose leadership and dedication to the Kuwait National Guard over six decades have left an indelible mark on the nation. His wisdom, steadfastness, and commitment to the security and prosperity of Kuwait will be remembered with great respect and admiration.

During this time of profound grief, we share in the sorrow of the Al-Sabah family and the people of Kuwait. Please accept our deepest condolences, and may you find strength and solace in the legacy of honor and service that His Highness has bequeathed.

Ambassador Eduardo Patricio Pena Haller

Hungarian embassy message

On behalf of the Embassy of Hungary in Kuwait I extend my sincere condolences to Kuwait on the passing of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Chief of the National Guard. His perseverance and resolve helped in shaping Kuwait's National Guard as he was the sole commander throughout the Kuwait National Guard's six-decade history.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.
Ambassador András Szabó

Kuwait ups

Continued from Page 1

Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, Pentagon press secretary, said in a statement that Austin spoke with Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant earlier in the day, and reiterated America's commitment "to take every possible step to defend Israel and noted the strengthening of U.S. military force posture and capabilities throughout the Middle East in light of escalating regional tensions."

The Lincoln, which has been in the Asia Pacific, had already been ordered to the region to replace the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier strike group, which is scheduled to begin heading home from the Middle East. Last week, Austin said the Lincoln would arrive in the Central Command area by the end of the month.

It wasn't clear Sunday what his latest order means, or how much more quickly the Lincoln will steam to the Middle East. The carrier has F-35 fighter jets aboard, along with the F/A-18 fighter aircraft that are also on carriers.

Ryder also did not say how quickly the USS Georgia guided missile submarine would get to the region.

He said Austin and Gallant also discussed Israel's military operations in Gaza and the importance of mitigating civilian harm.

The call comes a day after an Israeli airstrike hit a school-turned-shelter in Gaza early Saturday, killing at least 80 people and wounding nearly 50 others, Palestinian health authorities said, in one of the deadliest attacks of the 10-month Israel-Hamas war.

In another development, an umbrella group of Iraqi Shi'ite militias warned the United States on Monday of "unlimited" retaliation if it attacks Iraq or Iran.

The Iraqi Resistance Coordination Committee (IRCC), representing the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, stated it would not be constrained by any restrictions if U.S. forces target Iraqi personnel or use Iraqi airspace to strike Iran.

This threat comes amid heightened regional tensions, with Iran and its allies pledging retaliation for the recent killings of Hamas Politburo Chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and Hezbollah commander Fouad Shokor in Beirut, both occurring in late July.

In response to the rising threat, Washington said it is committed to defending Israel in the event of a major conflict and is sending "more troops and military hardware to the Middle East."

The Iraqi resistance has been actively opposing the U.S. military presence in Iraq and has previously claimed responsibility for attacks on U.S. targets, including a recent rocket strike on the Ayn al-Asad Airbase in Anbar province, which houses U.S. troops.

No issues

Continued from Page 1

who have obtained post-secondary qualifications since 2000.

He added that the ministry's certificate review committee completed its work after eight months, using multiple stages and legal frameworks to ensure the validity of qualifications. The 34 employees who are being contacted by the Civil Service Bureau will have their legal status determined based on their academic certificates and qualifications.

Dr. Al-Ajmi explained that the committee utilized digital transformation for receiving certificates through an electronic code. This process involved verifying the qualifications of the ministry's employees, which were accredited by the Foreign Ministry, Kuwaiti consulates abroad, and the embassies of the countries that issued the qualifications. The committee coordinated with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to approve and equate these qualifications according to legal mechanisms and regulations.

Dr. Al-Ajmi stressed the importance of combating fake and forged certificates and addressing corruption to protect public funds and employee rights. He praised the efforts of the Committee for Reviewing and Examining Academic Certificates and Qualifications, which included national legal and administrative experts who performed their duties effectively.

Probe panel

Continued from Page 1

This decision is related to the ongoing "Army Fund 2" case, which involves allegations of embezzlement in military annexes.

The committee's decision extends beyond the primary individuals involved, also targeting their first-degree relatives and six other individuals accused in the same case.

The measures include freezing all funds deposited in local and foreign banks operating inside Kuwait, as well as any securities or other assets held in accounts with the Kuwait Stock Exchange Company and the Kuwait Clearing Company.

This freeze also applies to any future deposits. The decision further prohibits those affected, along with their representatives or heirs, from managing or disposing of these assets.

Additionally, the committee has ordered the seizure of real estate and plots registered in the names of the individuals specified in the decision, preventing any form of disposal of these properties.

To oversee the management of these seized assets, the committee has requested the head of the Audit Bureau to appoint an agent.

This agent will be responsible for managing the seized funds under strict guidelines and must report to the investigation committee every three months until the case is resolved or the seizure is lifted.

Moreover, the committee has directed the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Capital Markets Authority to implement the decision and to provide evidence of its execution.

Spotlight on

Continued from Page 1

Al-Yousef's commitment to deterring money launderers, acknowledging Kuwait's current era of reform across various sectors. Despite this progress, Al-Wawan expressed concern over the increasing number of money laundering cases in recent years.

He explained that one of the latest methods employed by money laundering rings involves exploiting bank links. For instance, an individual might owe money to another and, upon request for repayment, direct the debtor to transfer funds to a bank link. The debtor later discovers that the link belongs to a third party involved in laundering money through such transactions.

Al-Wawan emphasized the need for heightened awareness regarding these schemes, stressing that while technological advancements have greatly benefited banking services, they have also introduced new opportunities for financial crime. He advocated for a thorough review and amendment of the money laundering laws to close existing loopholes and effectively combat these sophisticated criminal practices.

He highlighted several fraudulent tactics used by money launderers. He explained that scammers often advertise fake job opportunities, with each link requiring a payment of 20 dinars as a starting point to lure victims. These fake job offers are typically promoted through social media platforms, serving as a cover for criminal activities.

Scammers use these offers to deceive people into investing in non-existent ventures or making financial transactions on behalf of unknown entities. These enticing job offers, often promising high wages and easy work, can lead to severe consequences for the unsuspecting victims.

Al-Wawan noted that small exchange firms often engage in money laundering by breaking down large sums of money and transferring them abroad.

To effectively combat these methods, he emphasized the need to amend the Money Laundering Law No. 106 of 2013. This law currently has several legal gaps, and money laundering syndicates are adept at exploiting modern technology for their activities.

He further explained that money laundering gangs use various communication methods, including phone calls and digital platforms like email, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, to target victims. These gangs make enticing offers to lure victims into traps.

Once the victims fall into these traps, they are often instructed to open

KD 37K allocated to support refugees

Kuwaiti Society delivers aid to Sudanese displaced by conflict

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Charitable Development Society announced on Monday that it has distributed food and health aid to 1,000 displaced Sudanese in eastern Chad. This assistance comes in response to the dire humanitarian conditions caused by the ongoing conflict in Sudan, which has led to the displacement of families.

Dr. Mohammad Al-Rashidi, Director of Humanitarian Work and supervisor of aid implementation at the society, told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the displaced Sudanese are facing severe hardships. They lack basic humanitarian services and infrastructure, and there is a critical shortage of food, medicine, water, and health supplies.

Al-Rashidi added that the Charitable Development Society, in cooperation with local partners in Chad, distributed relief aid in the areas of Farshna and Adre in eastern Chad. The aid included food supplies covering the basic needs of families, such as rice, oil, flour, and sugar, as well

as various medicines to treat malnutrition and health issues related to mothers, and types of disinfectants.

He pointed out that the Charitable Development Society has allocated about 37,000 Kuwaiti dinars (approximately 120,000 US dollars) for the campaign. After distributing food and medicine, the society plans to provide tents for refugees. He noted that the main challenges faced included ensuring the protection and safe delivery of donations amid widespread hunger and intense conflicts, in coordination with the Kuwaiti Ministries of Foreign Affairs and other officials.

He explained that the association's work is a continuation of Kuwait's honorable tradition of humanitarian giving, rescuing and relieving afflicted peoples worldwide. He also expressed gratitude to the charitable individuals who contributed their money to support those in need during this challenging time of displacement.



KUNA photo

Sudanese displaced women in eastern Chad receive Kuwaiti aid.

bank accounts to process transactions on behalf of these criminal networks. After some time, the scammers disappear, leaving the victims facing legal consequences. In Kuwait, the Penal Code addresses fraud and scam offenses with strict penalties, including imprisonment and substantial fines.

The Money Laundering Law No. 106 of 2013 prescribes severe penalties, including imprisonment for up to 10 years and hefty fines that can amount to double the value of the illicit funds involved.

Al-Wawan concluded by stressing the importance of raising awareness about these fraudulent schemes. Individuals should be cautious of job offers that require the use of personal bank accounts and report suspicions of fraud or money laundering. Awareness campaigns should focus on educating the public about the risks associated with bank links and money laundering.

Manal Al-Kandari, former Secretary-General of the Transparency Association and a specialist in transparency and integrity, supported the recent statements by Al-Yousef.

She commended the Ministry of Interior's proactive measures to protect the country from financial crimes and highlighted the need to educate young entrepreneurs to avoid falling victim to money laundering scams.

Al-Kandari warned about the misuse of social media, which plays a significant role in the proliferation of money laundering cases. Social media platforms have become a major tool for deception and fraud. She cited examples of global economic crimes, including maritime piracy, where stolen gold was laundered and invested through these criminal activities.

Al-Kandari noted that money laundering techniques extend beyond luxury goods and real estate. Launderers may also purchase valuable items like antiques and jewelry or invest in numerous businesses, restaurants, and resorts. These assets are often bought at inflated prices, then resold at lower prices to conceal the origin of the funds.

This practice not only undermines the economy but also exacerbates social inequalities, as those with illicit wealth can dominate the market, pushing legitimate businesses and individuals out.

Al-Kandari emphasized the need for stricter laws and enforcement to combat these practices. She called for the activation of the "Where Did You Get This From?" law to protect Kuwait from financial crimes that inflate inflation rates and widen the gap between different social classes.

Dr. Ahmad Salama, an expert in psychology, highlighted the psychological impact of money laundering. The visible disparity between those who earn wealth through hard work and those who acquire it through illicit means can lead to disillusionment among honest, hardworking individuals.

Young, ambitious people may feel discouraged when they see others who achieve extreme wealth without following the same path of effort and integrity. Similarly, diligent employees may experience frustration when they see money launderers enjoying luxurious lifestyles while they struggle to make ends meet.

Moreover, Dr. Salama pointed out a concerning correlation between money laundering and the spread of drug abuse. Drug dealers often launder their proceeds to legitimize their gains, thereby contributing to the drug problem in society.

He urged young people and diligent workers to remember that earning money lawfully is fundamental, and that illicit money is ultimately worthless and fails to address real needs.

Khaled Mohammad, an expert in administrative and information sciences, discussed the various methods used in money laundering. He identified the theft of banking data and its misuse in laundering operations as particularly dangerous.

One method, he said, involves sending bank links to individuals, who are then asked to transfer funds to money launderers' accounts. These operations often involve breaking down large sums into smaller amounts to obscure their origins. Mohammed also noted the use of fictitious job offers to manipulate bank accounts and transactions through exchange companies.

Recommendations for combating money laundering include, strengthening anti-money laundering measures, community awareness, avoiding suspicious links, reporting suspicious activity, addressing wealth disparity and monitoring currency markets.

World News Roundup

Europe

'End unrest'

Russians urged to flee Ukraine attack

KYIV, Ukraine, Aug 12, (AP): An official in the Kursk border region of Russia on Monday urged more residents to evacuate due to the "very tense situation" in the area, where Russian forces are still scrambling to respond to a surprise Ukrainian attack after almost a week of fierce fighting.

Russia's emergency authorities say more than 76,000 people have fled their homes in areas of Kursk, where Ukrainian troops and armor poured across the border on Aug 6, reportedly driving as deep as 30 kilometers (19 miles) into Russia and sowing alarm.

The governor of the Belgorod region adjacent to Kursk also announced the evacuation of people from a district near the Ukrainian border, describing Monday morning as "alarming" but giving no detail.

Ukrainian forces swiftly rolled into the town of Sudzha about 10 kilometers (6 miles) over the border after launching the attack. They reportedly still hold the western part of the town, which is the site of an important natural gas transit station.

The Ukrainian operation is taking place under tight secrecy, and its goals - especially whether Kyiv's forces aim to hold territory or are staging hit-and-run raids - remain unclear. The stunning maneuver that caught the Kremlin's forces unawares counters Russia's unrelenting effort in recent months to punch through Ukrainian defenses at selected points along the front line in eastern Ukraine.

Russia has seen previous incursions into its territory during the nearly 2 1/2-year war, but the foray into the Kursk region marked the largest attack on its soil since World War II, embarrassing President Vladimir Putin and constituting a milestone in the hostilities. It is also the first time the Ukrainian army has spearheaded an incursion rather than pro-Ukraine Russian fighters.

Efforts

The advance has delivered a blow to Putin's efforts to pretend that life in Russia has largely remained unaffected by the war. State propaganda has tried to play down the attack, emphasizing the authorities' efforts to help residents of the region and seeking to distract attention from the military's failure to prepare for the attack and quickly repel it.

Kursk residents recorded videos lamenting they had to flee the border area, leaving behind their belongings, and pleading with Putin for help. But Russia's state-controlled media kept a tight lid on any expression of discontent.

Retired Gen Andrei Gurulev, a member of the lower house of the Russian parliament, criticized the military for failing to properly protect the border.

He noted that while the military has set up minefields in the border region, it has failed to deploy enough troops to block enemy raids.

"Regrettably, the group of forces protecting the border didn't have its own intelligence assets," he said on his messaging app channel. "No one likes to see the truth in reports, everybody just wants to hear that all is good."

Pasi Paroinen, an analyst with the Finland-based Black Bird Group open-source intelligence agency, which monitors the war, said the toughest phase of Ukraine's incursion is likely to begin now as Russian reserves enter the fray.

He said that "if the Ukrainians are going to advance any further from where they are now, it's going to be a tough battle, unlike the opening moments of this offensive."

Also:

LONDON: The people of Southport, England, came together Sunday for the first of the funerals for three girls killed during a dance class, remembering 9-year-old Alice da Silva Aguiar's radiant smile and calling for an end to the unrest that has convulsed Britain since the attack two weeks ago.

Hundreds of mourners packed St. Patrick's Catholic Church and spilled into the street outside, which had been decorated with pink ribbons and balloons in Alice's honor. Chief Constable Serena Kennedy was among them and she delivered the parents' message that no one should commit acts of violence in their daughter's name.

"I am ashamed and I'm so sorry that you had to even consider this in the planning of the funeral of your beautiful daughter, Alice," said Kennedy, who heads the Merseyside Police force, which covers the area around Liverpool. "And I hope that anyone who has taken part in the violent disorder on our streets over the past 13 days is hanging their head in shame at the pain that they have caused you, a grieving family."

Far-right activists have used misinformation about the attack at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class that killed Alice as a pretext for anti-immigrant demonstrations. They descended into riots and looting as mobs attacked mosques, shops owned by immigrants and hotels housing asylum-seekers. The disturbances have been fueled by social media users who spread misinformation about the suspect in the July 29 stabbing rampage.

BELGRADE, Serbia: Serbia's president Sunday accused demonstrators who opposed a lithium mining project in the Balkan country of being part of a Western-backed "hybrid" warfare against his government and vowed to take strong legal action against those protesters who have blocked railway and road traffic in the capital a day earlier.

In one of the biggest protests in recent years, tens of thousands took to the streets in the capital, Belgrade, Saturday against lithium mining in Serbia, despite officials' warnings of their alleged plot to unseat populist President Aleksandar Vucic and his government.

Some of the protesters later blocked tracks at two railway stations in the city, and briefly stopped traffic on a major highway. Riot police early Sunday pushed them out of the railway stations with their riot shields.

Interior Minister Ivica Dacic said 14 people have been brought in for questioning. Police are working to identify all the perpetrators who will face charges, he said.

Vucic told reporters Sunday that although the main protest was done democratically, the blockage of traffic on the highway amounted to "terror of the minority over the majority."

"It is part of the hybrid approach" designed to topple the government, Vucic told reporters. "We knew everything in detail. You think you have surprised someone... we have always been restrained, without violence we ensured order in the country, without a problem."



A car (lower left corner) catches fire during a wildfire in Varnavas, around 35 km from Athens, Greece, on Aug 11. Inset: Firefighters operate in Dioni, northeast of Athens, Greece on Aug 12. (Xinhua/AP)

Major wildfire rages out of control on fringes of Greek capital; firefighters deployed

A major forest fire was raging out of control on the northern fringes of the Greek capital Monday, triggering numerous evacuation orders for Athens suburbs and outlying areas as strong winds hampered the efforts of hundreds of firefighters and dozens of water-dropping planes.

The blaze that began Sunday afternoon was racing through pine forests left tinder-dry by repeated heat waves this summer. June and July of

this year were the hottest months ever recorded in Greece, which also recorded its warmest winter ever.

Authorities were faced with "an exceptionally dangerous fire, which we have been fighting for more than 20 hours under dramatic circumstances," Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Minister Vassilis Kikilias said mid-morning Monday. The fire was burning mainly on two separate fronts, with some

parts in particularly difficult to reach areas on a mountain northeast of Athens, Kikilias said.

The fire department said 670 firefighters, backed by 27 teams specially trained to tackle wildfires and including more than 80 armed forces personnel, were battling the flames. More than 180 vehicles were deployed, while 17 water-dropping planes and 15 helicopters were providing aerial support. (AP)

Politics

Dems launch 1st paid ad campaign for Harris-Walz ticket

Ohio Sen Vance hails Trump's Fed idea

ATLANTA, Aug 12, (AP): US Republican vice presidential nominee JD Vance used a round of Sunday news show appearances to disparage the Democratic ticket and promote Donald Trump's record and second-term plans and defend himself from criticism over past remarks that have become a campaign issue.

The Ohio senator, in a series of taped interviews, said there was merit to Trump's suggestion that presidents have more control of US monetary policy and kept up the GOP line that Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, the Democrats' vice presidential candidate, had exaggerated his military record.

Vance, who shadowed Vice President Kamala Harris and Walz during their visits to several battleground states last week, was quizzed about abortion and his past comments about American family life, among other topics.

Some highlights from his appearances:

Offer

Trump recently suggested that presidents "should have at least a say" on monetary policy set by the Federal Reserve. He did not offer specific proposals.

Curtailing the Fed's independence from political interference as it determines interest rates would be a fundamental change. Even as he tried to argue that Trump said nothing about taking "direct" control of rates, Vance endorsed Trump's general idea.

"President Trump is saying I think something that's really important and actually profound, which is that the political leadership of this country should have more say over the monetary policy of this country," Vance said.

"I agree with him. That should fundamentally be a political decision. Agree or disagree, we should have America's elected leaders having input about the most important decisions confronting our country."

Bank of America CEO Brian Moynihan questioned the wisdom of such a major change. "I think if you look around the world's economies and you see where Fed central banks are independent and operate freely," he said, "they tend to fare better than the ones that don't."

Active

Walz served 24 years in the Army National Guard and was once deployed to Europe, though never to an active war zone. In a video from 2018, he referred to carrying weapons "in war." The Harris campaign said last week that Walz misspoke.

"Scandalous behavior," said Vance, a military veteran.

When it was noted that Trump avoided Vietnam with dubious claims of bone spurs, Vance said that "obviously a lot of people have reasons for not serving. I criticize somebody for embellishing their record, for lying, saying, 'I went to war.'"

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, a combat veteran and a top Harris ally, said Republicans are circulating "the one time" that a long-serving veteran "slipped up" talking about his military service.

Vance dodged when asked about his position on an upcoming Florida referendum that would repeal Republican-passed abortion restrictions and ensure more access to abortion services.

Speaking broadly about states and reproductive rights, Vance said Trump "has said explicitly they're going to

make this decision on a state-by-state level."

Vance struggled to clarify Trump's position on whether he would support federal limits on the medical abortion drug mifepristone.

Also:

WASHINGTON: With a solidified presidential ticket stumping across the country and a massive amount of money to spend, the Democratic Party is targeting seven critical battleground states with paid advertising for US Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Gov Tim Walz.

The Democratic National Committee announced the Harris-Walz advertising push on Monday, which includes more than 70 billboards across the key battleground states: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. It's the ticket's first paid advertising blitz since Walz joined the campaign - and the first of many to come in areas that are poised to determine the outcome of the presidential election in November.

The billboards will be in several key urban areas across the battleground states, such as Atlanta, Detroit, Charlotte and Philadelphia, according to the DNC. Many are set up along major interstates and highways, including Interstate 95 and Interstate 10.

There is also an advertisement - both in English and Spanish - in the Las Vegas strip, according to the DNC.

"The DNC is blanketing the battlegrounds with a clear message: Vice President Harris and Governor Tim Walz are fighting for working people, and Donald Trump and JD Vance are only out for themselves," DNC spokesperson Abhi Rahman said in a statement.



US Republican vice presidential nominee Sen. JD Vance, R-Ohio, speaks at a campaign event at Wollard International on Aug 7 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. (AP)



Alkire



Small

America

2 shot to death in Iowa: Two people were shot and killed at a raceway in Iowa just as a concert was about to begin, authorities said Sunday.

The shooting happened Saturday night at the I-29 Speedway in Pacific Junction, roughly 20 miles south of Omaha, Nebraska. An outdoor concert at the venue was about to begin when shots were fired in the parking lot, the Iowa Department of Public Safety said in an online press release.

The victims were identified as Marcus L. Johnson, 28; and Charles A. Williams Jr., 27. Both were from Omaha, Nebraska.

The Mills County Sheriff's Office is being assisted by the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, Iowa State Patrol, Omaha Police Department, and other law enforcement agencies.

Authorities are asking anyone who has information about the shooting to contact the Mills County Sheriff's Office. The investigation is ongoing. (AP)

Md house explosion kills 2: Two people were killed and 12 families displaced after a Maryland house exploded Sunday amid reports of a possible gas leak, fire officials said.

Neighbors described feeling and hearing the early morning blast that damaged a number of surrounding houses in Bel Air, a town about about 30 miles (50 kilometers) northeast of Baltimore.

Firefighters were called to the area around 6:40 a.m. for a report of a gas leak and an outdoor odor of gas, said Oliver Alkire, a master deputy with the State Fire Marshal's Office. Alkire said that as firefighters were approaching, they began receiving calls that the house had exploded. First responders pronounced one person dead at the scene, and a second body was later found in the rubble. (AP)

Fatal shootings jolt Denver: Four men were fatally shot and a woman was hospital-

ized with gunshot wounds during a spate of weekend violence in the Denver suburb of Commerce City. A person of interest in one of the cases was later found dead of a self-

inflicted gunshot, police said Sunday.

Also in the Denver area over the weekend, a person was fatally shot and three others were injured during two separate alterca-



Eric Combs, Maverick Knight and Michelle Knight paddle away as they traverse high water along Canisteo River Road in Canisteo, NY on Aug 9, after remnants of Tropical Storm Debby swept through the area. The weather system previously known as Hurricane Debby was not quite done with parts of the US on Aug 11 as flood warnings remained in effect in North Carolina and thousands were without power in New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania. (AP)

tions Sunday in the city of Aurora.

In Denver itself one person was killed and six people injured in a string of weekend shootings and stabbings, police said.

Commerce City Police Department spokesperson Joanna Small described it as "an incredibly violent weekend" for the fast-expanding community of about 70,000 people, which is located just northeast of Denver near the city's airport.

Potential motives in the shootings were not released. (AP)

Debby leaves thousands in dark: The weather system previously known as Hurricane Debby was not quite done with parts of the US Sunday as flood warnings remained in effect in North Carolina and thousands were without power in New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

After hitting Florida as a hurricane Aug. 5, the storm spent nearly a week unleashing tornadoes and flooding, damaging homes and taking lives along the East Coast before moving into Canada on Saturday. (AP)

While many rivers had receded by Sunday, flood warnings remained in effect across central and eastern North Carolina, where more thunderstorms were possible over the next few days. With the ground already saturated from Debby, the National Weather Service said localized downpours could result in additional flash flooding throughout the coastal Carolinas. (AP)

Lat/Am

Panama arrests 15

Armed forces need transformation: Arce

LA PAZ, Aug 12, (Agencies): Bolivian President Luis Arce said the armed forces need to undergo a "profound transformation," including updating military doctrine, to avert further attempted coups.

"We have come to the conclusion that the institutional strengthening of the armed forces is necessary, promoting a profound transformation that includes the definition of new institutional objectives and strategic actions with a vision of the future in the short, medium and long term," he said in a speech marking the 199th anniversary of the Armed Forces in the city of Trinidad, in northeast Beni department.



Arce

Recently, "there have been two critical moments of rupture or anti-democratic crisis by a few bad soldiers who were seduced by personal interests and power groups. Given these facts, it is imperative to find solutions to prevent these moments of crisis from being repeated," Arce stressed.

The existence of traces of foreign interference is still evident, particularly in the pre- and post-graduate training of military personnel, under the guidelines of the "anachronistic national security doctrine" imposed on the continent by the United States, he said.

The goal, said the president, is to have a modern and professional military committed to strengthening democracy.



Panama arrests 15: Border police in Panama said that they have arrested 15 people who allegedly ran a smuggling ring to move Chinese migrants through the Darien Gap.

The dangerous, jungle-clad gap connects Colombia and Panama, and represents a major route for migrants to reach the US border. In recent years, Chinese have become the fourth-largest group by nationality to use the crossing. Most of those crossing are Venezuelans.

More than 500,000 migrants crossed the Darien Gap in a record-breaking 2023. So far this year, more than 212,000 migrants have crossed, though reports in July suggested the flow may have declined in recent weeks.

Panama's National Border Service said 11 vehicles, two dozen cell phones, a rifle and cash were seized in the raids on the migrant smuggling ring.

Panama's president has vowed to crack down on the massive migrant flows, and border police have erected about three miles of barbed wire to block some trails and funnel migrants to a single reception point.

Panama's President, José Raúl Mulino - who took office July 1 - has promised to halt the rising flow of migrants entering his country from Colombia and reached an agreement for the U.S. government to pay for repatriation flights.



Dom Rep trying to identify remains: Forensic authorities in the Dominican Republic worked to identify the remains of at least 14 mostly decomposed bodies found on an abandoned vessel 10 nautical miles off its northern coast.

The Dominican Republic Navy said the 14 skeletons appeared to belong to individuals from Senegal and Mauritania, according to the documentation found next to the bodies.

Authorities are also working to determine the cause and time of the deaths and whether 12 packages of a substance found on the boat contained illicit drugs, presumably cocaine or heroin.

Cell phones and geolocation devices were also found on the boat, the Navy said.

The Atlantic route from West Africa to the European Union territory is one of the most dangerous in the world. Boats that miss their destination can be swept away by Atlantic trade winds and currents from east to west, drifting for months. Migrants aboard often die of dehydration and malnutrition. Others have also been known to jump into the ocean out of desperation.

An Associated Press investigation published last year revealed that in 2021, at least seven boats from northwest Africa had been found in the Caribbean and Brazil, all carrying dead bodies.

The bodies found Tuesday in the Dominican Republic are being analyzed by the National Institute of Forensic Sciences (INACIF) in Santiago, the country's second largest city and near where the discovery was made, said Nairobi Viloria, a spokeswoman for the Attorney General's Office.

Meanwhile, the substance found next to the bodies is being analyzed in laboratories operated by the country's anti-drug agency, said Carlos Devers, a spokesman for the National Directorate of Drug Control.



Worker disappearance stirs fear: The last time anyone heard from Edni López was last Sunday. The 33-year-old political science professor and award-winning poet was preparing to board a flight to Argentina to visit a friend when she texted from the airport that something was wrong with her passport.

"Migration took my passport because it's showing up as expired," she wrote her boyfriend in the message shared with The Associated Press. "I pray to God I don't get screwed because of a system error."

What happened next remains a mystery - one contributing to the climate of fear and repression that has engulfed Venezuela following its disputed presidential election, the most serious wave of human rights abuses since Latin America's military dictatorships in the 1970s.

When López's mother, Ninoska Barrios, and her friends learned she didn't board the flight, they started frantically combing detention centers. Finally, on Tuesday - more than 48 hours later - they learned she was being held, incommunicado, by Venezuela's feared military intelligence police on unknown criminal charges, unable to see an attorney or speak with her family.

"Please, give back my daughter," a sobbing Barrios pleaded Tuesday outside Venezuela's top human rights office in a video that went viral on social media. "It's not right that a Venezuelan mother has to go through all this."

López's arrest isn't unique. Since the July 28 presidential election, security forces have rounded up more than 2,000 people for demonstrating against President Nicolás Maduro or casting doubt on his claim he won a third term despite strong evidence he lost the vote by a more than 2-to-1 margin. Another 24 have been killed, according to local human rights group Provea.

The spree of detentions - urged on by Maduro himself - is unprecedented, and puts Venezuela on pace to easily exceed those jailed during three previous crackdowns against Maduro's opponents.



The Omoto river is seen swollen by a storm in Iwazumi, Iwate prefecture, northern Japan on Aug 12. Inset: A station board at JR Sendai Station shows its service updates of Shinkansen, or bullet train, as possible delay are expected due to an approaching storm in Sendai, northern Japan on Monday. (AP)

Storm dumps intense rainfall on northern Japan, sending some people to shelters

A slow-moving storm has been dumping intense rains on northern Japan, swelling rivers, sending residents to shelters and disrupting traffic during a Japanese Buddhist holiday week.

The storm was once Typhoon Maria but has weakened, with winds now blowing up to 72 kph (45 mph). It made landfall near Ofunato City in Iwate prefecture Monday morning and was expected to cut across the Tohoku region as it moved northwest

at 20 kph (12 mph), according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

The Fire and Disaster Management Agency said no damage or injuries were reported so far, but authorities have cautioned about the risks of flooding and mudslides from a relatively rare storm in the region and advised 170,000 residents in Iwate and neighboring Aomori and Miyagi prefectures to go to shelters. Iwate prefecture said about 2,000 people

actually took shelter early Monday.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida vowed that the government would quickly provide information and support to residents in the affected areas.

The prefecture started an emergency controlled release of water into a river to keep a dam from overflowing, calling on about 8,300 riverside residents in the towns of Osanai and Kuji to take shelter due to possible flooding from the discharge. (AP)



Uganda Red Cross volunteers and other rescuers work at the site of a landslide at Kiteezi landfill in Kampala, Uganda on Aug 11. (Xinhua)



Itno



Nakasiita

Africa

Uganda landslide toll 24: The death toll from a mountain of rubbish that collapsed in the Ugandan capital rose to 24 on Monday as rescuers with excavators continued searching for victims, according to the city authority.

At least four children are among those killed by the collapse at the Kiteezi landfill Friday, police told reporters.

The collapse is believed to have been triggered by heavy rainfall. The precise details of what happened were unclear, but the city authority said there was a "structural failure in waste mass."

Irene Nakasiita, a spokeswoman for the Uganda Red Cross, said there was no hope of rescuing more people alive.

It was not clear how many people were unaccounted for. The Kiteezi landfill is a vast rubbish dumpsite in an impoverished hillside area that receives hundreds of garbage trucks daily. The city authority has been aiming to decommission it since declaring it full years ago.

It's also a kind of no-man's land in the city of 3 million, attractive to women and children who scavenge plastic waste they aim to sell. Others have built permanent homes nearby.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni ordered an investigation into the disaster, asking in a series of posts on the social platform X why people were living in close proximity to an unstable heap of garbage. (AP)



Chad marks Independence Day: Chad commemorated on Sunday the 63rd anniversary of the Independence Day with a military parade.

Chadian President Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno presided over the parade in N'Djamena, the capital of Chad where tens of thousands of people gathered to watch the event.

Similar activities were held in several towns across the country where crowds of people waved Chadian national flags as mechanized units and foot soldiers marched

Asia

Indonesia prez holds 1st cabinet meet in Nusantara

SKorea, US to start army drills next week

SEOUL, South Korea, Aug 12, (AP): South Korea and the United States will begin their annual joint military exercises next week with a focus on improving their combined capabilities to deter and defend against growing North Korean nuclear threats, the allies said Monday.

The drills could trigger a belligerent response from North Korea, which portrays them as invasion rehearsals and have used the allies' military cooperation as a pretext to advance the development of nuclear weapons and missile systems.

South Korean and US military officials said this year's Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise, scheduled for Aug. 19-29, will include computer-simulated exercises designed to enhance readiness against such threats as missiles, GPS jamming and cyberattacks, and concurrent field maneuvers and live-fire exercises.

Defend

The allies in particular aim to "further strengthen (their) capability and posture to deter and defend against weapons of mass destruction," military officials said in a joint news conference.

Lee Sung Joon, spokesperson of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said about 19,000 South Korean troops will participate in the drills, which he described as an "essential element for maintaining a strong defense posture to protect the Republic of Korea," using South Korea's formal name.

Ryan Donald, spokesperson of US Forces Korea, didn't comment on the number of US troops participating in the exercises and said he couldn't immediately confirm whether the drills will involve US strategic assets. The United States in recent months has increased its regional deployment of

long-range bombers, submarines and aircraft carrier strike groups to train with South Korean and Japanese assets in a show of force against the North.



Widodo holds cabinet meeting: Indonesian President Joko Widodo began working from the city two weeks ago, using an office inside the construction site of the massive new palace in the form of the mythical eagle-shaped Garuda, the symbol of the country. The city is set to hold its first Indonesian Independence Day celebration in less than a week.

Appearing with his successor, President-elect Prabowo Subianto, in front of the palace, Widodo insisted that the controversial \$33 billion construction effort will be worth it.

"The Nusantara capital is a canvas that carves the future. Not all countries have the opportunity and the ability to build their capital city starting from zero," Widodo said.

Subianto vowed that his administration will continue work on the new city after it takes office on Oct. 20.

"We will definitely finish it, although the outline plan is dozens of years long, like other capital cities also took a very long time. We should not force it, but I am optimistic that in five years I think it will function very well," Subianto said.



HK court upholds convictions of 7: Hong Kong's top court on Monday upheld the convictions of seven of Hong Kong's most prominent pro-democracy activists over their roles in one of the biggest anti-government protests in 2019.

Jimmy Lai, founder of the now-defunct Apple Daily newspaper; Martin Lee, the founding chairman of the city's Democratic Party; and five former pro-

democracy lawmakers were found guilty in 2021 of organizing and participating in an unauthorized assembly.

Their convictions dealt a blow to the city's flagging pro-democracy movement during a political crackdown on dissidents following the protests.

Last year, the activists partially won their appeal at a lower court, with their convictions quashed over the charge of organizing an unauthorized assembly. But their convictions over taking part in the assembly were upheld and they continued their legal battle at the city's top court.

On Monday, judges at the Court of Final Appeal unanimously ruled against their appeal over the remaining convictions.



Copter crashes into Australia hotel: A man died after an unauthorized helicopter flight in Queensland, Australia ended in a crash on a hotel roof early Monday morning, prompting the evacuation of hundreds of people from the building as flames engulfed the aircraft.

Authorities in the city of Cairns said that they had not confirmed the identity of the pilot, his reason for making the flight or how the tourist helicopter was able to take off from Cairns Airport.

A couple staying at the hotel was hospitalized suffering from smoke inhalation and have now been discharged, Queensland Police Service Acting Chief Superintendent Shane Holmes told reporters. No one else on the ground was hurt.

Holmes said it was not known if the man flying the helicopter held a pilot's license or if he worked for the company that owned the craft, Nautilus Aviation.

"There is no further threat to the community, and we believe this is an isolated incident," Holmes said.

in front of dignitaries, and Armed Forces aircraft and helicopters flashed above.

"From the first years of independence, our young nation had to face several con-

licts which hampered its momentum of development. Internal wars and external aggressions have marred the destiny of our country for several decades," the

president said in a televised address to the nation on the eve of the Independence Day. (Xinhua)



Mozambique ex-fin min convicted: Former Mozambican Finance Minister Manuel Chang was convicted in a bribe conspiracy case that walled up from from his country's "tuna bond" scandal and swept into a US court.

A federal jury in New York delivered the verdict.

Chang was accused of accepting payoffs to put his African nation secretly on the hook for big loans to government-controlled companies for tuna fishing ships and other maritime projects. The loans were plundered by bribes and kickbacks, according to prosecutors, and one of the world's poorest countries ended up with \$2 billion in "hidden debt," spurring a financial crisis.

Chang, who was his country's top financial official from 2005 to 2015, had pleaded not guilty to conspiracy charges. His lawyers said he was doing as his government wished when he signed off on pledges that Mozambique would repay the loans, and that there was no evidence of a financial quid-pro-quo for him.

Between 2013 and 2016, three Mozambican-government-controlled companies quietly borrowed \$2 billion from major overseas banks. (AP)



In this photo released by Indonesian Presidential Palace, Indonesian President Joko Widodo, (center), talks to journalists accompanied by Indonesian Defense Minister and president-elect Prabowo Subianto, (right), in the new capital city Nusantara in Penajam Paser Utara, East Kalimantan, Indonesia on Aug 12. Widodo held his first cabinet meeting in the future capital of Nusantara, amid miles of construction sites and doubts about the sustainability of the ambitious mega project. (AP)

gold prices stable ahead of US inflation data

Gold prices remained stable today, with spot gold trading at \$2,425.94 per ounce, while U.S. gold futures fell by 0.3% to \$2,464.80, reports Al-Rai daily.

Investors are awaiting upcoming US inflation data to gauge the potential for an interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve in September.

The Producer Price Index (PPI) is set to be released tomorrow, with the Consumer

Price Index (CPI) following on Wednesday. Current market expectations suggest a 54% probability of a 50-basis-point rate cut.

Federal Reserve Governor Michelle Bowman has moderated her typically hawkish stance, noting recent progress on inflation but still emphasizing that it remains above the central bank's 2% target and subject to upside risks.

In other precious metals, silver dropped 0.6% to \$27.29 per ounce, while platinum rose 0.1% to \$923.20. Palladium remained nearly unchanged at \$905.00.

Oil prices continue to gain, driven by tensions in the Middle East and recent economic data. The proposed liberalization of gasoline prices could lead to savings of up to 600 million dinars, depending on the final decision regarding subsidy reforms.

oil prices steady in early Asian trading, Brent at \$79.59

In early Asian trading today, oil prices saw minimal changes, maintaining most of the gains from last week, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Brent crude futures fell slightly by seven cents to \$79.59 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures increased by two cents to \$76.86 per barrel.

The market remains concerned about rising tensions in

the Middle East. Analysts at ANZ Bank noted that worries about the escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are contributing to the volatility in oil prices.

The situation has been exacerbated by recent events, including the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh and the killing of Fouad Shukur, which have heightened regional tensions.

Last week, Brent crude prices increased by over 3.5%, and WTI

rose by more than 4%, buoyed by favorable economic data and expectations of potential interest rate cuts in the US Federal Reserve policymakers indicated increased confidence in a possible rate reduction next month due to falling inflation.

Additionally, China's consumer price index for July rose faster than expected, and U.S. weekly jobless claims were lower than anticipated.

Market Movements

12-08-2024

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
DUBAI	- DFMGI	+6.12	4,201.27	SAUDI	- TASI	-31.03	11,740.66
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+174.03	29,706.70	PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	-34.44	6,613.36
				PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	-547.40	77,982.44

Business

Saudi TASI index leads GCC markets

Bursa Kuwait index rises 0.64%, boosted by banking sector gains

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The Bursa Kuwait kicked off the week with a buoyant start with the general market index surging by 0.64 percent, or 45.45 points, reaching 7,111.06 points, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The day's liquidity held steady at 46.5 million dinars, mirroring the levels seen in the previous session. Trading was robust, with 202 million shares changing hands through 11,796 transactions. Of the 121 shares traded, 77 posted gains, 34 experienced losses, and 10 remained unchanged.

The Premier Market Index also made strides, rising by 0.66 percent, or 50.94 points, to settle at 7,747.96 points. Here, liquidity amounted to 35.9 million dinars, with 123.3 million shares traded across 6,552 deals. Among the 34 shares traded, 23 gained, 8 lost, and 3 were unchanged.

The Main Market Index saw a 0.55 percent increase, or 33.04 points, ending the session at 6,004.03 points. Liquidity in this segment reached 10.6 million dinars, with 78.7 million shares traded through 5,244 transactions. Out of 87 shares traded, 54 saw gains, 26 lost ground, and 7 remained unchanged.

The day's trading spotlighted banking sector stocks, notably Unicap shares, which drove significant activity. The market saw strong early buying interest in KFH stock, especially as it approached the end of its trad-

ing day with first-half profits of ten fils about to expire. Leading stocks generally performed well, except for Agility, Arzan, and Al-Tijaria.

The standout performer was the Gulf Bank, which led the gains, followed by Boubyan and International. Warba Bank also saw high trading volumes and substantial gains. Unicap stock notably surged, reaching its highest level in three months at 189 fils.

On the flip side, Inovest shares jumped past 120 fils, gaining approximately 8 percent, while Kuwait Real Estate, Aayan, and GFH also recorded solid gains of 2 to 3 percent. IFA shares rose by 4.3 percent. The session saw a strong recovery, compensating for the previous week's losses, with Agility, Arabi Holding, and Arzan being the primary decliners.

Across the Gulf Cooperation Council, most markets saw positive movement. The Saudi TASI index led the charge with a gain of over 1 percent, while the Bahrain market index also showed a notable increase. Kuwait, Muscat, and Qatar indices recorded more modest gains. Oil prices, closing at \$79 per barrel for Brent crude, contributed to the overall positive market sentiment.

Overall the session showed strong recovery and compensation for losses from the previous week, driven by gains in banking and high liquidity in key stocks.

Regulations & visa changes drive demand

Kuwait real estate sector shifts post-Mangaf fire, 'boosts' rental demand

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: Recent developments in Kuwait's real estate sector reflect a significant shift due to several factors, including government measures following the Mangaf fire disaster and changes in visa policies, reports Al-Jarida daily.

One of the key points is the impact of the Mangaf fire tragedy which led to increased scrutiny and regulation of investment properties. This resulted in a surge in demand for rental properties from companies needing to accommodate workers, shifting focus back to the investment sector. This demand has led to higher occupancy rates and rental values.

This is in addition to new government measures and regulations to prevent the overcrowding of workers in residential apartments have prompted property owners to address violations and improve compliance and the government move to open family registration visas and some visit visas for expatriates has also boosted demand in the residential sector.

According to the current trends, the occupancy rates have improved from under 80 percent during the COVID-19 pandemic to approxi-

mately 85-87 percent in recent times, with expectations to surpass 90 percent soon.

There is also a growing interest in the investment sector, with property transactions showing a decline in the first half of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023, indicating a recovery phase.

The average rental value for a two-room apartment has increased by 2.4% in the first quarter of 2024, reaching 285 dinars.

However, there is a noted imbalance between the residential and investment sectors, with some properties misclassified or repurposed, such as converting residential areas into investment spaces.

Specialists and real estate owners are advocating for better sector regulation, enforcement of penalties for violations, and increased land availability to stabilize the market.

The recovery of the investment sector and the recent positive trends in the residential sector suggest a potential stabilization of real estate prices and increased investor confidence.

However, addressing sector imbalances and ensuring regulatory compliance will be crucial for sustained growth.

Nasdaq Dubai lists Warba Bank's \$500 million Sustainability Sukuk

Kuwait's first-ever Sustainability Sukuk issued by Warba Bank

DUBAI, Aug 12: Nasdaq Dubai welcomes the listing of USD 500 million Sustainable trust certificates issued by Warba Bank, a leading Kuwaiti Islamic Bank. This is the fourth listing under their USD 2 billion trust certificate issuance programme.

This is a significant listing, as it marks the first-ever Sustainability Sukuk to be issued in Kuwait in compliance with Warba Bank's sustainable finance framework. The 5-year certificates are designed to support eligible sustainable projects and initiatives, aligning with global sustainability goals.

Nasdaq Dubai continues to solidify its status as the premier platform regionally and globally for both fixed income and ESG-related listings. The exchange holds an outstanding total value of USD 134 billion in listed fixed income securities and USD 30 billion in ESG listings. Among these, ESG Sukuk account for USD 18 billion, including the recent listing of Warba Bank.

The issuance received an overwhelming positive response from investors, with orders reaching USD 1.8 billion, which is 3.6 times the issuance size. This strong demand underscores the growing appetite for sustainable investment opportunities in the region.

To celebrate the successful listing, Shaheen H. Al Ghanem from Warba



Nasdaq Dubai welcomes USD 500 million Sustainability Sukuk by Warba Bank.

Bank rang the bell at the market-opening ceremony at Nasdaq Dubai, alongside Hamed Ali, CEO of Nasdaq Dubai and DFM.

Shaheen H. Al Ghanem, CEO of Warba Bank, said: "We are thrilled to announce the successful listing of our Sukuk on Nasdaq Dubai. This initiative represents a pivotal step in our strategy to integrate sustainable practices with our financial offerings. By listing on Nasdaq Dubai, we are not

only underscoring our commitment to environmental and social responsibility but also enhancing our visibility among discerning global investors who prioritize sustainability. This issuance allows us to lead by example in the financial sector, driving the adoption of sustainable financing solutions that support long-term environmental, social and economic sustainability."

Hamed Ali, CEO of Nasdaq Dubai and DFM, said: "We are pleased to

welcome Warba Bank's Sukuk to Nasdaq Dubai. This listing reflects our commitment to continuously support green and sustainable financing initiatives in the region and provide a robust listing platform for such financial instruments."

With this additional listing, the total value of Warba Bank's Sukuk currently listed on Nasdaq Dubai reaches USD 1.25 billion through three listings.

IIA releases updated internal audit standards, effective Jan 2025

KPMG issues guidance on new Global Internal Audit Standards

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: Consequent to the Institute of Internal Auditors' (IIA) announcement of the new Global Internal Audit Standards (Standards), KPMG published its guidance document on how internal audit functions (IAFs) should implement the new Standards. The refreshed Standards were released earlier this year on 9 January 2024 and are the outcome of a multiyear project led by the IIA, while taking into account the internal audit community's efforts.

According to the IIA, the Global Internal Audit Standards guide the worldwide professional practice of internal auditing and serve as a basis for evaluating and elevating the quality of IAFs. These Standards are organized into 5 domains, and they draw from 15 guiding principles that facilitate effective internal auditing. The Standards outline the requirements, considerations for implementation, and examples of evidence of conformance.

The 2024 Standards build on the 2017 Standards and intend to do three things: (i) simplify the structure; (ii) ensure they are practical and address current and emerging topics; and (iii) enhance internal audit performance. KPMG's analysts compared the 2024 Standards to the 2017 Standards and found that the wording in the new Standards indicate what IAFs 'must do', 'should do' or 'may do'. The analysis also highlighted five major changes that any audit function must consider in addition to the changes related to the internal audit strategy and the requirements on performance management.



Ali Abbas

The KPMG publication underlines that Internal Audit (IA) must formally establish a strategy for the audit function that is aimed at guiding the IA to fulfill the internal audit mandate. Furthermore, it highlights a second major change in the Standards, i.e., performance management, illustrating how effective performance management is viewed by the IIA and what a

Chief Audit Executive must do to achieve it. Speaking about the new Standards, Ali Abbas, Director - Risk Consulting and Head of Internal Audit, Risk & Compliance Services, KPMG in Kuwait, said, "The updated Standards are anticipated to act as tailwinds to take forward discussions with boards on audit functions' role in the future. This is considering that the added requirement on establishing an internal audit strategy calls for a meaningful dialog with the Board and Senior Management to identify how an IAF supports an organization's strategic objectives and its success, and how it aligns with key stakeholder expectations. It is our belief that the new Standards will act as great tools to look ahead and help us determine the kind of impact audit functions of the future can drive."

Having helped IAFs perform Standards gap assessments, developed internal audit strategies, and supported in their implementation, KPMG professionals thoroughly understand what goes into being in conformance and, at the same time, maximizing stakeholder value.

In closing, with the new Standards set to become effective from 9 January 2025, it is critical that IAFs incorporate these changes over the next few months. This means that organizations must consider assessing if they are in conformance with the IIA Standards, if their internal audit strategy is developed based on the right pillars, and if there are any gaps related to the IIA Standards that need bridging.

Khalaf Al Habtoor highlights innovative and sustainable features of Al Habtoor Tower

Al Habtoor Tower reaches 33% completion, sets new construction records

DUBAI, Aug 12: Al Habtoor Group, a pioneer in the construction and real estate industry announced remarkable construction progress at Al Habtoor Tower, poised to become a new icon on Dubai's skyline. Under the visionary leadership of Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor, Founding Chairman of Al Habtoor Group, this landmark development has reached significant milestones that are setting new standards in architectural design and construction excellence.

Within its first year, Al Habtoor Tower has established unprecedented benchmarks in construction, utilising 100-metre deep BARETTE foundations - a world record. The project boasts an innovative six-day floor cycle time for construction above ground, showcasing the rapid pace and efficiency maintained despite the complex structural demands.

The project has achieved 33 per cent completion and has accumulated over 2.5 million working hours without any accidents, thanks to the expertise of over 2,000 workers managed by top German and Chinese construction firms using the latest construction techniques. International engineering powerhouses, including Imperial College London, Structural San Francisco, and SETEC France, have peer-reviewed the structural designs, ensuring that every aspect of Al Habtoor Tower meets global standards.

Within just eight months, the team completed approximately six kilometres of Barrettes (90m deep shear walls) and one kilometre of circular piles, while preserving 24,000 sqm of existing floor slabs. This rapid progress highlights the project's innovative approach to maintaining integrity and continuity in high-demand construction scenarios.

Known for landmark projects like Burj Al Arab, the Of-



Al Habtoor Tower sets construction records with 100-metre foundations.

ficers' Club in Abu Dhabi, and Dubai's key airport terminals, Khalaf Al Habtoor ensures that the Al Habtoor Tower is crafted with a similar commitment to excellence. "Al Habtoor Tower is not just a building; it represents the capabilities and innovation at the core of Dubai's construction industry. We are setting a global benchmark for others to follow, emphasising our commitment to sustainability and cutting-edge engineering," stated Al Habtoor.

He added: "Reaching 33 per cent completion within just one year of construction is a momentous achieve-

ment that underscores the project's groundbreaking architectural features and innovative construction techniques used in its development."

Al Habtoor Tower incorporates innovative selective construction techniques, a first not only in Dubai but globally. This approach significantly reduces carbon emissions and speeds up the construction process, aiming for LEED Platinum Certification. The tower will be serviced by the world's fastest vertical transportation with 24 high-speed elevators traveling at 7 metres per second.

Set to be the world's largest residential building, Al Habtoor Tower promises ultra-luxurious living with state-of-the-art amenities. Situated within Al Habtoor City on Sheikh Zayed Road, near the Dubai Water Canal and DIFC, the tower offers breathtaking, uninterrupted panoramic views of the Burj Khalifa, Business Bay, the Arabian Gulf, and Sheikh Zayed Road. It features the highest terraced gardens and multiple pool decks, ensuring an unparalleled living experience.

Residents will enjoy an unmatched luxury lifestyle with access to first-class amenities. The development is part of Al Habtoor City, which includes three luxury hotels, La Perle by Dragone - the region's only permanent aqua theatre show, and a diverse array of gourmet restaurants, blending leisure, entertainment, and residential luxury into one of Dubai's most desirable addresses.

"Our legacy is built on trust and an unwavering commitment to excellence," said Mohammed Al Habtoor, Vice Chairman and CEO. "With Al Habtoor Tower, we offer more than homes; we are creating a legacy of luxury, innovation, and sustainability, redefining what luxury living should be."

Al Habtoor Group's dedication to environmental stewardship shines in every aspect of Al Habtoor Tower's construction. Employing a top-down method and the highest-grade materials, the project adheres to green building principles but sets new standards for sustainable urban development.

With Al Habtoor Tower, Al Habtoor Group reaffirms its leadership in the real estate development industry, continually pushing the boundaries of high-rise development. This project is not only a significant addition to Dubai's world-renowned skyline but also a testament to the city's dynamic and innovative spirit.



Zain KACCH & BACCH event 2024.

Company hosted joyful event in partnership with KACCH & BACCH

Zain's stars bring joy to children at Bayt Abdullah Hospice

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: Zain recently hosted a heartwarming event to spread happiness at Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice, featuring the biggest stars from its beloved theatrical plays. The event brought joy to children and their families in collaboration with the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospitals (KACCH) and Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice (BACCH).

The event was joined by stars from Zain's theatrical plays and Max marketing campaign, including Fatimah Al Safi, Hamad Ashkanani, Laila Abdullah, Talal Sam, and Bibi Al-Abdulmohsen. These stars created unforgettable memories for the children, bringing smiles and laughter to everyone. The event also featured a special corner displaying the stars' costumes from Zain's widely popular plays, offering wonderful opportunities for capturing memorable moments.

Throughout the event, fun activities like balloon, bubble, and science shows were held, bringing joy not only to the children but also to their parents, families, and friends. Attendees engaged in these activities with enthusiasm, and Zain also hosted arts and crafts sessions to empower the children to express their creative side. Additionally, the company presented special gifts to the children, making the experience even more special.

Zain's participation in this event is part of its ongoing partnership with KACCH and BACCH, a collaboration that has resulted in numerous successful initiatives over the years.

Through this partnership, Zain aims to demonstrate the private sector's key role in supporting civil society organizations and creating a lasting positive impact in the community.

Founded in 1989 and registered as a non-profit, charitable organization by the Ministry of Social Affairs in 2003, the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospitals continues its mission to offer play programs and pediatric psychosocial services and emotional support for hospitalized children and their families in almost all government hospitals across Kuwait.

As an extension of KACCH, Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice (BACCH) opened in 2012 as the first children's hospice in the Middle East, giving children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions in Kuwait the specialized care they need. BACCH works to ensure the emphasis is placed on quality of life and the best day-to-day care possible, while providing children and their families with expert medical, clinical, psychosocial, emotional, and spiritual support. All services provided by KACCH & BACCH for children and their families are offered at no cost.

Zain continues to work towards fostering a spirit of giving, sharing, bonding, and community by directly supporting programs and initiatives that serve humanitarian needs. The company puts its social responsibility as a top priority, embodying and reflecting the values of its brand: Zain, A Wonderful World.



AASU presents an appreciation plaque to KFH's Mohammed Alfaris in recognition of its support for the university's activities and students throughout the academic year.

Alfaris advocates for continuous learning at AASU event

KFH participates in orientation meeting of AASU higher studies scholarship recipients

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: As part of its pioneering role in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and support for students and education, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in a recent event organized by Abdullah Al-Salem University (AASU) for higher education students.

With sponsorship from KFH, the AASU organized an orientation meeting for the first group of scholarship recipients at the university who will be pursuing higher studies. Representing the bank, KFH Executive Manager Media and Government Relations, Mohammed Alfaris, attended the meeting along with Dr. Adel Al-Husainan, Secretary of the AASU Founding Board, and Prof. Dr. Ali Almutairi, Founding Board member and Acting Vice Dean for Academic and Assessment Affairs. Several university officials and faculty members were also present.

On this occasion, AASU presented an appreciation plaque to KFH in recognition of its support for the university's activities and students throughout the academic year.

Alfaris emphasized that KFH continues its leading CSR

journey, with a particular focus on the academic field. This is accomplished by expanding efforts to support both students and private and public universities.

He pointed out that KFH is at the forefront of supporting youth and students, boasting a strong history of social contributions. This includes strategic partnerships with various universities and colleges, as well as consistent support for students' graduation projects. KFH has also been an active participant in numerous seminars, research discussions, workshops, and lectures aimed at advancing professional and academic development.

Additionally, Alfaris highlighted the importance of continuous learning to fulfill students' ambitions by enrolling in higher education programs. He emphasized that this would enhance their academic and educational achievements, ultimately reflecting positively on their future professional performance.

He extended his best wishes for the scholarship awardees in pursuing their academic path and professional future.

AUK's international programs enhance student mobility and global experience

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: Eight students from the American University of Kuwait (AUK) have been selected to study abroad this summer. They will further their education and career development at prestigious universities in the United States, including George Washington University in Washington D.C., and Dartmouth College in New Hampshire.

Two AUK students were awarded scholarships to spend their summer semester at GWU, connecting with peers internationally. Aisha Khazaal, a senior majoring in English literature; and Yara Abdel Rahman Touman, a sophomore majoring in finance will maintain a full-time status at GWU, taking two courses during a 6-week semester.

The GWU scholarship is one of several agreements AUK has with international institutions, aimed at providing students with study-abroad opportunities that promote cross-cultural exchanges. Through these international programs, AUK reaffirms its commitment to providing students with the necessary skills for student mobility. This experience provides personal growth, expands students' horizons, and connects AUK student communities globally.

Similarly, six AUK students were



AUK students at Dartmouth College.

selected to spend their summer semester with Dartmouth College, sharing insights, experiences, and gaining skills through the Internship Exchange and For-Credit Exchange programs. Nour Dashti, a junior majoring in graphic design; Maryam Samak, a senior majoring in communication & media; Reem Shady, a senior majoring in computer science; and Youssef Fahih, a senior majoring in finance,

will be placed in various internship departments for 6 weeks on campus and remotely, putting their knowledge to practice while gaining a set of novel competencies. Youssef Damerji, a senior majoring in accounting; and Reema Al Haj Assad, a senior majoring in Finance, will be spending their summer semester taking three classes, sharing and learning among Dartmouth peers for a period of 10 weeks.

Bank emphasizes two-factor authentication & strong passwords

NBK advances banking awareness with 'Let's Be Aware' campaign for students

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: As part of its ongoing efforts to promote financial and banking awareness among all sectors of society, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continues its active participation in the 'Let's Be Aware' banking awareness campaign launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait, in collaboration with local banks and Kuwait Banking Association (KBA).

In this context, the bank organized an awareness session for the students of the 'NBK Aspire' Summer Internship Program for 2024, in which they gave a detailed presentation about the "Let's Be Aware" campaign, and the channels used by the bank to increase awareness about fraud and protection methods. They also presented some practical cases and presented advice and guidance that should be followed to avoid falling victim to these threats.

The bank called to enable two-factor authentication (2FA), which adds an extra layer of security for online banking and financial accounts, as well as

to keep a close eye on bank statements and transaction history, to identify any suspicious or unauthorized activity.

NBK advised the trainees to be cautious of e-mails, text messages, or phone calls that ask for personal or financial information, as scammers typically send phishing e-mails from illegitimate websites using the logo of well-known organizations such as banks, telecom or big companies, so that the user cannot distinguish between the real and fake messages.

The bank also affirmed that it will never ask customers for personal information via e-mail, SMS or phone calls, warning them of responding to such messages representing fraud attempts to steal customers' banking information.

Among the key tips shared with 'NBK Aspire' interns was using strong passwords to protect different personal accounts online, creating different passwords and not using the same password for all accounts, and updating them regularly.

Additionally, the bank urged them to use long passwords that contain at least 8 characters with a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols, as the longer the password, the more difficult it is to hack. It also warned against using personal information in passwords, such as birth date, family names, and simple number sequences, to ensure protecting the security of your important information.

With the ever-growing fraud threats using various techniques, NBK is keen to protect customers and increase their awareness of how to steer clear of these threats. To this end, the bank advised to ensure computer, smartphone, and other devices used for banking are protected with up-to-date antivirus software and security patches, as well as to set up transaction alerts with the bank so that customers receive notifications for any withdrawals, transfers, or changes to your account.

The bank also explained to the students that financial knowledge and staying informed about the latest scams and fraud techniques are key to recognizing and avoiding potential threats, calling trainees in case of suspecting any fraudulent activity on their accounts, they should immediately contact the bank to report it and take necessary actions to secure the account.

NBK employs its strong customer communication capabilities as well as all its digital channels, which are the most popular among all Kuwaiti banks, to support the Central Bank's endeavors to protect customers and the national economy.

It is worth mentioning that NBK is a key supporter and partner in all CBK's campaigns and initiatives to increase financial and banking awareness among different sectors of society. As a leading financial institution in Kuwait and across the region, NBK frequently organizes various activities to raise awareness on all topics related to the banking sector.

The 'NBK Aspire' aims to encourage students to engage in the banking business experience during their summer vacation, reflecting the bank's steadfast commitment with corporate social responsibility by empowering and upskilling the young generation to play an active role in the future.

- NBK strives to increase customer awareness about fraud schemes and protection measures
- Using strong and different passwords helps protect accounts from unauthorized access



Aspire awareness program.

Film

NEW YORK, Aug. 12. (Agencies): In the Ryan Reynolds-Blake Lively box-office showdown, both husband and wife came out winners.

Reynolds' Marvel Studios smash "Deadpool & Wolverine" remained the top movie in North American theaters for the third straight week with \$54.2 million in ticket sales according to studio estimates Sunday. Worldwide, it's now surpassed \$1 billion. "Deadpool & Wolverine," though, was closely followed by "It Ends With Us," the romance drama starring Lively, which surpassed expectations with a stellar \$50 million debut.

Together, the films created a kind of family edition of "Barbenheimer," in which a pair of very different movies thrived in part due to counterprogramming. Only this time, the opposite movies were fronted by one of Hollywood's most famous couples. The films' one-two punch wasn't entirely unprecedented. In 1990, Bruce Willis' "Die Hard 2" led the box office while Demi Moore's "Ghost" came in second.

The weekend also featured a high-priced flop. "Borderlands," the long-delayed \$120-million videogame adaptation directed by Eli Roth, launched with a paltry \$8.8 million for Lionsgate. The film, starring Cate Blanchett, Kevin Hart and Jack Black, was shot all the way back in 2021. After delays and reshoots, it finally landed in theaters effectively dead-on-arrival; it scored just 10% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes and seems likely to contend for one of the worst movies of the year.

Meanwhile, "Deadpool & Wolverine," which co-stars Hugh Jackman,

Reynolds-Lively household come out winners

continued its march through box-office records. The film, directed by Shawn Levy, is only the second R-rated movie to reach \$1 billion, following 2019's "Joker." In three weeks, it's already one of the most lucrative Marvel releases and trails only Disney's other 2024 smash, "Inside Out" (\$1.6 billion worldwide) among movies released this year.

Lively makes a cameo in "Deadpool & Wolverine" but she both stars in and produced "It Ends With Us." Adapted from the bestselling romance novel by Colleen Hoover, Lively stars as Lily Bloom, a Boston florist torn between two men, one from her present life (Justin Baldoni, who also directed the film) and another who was her first love (Brandon Sklenar).

Adaptation

"It Ends With Us" cost a modest \$25 million to produce, so it will turn a significant profit for co-financiers Columbia Pictures and Wayfarer Studios. Like another female-skewing summer-release book adaptation from Sony, "Where the Crawdads Sing," "It Ends With Us" could hold well through the typically slower August box-office period. Audiences gave it an A- CinemaScore.

Reynolds and Lively occasionally played up the convergence of their movies. Earlier this week, Reynolds posted a video of himself posing junket questions to Sklenar. The timing paid off especially for Lively, whose film doubled earlier opening-weekend forecasts.

Neon's "Cuckoo," a German Alps-set horror film by filmmaker Tilman Singer, opened with \$3 million on 1,503 screen. It stars Hunter Schafer and Dan Stevens.

Also:

BEIJING: After being overtaken by new releases for two consecutive days, the domestic comedy "Successor" reclaimed the top spot at the Chinese mainland's daily box office on Sunday, grossing approximately 53.39 million yuan (about 7.47 million U.S. dollars), according to the China Movie Data Information Network.

The comedy accounted for over 27 percent of the total box office revenue on Sunday, with its accumulated sales since its debut on July 16 nearing 3 billion yuan.

The Chinese animated film "White Snake: Afloat," which soared to the top of the daily box office chart on its first day of release on Saturday, slipped to second place on Sunday, earning 42.78 million yuan on that day.

The film is based on the classic Chinese tale of the White Snake, one of the most popular folk love stories about the romance between a young man and a snake spirit who has taken human form. The third installment of the "White Snake" series, this movie hit the silver screen on the traditional Qixi Festival, also known as Chinese Valentine's Day.

Realistic drama "Upstream," which debuted on Friday, came in third with 42.34 million yuan in revenue on Sunday.

Variety



This image released by Metrograph shows Lilly Collias in a scene from 'Good One.' (AP)

Film

Indie movie shines light on father-daughter dynamics

Delicate, powerful family saga in 'Good One'

By Lindsey Bahr

A 17-year-old's perception of her father is forever altered on a three-day backpacking trip in India Donaldson's excellent debut "Good One."

Something happens. And then something doesn't happen. But that's more of the tear point on the already delicate fabric of a relationship that has been deteriorating from neglect for years.

The trip to the Catskills was envisioned as a joint family trip. Chris (James Le Gros) and his daughter Sam (newcomer Lilly Collias) planned to go with Chris's old friend Matt (Danny McCarthy) and his teenage son. But when they pull up to Matt's place, there's an argument taking place between the father and son, who retreats to the apartment as Matt stomps to Chris's car. The teenage son is no longer joining them.

Donaldson focuses her camera on Sam, whose face and deeply expressive eyes tell you everything you need to know: This is weird and it doesn't feel right. Suddenly she's on a boys trip with a pair of sad middle aged men who have known one another for decades and whose lives haven't worked out the way they thought. Both are divorced. Chris has moved on and has a new baby.

Matt is still in the early stages of having his life upended. And, boy, do they talk about their failed relationships, one of whom is obviously Sam's mother. "I couldn't make her happy." "She was the one who started doing things first." "I didn't want to get divorced."

Sam rolls her eyes a lot of the time; Other times she responds insightfully. The guys seem to half hear her, but also not. They long ago decided on their own narrative, their victimhood, and Sam is not going to change that with a bit of innocent truth.

Are they always this honest with their disappointments, failures and shortcomings around their kids, you wonder? Or is this a new thing happening on this trip? Chris, in particular, has forgotten that Sam,

as worldly and wise as she seems, is still ultimately just a kid. You sense that Sam has already started to realize that her father is as flawed as anyone; but on this trip, his full self is on display.

All of the acting is terrific and so naturalistic that it's easy to forget that these are actors performing lines that they've memorized in front of a camera. Le Gros as the fastidious super camper, who freaks out about his daughter's safety from bears when he discovers that Matt was eating in his tent, but does little later on; And McCarthy as a failed actor and now failed husband who can be charming and fun but is mostly annoying and gross. But the real breakout is Collias. Her face and presence, empathetic and knowing, carries the whole film in an unforgettable depiction of modern girlhood with all of the dreaminess, awkwardness and boredom.

Dialogue

Donaldson, like Kelly Reichardt, has a keen eye for the smallest of details; A reaction, a wince, even a blank expression that says everything. She also knows when to turn away from the dialogue and the people and give the audience a nature break. One of many great decisions was to have Sam on her period during the trip, something she deals with silently behind trees and bushes as the guys wait impatiently.

At one point the guys are dreaming about what they'd do differently if they had a second chance at life. Matt would be a philosopher. Chris would own a bookstore. What about Sam, they ask. She responds that hopefully she still has a shot at deciding on this life. Indeed.

These stakes might seem comparatively small in a movie landscape of deadly tornadoes, apocalypses and multiverses colliding. But that's what makes it so special. It is humanity, with all of its beauties and disappointments, as most of us experience it. And it's one that will likely stay with you for some time.

"Good One," a Metrograph pictures release in limited theaters Friday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "language." Running time: 90 min-

utes. Four stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Michelle Pfeiffer is heading to Montana.

The Oscar nominee will executive produce and star in "Madison," a new Taylor Sheridan-penned series set in the "Yellowstone" universe, Paramount announced Thursday.

Set in present day, "Madison" is the "Yellowstone" sequel that has been promised since it was announced the upcoming second half of season five would air in November. Those final episodes will conclude the series and be without its original star Kevin Costner.

The mothership series, about the Dutton family — who for generations has owned a massive, enviable piece of land in Montana — has been a benchmark for the Paramount streamer. The 2022 premiere episode of season five was watched by 12.1 million people.

Another "Yellowstone" prequel is also planned called "1944."

Pfeiffer's show follows a family of New Yorkers, now in the Madison River valley of central Montana, and deals with themes of grief and human connection.

Her last TV show was in 2022 playing Betty Ford in Showtime's "The First Lady."

A release date for "Madison" has not been announced.

□ □ □

LOS ANGELES: Also coming to Netflix on Thursday is the Halle Berry and Mark Wahlberg movie "The Union," an action comedy about a construction worker who gets entangled in the world of espionage by an old girlfriend from high school. The synopsis teases: "Knowing he's the right man for the job, she recruits Mike on a dangerous intelligence mission in Europe that thrusts them back together into a world of spies and high-speed car chases, with sparks flying along the way." (AP)

NEW YORK: Bob Woodward's next book, continuing a long tradition of election year releases, will focus on the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East and how they shape American presidential politics.

Simon & Schuster announced Wednesday that Woodward's "War" will be published Oct. 15. The publisher is calling the book an "intimate and sweeping account of one of the most tumultuous and dangerous periods in presidential

politics and American history," centered on President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump, who is Harris' opponent in this fall's election.

"Readers are with President Biden and his top advisers in tense conversations with Russian president Vladimir Putin, Israeli prime



Woodward



Swift

minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky. Readers also see Trump, conducting a shadow presidency and seeking to regain political power," the announcement reads in part.

"With his detailed, inside-the-room reporting, Woodward shows President Biden's approach to managing the war in Ukraine, the

most significant land war in Europe since World War II, and his tortured path to contain the bloody Middle East conflict between Israel and the terrorist group Hamas."

According to Simon & Schuster, "War" also "provides an unvarnished examination of the vice president as she tries to embrace the Biden legacy and policies while

beginning to chart a path of her own as a presidential candidate."

Biden announced just 2 1/2 weeks ago that he would not seek re-election, leaving Woodward relatively little time to update his book. He has turned in a completed manuscript, but continues to report and may still revise "War" before it goes to the printers. (AP)

A consistent supporter

Minister Al-Mutairi backs Kuwait School Sports Federation's 2021-2026 strategy



Minister of Information Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi receiving the school union delegation.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: Minister of Information Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi welcomed a delegation from the Kuwait School Sports Federation and Higher Education, led by Federation President Faisal Al-Maqseed.

The delegation included Vice President Walid Ayesh Al-Salameen, Secretary-General Dr. Ahmed Al-Hamdan, and Dr. Mutab Al-Mutairi, the General Supervisor of Physical Education for Boys.

Faisal Al-Maqseed expressed gratitude for Minister Al-Mutairi's unwavering media support for the Federation's activities and events in the coming period.

He highlighted the Minister's

deep belief in the vital role played by the Federation's Board of Directors and working committees. Al-Maqseed noted that Minister Al-Mutairi has been a consistent supporter of the Federation since the launch of its strategy, "Our Talents in Our Schools 2021-2026," during his tenure as Minister of Youth.

During the meeting, Minister Al-Mutairi was briefed on the positive progress made over the past three years in line with the strategy's timeline.

Al-Maqseed shared that the Federation has successfully participated in various international events, including the Arab Championship for School Sports and Physical

Education in Cairo and the World University Championship hosted by China last year.

The Federation is also preparing to host the Arab School Championship in February 2025, which will be held in Kuwait.

Al-Maqseed further explained that the delegation carefully considered Minister Al-Mutairi's feedback and guidance, which will be incorporated into their plans for the upcoming season.

He emphasized that the Federation's goals are being realized, particularly in supporting local clubs and unions by identifying and nurturing talent through the Federation's technical and administrative teams.

Kuwait Club faces 'setback' ahead of AFC CL 2 play-off against Al-Ahli

Daham and Ghannam unable to travel with the Whites delegation

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: Mohammed Daham and Mashari Ghannam were unable to travel with the Kuwait Club delegation that arrived in Manama ahead of its crucial AFC Champions League

SOCCER

2 play-off match against Al-Ahli of Bahrain on Wednesday.

The administrative team is working diligently to complete all necessary procedures for Daham and Ghannam to join the squad in time for the important fixture.

The team, under the guidance of Montenegrin coach Nebojsa Jovovic, commenced training recently, focusing on enhancing its readiness and aiming for a victory to secure its place in the AFC Champions League 2.

The team is buoyed by its recent 1-0 win over Al-Qadisiya in their Zain Premier League opener.

Meanwhile, Al-Ahli continues its preparations following its exter-



Mohammed Daham in action.

nal camp in Turkey, under the leadership of newly appointed Spanish coach Angel Lopez, who joined the club in July, Al-Ahli has bolstered

its squad with new signings including left winger Julio Victor Sousa Ferreira, attacking midfielder Ramon Cesar Sereno, defensive midfielder Juda Aguiar da Silva, and Argentine striker Tobares.

During their Turkish camp, Al-Ahli played three friendlies, suffering losses to Algerian side Shabab Belouizdad (2-4), Turkish Ingolspor (1-2), and Iranian Persepolis (0-5).

Last season, Al-Ahli finished fourth in the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League, tied on points with fifth-placed Manama.

The winner of this play-off match will advance directly to the group stage of the tournament, while the loser will enter the AFC Challenge League.

The Asian Football Confederation has appointed Omani referee Qasim Al-Hatmi to officiate the play-off match between Kuwait and Al-Ahli.

This decision comes shortly after the Oman Football Association announced an upgrade in its referees' classification to level (A), reflecting the high-quality performances of Omani referees in regional and continental competitions.

The new classification will increase the number of Omani referees on the international list to 7 field referees and 9 assistant referees.



Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Faisal pose for photo after signing the new agreement.

New cooperation pact signed

Bahrain, Saudi Arabia strengthen sports ties

RIYADH, Aug 12: The Public Sports Authority of Bahrain and the Ministry of Sports, Saudi Arabia have partnered to advance their sports collaboration.

This agreement aims to boost bilateral cooperation in sports, including community, Paralympic, women's, and combat sports. It will focus on managing and organizing sports events such as exhibitions, competitions, and championships, as well as on qualifying and developing sports personnel and creating long-term training programs.

The agreement was signed by Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa,

First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the Public Sports Authority, and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Faisal, Minister of Sports and President of the Saudi Olympic and Paralympic Committee.

Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa emphasized that this agreement represents a strategic step toward enhancing sports relations between the two nations. It reflects a mutual commitment to improving cooperation and sharing expertise across various sports disciplines.

Record-breaking performances

Young athletes steal the show at Olympics

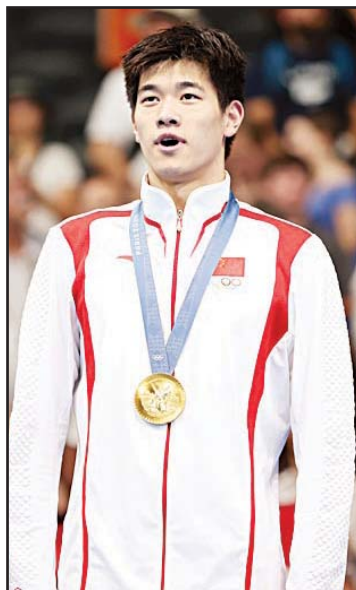
PARIS, Aug 12, (Xinhua): At the Paris Olympics, a wave of young athletes made their mark with stellar performances, shattering personal limits and not only capturing glory for their countries but also injecting a fresh dynamism into the Olympic spirit.

Zheng Qinwen (China, Tennis)

21-year-old Zheng made history as she defeated Donna Vekic of Croatia in straight sets to become the first Asian to win the Olympic women's singles gold medal. Before the gold, in the landmark semifinal, she had overcome the world's top-ranked player, Iga Swiatek, whom she had never previously defeated. "I finally showed I could beat the world No.1 on her best surface. I always knew I could do it, but there is a difference between knowing you can and showing it," she said.

Pan Zhanle (China, Swimming)

Pan emerged as a dominant force by setting a new world record in the men's 100m freestyle, clocking in at 46.40 seconds to



Gold medalist Pan Zhanle of China attends the victory ceremony for the men's 100m freestyle swimming at Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France. (Xinhua)

take the gold. On his 20th birthday, in the 4x100m medley relay,

he performed a stunning final leg comeback in 45.92 seconds, helping China win its first Olympic gold in this event and breaking the United States' run of 10 successive gold medals dating back to the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

Julien Alfred (Saint Lucia, Athletics)

23-year-old Alfred entered the record books for Saint Lucia by winning the country's first-ever Olympic medal by taking gold in the women's 100m with a time of 10.72 seconds, ahead of the favored American sprinter Sha'Carri Richardson. She added a silver in the 200m finals, narrowly missing gold by 0.25 seconds.

Summer McIntosh (Canada, Swimming)

McIntosh emerged as a stand-out in the highly competitive pool, claiming three gold medals in the women's 400m individual medley, 200m individual medley and 200m butterfly, setting Olympic records in the latter two events. The 17-year-old has become the

first Canadian to win three gold medals at the same Olympic Games.

Fermin Lopez (Spain, Football)

Despite scant playtime at the European Championships, Barcelona's emerging talent Fermin showcased his skills on the Olympic stage. He scored two spectacular long-range goals to knock out Japan in the quarter-finals and added a goal and an assist in the semifinals against Morocco. In the finals, Fermin scored twice in overtime to lead Spain to a 5-3 victory over host nation France, clinching Spain's first men's football Olympic gold since 1992.

Shinnosuke Oka (Japan, Gymnastics)

20-year-old Oka claimed gold in men's all-around, helping Japan become the first country to take four straight all-around titles after Uchimura Kohi's 2012 and 2016 gold medals and Daiki Hashimoto's Tokyo win. He also took gold in men's team gymnastics and horizontal bar events and a bronze in parallel bars, an impressive haul for his Olympic debut.

Sam Watson (USA, Sport Climbing)

18-year-old Watson was a front-runner in men's speed climbing at the Olympics, having previously set a world record of 4.79 seconds. In Paris, he bettered his own record in the qualifiers and, despite a semifinal elimination, he rebounded to break the world record again in the bronze medal match with a time of 4.74 seconds.

Felix Lebrun (France, Table Tennis)

17-year-old prodigy Lebrun, the highest-ranked non-Chinese player in men's singles table tennis, fell short against Fan Zhendong, the gold medalist, in the semifinals but rebounded to dominate Brazil's Hugo Calderano 4-0 in the bronze medal match. His two singles victories in the team event helped France edge out Japan 3-2, securing the country's first Olympic medal in men's team table tennis.



Hamza Al-Behbehani intensifies training for the title fight.

Al-Behbehani prepares for title fight

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: Professional martial arts champion Hamza Al-Behbehani traveled to Bangkok, Thailand, in preparation for a world boxing match against the second-ranked Thai fighter, Ekaop Oraiwan, in the 90 kg weight class. The bout for the World Boxing Council (WBC) Asia belt is scheduled for next Sunday evening at Lumpini Boxing and Muay Thai Stadium in Bangkok.

Alongside the Al-Behbehani versus Oraiwan main event, ten additional boxing and Muay Thai

matches will feature male and female athletes from various countries, including the USA, India, Iran, Britain, Cameroon, Pakistan, and host nation Thailand.

Hamza Al-Behbehani has expressed his readiness for the fight, stating that he has undergone an intensive 8-week training camp with twice-daily sessions under expert trainers and a nutritionist to ensure peak performance. He aims to secure the WBC Asia belt and rise to the top of the world rankings.

Kool takes first stage of Tour

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Aug 12, (AP): Dutch rider Charlotte Kool won a mass sprint on home soil in the opening stage of the women's Tour de France on Monday.

Kool, of the DSM-Firmenich PostNL team, will start Tuesday's second stage in the leader's yellow jersey after completing the 123 kilometers (76-mile) stage in two hours, 47 minutes and 40 seconds.

"It's very special that everything fell into place," she told Dutch broadcaster NOS. "This is the day I was hoping for."

Anniina Ahtosalo of Finland was second and Elisa Balsamo of Italy finished third in the same time as Kool.

Last year's race winner Demi Vollerling of the SD Worx team finished back in 35th spot, three places ahead of Olympic road race champion Kristen Faulkner. Both riders also registered the same time as Kool.

Vollerling's teammate Lorena

Wiebes had been one of the favorites to win a sprint finish, but her bike's chain fell off within sight of the end and she dropped out of contention.

The stage took riders over flat countryside between the port city of Rotterdam to a North Sea beachside finishing line in a southern suburb of The Hague, amid hot summer temperatures. Thousands of spectators lined the streets of the two cities to watch.

CYCLING

The eight-stage race crosses into cycling-crazy Belgium and then heads south through eastern France to finish Aug. 18 on the punishing climb of the Alpe-d'Huez's famous 21 hairpin bends.

Tuesday sees two stages, a dash of just under 70 kilometers from Dordrecht to Rotterdam followed by a 6.3-kilometer individual time trial through the port city.



Sam Watson of the United States competes during the men's speed competitions of sport climbing of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at Le Bourget Climbing Venue, near Paris, France. (Xinhua)



Tom Cruise is lowered on the Stade de France during the 2024 Summer Olympics closing ceremony in Saint-Denis, France. (AP)

Sports

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Paris closes Olympics with a bang

LA turns to Cruise for its 2028 mission

SAINT-DENIS, France, Aug 12, (AP): Setting out to prove that topping Paris isn't mission impossible, Los Angeles rolled out a skydiving Tom Cruise, Grammy winner Billie Eilish, and other stars on Sunday as it took over Olympic hosting duties from the French capital, which closed out its 2024 Games just as they started - with joy and panache.

Capping two and a half extraordinary weeks of Olympic sports and emotion, Paris' boisterous, star-studded closing ceremony in France's national stadium mixed unbridled celebration with a somber call for peace from International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach.



IOC President Thomas Bach hands the Olympic flag to Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass during the 2024 Summer Olympics closing ceremony at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, France. (AP)

Following in Paris' footsteps in 2028 promises to be a challenge: It made spectacular use of its cityscape for its first Games in 100 years, with the Eiffel Tower and other iconic monuments becoming Olympic stars in their own right as they served as backdrops and venues for medal-winning feats.

But the City of Angels, like the City of Light, showed that it, too, holds some aces.

Cruise - in his Ethan Hunt persona - wowed by descending from the top of the stadium to electric guitar "Mission: Impossible" riffs. Once his feet were back on the ground - and after shaking hands with enthralled athletes - he took the Olympic flag from star gymnast Simone Biles, fixed it to the back of a motorcycle, and roared out of the arena.

OLYMPICS

The appetite-whetting message was clear: Los Angeles 2028 promises to be an eye-opener, too.

Still, this was largely Paris' night - its opportunity for one final party. And what a party it was. Thousands of athletes danced and sang the night away - reveling in the artistic show that celebrated Olympic themes and its fireworks flourish.

Even Bach got the party bug, jokingly calling the Paris Games "Seine-national" - a nod to the Seine River that, despite water quality concerns, staged Olympic triathlon and marathon swimming and the wacky and wonderful opening ceremony.

At what will be his last Games after announcing his intention to step down next year, Bach also made a somber appeal for "a culture of peace" in a war-torn world.

Cruise then provided a change of gear.

After being lowered on a rope live from the roof's giddy heights, Cruise drove his bike past the Eiffel Tower in a prerecorded segment, onto a plane, and then skydived over the Hollywood Hills. Three circles were added to the O's of the famed Hollywood sign, creating five interlaced Olympic rings.



Fireworks signal the end of the 2024 Summer Olympics closing ceremony taking place at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, France. (AP)

In the stadium, the athletes' enthusiasm bubbled over when crowds of them rushed the stage at one point. Stadium announcements urged them to double back. Some stayed, creating an impromptu mosh pit around Grammy-winning French pop-rock band Phoenix as they played before security and volunteers cleared the stage.

Multiple French athletes crowd-surfed. U.S. team members jumped up and down in their Ralph Lauren jackets.

On the stadium's giant screens,

Eilish, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, rapper Snoop Dogg - wearing pants with the Olympic rings after being a popular feature of the Paris Games - and Dr. Dre kept the party going in a prerecorded show from a California beach.

Each is a California native, including H.E.R., who sang the U.S. national anthem live at the Stade de France, crammed with more than 70,000 people.

The stadium crowd roared as French swimmer Léon Marchand, dressed in a

suit and tie instead of the swim trunks he wore to win four golds, first collected the Olympic flame from the Tuileries Gardens in Paris.

Reappearing later in the stadium to spectators' chants of "Léon, Léon," Marchand then blew out the flame. The Summer Games were over.

Their next stop: is LA in 2028.

The national stadium, France's largest, was one of the targets of Islamic State gunmen and suicide bombers who killed 130 people in and around Paris on Nov. 13, 2015. The joy and

celebrations that swept Paris during the Games as Marchand and other French athletes racked up 64 medals - 16 of them gold - marked a major watershed in the city's recovery from that night of terror.

The closing ceremony also saw the awarding of the last medals - each embedded with a chunk of the Eiffel Tower. Fittingly for the first Olympics that aimed for gender parity, they all went to women - the gold, silver, and bronze medalists from the women's marathon earlier Sunday.

Kuwait 'earn' six medals at Macau Judo Championships

MACAU, Aug 12, (KUNA): Kuwait's national judo team secured silver and a bronze medal on Sun-

JUDO

day at the Macau Junior and Cadets Asian Cups 2024, hosted in the Macau Region of the People's Republic



One of the Kuwaiti winners on the podium with an official.

of China.

In the youth category, Fahad Al-Enazi clinched the silver medal in the under-73kg division, while Shehab Al-Salman earned bronze in the under-90kg category.

Yousef Al-Enezi, Head of the Kuwait Judo Federation and leader of the Kuwaiti delegation, highlighted that these achievements provide significant motivation as the team prepares for the Asian Cadets and Junior Championships, scheduled to begin in Seoul, South Korea, on August 28.

Al-Enezi praised the Kuwaiti athletes for their competitive spirit in the Macau tournament, which featured top contenders from across the continent. The delegation will depart for South Korea on Monday to commence their training camp in anticipation of the upcoming championships.

He also extended his gratitude to Minister of Youth Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila and the Public Sports Authority for their unwavering support of judo.

Overall, Kuwait earned a total of six medals at the tournament, including one gold, two silver, and three bronze

Coach Jassim Al-Tararwah high-

Kuwait head to UAE for West Asian Championship

By Khaled Al-Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The Kuwait youth volleyball team is set to depart tomorrow morning for Al Ain, UAE, where it will compete in the second West Asian Youth Championship from August 16th to 25th.

The team is under the guidance of national coach Jassim Al-Tararwah and his Egyptian assistant Osama Madkour. Comprising 12 players, the team adheres to the regulations set by the West Asian Volleyball Federation. Recently, the youth team

VOLLEYBALL

participated in the Asian Under-20 Championship, where it secured the 15th position.

In the West Asia Championship draw, Kuwait is placed in Group A, Qatar, Yemen, Syria, and Bahrain. Group B includes UAE, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait's youth volleyball team will face Qatar in its opening match of the preliminary round on Saturday, followed by matches against Yemen, Syria, and Bahrain.

Coach Jassim Al-Tararwah high-

Blues open campaign against Qatar

Kuwait Winter Games Club intensifies preparations for Asian Winter Games

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The Kuwait Winter Games Club has ramped up its technical and administrative preparations for the Kuwaiti national team's participation in the upcoming Asian Winter Games, set to take place in Harbin, China next February. This marks the team's largest participation in the tournament's history, with competitors set to take part in five sports: ice hockey, figure skating, and speed skating, ice dancing, and curling.

Sheikh Jaber Bandar Al-Sabah, the honorary president of the club,

highlighted that the team's recent training sessions have intensified, with morning and evening practices aimed at improving the team's overall performance.

The focus has been on refining technical skills and correcting mistakes



Sheikh Jaber Bandar Al-Sabah

emphasized the importance of early preparation for this edition of the games.

He noted that this will be the most significant Kuwaiti delegation ever to compete in the Asian Winter Games, surpassing the country's first entry in the 1999 tournament held in Gangwon, Korea.

Sheikh Jaber expressed hope that the Kuwaiti team's record participation will be notable and successful, highlighting the extensive efforts made to ensure a distinguished performance in all five events.

observed during the Asian Championship, ensuring the players reach the necessary technical and physical standards before the official matches in the West Asian Championship. He also noted that the competition in the West Asian Championship will be fierce, given the high level of preparation among the participating teams. However, Al-Tararwah expressed confidence in his team's talented and capable players, who are determined to compete strongly for top positions in the tournament.

Alvarez joins Atletico from Man City

MADRID, Aug 12, (AP): Argentina striker Julian Alvarez joined Atletico Madrid from Manchester City in a deal reportedly worth more than \$103 million on Monday, ending his trophy-laden two-year spell at the English champions.

City manager Pep Guardiola said last week that Alvarez told him he wanted to leave for a new challenge.

Alvarez left Argentine team River Plate in 2022 for 14 million pounds (now \$17.8 million) and helped City win the Premier League in both seasons he was in England, as well as the Champions League, the FA Cup and the Club World Cup.

In 103 appearances in all competitions, Alvarez scored 36 goals.

However, despite being first choice for Argentina, he was behind Erling Haaland in the City pecking order.

City could reportedly get up to

SOCCER

95 million euros (\$104 million) for the 24-year-old Alvarez.

"Today I say goodbye to this amazing club, with a lot of emotion," he said. "These have been two very special years. During this time, I have grown and learnt a lot - both as a player and as a person."

City director of football Txiki Begiristain said Alvarez's "attitude has been first-class since he first walked through the door here.

"That's why he has improved so much," Begiristain added. "The trophies he has won already tell their own story - he is a winner. I look forward to watching him develop further in the remainder of his career."

City's only signing in this transfer window is Brazil winger Savio.

Asked if City would be replacing Alvarez in the squad ahead of the new season, which starts on Friday, Guardiola said last week: "I don't know yet. We talk every day, we see what happens."



Kuwaiti players training for the championship.