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Opinion

Greetings to Adnan Al-Bahar

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

DEAR Adnan Al-Bahar, I read your article titled "Isn't it time for us to wake up as a nation?" three times. I acknowledge that everything mentioned in it is true and correct. The arrogance and pride in managing development projects is not appreciated in Kuwait, as it is contrary to what people here are accustomed to.

Look at the local scene ... Those who are blessed and insightful understand that we are underperforming and falling behind, not just in development but in many areas. Despite discussing and raising concerns about these issues for nearly 50



years, little prog-ress has been made due to a lack of vision and effective, realistic projects.

The reason is that those working development are either driven by selfishness and selfinterest, or lack a clear understanding

Al-Jarallah of what needs to be done, or are getting

bogged down in trivial disputes.

on

For example, phrases such as "this is a Kuwaiti and this is not Kuwaiti" and "this is original and this is fake" are commonly used. An evident of this is the Bedoun issue and the controversies surrounding it. A legal academic has absurdly accused 810,000 Kuwaitis of falsifying their nationalities or certificates, among other baseless claims.

On the other hand, those with the experience and understanding about managing the economic game are either not interested or silent for reasons best known to themselves.

Therefore, things are left to sail rudderless, which is why corrupt ministers and senior employees have been condemned a lot. What then should we expect from such a management?

My friend Adnan Al-Bahar, you are right. How can there be progress if a dedicated expatriate employee is prevented from contributing, despite having an employer willing to collaborate?

And if he reaches the age of 60, he must sell his shares to a Kuwaiti. Additionally, if he dies, his heirs are also restricted from selling their shares to anyone other than a Kuwaiti, and only at the lowest prices, as mandated by the government.

Dear Adnan, you are an economist, and you know what these risks mean to the local market, as well as their negative

Power cuts planned in some areas as load hits red zone

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: The electricity load index rose again

on Saturday, approaching the red zone with 17,035 megawatts due to rising temperatures that reached 50 degrees Celsius. This led to an increase in electricity consumption rate, es-

pecially during the peak period – from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Sources from the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy affirmed that such a situation necessitates the application of rationalization measures, the most important of which is to maintain the temperature of air conditioners at 23 degrees instead of 18 degrees, because the air conditioners consume 70 percent of power production.

Sources indicated that the increase in power load greatly affects the components of the electrical network, and may expose cables and secondary and main transformers to malfunctions or combustion.

So far, the highest electricity load recorded this summer was 17,360 megawatts on July 13.

16 PAGES

In a related development, the ministry on Saturday announced its plan to cut off electricity in some parts of non-residential areas like Abdally, Wafra, Rai, Sulaibiya, Amghara and Subhan in order to maintain the stability of the electricity system in the country.

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Money-laundering thrives as fake trade mafias proliferate

Keep away from scammers, public warned



Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army, Lieutenant General Bandar Al-Muzain listens to a comprehensive explanation from the Head of the Governance and Risk Management Branch about the duties assigned to him.

'Maintain combat readiness, vigilance'

Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army, Lieutenant General Bandar Al-Muzain, conducted an inspection of several military units and sites on Saturday. In a statement issued by the

General Staff, Lieutenant General Al-Muzain emphasized the necessity of maintaining the highest levels of combat readiness and vigilance. He also expressed his appreciation for the efforts of army personnel and their state of readiness, underscoring the importance of continued diligence to ensure the security and safety of the homeland. (KUNA)

By Najeh Bilal Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: According to experts, the Ministry of **Commerce and Indus**try's recent decision to allow the sale of cars priced above KD 1,500 only through bank transactions will help curb money laundering activities associated with the luxury car trade.

They said the money laundering mafia has enlisted a group of young people known as "hunters" to target individuals looking to sell their cars at sales and purchase exhibitions in various areas of Kuwait, adding that these "hunters" offer car owners the amount they desire in exchange for selling their vehicles.

The sources demanded the Ministry of Commerce and Industry restrict the purchase of gold, airline tickets, valuables and pigeon auctions in order to determine the source of the money used for these activities.

They stressed the need to hold accountable any party that re-

fuses to disclose all its invoices, as it will otherwise be considered

a partner with money launder-

ers, especially since invoices are

exploited to manipulate money

In this regard, Lawyer Jarrah

Al-Wawan said the decision of

Continued on Page 5

Home biometrics

for handicapped

laundering operations.

KUNA photo

economic impacts.

Therefore, allow me to share my opinion with you. Kuwait currently has investments worth around a trillion dollars abroad. Many Kuwaitis hold private investments in various countries. Imagine if those countries imposed similar restrictions and told Kuwaitis that they will not be able to transfer their investments abroad or sell their physical assets without first offering them to local citizens?!

A few days ago, the Saudi government introduced a new investment system that treats Saudi investors and foreigners equally, and even offers foreigners advantages that they cannot even dream of in their own countries.

For many years, both Saudi Arabia and the UAE have allowed foreigners to own property, granted them golden residencies, and even offered citizenship.

The population in America is not "ancestral" but comprises people from diverse backgrounds and races, who together have built a great civilization.

Continued on Page 5

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PACI deletes 552 addresses

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has deleted the residen-tial addresses of 552 individuals due to either the owner's declaration or the absence of a building.

Through the official gazette "Kuwait Alyoum", PACI announced that these individuals must visit the PACI headquarters to register the new address after providing the supporting documents within 30 days from the date thereof. Otherwise they will be subject to the penalty stipulated in Article 33 of law No. 32/1982, which is a fine less than KD 100, multiplied by the number of people registered under that address.

KUWAIT CITY: The Ministry of Interior announced that First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah has ordered the immediate removal of illegal structures, including chalets and slums, from Failaka Island. He emphasized the importance of cooperation among all concerned parties to enforce the rule of law and take legal action against violators, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During an inspection visit to Failaka Island, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef underscored the need for firm and swift action against encroachments on state property, reiterating that the law applies to everyone without exception and that no one is above the law.

Bridge of connectivity records rising number of suicide bids

attempt

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: Since its inauguration in May 2019, the Sheikh Jaber Bridge – recognized as the fourth-longest sea bridge in the world – has become a symbol not only of connection between the north and south of Kuwait but also, unexpectedly, a location for those seeking to end their lives, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The bridge, intended as a significant infrastructural achievement, has turned into a site marked by a growing number of suicide attempts, totaling ten since its opening.

In the latest incident, a missing person who had thrown himself off the bridge was found and rescued by fire department, marking the tenth suicide

Out of these, seven have been unsuccessful, meaning that 70 percent of the attempts were thwarted, offering a glimmer of hope amid a somber reality. The peak in such incidents notably occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, reflecting the emotional toll of that period.

The grim history of these attempts includes notable cases, such as a thwarted attempt by a girl on July 30, 2021, and another tragic case in October of the same year, when a young woman died after jumping from the bridge.

Continued on Page 5

'Traffic police must man key roadways'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah visited Failaka Island on Tuesday, according to a statement from the Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Interior Ministry. Sheikh Fahad was accompanied by several officials from the State Property Department of the Ministry of Finance and Kuwait Municipality during the tour.

Sheikh Fahad, emphasized the importance of increasing the presence of traffic police on key roads and intersections to address any violations and ensure the safety of drivers and road users.

Continued on Page 5

4 years validity

175 activities exempted from

store licensing requirements

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Interior said that mobile biometric scanners would be sent to persons with medium and severe disabilities at their homes to register their finger and face prints as from Sunday, August 18.

The initiative, made by the ministry's General Department of Criminal Evidence in collaboration with the General Directorate of Information Systems, aims to make it easier and more convenient for those persons to access to online government services.

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Govt must relinguish hold on economy to pull investments

AI-Seyassah/Arab Times Special Report

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: Despite the government's declared intention to empower the private sector and expand investment opportunities, its significant control over the economy continues to undermine these efforts.

Official statistics obtained by Al-Seyassah reveal that the government sector accounts for 75 percent of Kuwait's GDP, leaving only 25 percent for the private sector.

This imbalance contradicts the state's purported goals of promoting private sector growth and threatens long-term economic sustainability.

Since 2010, Kuwait has established four key entities intended to enhance public-private sector partnerships, but government dominance has hindered their success.

The first entity, the Supreme Council for Privatization and its Executive Office, was meant to spearhead the privatization of 38 government facilities over two decades. However, most plans -- including the privatization of the North Shuaiba power station -- remain unfulfilled. Only the privatization of the Kuwait Stock Exchange was successfully completed.

The Public-Private Partnership Projects Authority, the second body, managed to implement just two projects: the first phase of the Al-Zour North power plant and the planned expansion of the Umm Al-Haiman station, despite 12 projects being in the pipeline

The third entity, the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority, intended to attract 100% private and foreign investments, has faced challenges due to persistent government interference, limiting its effectiveness.

The fourth initiative, the National Fund for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, with a budget of \$7 billion, failed to achieve its objectives.

Instead of fostering entrepreneurial growth, it contributed to an influx of bulk labor through excessive visa issuance, while interest among government employees to engage in commercial ventures remained low.

For Kuwait to achieve true economic sustainability, the government must relinquish its dominance over economic activities and focus on regulation and oversight, allowing the private sector to flourish

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

of Commerce and Industry has exempted 175 activities from the requirements for licensing commercial stores to consider them self-employment activities (microbusinesses and activities of a special nature) and to grant them licenses valid for four years

Ministerial Resolution No. 168/2024 stipulates the issuance of a self-employment license, provided the holder must not be less than 21 years old, unless he is authorized to practice trade by the court. The license holder must specify his address or a post office box or e-mail registered with the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) according to the latest update, with the approval of the property owner if the address is a private residence, and present vidence of payment of the prescribed fees. He must sign a pledge according to the form prepared for this purpose.

The decision allows the addition of more than one activity; provided the added activity is one of the freelance activities specified in the decision and is similar, complementary or related to the licensed activity.

The license holder must also disclose the license number in the account designated for practicing the activity on electronic and social media platforms.

KUNA photo

Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn and his wife, Queen Suthida Bairasudhabimalalakshana receive Kuwait's Ambassador in Bangkok Mohammad Al-Failakawi

Kuwait envoy received by Thai king

Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn and his wife, Queen Suthida Bajrasudhabimalalakshana, ceived Kuwait's Ambassador in Bangkok Mohammad Al-Failakawi on the occasion of his tenure end-

During the reception, Al Failakawi conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal AI-Ahmad AI-Jaber AI-Sabah to the King, wishing him everlast-ing well-being, and further prog-ress and prosperity for the friendly country and people of Thailand, Kuwait's Embassy in Bangkok said in a statement received by KUNA.

Al-Failakawi was named Kuwait's Ambassador and Plenipotentiary to Thailand in 2019. (KUNA)

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: The Ministry

Prayer Timings Asr...

Fajr 03:52 Sunrise .. 05:17 Zohr 11:52 15:27 Maghrib .. 18:27 lsha 19:49



Expected weather for next 24 hrs: By Day: Hot and humid es-pecially over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h By Night: Hot to rather hot and

Weather relatively humid especially over Kuwait Airport

relatively hui	mid espec	ially over	Kuwait Airport	50	31
coastal areas with light to mod- erate southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-			Abdaly	50	33
			Jahra	51	35
			Salmiyah	47	38
26 km/h.			Jal Aliyah	49	32
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	Nuwaisib	48	32
Kuwait City	50	39	Wafra	50	29

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

National days' celebrations

HH Amir sends congratulations to Liechtenstein, Congo, Gabon and Indonesia

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Friday a congratulatory cable to Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein in celebration of his country's Independence Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir conveyed best wishes for Prince Hans-Adam II's health and wellbeing, along with hopes for Liechtenstein's continued success and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to Prince Hans-Adam II n celebration of his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to Prince Hans-Adam II in celebration of his country's Independence Day.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent on Friday a congratulatory cable to President of the Republic of Congo Denis Nguesso in celebration of his country's Independence Dav

In the cable, His Highness the Amir conveyed his best wishes for the Congolese President's health and wellbeing, along with hopes for Congo's continued success and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled sent a congratulatory cable to President Denis Nguesso in celebration of his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah sent a congratulatory cable to President Denis Nguesso in celebration of his country's Independence Day.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent on Saturday a congratulatory cable to President of the Transition of the Republic of Gabon Brice Oligui Nguema in celebration of his country's National Day. In the cable, His Highness the Amir

conveyed his best wishes for the Gabonese President's health and wellbeing, along with hopes for Gabon's continued success and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled sent a congratulatory cable to President Brice Oligui Nguema in cel-

ebration of his country's National Day. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah sent a congratulatory cable to President Brice Oligui Nguema in celebration of his country's National Day.

Also, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent on Saturday a congratulatory cable to President of Indonesia Joko Widodo in celebration of his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir conveyed his best wishes for the Indonesian President's health and wellbeing, along with hopes for Indonesia's continued success and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled sent a congratulatory cable to President Joko Widodo in celebration of his country's National Day.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah sent a congratulatory cable to President Joko Widodo in celebration of his country's National Day.



Council of Arab Ambassadors in London honors Bader Al-Awadhi, Kuwait's outgoing ambassador to the United Kingdom.

Kuwait's outgoing ambassador in London honored

By Nusaiba bin Shaibah

The Council of Arab Ambassadors in London honored on Thursday Kuwait's Ambassador to the United Kingdom Bader Al-Awadhi on the occasion of the end of his tenure.

Speaking to KUNA, the dean of Arab diplomatic corps and Ambassador of Bahrain to the UK Sheikh Fawaz al-Khalifa said the Kuwaiti envoy made big efforts to strengthen the

UK-Kuwait and the UK-Arab ties.

Al-Awadhi has many contributions to the council in London through his participation in the meetings held with the British side, al-Khalifa said, wishing Al-Awadhi every success in his coming duties.

Meanwhile, Yemen's Ambassador to the UK Yassin Noman told KUNA in a similar statement that Yemen and Kuwait has historic relations for many years, adding that Al-Awadhi embodied these relations over the past period.

Manar al-Dabbas, Jordan's Ambassador in London, said Al-Awadhi was one of the distinguished Arab ambassadors in his duties.

He noted Al-Awadhi was knowledgeable and professional in his duties, and he could gain appreciation of the council and decisionmakers' circles in the UK.

Kuwait's diplomacy has been outstanding in all fields, he affirmed. (KUNA)

Other Voices

Sheikh Salem Al-Ali: A legacy of leadership & service to Kuwait

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

On August 12, 2024, Kuwait lost one of its most revered leaders, His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali

Al-Sabah, who passed away at the age of 98. As the Chief of the National Guard, Sheikh Salem's legacy is deeply embedded in the modern history



growth until 1964. His work during this period was crucial in shaping Kuwait's urban landscape.

However, it was in 1967 that Sheikh Salem made his most enduring contribution to Kuwait's security by founding the Kuwait National Guard. Under his leadership, the National Guard became a vital institution, working closely with the army and police to ensure the safety and stability of the nation. Sheikh Salem's influence extended beyond this role, as he also served on the Supreme Defense Council and the National Security Council, positions that underscored his valuable exper-

Indonesian Embassy highlights growth in Kuwait ties since '68

Embassy celebrates country's 79th Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: The Indonesian **Embassy in Kuwait has** emphasized the growth in bilateral relations between Indonesia and Kuwait since the estab-

wavering com-Al-Hajeri mitment to the

nation's security and development. Sheikh Salem's life was one of service and dedication. Born in 1926 in Kuwait City, he was educated in both traditional and formal settings, attending the prestigious Al-Mubarakiya School. His career began during Kuwait's transformative years in the 1950s, as the nation underwent rapid development fuelled by newfound oil wealth. Sheikh Salem played a critical role in this period, overseeing numerous public works and infrastructure projects that laid the groundwork

for the nation's modernization. Following Kuwait's independence in 1961, Sheikh Salem was appointed to the Constituent Assembly, contributing to the drafting of the country's first constitution. His expertise in development saw him take on the role of Minister of Public Works, where he continued to influence the nation's

Sheikh Salem was not only a leader in security and development but also a philanthropist. His charitable endeavors included substantial financial contributions to support those in need, particularly families of martyrs. Additionally, he founded the Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Informatics Award, an initiative aimed at promoting excellence in information technology across the region.

Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah's passing marks the end of an era, but his legacy will continue to influence Kuwait for generations to come. His life's work in securing and developing the nation, coupled with his humanitarian efforts, ensures that he will be remembered as one of Kuwait's most significant and beloved statesmen.

lishment of diplomatic ties in 1968.

As Indonesia celebrates its 79th Independence Day, the embassy's statement reflects on the strengthened cooperation at bilateral, regional, and international levels.

The embassy noted that recent years have seen increased interaction between senior officials of both nations, leading to agreements aimed at enhancing bilateral relations. At the regional and international levels, Indonesia and Kuwait continue to collaborate on mutual interests.

Economically, while there is significant potential for growth, recent data indicates a decline in bilateral trade and according to the Indonesian Statistics Agency, trade between the two countries decreased by 3.93 percent over the past five years, from \$504.8 million in 2019 to \$488.1 million in 2023.

However, investment figures present a more optimistic outlook. Kuwaiti investments in Indonesia have been on the rise, with investments increasing from \$145,000 in 2019 to \$480,000 in 2023, and reaching \$132,000 in the first half of this year. The statement underscores the need for further efforts to boost Kuwaiti investment in Indonesia.

Additionally, the statement highlighted ongoing collaborations in various sectors, including air communication to boost trade and tourism, and healthcare to enhance skilled worker capabilities.

The embassy expressed confidence that under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Al-Abdullah, Kuwait and Indonesia will continue to explore opportunities for deepening their cooperation for mutual prosperity.



KUNA photo

Officials of the Kuwait Relief Society during the arrival of the third Gaza ship in Jordan.

3rd Kuwaiti ship for Gaza with 1.600 tons aid in Jordan

The Kuwait Society for Relief borders with Gaza. (KCR) announced on Thursday the arrival of the third Kuwaiti ship in Aqaba port in Jordan, supplying some 1,600 tons of necessary aid to relieve Pales-tinians in Gaza.

Omar Al-Thuwaini, the second in command at the Kuwait Society for Relief, told KUNA that unloading the ship will be in cooperation with Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO), noting that the supplies are expected to enter Gaza by the end of the month through the land

In a similar statement to KUNA, the head of relief and projects sector at KCR Mahmoud Al-Mesbah said that the ship's cargo of 1,600 tons included approximately 650 tons of essential food parcels and about 450 tons of medical supplies.

The shipment included some 5,000 packages containing mother and newborn care supplies, 35,000 packages contain-ing clothes, utensils, and personal hygiene supplies, as well as around 500 tons of shelter

supplies, containing 1,200 fully equipped tents, Al-Mesbah add-

He praised the efforts of the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Social Affairs, Kuwaiti charities, the Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH), and JHCO, for greatly contributing to achieving this feat.

This aid ship sent by Kuwait, is the third of its kind, as part of the campaign launched by Kuwait Society for Relief along with 30 charities and governmental institutions last December. (KUNA)

Move aims to enhance their skills

KFAED partners with JP Morgan to organize specialized training course for employees

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: In a pro-active effort to bolster its expertise in investment and asset management, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), in collaboration with JP Morgan Asset Management, recently organized a specialized training course at the fund's headquarters, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The course, which ran from August 11 until Thursday, was attended by employees from the Investment Department, Investment Settlements, and Internal Audit at the fund.

Additionally, participants from the Public Institution for Social Security and the Gulf Investment Corporation also took part in the program.

Nasser Al-Fawzan, the fund's Securities Investment Management Supervisor, highlighted that the course was designed to sharpen the skills of the fund's employees in key areas of investment and asset management. This initiative is part



Al-Sevassah photo

Speakers who took part in the specialized training course.

of the fund's ongoing commitment to enhancing the professional capabilities of its workforce and leveraging global expertise in these fields.

Al-Fawzan emphasized that the collaboration with JP Morgan reflects the fund's strategic focus on strengthening its investment management practices to better achieve its development goals.

The training program also un-

derscores the fund's dedication to investing in its human resources, ensuring the application of best practices in the realm of economic development.

This initiative is another step in KFAED's broader mission to maintain excellence and leadership in economic development by continuously upgrading the skills and knowledge of its employees.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17, (KUNA): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed on Friday its welcome to the decision of Sudan Transitional Sovereignty Council to open the "Adri" border crossing, to deliver humanitarian aid to those affected by the war.

is a vital step to save lives and prevent the spread of famine in the Darfur region.

The ministry also called on all parties to take immediate and effective steps to ensure the provision of protection to humanitarian and relief workers through the crossing, and to facilitate the delivery and transfer of aid to those in need.

the State of Kuwait's firm and supportive position on the unity, stability and territorial integrity of Sudan.

The Projects Committee has presented many projects funded by cooperative societies, including the Heart Hospital for Cooperative Sector, the Blood Bank in Ahmadi Governorate, the Blood Bank in Jahra Governorate, and the expansion of the Amiri Hospital. We will continue to support all projects and welcome any other initiatives or projects in the National Cooperative Projects Committee."

UCCS chief praises gov't support for co-op societies & national projects

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: Chairman of the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies (UCCS) Musab Ahmad Al-Mulla extended his gratitude to the Council of Ministers, led by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, as well as to the Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah for their recognition of the efforts of the National Cooperative Projects Committee and the important role of cooperative societies.

In a press statement, Al-Mulla said the role of cooperative societies is to establish social work and support any initiative or project that serves the community.

He explained that cooperative societies welcome any initiative that aims to serve the community, which is what they seek through many activities and events that they organize.

The projects supported by cooperative societies through the National Cooperative Projects Committee are for building two centers, one for addiction treatment and the other for research and treatment of genetic diseases in children, as well as the buildings of the care home complex. These projects represent a confirmation of the basic role of the cooperative societies for which they were established.

Al-Mulla said, "We are committed to the directives of the political leadership and the government to develop cooperative work and serve citizens, because such projects serve citizens in general.

Kuwait welcomes Sudan Council decision to open the Adri border crossing

In a statement, the ministry said the move

The ministry reiterates its affirmation of

3

LOCAL



A group photo taken during the awareness campaign 'The evidence is clear ... Let us invest in prevention.

MoH holds media awareness campaign

'Hashish causes addiction, long-term health issues'

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: The Ministry of Health confirmed that hashish causes addiction, as it contains many dangerous substances like tetrahydrocannabinol, which leads to psychological and physical problems.

It added that hashish remains in the blood for up to 14 days, so the user does not repeat the dose after a short time; hence, the belief that he is not addicted.

Director of the Health Promotion Department at the ministry Dr. Abeer Al-Bahu made the statement Thursday on the sidelines of

the media awareness campaign on combating drugs and addiction organized by the department under the slogan, "The evidence is clear ... Let us invest in prevention.'

She explained hashish is extracted from cannabis plant through several chemical treatments, indicating it is one of the most widespread narcotic substances and it comes in the form of clay-like slabs colored brown or black.

She warned that the long-term harmful effects of hashish addiction include delayed growth and physical maturity among young people, withering of brain cells, digestive disorders, psychological illnesses, and disturbances in the ability to determine time and place.

She cited many signs of hashish consumption like dulled feelings, sudden laughter without reason, lack of concentration, weak memory and excessive suspicion of people around them, such as family and friends. She added the physical symptoms include red eyes, burn marks on clothes, constant desire to eat and drink, and neglecting one's general appearance.

The department organized a health exhibition at the Promenade Mall in Hawally, which included medical consultations, responding to questions, and distributing a questionnaire to determine the level of the awareness of adults about combating drug addiction.

Visa traffickers gang busted

Securitymen seize fake dollars from expat; worker falls to death

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: The Ministry of Interior has announced the arrest of a gang consisting of six individuals of Syrian, Egyptian, and Asian nationalities on charges of residency trafficking, forgery, and manipulation, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry revealed that the suspects were involved in transferring the residencies of workers within the country to a company and registering their personal vehicles. This was done to obtain a larger number of vehicle operating licenses, which were then submitted to



the relevant authorities to inflate the company's estimated needs. Additionally, the gang issued driving licenses to unqualified individuals in exchange for money.

The ministry's residency investigation team, after conducting thorough investigations, uncovered that some of the registered vehicles did not actually exist. They also discovered that some employees within the relevant authorities were colluding with the gang to facilitate the illegal inspection and renewal of vehicles in exchange for bribes.

The necessary legal actions have been taken against the accused, and they have been referred to the Public Prosecution for further proceedings.

21,000 fake US dollars seized: The Farwaniya securitymen, following directives from Undersecretary Hamad Al-Munifi and Security Director Brigadier General Saleh Oqla, have arrested an unidentified expatriate who was found in possession of counterfeit money totaling 21,000 fake US dollars, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, the arrest occurred during routine security campaign in the Farwaniya area.

According to security sources the suspect was caught while attempting to sell counterfeit dollars. Upon further investigation



A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Those engaging in public work are more successful'

"LIFE is a journey filled with different stations and experiences, offering opportunities to succeed, stumble, learn, and grow. The fortunate ones are those who take these experiences - whether their own or those of others - and use them to improve themselves and their surroundings," columnist Dr. Mohammed Hussein Al-Dallal, wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"As God Almighty instructs us in the Holy Quran, reflection, contemplation, and the

use of reason are key to leading a righteous, responsible, fulfilling and life for ourselves, our children, and our communities. Here are three valuable lessons life

Dr. Al-Dallal teaches us. "Life teaches us that individuals

who engage in public work-whether through politics, volunteer work in student unions, associations, or public welfare organizations -- tend to be more successful in their professional, social, and personal lives.

"Participation in public work provides experiences and skills that are essential for personal growth, such as leadership, communication, negotiation, and planning. These are qualities that may be difficult to acquire without such involvement, making public work a powerful tool for selfimprovement.

"A well-read and informed person is typically wiser and more knowledgeable than one who neglects reading. Experts categorize reading into three types: specialized reading related to one's profession or field, reading in a favored area such as philosophy, science, religion, or history, and general reading across various topics.

"Reading broadens the mind, making an individual more influential and better equipped to navigate life's challenges. Among the many genres, personal memoirs and autobiographies stand out as rich sources of human experiences and lessons -- books that should not be missed.

"Life has shown us that rushing to judge others is neither fair nor wise. It is unjust to label someone or attribute offensive characteristics to them based solely on accusations, even if such accusations come from the Public Prosecution or an initial court rul-

"Final, conclusive judicial rulings

"Meanwhile, In light of the ongoing Zionist violations at Al-Aqsa Mosque and the continued Arab and Islamic failure to halt these aggression, it is high time for the Arab and Islamic nations to transfer the responsibility of protecting and preserving Al-Aqsa Mosque to the Palestinian resistance.

"They are the ones most deserving and capable of defending the mosque and Palestinian lands. History has shown that the Zionists fear the Palestinian resistance more than the combined forces of the Arab and Islamic worlds.'

Also:

"As technology continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) has become an essential part of our daily lives. Among the most prominent AI tools is, which offers effective and versatile solutions across various sectors," columnist Dr Munira Abdul Karim Al-Ajlan wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"This technology plays a sig-nificant role in enhancing work efficiency and productivity, making it an ideal choice for both companies and individuals.

'One of the standout benefits of lies in its ability to support writing tasks. It provides students with a powerful tool to refine their writing skills, whether it involves drafting essays, editing research papers, or improving grammar and language use.

"It acts as a personal language coach, helping students develop their writing abilities while ensuring error-free texts. However, it is recommended to use primarily for text editing rather than generating content entirely. This approach not only enhances a writer's personal skills but also improves the quality of their work.

"In a professional context, it is especially valuable for employees who may struggle with English language proficiency. In workplaces where clear and precise communication is crucial, especially in official correspondence, even minor linguistic or grammatical errors can negatively impact a company's image.

"Here, it serves as a tool to improve communication by ensuring that messages are professionally and accurately worded, thereby fostering trust and effective interactions.

"However, it is important to be cautious when using by avoiding the input of any confidential or sensitive information, as this ensures data privacy and security.

Al-Seyassah photo Government Performance Follow-up Agency's officials during the visit to the new addiction treatment center.

Govt pledges to support center

The Government Performance Follow-up Agency has emphasized the critical role of the new addiction treatment center in addressing and managing addiction issues within society. The agency expressed its commitment to overcoming any obstacles that might impede the center's operations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

A recent inspection of the project was conducted by Ammar Al-Najem, Assistant Undersecretary for the Government Follow-up Sector, alongside a team of

engineers from the agency. They were joined by Dr. Badr Al-Adwani, Assistant Undersecretary for Financial and Administrative Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs, and Ibrahim Al-Naham, Assistant Undersecretary for Engineering Affairs and Projects at the Ministry of Health.

During the visit, the team reviewed the center's operational plan and discussed strategies to ensure its effective launch and function.

The Government Performance Follow-up Agency is dedicated to addressing any challenges that arise to ensure the center's successful operation and its crucial role in safeguarding the community from the dangers of addiction.

Radar, road detectors used on trial run

New civilian patrols deployed to enhance traffic control: Mol

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: The Ministry of Interior's Traffic and Operations Sector, under direct instructions from Assistant Undersecretary Major General Yousef Al-Khadda, has introduced a new system to enhance security control on Kuwaiti roads, reports Al-Jarida daily

This initiative involves the use of civilian patrols equipped with advanced technology to address traffic violations and reckless driving

On the evening of the trial run, the new security patrols, equipped with radar and road detectors, were deployed on various ring roads and highways.

These civilian patrols successfully identified numerous violations, surprising many road users who were unaware of the increased enforcement presence.

The traffic officers utilized radar technology to monitor speeds and road detectors to track dangerous behaviors such as racing and excessive speeding. These devices, previously used only in official patrols, are now part of the civilian patrols' toolkit, allowing for more comprehensive surveillance.

During the trial, traffic police apprehended 85 vehicles for speeding violations, 4 vehicles for racing, and 2 motorcycles for driving without license plates and helmets. The rapid detection of these violations, cou-



Mol photo Speed control radar.

pled with the element of surprise, resulted in significant enforcement actions.

The Traffic and Operations Sector plans to expand the number of civilian patrols to cover more roadways and improve traffic management. This strategy aims to free up official traffic patrols to focus on managing congestion, addressing accidents, and ensuring traffic flow in commercial and hightraffic areas.

Additionally, the sources reported that July saw a total of 189,986 traffic violations, recorded through various traffic campaigns, monitoring systems, and collaboration with other security agencies.

and a search of his residence in the Jleeb area, additional amounts of counterfeit money and forgery equipment were seized.

The suspect is currently being referred to the counterfeiting investigations unit for further legal action.

Worker dies after falling from building: Abdullah Qunais, a 44-year-old expatriate working in building construction, tragically passed away after falling from a height while on the job at a house in Mutlaa, reports Al-Anba daily. According to a security source, the Ministry of Interior's operations received a report about the incident, stating that the expatriate had fallen and sustained injuries. He was immediately transferred to Jahra Hospital for medical attention. However, just an hour after his arrival, the Ministry of Interior was informed that the expatriate had succumbed to his injuries.

'Excellent' bonus for Customs staff: The list of employees of the General Customs Department who are entitled for excellent performance bonuses has been prepared and will soon be signed by Acting Director General Abdullah Al-Sharhan, reports Al-Rai daily quoting informed sources.

They indicated that the total amount allocated for disbursing bonus exceeds KD 1.5 million and will be distributed to 2,200 employees, adding that the funds are expected to be deposited into their bank accounts in the coming days.

Fire to cow farm warehouse put out: The Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) said firemen acting on information rushed to the cow farm warehouse in Sulaibiya Friday afternoon and put out fire, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Quick response by the fire department further damage and ensured the safety of individuals at the site.

2 injured in deliberate cars collision: A deliberate collision between two vehicles on Doha Link Road, followed by a quarrel between the two parties, resulted in injuries to a young Bedoun man and the detention of another, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to informed sources, when the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior received information about the collision of two vehicles, securitymen rushed to the location with paramedics.

Upon arrival, they discovered that only one vehicle, which was immobilized due to the accident, and two individuals were at the location. One of the individuals - a 2001-born Bedoun man - had sustained a hand injury in the accident, and he was immediately taken to the nearest hospital.

No casualties reported

KPA: Flammable liquid leak contained at Shuaiba Port

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17, (KUNA): Kuwait Ports Authority said that firefighters managed to contain a flammable liquid leak from a container ship as it was getting ready to set sail from Shuaiba Port on Friday.

Officials of the containers' station at the port notified Kuwait Fire Force and emergency measures were implemented timely to tackle the problem, according to a statement posted to KPA's X account.

Investigators opened probe into the causes of the accident which caused neither damage nor casualties, the statement added. are what should guide our assessments. Too often, we've witnessed cases where individuals were acquitted in the end, leaving those who hastily judged them with regret. It serves as a reminder to withhold judgment until all facts are known.

"Human experiences are valuable, and transferring knowledge can benefit society as a whole. That's why many experts have recommended that the Ministry of Education and Higher Education introduce a curriculum focusing on 'life skills', taught across all educational levels up to university.

"This curriculum would equip students with the necessary tools to navigate life's social, professional, and national responsibilities effectively.

"Despite some concerns related to privacy, the use of today is a step toward the future. It is no longer a mere luxury but a necessity, driven by rapid digital transformation. Its capacity to process large volumes of data and deliver innovative solutions makes it a valuable asset in driving progress and development.

"In conclusion, I say adopting it is not just an option but an essential need in today's world. Advanced technologies are integral to the future we aspire to achieve. When used wisely, they enhance human skills rather than replace them, allowing us to leverage technology while still cultivating our personal abilities."

- Compiled by PFX Fernandes



Dr. Pasha's addition brings us 45 years of experience: Al-Anjeri

Reconnaissance Research establishes new Indian studies unit

MPW 'intensifies' drainage, road work for rainy season

Proper waste disposal urged

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: The Ministry of Public Works has urged citizens and residents to dispose of waste properly to prevent drainage manholes from becoming blocked, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry shared alarming footage on its "X" platform account, revealing the large amounts of waste removed from drainage systems.

The ministry emphasized the importance of maintaining public cleanliness and urged everyone to be mindful of proper waste disposal practices.

Meanwhile, the Al-Jarida daily said cleaning op-erations on rainwater drainage system kicked off in Al-

Municipality set to renew public cleaning contracts

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: A source within the Kuwait Municipality has disclosed plans to extend the current public cleaning contracts, which are set to expire on October 10, 2024. These contracts, initially started on October 11, 2019, have been in place for five years.

The source explained to Al-Jarida that while the Public Cleaning Committee aimed to avoid extending the existing contracts, several factors contributed to the delay in introducing new ones.

These include delays in the advisory contract process for developing new cleaning contracts, prolonged documentation cycles with regulatory authorities, and a hiatus in the Central Committee for Public Tenders' activities until its reformation in June.

As a result, the issuance of new contract documents has been pushed to the end of the year, with the signing process expected to take an additional two months.

The new contracts will incorporate updated specifications aimed at ensuring sustainability in public cleaning operations, including waste collection, transportation, and city maintenance. They will also introduce new terms to enhance public hygiene and waste management.

Naeem, Jahra Governorate, and Abdullah Al-Mubarak suburb, Farwaniya Governorate, as part of early preparations for the upcoming rainy season

Sources from the Ministry told the daily that Minister Noura Al-Mashaan is placing significant emphasis on these efforts, ensuring that rainwater drains are thoroughly cleaned to prevent blockages and allow for smooth water flow through drainage systems during the rainy season

The cleaning initiative will extend across all regions of the country, aiming to remove any obstructions that could hinder effective water drainage. This comprehensive effort reflects the Ministry's proactive approach to mitigating potential flooding and other rain-related issues.

In a related matter, the Ministry has received numerous complaints and requests through its social media channels regarding road repairs and maintenance, particularly concerning internal streets and highways. Residents have urged the Ministry to prioritize the maintenance of key roads, especially the Fourth and Seventh Ring Roads, and the barriers on the bridges along those routes.

These areas have been cited as problematic for road users. Additionally, concerns have been raised about deteriorating internal roads in various governorates, including Sabah Al-Ahmad City, Bneid Al-Qar, and Abdullah Al-Mubarak suburb, where significant maintenance has long been awaited.

The Ministry of Public Works reaffirmed its commitment to expediting comprehensive road maintenance procedures through regulatory authorities.

This includes addressing infrastructure needs like drainage systems, rainwater networks, telephone lines, and street lighting, as well as resurfacing roads and installing traffic signs according to Ministry standards and technical requirements.

The Ministry aims to ensure that these maintenance practices meet contractual obligations and maintain road quality over the long term.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: Reconnaissance Research has announced the appointment of Dr. Aftab Kamal Pasha as a Non-Resident Scholar, where he will head the Centre's Studies on India unit.

Dr. Pasha is the former Director of the Gulf Studies Program, Chairperson of the Centre for West Asian Studies, and Associate Dean of the School of International Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He is currently the Director of the Centre for India West Asia Dialogue in New Delhi.

Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri, the founder and CEO of Reconnaissance Research, statand writing since 1978. He is one of the foremost scholars in his field, having India, the Gulf, West Asia, and North Africa. His association with our think tank will bring 45 years' worth of experience and knowledge, which is of great value as we continue to broaden our research interests to include India.'

naissance Research was established in recognition of India's growing significance as an emerging global power and its close ties with the Gulf countries, including Kuwait. India is a strategic partner for Kuwait in several vital areas, including energy, trade, and food security



Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri



Reconnaissance Research logo

By conducting ongoing research and studies on India, the Centre aims to provide in-depth analysis and a

Dr. Aftab Kamal Pasha comprehensive understanding of India's domestic, economic, and foreign

policies, along with their potential im-pact on the Gulf region, particularly Kuwait. This effort is intended to enhance bilateral relations and advance Kuwait's interests in the Asian region.

In his first project in collaboration with Reconnaissance Research, Dr. Pasha will prepare a research study titled "India-GCC Trade: Strong Fundamentals and Challenges for Rapid Progress," which will examine the growing trade relations between India and the GCC countries. The paper will also focus on the strategic importance of these relations, their impact on Gulf food security, and India's energy needs, among other related issues.



Group photo during the closing ceremony of the 45th summer session.

Students reflect on transformative experience

KISR wraps up 45th summer course

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) on Thursday organized the closing ceremony for its 45th Summer Training Course, with the participation of 199 secondary and university students.

In his speech during the ceremony, acting Director General of KISR Dr. Khaled Al-Barrak pointed out that the most important feature of the training courses that the institute has been supervising for more than 45 years is keeping pace with the latest cognitive and technical developments. He revealed this year's session included several programs about artificial intelligence applications, along with all the new horizons and growing challenges in this field of Science. He said the participating students engaged in a number of programs related to the future industry like Nanotechnology, Genetic Engineering, Microbiology, a program dealing with environmental heritage in the country, the "Birds in Our Lives and Their Languages" program, and the "University Stage Culture and its Re-quirements" program. He affirmed these courses help the students complete their research projects; thereby, developing their research and thinking skills, creativity, innovation and teamwork. Director of the 45th Summer Training Course Dr. Dalal Al-Baijan congratu-

Ministry offers help for scholarship registration

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: The Ministry of Higher Education has invited students encountering difficulties registering for the external scholarship plan for holders of the English high school diploma and International Baccalaureate certificate to seek assistance, reports Al-Sevassah daily.

Students can contact the technical support team through the remote communication service after ensuring that heir "My Identity" application and civi ID card are valid.



ed: "Dr. Pasha has specialized in Middle Eastern issues, researching, teaching, authored and edited over sixty books on

The Indian Studies Unit at Recon-



Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfa per night.	
NOW	NOW	
BHD 57.173 net	BHD 128.000	
Weekends (Thu	rsday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast per night.	
NOW	NOW	
BHD 65.000	BHD 145.000	

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lated the students for their excellent performance, wishing them a bright future and endless success in shaping their future and developing the country. She expressed her pride in the students, the efforts they exerted and their dedication throughout the course period.

"We look forward to seeing your future successes and the positive contributions you will make to your surroundings, and in the fields of Science and Technology," Al-Baijan asserted in her speech at the ceremony.

Student Rawaa Al-Asfour delivered a speech on behalf of the participating students; stating "the five-week journey taught us that the group is the secret to success, that determination is the secret to struggle, and that optimism is the color of hope."

Farwaniya governor urges speedy projects

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: Farwaniya Gov-ernor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser met with the Acting Director General of the Roads and Land Transport Authority, Khaled Al-Osaimi, reports Al-Seyassah daily. The meeting focused on reviewing issues

related to roads, addressing obstacles faced by drivers, and finding solutions to improve traffic flow. Both men also discussed ongoing road projects within the governorate and explored ways to accelerate their completion

Awgaf forms panel to set titles in Holy Quran, Islamic studies sector

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Dr. Bader Al-Mutairi, has announced the formation of a new committee

tasked with setting titles within the Holy Quran and Islamic Studies sector, reports Al-Sevassah daily.

The committee will consist of ten members and will be led by the Assistant Undersecretary for the Holy Quran and Islamic Studies Affairs.

committee's The members include the

Director of the Information Systems Center, the Personnel Affairs Supervisor in the Human Resources and Administrative Development Department, the Salaries and Disbursement Supervisor in the Financial Affairs Department, the General Registry Supervisor in the Administrative Affairs Department and the Head of the Cases Section in the Legal Affairs Department

The committee's primary responsibilities include instructing the Holy Quran Affairs and Islamic Studies Sector, along with its affiliated departments and organizational units, to assess and determine their staffing needs based on actual requirements and preparing detailed lists of required titles and ensuring that these lists are approved by the relevant department heads and assistant undersecretaries.

This is in addition to coordinating with the Financial Affairs Department to determine the financial implications of these staffing requirements up until the end of the fiscal year on March 31, 2025 and overseeing the implementation of assignment terms and conditions, monitoring attendance, and managing employee files.

Moreover, the committee is tasked with proposing working hours for personnel assigned to the Quran Affairs sector and related units.

It will also handle the transfer of personnel data to the Human Resources and Administrative Development Department. The committee will operate for a period of five working days from the date of the decision's issuance and will submit a final report to the Undersecretary within three days after completing its work.



Greetings to

Continued from Page 1

Dear brother Adnan, it is true that development management in Kuwait is lagging. Another truth is that we often deal with others arrogantly. This is due to some spreading outdated theories and deliberately closing off the country for purely ideological and religious reasons.

They have trapped us between the rock of negative phenomena and the hard place of the population structure, compounded by laws against co-education. This ill-conceived innovation lacks a solid basis, and is shortsighted and unrealistic. Yet, no one acknowledges the mistake or retreats from their error.

How can the population structure be reformed when the population is about four and a half million, and three million of them serve the one and a half million citizens?

The state talks about major projects and great development but at the same time opposes the labor responsible for construction

Isn't this backwardness itself? Isn't this a mistake that they repeat every time, in the same way as Nazi's Joseph Goebbels?

We are deeply troubled by all of this. When we raise these issues, there is neither acknowledgment of the problem nor any retreat from their errors. For instance, they have imposed the third fingerprint system, which, according to sources, costs about KD 80 million.

This issue is compounded by the fact that officials are unwilling to oversee their subordinates, who often fail to adhere to work timings. Even when the system was introduced, it was discovered in the early hours that some employees were working from neighboring countries.

All of this reflects a lack of understanding of what development entails. Despite allocating approximately KD 120 billion over many years for development projects, it has become evident that the ministers responsible for managing these funds have mismanaged them. This has led to a budget deficit that continues to grow annually.

Brother Adnan Al-Bahar, when a government issues decisions, they must be well-considered, not hasty. If you prevent an expatriate who has reached the age of 60 from renewing his residency, you must provide an alternative.

Have young Kuwaitis been trained to fill this gap? And when linking employment to certification, did the decision-maker consider what to do with those without certificates?

Moreover, how can you pursue major projects that require technical and skilled workers when the state blocks professionals from entering the country?

The Gulf countries and the whole world have worked to make room for all workers, and set easy conditions for them. The result is clear to everyone in terms of development and economic activity, such that Kuwaitis have begun leaving the country to invest in those countries.

Brother Adnan Al-Bahar, our hope remains in the new era that leads a revolution against backward laws. All that the officials have to do is work under the inspiration of the Amiri directives that light the way for them. However, if they neglect to do so, we will still linger on the same spot.

Finally my friend, do not stop giving your opinion ... Perhaps one day they will hear your voice.

For many years, we have witnessed more chaos and stagnation than real development. Some claim, "the situation is good", which is a sentiment often echoed by those benefiting from the status quo, insisting that "Kuwait is blessed, and everything is fine, so ignore the rumors." For this reason, some may dismiss our concerns as empty talk.

Oh Allah, guide us to the right path.

Power cuts

Continued from Page 1

It also confirmed in a separate statement the total shutdown of gas processing units in Ku-wait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), which led to the reduction of gas sent to some electricity generation units in power and water distillation plants. Accordingly, the ministry re-duced the electrical loads on these units to stabilize the electricity system. The gas process-ing units are now operational and the situation is being monitored.

It added that updates about the electricity network will be posted on its official social me-dia, urging the public to strictly comply with its instructions on the rationalization of electricity consumption during peak hours.

Home biometrics

Continued from Page 1

Persons with disabilities can communicate with the security department and get an ap-pointment for registering their biometric prints via the WhatsApp No. 94458124, according to a statement from the General Directorate of Security Relations and Media.

The Ministry of Interior extended the time limit for Kuwaiti citizens and expatriates until to register their biometrics until September 30 and December 31, respectively.

'Traffic police

Continued from Page 1

This directive was issued during an inspection visit by Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah to the Operations Department building of the General Traffic Department in South Al-Sabahiya.

He was accompanied by Major General Yousef Al-Khudah, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Traffic and Operations Affairs.

During the visit, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah was briefed on the operations of the central control room, the role of traffic monitoring cameras, and the process of recording indirect violations. He also reviewed the Ministry of Interior's strategy to intensify security and traffic campaigns, which includes the deployment of checkpoints in various areas to strengthen security measures and apprehend violators.

Money-laundering

185/278 KL

Continued from Page 1

the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to ban the sale of cars in cash if the cost exceeds KD 1,500 is a pioneering step to prevent money laundering through the luxury car market where cars are being sold for unimaginable amounts.

He explained that money launderers in this field use "hunters" to stand in front of car showrooms in the Al-Rai area and ask those entering the parking lots if they are planning to sell their car "at the amount you want". In this way, money laundering is done through buying and selling cars.

Lawyer Al-Wawan said, "Other methods include the opening of many food centers through one company. However, is it reasonable for a food center to open no less than seven major centers in one area despite the recession?"

He called on the regulatory authorities to examine these centers, and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to tighten the granting of branches to these centers.

Lawyer Al-Wawan warned about commercial centers that tempt consumers to take their data in exchange for a debit card, stressing that this data can be manipulated and money can be laundered in their names without their knowledge, adding that this is what is done by some money-exchange companies.

He stressed that the money laundering mafia has extraordinary innovative skills but the investigation officers and regulatory authorities in banks also have the means to find these money launderers.

Lawyer Al-Wawan said, "About ten years ago, a person could establish a limited liability company in the general trading and contracting sector by simply depositing KD 100,000, and this would be accepted. However, this practice has since been curtailed, and such transactions are now subject to thorough auditing."

He revealed that if financial suspicions arise, the matter is referred to the competent authorities, but some customers deposit daily amounts of up to KD 3,000. Those with "distinguished customer" status are allowed to deposit up to KD 5,000 daily. This can be exploited for money laundering activities. Lawyer Al-Wawan demanded the necessity

of reducing the value of the daily deposit to prevent money laundering through daily deposits.

He said, "Those who make daily deposits, whether KD 3,000 or KD 5,000, must be investigated by reviewing all invoices and documents, as well as summoning the person who gave them the amount to verify the legality of the deposit operations."

Lawyer Al-Wawan also revealed a serious issue, explaining that there are companies that have approved programs through which a link is sent to customers. A single transaction may be KD 250,000, and thus these amounts are deposited into the customers' account and the company receives fees for each link.

In addition, he disclosed that money laundering is done through the purchase of gold and other jewelry, as well as pigeon auctions, sale of valuable watches and other collectibles, which are considered back doors for money laundering.

Lawyer Al-Wawan warned people to avoid responding to scammers via phone or social media. These scammers make enticing offers to lure victims, hack their accounts, and then launder money through them.

He indicated that the financial crime mafia has a network of followers specifically designed to trap more victims.

Also, Lawyer Al-Wawan stated that gold can be purchased through jewelry stores that have increased dramatically in the country, despite the lack of increase of salaries for citizens and the limited salaries of expatriate workers, adding that there are huge quantities of gold that are sold to customers on a permanent basis.

Professor of Computer Science at Kuwait University and political expert Dr. Ahmad Al-Munais said the issue of money laundering has dangerous dimensions for the country, as it helps the criminals hide their crimes by camouflaging the source of the proceeds that were obtained il-legally as if they came from legitimate sources.

(3) Collected amounts: None

of Cassation dated 21/4/2008

ewed.

Bridge of

Continued from Page 1

On December 2021, two individuals attempted suicide on the same day - one was rescued, while the other was stopped in time.

In 2022, there were more cases. On April 26, two residents – one Egyptian and the other Indian - attempted suicide.

The Indian man was rescued by a passing citizen who spotted him in the water, while the Egyptian suffered severe fractures after falling onto the rocks and was rushed to the hospital.

Additionally, an Australian died in September 2022 after throwing herself off the bridge, with her body later recovered by marine rescue teams.

The trend continued in 2023, with two significant incidents - on July 17, a 28-year-old Kuwaiti woman was rescued after jumping, and on August 22, authorities saved another woman who had similarly attempted suicide.

The rise in these cases raises important questions about the psychological wellbeing of residents and the need for preventive measures.

As the Sheikh Jaber Bridge remains a vital link in Kuwait's infrastructure, it is crucial to address the underlying issues contributing to this troubling trend.

175 activities

Continued from Page 1

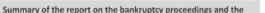
All commercial transactions conducted by the company holding the license must be through electronic payment methods only.

The ministry also allowed reducing the capital required to practice freelance activities licensed under this decision to half of the capital for similar activities applicable to companies.

	r			
Ministry of Commerce فوزوالتانان and Industry				
RE	ECALL INFORMATION			
Movement that inspires Kia Stinger Produ range Nov 2016	uction Date			
RECALL REASON	Possibility of oil leakage from Turbocharger oil feed hose.			
REMEDY	Customers who own Kia Stinger with above mentioned Production date requested to visit Kia Service Center.			
CONTACT	To Contact Kia Service in Shuwaikh 1805008			
This Recall is run pur	suant to articles (42,43,44,45,46,47and48)of no.(27/2015)			

issuing the executive by laws no.(39/2014)on Consumer Protection

Kuwait Investment Authority - Debts Purchased for the State's Account Settlement and Management Office



(3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy declaration ruling amount to: • Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank) 35,783/783 KD according Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the nk>s letter dated 5/11/2018, but

First: Financial and accounting procedures: (1) The debt as on 1/8/1990 amounts to 5,587,835/271 KD (2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to: 22,995,344/426 KD

ond: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity (1) National Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounts to 22,995,344/426 KD, the debt according to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

(2) Al-Dar Trading and Contracting Company 23,731/000 KD (excluding expenses) pursuant to the letter submitted by the creditor's attorney dated 19/11/2006, attached to which is the ruling issued in Case No. 1995/210 commercial first instance dated 13/4/1996 and a certificate of obtaining an

appeal dated 30/9/1997, which was dismissed on 21/6/1997 and was not

(3) General Trading Company 24,112/000 KD (excluding expenses), pursuant

to the letter submitted by the creditor's attorney dated 19/4/2008, attached

to the reling issued in Appeal No. 2002/1678 Commercial Appeal / 7 dated 29/1/2003, and the certificate issued by the Execution Department at the

Ministry of Justice dated 9/4/2008, and a certificate of no appeal to the Court

(4) Ahmad Sobhi Abdul Karim 277,567/000 KD (excluding expenses) pursuant to the letter submitted by the creditor's attorney dated 22/5/2008, attached to the ruling issued in Case No. 1999/1790 commercial first instance / 3

dated 13/6/1999, and Appeal No. 2000/1126 Commercial Appeal / 6 dated 20/3/2002, the certificate issued by the Execution Department at the Minist of Justice dated 9/4/2008, and the certificate issued by the Execution

Department at the Ministry of Justice dated 7/5/2008. Third: Debts that the Authority deems necessary to exclude: 6 Gulf Bank 148,219/056 KD pursuant to the bank's letter dated 10/12/2018, which states in its content that the bank has liquidated the letters of guarantee

for the beneficiary, Mohammad Abdul Mohsen Al-Kharafi Company. The bank

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the

provisional list of debts for the bankruptcy of / Shaden Electronic

Company (Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman Abdul Aziz Al-Tuwaijri and

was contacted to inquire about those letters on 17/10/2023, and it has not responded to us to date.

ent at the Ministry

etter of Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank) dated 25/4/2024.

provisional list of debts for the bankruptcy of / Arab African Research, Consulting and Trading Company Anwar Abdul Rahman Al-Atiqi and Partners «Arafco» W.L.L

Submitted to the Bankruptcy Administration in case No. 2006/28 Bankruptcy of General Debts / 1 dated 23/5/2006

First: Financial and accounting procedures: (1) The debt as of 1/8/1990 amounts to: 151,277/764 KD (2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to: 670,963/974 KD Collected amounts: None

Burgan Bank: debt purchased on behalf of the state amounts to:

670,963/974 KD according to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

immary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the provisional list of debts for the bankruptcy of / Abdul Mohsen Mohammad Ali Al-Marri Guarantor / Mohammad Abdul Mohsen and Partner Company for General Trading and Contracting (Joint Liability Company) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Administration in Case No. 2002/202

Bankruptcy of General Debts /1 dated 20/1/2004

First: Financial and accounting procedures

(1) The bankrupts share of the debt as of 1/8/1990 amounts to: 131,513/626

(2) The bankrupt s share of the debt according to Article 13 amounts to: 510,886/521 KD

(3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy declaration ruling amounts to: 200/148 KD

Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity: • Commercial Bank of Kuwait: Debt purchased by the state amounts to 510,886/521 KD, the bankrupt)s share of the debt guaranteed for Mohammad Company Abdul Mohsen and Partner for General Trading and Contracting W.L.L accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

Third: Debts that the Authority deems necessary to exclude in its capacity. (1) Al Rawda and Hawally Cooperative Society / 3,800 KD pursuant to Ruling No. 202/2002 Bankruptcy of General Debts / 1 dated 20/1/2004, a party included in the bankruptcy declaration ruling. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Society was addressed pursuant to the letter of the Public investment Authority dated 25/3/2024 to submit the official documents and procedures taken regarding the debt, but we were not provided with the equired documents.

(2) Al Surra Cooperative Society / 6,670 KD pursuant to Ruling No. 2002/202 Bankruptcy of General Debts / 1 dated 20/1/2004, a party included in the bankruptcy declaration ruling. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Society was addressed by virtue of the letter of the Public Investm thority dated 25/3/2024 to submit the official docun nts and procedures taken regarding the debt, but we were not provided with the required documents

(3) Kuwait International Fair Company 4,086/750, pursuant to Ruling No 2002/202, Bankruptcy of General Debts / 1, dated 20/1/2004, a party included in the bankruptcy declaration ruling. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Fair was addressed by virtue of the letter of the Public Investment Authority dated 25/3/2024 to submit the official documents and procedures taken regarding the debt, but we were not provided with the required documents

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the provisional list of debts for the bankruptcy of / Bader Ali Dawood Al-Hamoud

Submitted to the Bankruptcy Administration in Case No. 2005/85 Bankruptcy of General Debts / 1 dated 26/7/2005

First: Financial and accounting procedures

(1) The debt as on 1/8/1990 amounts to 1,378,017/388 KD (2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to: 5,645,307/637 KD (3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy declaration ruling amounts to: 960.570/922 KD

Second: The debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity: (1) Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank): a debt purchased on behalf of the state amounting to 5,645,307/637 KD according to Article 13 of

 (2) Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, (Bahrain Branch) 1,553,359/000 KD pursuant to the creditor's letter dated 14/7/2010 based on a settlem ent and escheduling contract for a debt secured by a mortgage dated 10/6/1987

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the provisional list of debts for the bankruptcy of / Saad Tahous Ghazi Al-Otaibi

Submitted to the Bankruptcy Administration in Case No. 2009/13 Bankruptcy of General Debts /1 dated 22/12/2010

First: Financial and accounting procedures (1) The debt as of 1/8/1990 amounts to: 35,686 KD (2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to: 35,686 KD

Second: The debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity: · Industrial Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to 35,686 KD According to Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993. Third: Debts that the Authority deems necessary to exclude in its capacity:

 Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank) 35,783/783 KD according to the bank's letter dated 5/11/2018, but the debt was paid according to the letter of Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank) dated 25/4/2024.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the provisional list of debts for the bankruptcy of / Saud Tahous Ghazi Al-Otaibi

Submitted to the Bankruptcy Administration in Case No. 2009/73

Bankruptcy of General Debts / 1 dated 22/12/2010

First: Financial and accounting procedures: (1) The debt as of 1/8/1990 amounts to: 35,686 KD (2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to: 35,686 KD

(3) Collected am second: The Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:

 Industrial Bank of Kuwait: A debt purchased by the state amounting to 35,686 KD according to Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the

provisional list of debts for the bankruptcy of /Arab Industrial Financial Economic Consulting Company W.L.L

Submitted to the Bankruptcy Administration in case No. 2006/34

Bankruptcy of General Debts /1 dated 23/5/2006

First: Financial and accounting procedures (1) The debt as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: 509,940/643 KD (2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to: 2,395,225/520 KD

(3) Collected amounts: None

second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity

Commercial Bank of Kuwait: purchased debt on behalf of the state amounting to 2,395,225/520 KD according to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

Company for Building Materials and Decoration, Nasser Suleiman

Al-Qamlas and Partners (W.L.L)

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the

provisional list of debts for the bankruptcy of / Gulf International

Submitted to the Bankruptcy Administration in case No. 2006/22

Bankruptcy of General Debts /1 dated 25/4/2006

Summary of the report on bankruptcy proceedings and the

provisional list of debts for the bankruptcy of / Youssef Wadih

Al-Shuwaifati, Guarantor of the Gulf International Company for

Building Materials and Decoration, Nasser Suleiman Al-Qamlas and

Partners (W.L.L)

Submitted to the Bankruptcy Administration in Case No. 2006/22

Bankruptcy of General Debts /1 dated 25/4/2006

(2) Its share of the debt according to Ceture 13 amounts to: 374,631/218 KD
(2) Its share of the debt according to Article 13 amounts to: 3,913,365/604 KD

(3) Conjected amounts: None Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity: Burgan Bank, a debt purchased on behalf of the state, amounting to 3,913,365/604 KD, its share of the debt guaranteed for the Gulf International Complexity of the state of the debt guaranteed for the Gulf International Complexity of the state of the debt guaranteed for the Gulf International Complexity of the state of the debt guaranteed for the Gulf International Complexity of the state of the debt guaranteed for the Gulf International Complexity of the state of the debt guaranteed for the Gulf International Complexity of the state of the debt guaranteed for the Gulf International Complexity of the state of the debt guaranteed for the Gulf International Complexity of the state of the debt guaranteed for the Gulf International Complexity of the state of the debt guaranteed for the Gulf International Complexity of the state of the debt guaranteed for the Gulf International Complexity of the state of the debt guaranteed for the Gulf International Complexity of the State of the debt guaranteed for the Gulf International Complexity of the State of the debt guaranteed for the Gulf International Complexity of the State of the debt guaranteed for the Gulf International Complexity of the State of

Company for Building Materials and Decoration, Nasser Suleiman Al-Qamlas and Partners (W.L.L), according to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the

provisional list of debts for the bankruptcy of General Syndicate

Company (Mansour Qabazard & Sons) W.L.L

Submitted to the Bankruptcy Administration in case No. 2004/189

Bankruptcy of General Debts/1 dated 18/4/2006

(3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy declaration ruling amount to:

Second: The debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:

Industrial Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to

According to Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993. Third: Debts that the Authority deems necessary to exclude in its capacity:

First: Financial and accounting procedures: (1) The debt as of 1/8/1990 amounts to: 35,686 KD (2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to: 35,686 KD

First: Financial and accounting procedures: (1) The debt as of 1/8/1990 amounts to: 974,631/218 KD

Burgan Bank: a debt purchased on behalf of the state ame

First: Financial and accounting procedures:

(3) Collected amounts: None

185/278 KD

35.686 KD.

3,913,365/604 KD according to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

(2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to: 3,913,365/604 KD

(3) Collected amounts: none Second: The Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:

Partners W.L.L) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Administration in case No. 2006/35

Bankruptcy of General Debts / 1 dated 23/5/2006

First: Financial and accounting procedures: (1) The debt as of 1/8/1990 amounts to: 140,930/179 KD

(2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to: 676,488/109 KD Collected amounts: None Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:

 Commercial Bank of Kuwait: Debt purchased on behalf of the state amounts to: 676,488/109 according to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the provisional list of debts for the bankruptcy of / Mohammad Abdul Mohsen and Partner Company for General Trading and Contracting

(Joint Liability Company) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Administration in case No. 2003/202 Bankruptcy of General Debts / 1 dated 20/1/2004

First: Financial and accounting procedures

According to the Provision of Article 111 of Law No. 71 of 2020, "The debtor and each creditor, even if his name is not included in the list of debts, may appeal to the Bankruptcy Department against debts included in the list, within ten days from the date of announcing the list.

 (1) The debt as of 1/8/1990 amounts to: 287,761/414 KD
(2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to: 1,117,854/533 KD (3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy declaration ruling amount to: 206.976/988 KD

econd: The debts that the authority deems acceptable in its capacity:

Commercial Bank of Kuwait: a debt purchased by the state amounting to 1,117,854/533 KD according to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993. Third: Debts that the Authority deems necessary to exclude in its capacity: (1) Kuwait Finance House 188,820/103 KD pursuant to the letter of Kuwait Finance House dated 9/1/2017, but it did not provide official documents

proving the validity of this debt.

Downg the value of this best. (2) AI Rawda and Hawally Cooperative Society / 3,800 KD pursuant to Ruling No. 202/2002 Bankruptcy of General Debts / 1 dated 20/1/2004, a party included in the bankruptcy declaration ruling. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Society was addressed pursuant to the letter of the Public Investment Authority dated 25/3/2024 to submit the official documents and procedures taken regarding the debt, but we were not provided with the equired documents

(2) Al Surra Cooperative Society / 6,670 KD pursuant to Ruling No. 2002/202 Bankruptcy of General Debts / 1 dated 20/1/2004, a party included in the bankruptcy declaration ruling. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Society was addressed by virtue of the letter of the Public Investment Authority dated 25/3/2024 to submit the official documents and procedures taken regarding the debt, but we were not provided with the required docume

(4) Kuwait International Fair Company 4,086/750, pursuant to Ruling No. 2002/202, Bankruptcy of General Debts / 1, dated 20/1/2004, a party included in the bankruptcy declaration ruling. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Fair was addressed by virtue of the letter of the Public Investment Authority dated 25/3/2024 to submit the official documents and procedures taken regarding the debt, but we were not provided with the required documents. provisional list of debts for the bankruptcy of the deceased / Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman Abdul Aziz Al-Tuwaijri, owner of the Kuwait Office for Scientific Research «Individual Establishment»

Submitted to the Bankruptcy Administration in Case No. 2006/27 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated: 23/5/2006

First: Financial and accounting procedure

(1) The debt as of 1/8/1990 amounts to: 115,179/694 KD

(2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to: 527,920/307 KD (3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy declaration ruling amount to: 14,512/453 KD

Second: The debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity: (1) Commercial Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased on behalf of the stat amounts to 527,920/307 KD according to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993. (2) Burgan Bank, a debt purchased on behalf of the state, amounts to: 436,986/716 KD, its share of the debt guaranteed for the Arab African Research, Consulting and Trading Company according to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

(3) Commercial Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased on behalf of the state amounts to 1,207,445/352 KD, its share of the debt guaranteed for the Arab Industrial Financial Economic Consulting Company according to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

(4) Commercial Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased on behalf of the state amounts to 676,488/109 KD, its share of the debt guaranteed for Shaden

Electronic Company according to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993. (5) National Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased on behalf of the state, amounts

to: 385,111/906 KD, its share of the debt guaranteed for Yacht General Trading Company according to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

(6) National Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased on behalf of the state, amounts to 146,499/279 KD, its share of the debt guaranteed for the Administrative

Means Company according to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

(7) Kuwait Credit Bank, 11,120/000 KD according to the letter of Kuwait Credit Bank dated 4/10/2023.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the provisional list of debts for the bankruptcy of / Manahi Nazzal Ghafel Ghaem Al-Enezi, Guarantor of Al-Malak Al-Abyad General Trading and Contracting Company (Manahi Nazzal Ghafel Ghanem Al-Enezi and Sons "Limited Partnership")

Submitted to the Bankruptcy Administration in the case No. 2010/18

Bankruptcy of General Debts /1 dated 9/6/2010

(1) Kuwait Industrial Bank: a debt purchased on behalf of the state amounting

to: 32,077/867 KD, its share of the debt guaranteed for Al-Malak Al-Abyad

Al-Enezi and Sons (Limited Partnership) according to Article 13 of Law No. 41

(2) Yagoub Yousef Malallah, 16,103/333 KD pursuant to the letter of debt offer

dated 20/6/2012, ruling No. 1665/2000 Rents First Instance Hawally/3, dated

7/8/2000, a certificate of non-appeal dated 30/5/2012, and a certificate issued

by the Execution Department dated 22/2/2012. (3) Ihab Mohammad Abdullah Al-Aradi, 75,411/000 KD pursuant to the two

letters of debt offer dated 25/3/2013, and Ruling No. 2006/5056 Comme First Instance /13 dated 23/1/2007, confirmed by Appeal No. 2008/2070

First Instance /26 dated 22/2/2010, and a certificate of non-appeal dated 31/12/2012, other than expenses. Third: Debts that the Authority deems necessary to exclude in its capacity:

National Bank of Kuwait 8,395/121 KD, pursuant to the bank's letter dated

13/7/2016, but it did not provide official documents proving the validity of

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the

Investments Company (Fawzy Musaed Al-Saleh and Partners W.L.L)

Submitted to the Bankruptcy Administration in case No. 2005/14

(3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy declaration ruling amount to:

• Gulf Bank, a debt purchased by the state amounts to 19,728,852/321 KD according to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

provisional list of debts for the bankruptcy of / Agricultural

(2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to: 19,728,852/321 KD

Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:

Bankruptcy of General Debts / 1, dated 1/3/2005

(1) The debt as of 1/8/1990 amounts to: 6,439,948/504 KD

First: Financial and accounting procedures

Commercial/12 dated 24/9/2008, and Ruling No. 2009/6880 Comm

General Trading and Contracting Company / Manahi Nazzal Ghafil Gha

(1) Its share of debt as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: 32,077/867 KD

(2) Its share of the debt according to Article 13 is: 32,077/867 KD

Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:

(3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy declaration ruling are:

First: Financial and accounting procedures:

36,861/612 KD

of 1993

the deht

10,757,964/842 KD

INTERNATIONAL

World News Roundup

Europe

Russian missile sparks blaze in Ukraine: Russia kept up its assault on Ukraine Saturday even as Ukrainian forces pushed into Russia's Kursk border region.

A Russian missile sparked a blaze in the city of Sumy that injured two people and also damaged cars and nearby buildings, said Ukraine's State Emergency Service. It said that the hit had involved an Iskander-K cruise missile and an aerial bomb. Ukraine's air force also said it had shot down 14 Russian drones overnight, including over the Kyiv region.

Meanwhile, fighting continued in Russia's Kursk region, where Ukrainian troops have been deployed since Aug. 6 in a bid to divert the Kremlin's military focus away from the front line in Ukraine. On Thursday, Ukrainian forces said they had seized the town of Sudzha, 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the



border. With a prewar population of roughly 5,000, it is the biggest town to fall to Ukraine's troops since the incursion began. Associated Press journalists

traveled to the area Friday on a Ukrainian government-organized trip



Zakharova

their first use in the Kursk region. (AP)

Ukrainian officials urge civilians to evacuate: Military authorities in the eastern Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk urged civilians to speed up their evacuation Friday because the Russian army was quickly closing in on what has been one of Moscow's key targets for months.

Pokrovsk officials said in a Telegram post that Russian troops are "advancing at a fast pace. With every passing day there is less and less time to collect personal belongings and leave for safer regions.'

Ukrainian troops have been trying to divert the Kremlin's military focus away from the front line in Ukraine by launching a bold cross-border incursion into Russia's Kursk region. But Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned Thursday that Pokrovsk and other nearby towns in the Donetsk region were "facing the most intense Russian assaults.

An aerial reconnaissance soldier with Ukraine's 68th Separate Airborne Brigade who is helping defend the city told The Associated Press by phone on Friday that he faces the same deadly monotony every day: From his position, he flies a drone to identify moving Russian infantrymen. The boom of a mortar follows after he relays the coordinates. Then, more and more infantrymen come in a seemingly endless wave. (AP)

Russia refuses to open probe into Navalny death: Russian authorities have refused to open a criminal investigation into the death of opposition leader Alexei Navalny who died in an Arctic penal colony, his widow Yulia said Thursday.

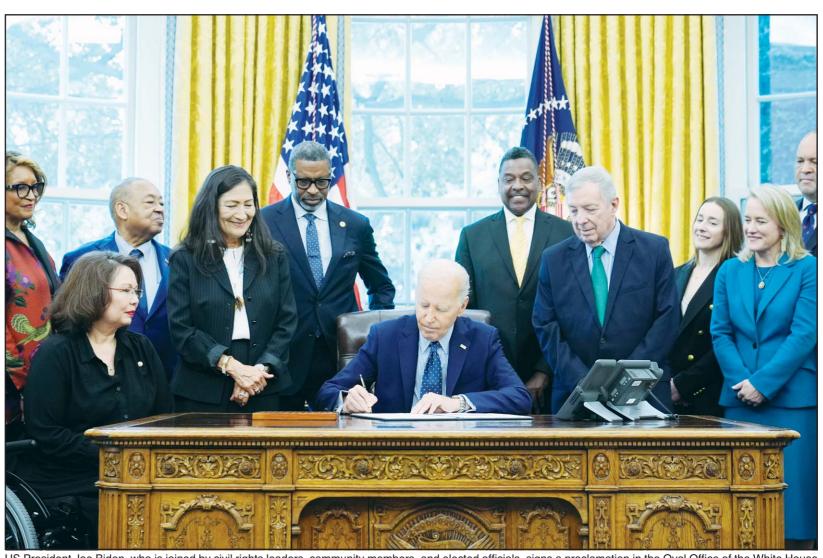
Navalny, the fiercest political foe of Russian President Vladimir Putin, died in February in the remote northern prison colony while serving a 19-year sentence on extremism charges that he had condemned as politically motivated. Authorities said he became ill after a walk but have otherwise given no details on Navalny's death.

Russian officials only said that Navalny died of natural causes shortly after taking a walk and have vehemently denied involvement both in the poisoning and in his death.

In a video published Thursday on social media, Yulia Navalnaya, Navalny's widow, said she received a letter from Russian investigators detailing the cause of her husband's death. In the video, Navalnaya said she was told Navalny died

from a combination of "a dozen different diseases." (AP)

2 accused in court of extreme right-wing mindset: Two teenagers were accused in a London courtroom Friday of having an "extreme right-wing mindset" and discussing plans to v out terrorism



US President Joe Biden, who is joined by civil rights leaders, community members, and elected officials, signs a proclamation in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington on Aug 16, to designate the Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument. (AP)

Biden signs order to establish 1908 Springfield race riot monument

US President Joe Biden on Friday designated a national monument at the site of the 1908 race riot in Springfield, III., a seminal moment in the United States' long and difficult history with racial violence targeting Black people.

Biden was joined in the Oval Office by lawmakers as well as civil rights and community leaders as he signed the proclamation establishing the monument on 1.57 acres of federal land. The monument is intended to be a solemn reminder of the two-day riot sparked by mobs of white residents tearing through Illinois' capital city under the pretext of meting out judgment against two Black men - one jailed on a sexual assault charge involving a white woman, and the other jailed in the separate murder of a white man.

The Democratic president's effort to establish the monument comes as he looks to burnish his legacy in his final months in office. Biden is also looking to help Vice President Kamala Harris contrast herself with former President Donald Trump, who is aiming to cut into Democrats historic edge with Black voters. (AP)

Politics

Vance, Walz agree to vice presidential debate

Harris announces economic proposals

RALEIGH, NC, Aug 17, (AP): US Vice President Kamala Harris announced a sweeping set of economic proposals on Friday meant to cut taxes and lower the cost of groceries, housing and other essentials for many Americans.

"Look, the bills add up," she declared, trying to address the financial concerns that are at the top of voters' minds and that Republican Donald Trump is attempting to blame on her. During a speech in the battleground state of North Carolina, Harris said that "building up the middle class will be a defining goal of my presidency" as she promoted her plan for a federal ban on price gouging by food producers and grocers. She also proposed \$25,000 in down payment assistance for certain first-time homebuyers and tax incentives for builders of starter homes.

able Care Act.

Overall, the plans represent a continuation of many Biden administration priorities.

Harris isn't looking for any radical departures from President Joe Biden, who stepped down from the race last month and endorsed her. Still, the vice president has embraced a dash of economic populism, shifting away from Biden's emphasis on job creation and infrastructure to matters more closely

contrasts with Trump's economic proposals, including his call for steep tariffs on foreign goods. She said that her opponent "wants to impose what is, in effect, a national sales tax on everyday products and basic necessities that we import from other countries."

Also:

COLUMBIA, SC: Minnesota Gov Tim Walz and Ohio Sen JD Vance have agreed to debate each other on Oct 1, setting up a matchup of potential vice

presidents as early voting in some

states gets underway for the general

has forecast the scheduling of a sec-

ond debate between Donald Trump

and herself, although that matchup appeared to be contingent on the GOP

nominee participating in an already

scheduled Sept. 10 debate with Harris.

its X feed that the network had invited

both Vance and Walz to debate in New

York City, presenting four possible dates - Sept 17, Sept 24, Oct 1 and Oct

Walz reposted that message from

his own campaign account, "See you

on October 1, JD." The Harris-Walz

campaign followed up with a message

of its own, saying Walz "looks forward

to debating JD Vance - if he shows up." Vance posted on X that he would ac-

cept the Oct. 1 invitation. He also chal-

Officials with the Harris-Walz cam-

paign did not immediately return a

message seeking comment on Vance's

acceptance of the earlier debate that

he said would be on CNN or whether

Walz would participate in that one as

Representatives for CNN confirmed

Ruben Rodriguez, 33; Juliana Rodriguez

Plata, 37, and her mother, Luz Melba Mar-

lenged Walz to meet on Sept 18.

CBS News on Wednesday posted on

And Vice President Kamala Harris

election.

8 - as options.



Rex Clark, 18, and Sofija Vinogradova, 19, face charges of preparation of terrorist acts. Vinogradova is also charged with two counts of collecting information likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism.

Police said the arrests of the pair were not connected to recent rioting by the far-right in the UK. They also said they don't think there's a broader threat at this time.

Prosecutors in Westminster Magistrates' Court said the two communicated on a Telegram chatgroup and discussed testing petroleum bombs. (AP)

Irish police probes terrorism motive in chaplain attack: Irish police said Friday they were investigating a potential terrorism motive in an attack on a chaplain at an army barracks in County Galway.

Police said the army chaplain was approached by a young person outside Renmore Barracks in western Ireland and was stabbed a number of times Thursday night. The Catholic priest, who is in his 50s, was rushed to a hospital and was treated for injuries that were serious but not life-threatening.

The Defense Forces said shots were fired by on-duty personnel after the chaplain was attacked, and a male teenager was quickly detained at the scene. The suspect was being questioned in detention at a police station. Irish premier Simon Harris described the incident as a "serious attack" and identified the chaplain as Father Paul Murphy. (AP)

Lukashenko pardons 30 political prisoners: Belarus' authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko has pardoned 30 prisoners convicted for taking part in protests, the presidential office said Friday.

Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the Belarusian opposition leaderin-exile, welcomed the move but vowed to keep fighting until each of nearly 1,400 political prisoners in the country is set free.

Lukashenko's office said that he has pardoned 14 women and 16 men, including some elderly people and those who had grave illnesses. It didn't give their names.

Lukashenko's government responded to the protests with a brutal crackdown, in which over 35,000 people were arrested and thousands were beaten. Many opposition figures were convicted and given long prison terms, while others fled abroad. (AP)

Kosovo prez sets parliament elections for Feb 9: Kosovo's president on Friday set Feb 9 as the date for the tiny Balkan country's new parliamentary elections, a vote that is expected to be a key test for Prime Minister Albin Kurti whose governing party won in a landslide in the 2021.

In a decree published on her Facebook page, President Vjosa Osmani said she set the date after consulting with political parties, including Kurti's governing left-wing Vetevendosje! or Self-Determination Movement Party.

Kurti earlier this week called for the full reopening of a bridge in the flashpoint city of Mitrovica, a move that the West is concerned would escalate tension with the area's minority ethnic Serbs. (AP)

Croatia to reintroduce compulsory military draft: Croatia will reintroduce a two-month compulsory military service starting January 1 next year, the country's Defense Minister Ivan Anusic announced late Thursday.

The move comes amid heightened tensions in Europe following the Russian aggression against Ukraine as well as an apparent arms race and military buildup in the Balkans which went through a bloody war in the 1990s.

This decision marks a return to conscription, which was suspended in 2008 when the country shifted to a volunteer-based system. (AP)

Young men look on shrapnel after Russian airstrike on residential neighbourhood in Sumy, Ukraine, on Aug 17. Military authorities in the eastern Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk urged civilians to speed up their evacuation on Aug 16 because the Russian army was quickly closing in on what has been one of Moscow's key targets for months. (AP)

America

Lewis

'Border arrests drop 33%': Arrests for illegally crossing the border from Mexico plummeted 33% in July to the lowest level since September 2020, a result of asylum being temporarily suspended, authorities said Friday.

The Border Patrol made 56,408 arrests last month, down from 83,536 arrests in June, according to US Customs and Border Protection, its parent agency.

Asylum was halted at the border June 5 because arrests for illegal crossings topped a threshold of 2,500 a day, though a lack of deportation flights prevents authorities from turning away everyone. US authorities say arrests dropped 55% after the measure, which followed a steep decline earlier this year that was widely attributed to Mexican authorities increasing enforcement within their borders. "In July, our border security measures enhanced our ability to deliver consequences for illegal entry," said Troy Miller. acting CBP commissioner. The numbers, which were roughly in line

with preliminary estimates, may give Democrats some breathing room on an issue that has dogged them throughout Joe Biden's presidency. (AP)

Former DC employee convicted: A former Washington, DC, city employee was found guilty of manslaughter Friday in the fatal shooting of an unarmed 13-year-old boy that sparked public uproar in the nation's capital.

Jurors found Jason Lewis, 42, not guilty of second-degree murder, but convicted him of manslaughter and other charges after the trial in DC Superior Court over the killing of seventh grader Karon Blake.

Lewis, a longtime Parks and Recreation Department employee, turned himself in last year to face charges in Blake's killing, which happened in January 2023 around 4

Ambitions

"Every day across our nation, families talk about their plans for the future, their ambitions, their aspirations for themselves, for their children. And they talk about how they're going to be able to actually achieve them financially, because, look, the bills add up,' Harris said. "Food, rent, gas, back to school clothes, prescription medications. After all that, for many families, there's not much left at the end of the month.'

She stressed tax breaks for families, as well as middle- and lower-income people, promising to expand the child tax credit to up to \$3,600 - and \$6,000 for children in their first year of life. The vice president also wants to enlarge the earned income tax credit to cover people in lower-income jobs without children - which the campaign estimates would cut their effective tax rate by \$1,500 - and lower health insurance premiums through the Afford-

am, across the street from the middle school Blake attended, authorities said.

Lewis was seen on video leaving his house and firing at two young people who had been breaking into cars, prosecutors said. After a car was hit with gunfire, Blake ran in Lewis' direction, and Lewis fired two shots, killing him, prosecutors said. (AP)

tied to easing the cost of living -- food prices, housing costs and tax breaks for families.

Offered

Much of what she's proposing would require congressional approval, which is far from assured in the current political environment, though, and Harris' campaign has offered scant details on how to pay for the ideas.

The vice president is seeking to blunt Trump's attacks on her. He responded to her speech by posting on his social media account, "Kamala will implement SOVIET style price controls." He gave his own speech Thursday, during which he displayed popular grocery store items meant to represent the high cost of food.

Some of Trump's economic advisers offered further rebuttals to Harris' plans before she spoke on Friday, with Brian Hughes, a spokesman for the former president's campaign, calling them representative of a "socialist and authoritarian model."

Kevin Hassett, a former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers during the Trump administration, called it "completely preposterous" for the government to play a role in setting food prices, a reference to Harris' proposed federal ban on "corporate price-gouging" on food.

lywed couple and the bride's mother were killed in a crash after a semitruck overturned on Interstate 70 west of Denver, spilling its cargo of large plastic tubes, just days after the wedding, family members said.



that Vance had accepted the network's In her speech, Harris offered stark debate invitation. Newlyweds killed in crash: A new-

tinez, who had traveled from Colombia for the Aug. 10 wedding, were killed in the crash Thursday morning, Ruben Rodriguez's sisterin-law, Janell Rodriguez, told KMGH-TV. The bride's father, Carlos Joaquin Plata, and the couple's 1-year-old son Danny were injured, Janell Rodriguez also said.

well.

Their westbound car was hit by one of the tubes, which weigh about 500 pounds (227 kilograms) each, after an eastbound truck flipped over, spilling nearly 100 plastic tubes on both sides of the highway, according to police. All three people taken to the hospital, including the truck driver, were later released, police said Friday. (AP)

Ex-police sergeant pleads guilty: A former Alabama police sergeant has pleaded guilty to beating a man in a jail cell.

Federal court records show that Ryan Phillips, a former sergeant with the Daleville Police Department, pleaded guilty to a charge of depriving an arrestee of his civil rights under color of law. The assault happened on March 1, 2022 at the Daleville Police Department, according to court records.

In the plea agreement, Phillips acknowledged that after an argument he entered a cell and struck the man "multiple times about the chest, back, and face." The man was alone in the cell and was not a danger to himself or others, according to the plea agreement. (AP)

A man touches cool water at a fountain in downtown Budapest, Hungary on Aug 16. (Xinhua)

INTERNATIONAL

Lat/Am

Ernesto hits Bermuda

US, UK, Italy call for restraint in Caracas

WASHINGTON, Aug 17, (Agencies): The United States, along with a number of countries, called for wisdom and restraint in Venezuela and the region.

A joint statement on the aforementioned issue was released late Friday; signed by the US, UK, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Canada and a number of South American countries and others.

The statement condemned the violence that claimed the lives of many Venezuelan protestors, after the presidential elections results came out, announcing the winning of outgoing president Nicolas Maduro, while the Venezuelan opposition claims that their candidate is the winner.

It also called for the release of all detained protestors, including opposition representatives.



Maduro

Meanwhile, the statement underlined the need to respect democracy and the right of peaceful protesting. Earlier this month, the US

recognized opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia as the presidential elections winner by the majority of votes.

Venezuela's opposition was dealt a blow Thursday when countries that had been pres-

suring Maduro to release vote tallies backing his claim to victory in last month's

presidential election began suggesting a repeat of the contest instead The proposal from the leftist governments of Brazil and Colombia, both Maduro allies, came less than

three weeks after the results of the highly anticipated election came into question when the main opposition coalition revealed it has proof that its candidate defeated the president by a more than 2-to-1 margin.

The opposition categorically rejected any plan to redo the election.

Results

Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado, during a virtual news conference with Argentine media, said that repeating the July 28 presidential election would be "an insult" to the people, and she asked if a second election were held and Maduro still didn't accept the results, "do we go for a third one?" In Washington, US President Joe Biden expressed

support for new elections in comments to reporters that the White House later appeared to back away from.

Venezuela's National Electoral Council, whose members are loyal to the ruling party, declared Maduro the winner hours after polls closed. But unlike previous presidential elections, the electoral body has not released detailed voting data to back up its claim that Maduro earned 6.4 million votes while Edmundo González, who represented the Unitary Platform opposition coalition, garnered 5.3 million.

Meanwhile, González and Machado stunned Venezuelans when they revealed they obtained more than 80% of the vote tally sheets issued by every electronic voting machine after polls closed, that they said showed González winning by a wide margin.

Their revelation prompted governments around the world, including Colombia, Brazil and the US, to call on Maduro and the electoral council the publish a breakdown of results.



High waves hit a beach in Choshi, Chiba prefecture, east of Tokyo, as Typhoon Ampil moved past the area on Aug 16. Inset: People use umbrellas as they walk through a shopping street and cross a traffic intersection in Tokyo, Japan. (AP)

Typhoon Ampil moves away from Japan as train services resume, no major damage reported

A powerful typhoon that slammed the Tokyo area with heavy rains and brought mudslide warnings in northern Japan headed eastward out into the Pacific Ocean away from the coast Saturday.

There were no reports of major damage. Tokyo and nearby areas were back to normal under sunny skies. Bullet trains that cancelled services between Tokyo and Nagoya, stranding thousands of passen-gers, resumed operations with the first morning train. Some local trains were still delayed, however,

and dozens of airline flights remained cancelled. Typhoon Ampil was moving away from Japan's eastern coast at 20 kph (12 mph), with sustained winds of 162 kph (101 mph), the Japan Meteorological Agency said. Ampil did not make landfall and reached closest to Japan after midnight.

The transportation disruptions came when Japan was observing the Bon summer holidays. Power that went out in more than 5,000 households was back, except for about 250 homes in Ibaraki and Tochigi prefectures, northeast of Tokyo,

according to the utility company. The typhoon left signboards, trees, bicycles and poles toppled. Some beaches were still off limits to swimmers because of rough seas and strong winds. The evacuation order for more than 320,000 resi-

dents of the city of Iwaki in Fukushima prefecture was lifted. Tokyo's Disneyland, which closed early on Friday, was back in business at the regular hours of 9 am to 9 pm. (AP)



Thaksin's daughter elected Thailand PM

BANGKOK, Aug 17, (AP): Thailand's Parliament elected Paetongtarn Shinawatra as prime minister Friday, continuing the legacy of the political dynasty that began with her father Thaksin Shinawatra, one of Thailand's most popular but divisive political figures.

Thaksin, a former Prime Minister, was ousted by a military coup in 2006, which triggered decades of deep political divisions. Paetongtarn appears to be the beneficiary of a deal her father made with his old conservative foes, allowing the populist party led by her to take power while pushing aside the

'China alarmed over US missile system deployed to Philippines'

MANILA, Philippines, Aug 17, (AP): China expressed its "very dramatic" alarm over a mid-range missile system that the US military recently deployed to the Philippines, and warned it could destabilize the region. But Manila's top diplomat said in response to questions during a news conference with foreign correspondents in Manila. "I said you shouldn't be worried."

Pressed to specify what China's specific concerns were, Manalo said Wang warned the presence



Shinawatra (center) Paetonotarn speaks at a press conference after winning the parliamentary vote at the Pheu Thai Party's headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand on Aug. 16. (Xinhua)

Asia

The opposition has consistently expressed the need for the international community's help to get Maduro to accept the unfavorable results of the election.

Unlike many other nations that have either recognized Maduro or González as the winner, the governments of Brazil, Colombia and Mexico have taken a more neutral stance by neither rejecting nor accepting it when Venezuela's electoral authorities declared Maduro the winner at the ballot box.

Also:

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico: Hurricane Ernesto made landfall on the tiny British Atlantic territory of Bermuda early Saturday as residents hunkered down.

The wide category 1 storm was directly over the the wealthy territory at 6 a.m. Saturday, with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph (140 kph). The U.S. National Hurricane Center warned of strong winds, a dangerous storm surge and significant coastal flooding.

It said some 6 to 9 inches (150-225 millimeters) of rain was expected to fall on Bermuda. "This rainfall will likely result in considerable life-threatening flash flooding, especially in low-lying areas on the island," it said.

Due to the large size of the storm and its slow movement, hurricane-strength winds are expected to continue until Saturday afternoon, with tropical storm-strength winds continuing well into Sunday, the Bermuda government said. Ernesto is moving toward the north-northeast at around 9 mph (15 kph).

The NHC reported life-threatening surf and rip currents on the east coast of the United States and said they would reach Canada during the course of the day. Ernesto is forecast to be near or east of Newfoundland by Monday night.

Bermuda power utility BELCO said that as of late Friday, power was out to 31% of its customers. It described itself as being in "an active state of crisis."

"Our crews are no longer out in the field working as it is no longer safe for them. They will now rest until it is deemed safe for them to begin restoration efforts,' BELCO added

MEXICO CITY: The US ambassador to Mexico on Friday defended cross-border anti-drug cooperation, after Mexican prosecutors publicly complained American officials aren't giving them enough information.

Mexico's government was embarrassed by the surrender of two Mexican drug lords who arrived at an airport near El Paso, Texas, in July aboard a mysterious flight. Mexican officials say they weren't even aware of the operation.

Mexico's federal Attorney General's Office took the unusual step Thursday of asking Interpol to obtain information about the flight. Such matters are usually handled directly between the two neighbors.

US Ambassador Ken Salazar said Friday that cooperation in the fight against drug crime remains good.

Salazar stressed that even US officials were surprised by the arrival in July of the private flight car-rying drug lord Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada and Joaquín Guzmán López, one of the sons of imprisoned drug lord Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzman.

Both belong to rival factions of the Sinaloa drug cartel, and authorities say the younger Guzmán apparently dupped Zambada into attending a meeting where he was abducted and flown to the United States.

The younger Guzmán had apparently been in talks with US officials about turning himself in for some time, but hadn't mentioned he might bring Zambada as well.



Africa

16 dead, 20 abducted in Congo: At least 16 villagers were killed and 20 others were abducted in northeastern Congo during attacks by militants with ties to the Islamic State group, a local civil society group said Friday.

The assailants with the Allied Democratic Forces staged a series of attacks on locals, some while working on their farmlands, between Wednesday and Friday in Ituri province's Mambasa territory, said John Vulverio, coordinator of the New Civil Society of Congo.

"The (death) toll remains provisional, as the fate of 20 others kidnapped remains unknown," he said.

Among those kidnapped in the attacks were the mother and sister of Gilbert Sivamwenda, a local government official, local media quoted the legislator as saying.

Dozens of villages across Congo are besieged by armed groups made up of either local rebels fighting for power and valuable mineral resources or militants with extremist ideologies. (AP)

Tunisia arrests 10: The Tunisian National Guard announced on Friday that it has arrested 10 Tunisian nationals attempting to illegally cross the Mediterranean to Europe. The arrests took place on Thursday off

the island of Kerkennah in the southeastern province of Sfax, according to a statement on the National Guard's Facebook page. The migrants, including two children, were found hiding in a fishing boat. The operation also led to the arrest of a

woman believed to be the organizer of the smuggling attempt. Both the migrants and the organizer were taken to the Sfax naval base and handed over to the National Guard for legal processing. Tunisia, located in the central Mediterra-

nean, remains a major transit point for illegal immigration to Europe. (Xinhua)

Deadly floods kill 54 in Chad: At least 54 people have been killed due to flooding following continuous rainfall in Chad's northern province of Tibesti, authorities and local media said on Thursday.

The rainfall, which started Friday and continued to Wednesday, destroyed proper-

more progressive party that finished first in last year's election.

Paetongtarn becomes Thailand's third leader from the Shinawatra family, after her billionaire father, who returned from exile last year, and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra, who lives in exile. Paetongtarn also is Thailand's second female prime minister after her aunt, and the country's youngest leader at 37.

As the only nominee, she was confirmed by 319 votes in favor, with 145 against and 27 abstentions. Paetongtarn is the leader of the Pheu Thai party, the latest of a string of parties linked to Thaksin. She is not an elected lawmaker as that was not required for her to be a candidate for prime minister.

She will officially become prime minister with royal assent, though the timing of that step isn't known.

Paetongtarn, a former business executive, appeared overwhelmed as she spoke to reporters after the Parliament vote at the party's office in Bangkok. She said she was very "honored and

happy." "I really hope that I can make people feel confident, that we can build oppor-tunity and quality of life," she said. "I hope that I can do my best to make the country go forward.

ties, said Mahamat Tochi Chidi, governor of Tibesti province.

Over 50,000 people have been displaced by flooding in the province, local media reported.

Fatime Boukar Kossei, the country's

Friday he reassured his Chinese counterpart that the weaponry was only in the country temporarily.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo said his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, expressed China's concern over the US midrange missile deployment to the Philippines during their talks last month in Laos on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations meetings with Asian and Western countries.

"We discussed it and, well, they made it very dramatic," Manalo said

nesia: Indonesia marked 79 years of independence on Saturday with a ceremony in the unfinished future capital of Nusantara, which was planned to relieve pressure on Jakarta but whose construction has lagged behind schedule.

Hundreds of officials and invited guests wearing the traditional clothes of Indonesian tribes gathered on a stretch of grass amid the ongoing construction of government buildings and and view of construction cranes in the center of the Nusantara city.

Indonesia's President Joko Widodo and Cabinet ministers attended the Independence Day ceremony at the new Presidential Palace, built in the shape of the mythical eagle-winged protector figure Garuda.

of the US missile system could be "destabilizing," but the Philippine foreign affairs chief said he disagreed. "They're not destabilizing" and the missile system was only in the Philippines temporarily, Manalo said he told Wang.

The US Army said in April it transported the mid-range missile system, a land-based weapon that can fire the Standard Missile-6 and the Tomahawk Land Attack Missile, from the US to the northern Philippines as part of combat exercises with Philippine troops.

The celebration was initially planned to inaugurate Nusantara as the country's new capital, but with construction behind schedule it's not clear when the transfer will take place.

Widodo said earlier in the week that 8,000 guests would be invited, but the number was later reduced to 1,300 because adequate infrastructure in not place.

The celebration at the new State Palace on the island of Borneo was held simultaneously with a celebration at the Merdeka Palace in Jakarta that was attended by Vice President Ma'ruf Amin.

Widodo began working at the new presidential palace in Nusantara in late July and held his first Cabinet meeting there on Tuesday.

minister of social action, national solidarity and humanitarian affairs, said on Thursday that makeshift shelters have been erected to host displaced people.

"It is essential that affected populations settle there in order to avoid health risks



Workers remove debris from the site of a fatal explosion in the Petare neighborhood of Caracas, Venezuela on Aug 12. According to civil protection at the site, the explosion was gas related. (AP)

linked to flooding. All measures have been taken to guarantee the safety and well-being of everyone on this site," Kossei said on her social media platforms after touring the capital N'Djamena to sensitize residents on the availability of the shelter.

Chad has been experiencing flooding since mid-May that has already affected 245,000 people, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (Xinhua)

Zambia to extend power cuts: The Zambian government said Friday that it plans to increase the hours for power cuts from the current 14 hours daily to 17 hours due to increased low water levels for power generation

Minister of Energy Makozo Chikote said this will come into effect starting Sept. 1,2024.

In remarks delivered at an energy update press briefing, Chikote said the water levels in reservoirs for hydropower plants have continued on a downturn trend, with Kariba Dam, which supplies water to the biggest plant, Kariba Power Station, remaining with only 10 percent of usable water for power generation.

He said the power deficit is expected to increase by 300 megawatts (MW), while scheduled maintenance at Maamba Collieries Limited, which runs a coal-fired power plant, is expected to cause another 135 MW deficit during September. (Xinhua)

Also:

PENAJAM PASER UTARA, Indo-

oil surges

The price of Kuwaiti oil went down 39 cents to reach USD 80.31 per barrel on Friday, compared to USD 79.92 pb the day before, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation

(KPC) on Saturday. On the global scale, the Brent crude futures' contracts went down USD 1.36 to reach USD 79.68 pb, as did the West Texas Intermediate, down USD 1.51 to USD 76.65 pb. (KUNA)

Kuwaiti Amb visits Burgenland Energie

Kuwaiti Ambassador to Austria and permanent envoy to international organizations in Vienna Talal Al-Fassam and officials in Burgenland Energie discussed cooperation in the renewable energy field. In a statement received by

KUNA on Friday, Ambassador Al-Fassam said that renewable energy is key to Kuwait's long-life energy strategy, adding the dis-cussions revolved around a part-nership beneficial for both sides. During his visit to the com-pany's headquarters, Al-Fassam noted that an integral part of the Kuwait Vision 2035 of creating and exploring different energy resources.

AI-Fassam learned of the company's recent environment-friendly technologies and methods of connecting solar and wind power, as well as means of reducing carbon emissions and achieving sus-tainable development. (KUNA)

crypto prices show sensitivity to US economic data

Cryptocurrency prices dropped Friday as investors pulled back from risk amid ongoing uncertainty about US monetary policy and the latest inflation data, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Bitcoin fell by 0.95 percent, reaching \$58,392.03, Ethere-um decreased by 1.63 per-cent to \$2,620.89, and Ripple saw a 0.78 percent decline to 56.49 cents

The total market value of cryptocurrencies fell by 3.25 percent to \$2.07 trillion, while trading volume increased by 12.79 percent over the past 24 hours to \$71.59 billion, indicating significant selling

on Wednesday, Bitcoin funds traded on US stock exchanges experienced net outflows of \$81 million, following the release of US inflation

data The annual inflation rate in the US slowed to 2.9 percent in July, the lowest in over three years. Although the Consumer Price Index rose by 0.2 percent month-over-month, matching expectations, it was an increase from June's 0.1 percent decline. This data has led to reduced expectations for a major rate cut by the Federal Reserve next month.

Market Movements 16-08-2024 Change Closing pts

	DUBAI	-	DFMGI	+24.46	4,243.14	
	JAPAN	-	Nikkei 225	+1,336.03	38,062.67	
A	PHILIPPINES	-	PSEi	+154.46	6,847.37	
	PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	+72.55	78,163.75	V
	FUROPE	-	FUBO Story 50	+32 75	4 840 52	

	_
Change -35.94	Closing pts 8,311.41
	0

Business

Other Voices

China invests \$500-\$600 million

Boursa gains global attention for transparency & openness

By Kamel Al-Harami Independent Oil Analyst

WHEN the Norwegian sov-ereign wealth fund invests in the Kuwaiti stock market, it is a sign of approval and trust in the Kuwait Stock

Exchange (Boursa). China is also actively investing around \$500 to \$600 million in Kuwith wait. commitments

Al-Harami

listed companies. These investments span from individual or family-owned businesses to major banks, with ownership stakes varying from less than one percent to five percent, and investment amounts ranging from less than \$100 million to \$350 million.

China has currently invested in over 16 listed companies on the Kuwait Boursa. While the current involvement is relatively modest, it is expected to grow as China gains more experience and knowledge, potentially attracting additional foreign investment in the future.

While Kuwait's investments in China significantly exceed this amount, surpassing \$4 billion, it is worth noting that China has long been a major importer of Kuwaiti crude oil and refined products.

Kuwait was among the first countries to export crude and finished petroleum products from Shuaiba Refinery, and this then extended to all three of our refineries. In addition, we exported products from the Aden Refinery

in the late 1970s. China's method of selecting

investment opportunities in Kuwait is a strategic one. For example, their largest investment - five percent ownership in the privately owned Al-Jazeera airlines - is valued at KD 33 million. They also hold a three percent stake in a privately owned car dealership, amounting to KD 28 million.

There is no question that China has clearly employed specific criteria to facilitate its investments in the global stock markets, which the Kuwait Boursa must meet. These criteria often involve factors such as market liquidity, with daily trading volumes between \$50 million to \$100 million, and company market capitalizations meeting a certain threshold. Typically, investments range from two percent to five percent of a company's total shares, although in Kuwait, China's stakes can be as low as one percent. This lower percentage may reflect China's initial experience with smaller markets compared to global stock exchanges.

As the Kuwait Stock Exchange (Boursa) gains experience and maturity, it is anticipated that investment from various countries and companies will increase.

The Kuwait Stock Market is already gaining global attention due to its openness, transparency, and independent judicial system, along with the freedom of press, which are the key components of a democratic society supported by our parlia-

Boursa Kuwait index up 41.87 points amidst increased investor confidence

Technology sector leads gains, utilities fall

By Mahmoud Shinde

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: The Boursa Kuwait experienced a positive shift this week, with the general index rising by 41.87 points, closing at 7107.48 points. This gain was supported by increased investor confidence and improved financial performance among listed companies in the second quarter of 2024.

The market value of shares surged to 42.025 billion dinars by the end of Friday trading, reflecting an increase of 0.59 percent or 247 million dinars from the previous week; the Main Market Index climbed by 1.22 percent, ending the week at 6044.13 points, up from 5970.99 points the previous week.

The first market index also showed growth, rising by 0.46 percent to reach 7732.62 points, add-ing 35.6 points; similarly, the main market index 50 ended trading at 5893.51 points, up by 1.21 percent or 70.69 points. Despite the overall market gains, trading ac-

tivity saw a decrease. Liquidity dropped by 6.55 percent to 251.51 million dinars, and the number of deals fell by 14.85 percent to 67.14 thousand. Trading volumes also decreased by 1.85 percent, totaling 1.04 billion shares.

Sector performance was mixed, with eight sectors showing gains, led by technology with a 6.57 percent increase, while five sectors saw declines, with utilities down by 2.58 percent. The share of Tamdeen Investment led the gains, rising by 89.66 percent, whereas Al-Rabita experienced the largest decline at 13.93 percent. Warba Bank's share, which rose by 4.32 percent, was notable for its volume activity, totaling 103.59 million shares. Baytak led in liquidity with 43.18 million dinars, though it saw a slight decrease of 0.56 percent.

Market analysts attribute the rise in stock values to renewed investor confidence and the pursuit of promising investment opportunities. This upward trend coincides with favorable second-quarter results from listed companies, particularly in the banking sector, and strong cash distributions. Additionally, Kuwait's ro-bust financial position supports positive market

momentum. However, concerns such as regional geopolitical instability and fluctuations in oil prices could pose challenges. Despite these risks, the overall sentiment remains optimistic, with positive factors largely driving market performance.

The global financial markets are expected to experience a period of calm following the positive economic data from the United States.

Recent reports reveal a notable decline in the Producer Price Index (PPI) and a decrease in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), or inflation rate, to 2.9 percent in July. This marks the first time the inflation rate has fallen below 3 percent since early 2021. Such data supports expectations that the Federal Reserve will implement its first interest rate cut in September, which is anticipated to bolster financial markets by enhancing the attractiveness of bank deposits and reducing borrowing costs for companies.

The Boursa closed on a positive note with its general index rising by 14.2 points to 7107.48 points, reflecting a 0.2 percent increase. Trading volume reached 251 million shares through 15,638 transactions with a total value of 59.1 million dinars (approximately \$180.2 million).

The main market index increased by 8.2 points, closing at 6044.13 points, a 0.14 per-cent gain. This was supported by the trading of 106.5 million shares across 6,367 transactions with a value of 14.6 million dinars (\$about 44.5 million). The first market index rose by 16.49 points to 7732.62 points, a 0.21 percent increase, with 144.4 million shares traded in 9,271 transactions totaling 44.4 million dinars (approximately \$135 million).

Additionally, the main market index 50 grew by 15 points to 5893.51 points, a 0.2 percent rise, with 54 million shares exchanged through 3,547 transactions worth 9.7 million dinars (around \$29.5 million).

The session was bolstered by gains in five sectors, led by healthcare with a 3.65 percent increase. Conversely, seven sectors declined, with energy falling by 3.17 percent, while the technolof 31.01 million shares and liquidity of 5.92 million dinars.

The Saudi Public Investment Fund has increased its investments in major American technology companies to \$20.7 billion during the second quarter of 2024, up from \$20.6 billion in the first quarter.

This increase follows adjustments in its stakes, raising holdings in seven companies and reducing them in five others. The fund slightly decreased its shares in companies such as Adobe, Keynote, and Vizio, and disclosed a reduction in options for Starbucks.

The Public Investment Fund, with a total size of 925 billion USD, is the sixth largest globally according to the SWFI. The fund also increased its stake in the Italian fashion company Ermenegildo Zegna -- the only non-tech company on its list -- and Brazilian digital bank Nu Holdings. Furthermore, it expanded its hold-ings in technology firms like Advanced Micro Devices, PayPal, Meta Platforms, Microsoft, and Nvidia.

European stock markets experienced a positive start on Thursday, buoyed by encouraging US inflation data that has increased expectations of an interest rate cut in September.

The pan-European STOXX 600 index climbed 0.2 percent, nearing a two-week high and setting the stage for a third consecutive day of gains.

The insurance sector led the charge with significant gains, driven by a 10.3 percent surge in shares of British insurer Admiral.

The company reported a 32 percent increase in its first-half pretax profit, surpassing analysts' forecasts.

Recent moderate US inflation readings have fueled optimism that the Federal Reserve may lower interest rates in September for the first time in four-and-a-half years. This potential rate cut has added a boost to investor sentiment across global markets.

In addition, data released showed that the British economy grew by 0.6 percent in the second quarter, aligning with economists' expectations. Despite this, the FTSE 100 remained largely unchanged. Among other notable movements, Dutch payments firm Adyen saw its shares rise 6.4 percent after reporting that its first-half core earnings exceeded expectations.





ment. Yes, Kuwait takes great pride in its financial institutions. naftikuwaiti@yahoo. Email: com

ogy sector remained stable.

Among individual stocks, "Thuraya" saw a significant increase of 10.18 percent, while "Hotels" led declines with a 18.31 percent drop. Warba Bank was notably active with a trading volume

New high surpasses July's record, fueled by falling bond yields

Gold prices reach record peak amid market uncertainty

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: Gold reached an all-time high of \$2,492.55 per ounce on Friday as investors flocked to the metal, seeking safety amid escalating geopolitical risks and the anticipated reduction in US interest rates, reports Al-Sevassah daily.

This new peak surpasses the previous record set in July, driven by weak housing sector data and growing expectations of a Federal Reserve rate cut in September.

Fouad Razaqzada, an analyst at City Index and Forex, attributed the surge in gold prices to the significant drop in bond yields, which has been fueled by speculation of impending interest rate reductions by the Federal Re-

Meanwhile, Wall Street's major indices experienced declines following a positive performance on Thursday, which was boosted by stronger-than-expected retail sales data that alleviated recession concerns.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average decreased by 0.2 percent, the S&P 500 fell by 0.3 percent, and the technologyheavy Nasdaq index also dropped by 0.3 percent.

Patrick O'Hare, an analyst at Briefing, noted that while these declines are modest compared to previous gains, market participants are cautious about buying on dips due to the rapid rise in recent months.

The S&P 500 has climbed over 8 percent since its lowest point on August 5, and the Nasdaq has risen by 12 percent.

The stock markets have faced challenges from weak US jobs data and Japanese interest rate hikes, which have negatively impacted investors who had leveraged investments in US technology stocks through borrowing in the weak yen. This has resulted in significant losses as asset values have declined.

Focus on developing cutting-edge financial solutions

Burgan Bank launches innovation hub 'Burgan Lab

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: Burgan Bank announced the launch of its innovation and digital transformation central hub, "Burgan Lab"; in its latest effort to foster a culture of collaboration, creativity, and excellence. Stemming from the Bank's vision to be the most modern and progressive bank in Kuwait, "Burgan Lab" is designed as a catalyst of customer-centric solutions that optimize every step of the Burgan banking journey using advanced tools and cutting-edge technologies. This falls under the umbrella of Burgan Bank's committed digital transformation and human capital development strategies.

"In a fast-paced industry where every day presents new challenges and opportunities for growth, maintaining our success as a leading banking institution in Kuwait and a preferred financial partner of choice requires anticipating needs before they transpire and innovating state-of-the-art solutions that are in tune with the latest technologies and market aspirations," said Mr. Omar Khalifouh, Acting Deputy General Manager – Digital Transformation at Burgan Bank. "To keep up with the ever-evolving market, we are



Omar Khalifouh

very excited to launch 'Burgan Lab', a hub where the brightest, most aspiring talents can brainstorm, experiment, and develop advanced banking and financial solutions that enable customers to lead a life of comfort, convenience, and fulfillment through agility and innovative digitization efforts.'

Building on Burgan's culture of creativity, adaptability to change, and strategic foresightedness, "Burgan Lab" is set to offer a year-long series of workshops, training ses-

sions, and focus groups that aim to push the boundaries of customer satisfaction and banking excellence, leading with its first "Burgan Lab Academy". In addition to its concrete impact on fast-tracking banking and financial innovation at Burgan Bank, the Lab will also play a significant role in upskilling the Bank's top talents and harnessing the creativity of Kuwait's young and fresh minds, ultimately contributing to the advancement of the domestic talent pool and national calibers in preparing tomorrow's digital transformation leaders.

As a certified Great Place to Work®, Burgan Bank strives to remain an employer of choice by developing new programs and spaces that guarantee continued growth and development for its employees across all departments and employment grades. Previous efforts that combined Burgan's commitment to digital transformation, learning, and development include its deployment of the personalized digital learning and development program, CK Connect, which enables staff to acquire new knowledge and skills at their own pace and in line with their interests and needs.

KIB receives 'Best Retail Banking Product' 2024 Award from World Finance magazine KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced ІВ 🤇 КІВ 🦉 receiving the "Best Retail Banking Product" award for the year 2024 from World Finance magazine. This recognition celebrates the Bank's recent success in upgrading the KIB



slogan, 'Bank for Life' Commenting on the Bank's latest recognition, which came as part of the magazine's 2024 Islamic Finance Awards program, Othman Tawfeqe, General Manager of the Retail Banking Department, stated: "We at KIB take immense pride in receiving this prestigious award, which is a reflection of our unwavering efforts to develop our banking products and services to meet our customers' needs and exceed their expectations. This occasion also presents an opportunity to reaffirm our continuous commitment to innovate further solutions and features that enable us to sustain our leading status in the banking sector. On this note, I would like to express my appreciation to the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Capital Markets Authority and all regulatory authorities for their invaluable support and wise guidance. I would also like to thank the Chairman, members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Management for their contributions to the success of the Bank."

He further stated: "As we celebrate this distinguished honor today, we're also reminded of the collective effort of all KIB employees, which has culminated in the successful ren-



Award celebrates innovative features and user-friendly design



KIB's Othman Tawfege

ovation of the KIB Mobile application. This upgrade has made it more user-friendly, secure, and adaptable to our customers' needs, while also introducing additional features that transform it into a truly innovative digital platform.'

With its recent revamp, KIB Mobile now serves as a digital gateway enabling customers to manage their financial portfolio and make smarter, quicker decisions. It offers rapid services like bank transfers, payment processing, and managing beneficiary lists. Furthermore, the KIB-Pay service allows for easy financial payment requests, account top-ups, and bill splitting. Upon registration, customers can immediately take advantage of the 'best' digital rewards program in Kuwait, earning points for banking activities and shopping, redeemable for a wide range of electronics, shopping vouchers, ticket reservations, and much more.

KIB was awarded this prize by the World Finance judging panel based on the Retail App's innovative features, user-friendly interface, and comprehensive functionalities that cater to the diverse needs of retail banking customers. According to the magazine, the KIB Retail App stands Kuwait International Bank wins 'Best Retail Banking Product' Award.

out for its intuitive design, robust security measures, and wide range of services, enabling customers to manage their finances conveniently and securely from their mobile devices. This recognition underscores KIB's dedication to providing top-tier banking solutions that enhance the overall customer experience.

World Finance magazine, based in London, is considered one of the leading media platforms globally in the economic and financial field. The magazine consistently honors outstanding financial institutions and leaders in the banking industry who are pioneering digital transformation in the finance and business world, as part of its annual Islamic Finance Awards program.

It is worth mentioning that KIB continues to receive prestigious awards that embody its commitment to developing its services and products and providing the latest banking solutions at the highest standards in the Islamic banking world. This is driven by the Bank's belief in the importance of contributing to innovation and development as well as enhancing its competitive edge among the changemakers in the Kuwaiti financial sector.

BUSINESS

ABK-Egypt reports outstanding financial results for H1 '24

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait - Egypt (ABK-Egypt) recorded outstanding financial results during the first half of 2024, reporting a significant increase in Net Profit by 154%, reaching EGP 4.315 billion compared to EGP 1.699 billion during the first half of 2023.

This reflects the continued strong performance of the bank in the Egyptian banking sector. Net Interest Income increased by 68% to reach EGP 2.988 billion by the end of June 2024, compared to EGP 1.779 billion during the same period in 2023.

Net Fees and Commissions incomegrew by 82.3%, reaching EGP 855 million compared to EGP 469 million at the end of June 2023.

Furthermore, the Bank's Total Assets grew by 30.5% to reach EGP 127.4 billion, compared to EGP 97.6 billion at the end of 2023. Total Customer Deposits increased by 25%, to reach EGP 103.8 billion compared to EGP 83.1 billion at the end of 2023, and Total Gross Loans Portfolio increased by 26.1%, reaching EGP 62.4 billion compared to EGP 49.5 billion at the end of 2023. The Non-Performing Loans (NPL) ratio was 1.62% at the end of June 2024.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Ali Marafi, Chairman of ABK-Egypt, stated, "Our strong financial results in the first half of this year confirm our ongoing success in strengthening our position within the Egyptian banking sector, which enjoys promising growth opportunities." He added that ABK-Egypt has achieved in becoming one of the fastest-growing banks, as reflected in the financial indicators achieved during the first six months of the current year, and emphasized the commitment to continue achieving strong growth rates across all levels."

He added that ABK-Egypt continues to develop plans to face economic challenges at the local, regional, and global levels. He further noted that ABK-Egypt is fully prepared to finance major projects within Egypt's development vision, fulfilling its role as a responsible banking institution in the Egyptian market. He stressed the importance of cooperation between the public and private sectors to elevate the Egyptian economy to higher levels in the future. Marafi elaborated that the Bank's

Maran elaborated that the Bank's results demonstrate its ability to continue achieving growth across most of its financial indicators, thanks to its prudent approach, its commitment to meeting all customer needs, gaining their satisfaction, and investing in providing a distinguished and integrated banking experience through its website, mobile application, and branches.

Marafi affirmed ABK-Egypt's commitment to supporting all efforts by the Egyptian government, the Central Bank of Egypt, and other responsible entities that pave the way for economic stability and growth in Egypt. Marafi stated that ABK-Egypt con-

Marah stated that ABK-Egypt continues to develop its plans, keep pace with changes in the banking industry, provide the latest technologies in its branches, and expand its presence across Egypt. He highlighted the inNet profit increases by 154%



Ali Marafi

troduction of the latest technologies as part of the ongoing digital transformation plan, which will help the Bank achieve further successes in the future.

ABK-Egypt issued its first sustainability and carbon footprint report during the first half of 2024, in line with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), reflecting the importance of measuring the Bank's performance using sustainability criteria.

Marafi noted that issuing the Bank's first sustainability report reflects its full commitment to the highest levels of governance and transparency in dealing with various stakeholders, disclosing the results of its operations and their impact on environmental, economic, and social levels. He stressed the Bank's commitment to leaving a positive impact and reducing emissions from its activities across all departments and divisions.

The report covers the most important achievements and initiatives of



Khaled El Salawy

the Bank in 2023, in addition to its accomplishments in economic, social, environmental, and governance areas. It confirms that the Bank prioritizes contributing to achieving Egypt's Vision 2030 for sustainable development, driving economic growth, and integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices into its various activities and operations, while designing and developing a model for managing environmental and social risks.

Best Retail Bank

In the first half of this year, ABK-Egypt was named the Best Retail Bank in Egypt at the Banking Excellence Awards ceremony organized by MEED, in recognition of the Bank's outstanding performance and success in meeting the needs of customers from various segments.

Marafi stated that the award confirms its success in earning the trust of



ABK logo

international institutions specialized in performance evaluation, gaining customer confidence, and keeping up with continuous developments in the banking industry.

Proven Track Record

Mr. Khaled El Salawy, CEO and Managing Director of ABK-Egypt, said, "Our Profit Before Tax increased by 140%, reaching EGP 5 billion at the end of the first half of 2024, adding a new achievement to our proven track record."

He added that this reflects ABK-Egypt's pursuit of achieving its strategic objectives and reaching a distinguished position in the banking sector in Egypt. El Salawy praised the efforts of ABK-Egypt's employees and all members of the Executive Management for their commitment to applying best practices to achieve sustainable growth.

El Salawy mentioned that the

Bank's strategy focuses on increasing its market share among retail and corporate customers, explaining that the Bank invests significantly in developing the digital services and products it offers in the market and keeping up with technological developments to enhance the customer experience and support the Central Bank of Egypt's plan to achieve financial inclusion across all segments of Egyptian society.

He pointed out that ABK-Egypt continues to participate in and sponsor various community initiatives in collaboration with many partners across different sectors, ensuring that the Bank meets the needs of underprivileged segments in the country and launches numerous initiatives to enhance its presence.

El Salawy explained that ABK-Egypt continues to meet the financing needs of small and medium enterprises, helping them grow their businesses, given their significant role in the Egyptian economy and contributions to supporting the efforts of responsible entities to achieve economic prosperity and growth.

He affirmed that the Bank continues to offer a variety of loans to retail customers, which helps gain their trust as their preferred banking partner.

In conclusion, El Salawy mentioned that the Bank continues to invest in developing its employees' capabilities by organizing numerous training programs, helping them enhance their performance and productivity, and increasing their levels of innovation. This, in turn, allows the Bank to offer more products and services that meet the needs of all customer segments in the Egyptian banking sector.

Data shows signs of resiliency in job market US jobless claims fall 7,000 to 227,000

WASHINGTON, Aug 17, (AP): The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits fell last week, another sign that the job market remains resilient in the face of high interest rates.

Jobless claims dropped by 7,000 to 227,000 last week, the Labor Department reported Thursday. The four-week average of claims, which smooths out week-to-week ups and downs, fell by 4,500 to 236,500.

In the week that ended Aug. 3, 1.86 million Americans were collecting jobless benefits, down by 7,000 from the week before.

Weekly filings for unemployment benefits, which are a proxy for layoffs, remain low by historic standards. From January through May, claims averaged a rock-bottom 213,000 a week. But they started rising in May, hitting 250,000 in late July and adding to evidence that high Country recovers from recession

UK economy grows 0.6% between April and June

LONDON, Aug 17, (AP): Britain's economy continued its recovery from recession at the end of last year, with its GDP increasing by 0.6% between April and June, official figures

showed Thursday. The second-quarter growth in economic activity, as measured by gross domestic product, followed a 0.7% increase in the first quarter and was in line with economists' predictions. It was a welcome boost for J.K.'s new Labour governi which has pledged to rebuild Britain's economy after years of sluggish growth. "The U.K. economy has now grown strongly for two quarters, following the weakness we saw in the second half of last year," said Liz McKeown, director of economic statistics at the Office for National Statistics.

try, where the Screen Actors Guild strikes in the U.S. in 2023 are still affecting U.K. production schedules.

The U.K. economy fell into recession at the end of 2023 as GDP contracted by 0.3% in the final three months last year. Figures at the time showed that all three main sectors services, industrial production and construction - were down.

Rachel Reeves, Britain's new Treasury chief, pledged last month to prioritize stimulating economic growth and reversing what she called "14 years of chaos and economic instability" under previous Conservative governments.



People walk around a Walmart Superstore in Secaucus, New Jersey, on July 11, 2024. (AP)

Americans ignored higher prices to spend

interest rates are taking a toll on the U.S. job market.

But claims have since fallen two straight weeks, dispelling worries that the job market was deteriorating rapidly rather than just slowing.

"Claims calmed down and their recent rise appears to be just a blip, not a fundamental shift in the labor market," said Robert Frick, economist at the Navy Federal Credit Union.

The Federal Reserve, fighting inflation that hit a four-decade just over two years ago, raised its benchmark interest rate 11 times in 2022 and 2023, taking it to a 23year high. Inflation has come down steadily - from 9.1% in June 2022 to a three-year low of 2.9% last month. Despite higher borrowing costs, the economy and hiring kept cruising along, defying widespread fears that the United States would sink into recession.

The economy is weighing heavily on voters as they prepare for November's presidential election. Despite a solid job market and decelerating inflation, Americans are still exasperated that consumer prices are 19% higher than they were before Growth was led by the service sector, in particular in technology, scientific research and legal services, the figures showed.

That partly offset some weaknesses in retail and lower output in the TV and film production indus-

inflation started to take off in 2021. Many blame President Joe Biden, though it's unclear whether they will hold Vice President Kamala Harris responsible as she seeks the presidency.

Lately, higher rates have finally seemed to be taking a toll. Employers added just 114,000 jobs in July, well below the January-June monthly average of nearly 218,000. The unemployment rate rose for the Some economists warned that growth could slow in coming months. GDP growth in the month of June was flat, with the service industry contracting by 0.1%.

Others, including Peter Arnold, chief economist at Ernst and Young U.K., were more optimistic.

"EY expects the economy to continue growing at a decent pace, though it will struggle to sustain the above-trend rates seen in H1 (the first half of) 2024," he said.

fourth straight month in July, though it remains low at 4.3%. Monthly job openings have fallen steadily since peaking at a record 12.2 million in March 2022. They were down to 8.2 million in June.

As signs of an economic slowdown accumulate and inflation continues to drift down toward its 2% target, the Fed is expected to start cutting rates at its next meeting in September.

Shoppers sharply boosted spending at retailers in July

WASHINGTON, Aug 17, (AP): Americans stepped up their spending at retailers last month by the most in a year and a half, easing concerns that the economy might be weakening under the pressure of higher prices and elevated interest rates.

The Commerce Department reported Thursday that retail sales jumped 1% from June to July, the biggest such increase since January 2023, after having declined slightly the previous month. Auto dealers, electronics and appliance stores and grocery stores all reported strong sales gains.

The July retail sales data provided reassurance that the U.S. economy, while slowing under the pressure of high interest rates, remains resilient. It showed that America's consumers, the primary driver of economic growth, are still willing to spend. The prospect of a still-growing economy is likely to be promoted by Vice President Kamala Harris' presidential campaign, which is preparing to roll out policies Friday to ban "price gouging" on groceries. On Wednesday, her opponent, former President Donald Trump slammed the economic record of the Biden-Harris administration, though he wildly inflated cost increases on food and monthly mortgage payments.

Other economic data released Thursday was also mostly positive, including a report on first-time applications for unemployment benefits. The figures show that businesses are mainly holding onto their workers and not increasing layoffs.

With Americans spending more, economists at Morgan Stanley have boosted their forecast for growth in the July-September quarter to a 2.3% annual rate, from an earlier estimate of 2.1%. The economy expanded at a healthy 2.8% rate in the April-June quarter.

All told, the latest data is consistent with an economy that is headed toward a "soft landing," in which the Federal Reserve raises interest rates enough to cool inflation but not so much as to cause a recession.

"The ongoing resilience of consumer spending should ease recession fears and reduce the odds markets have placed on a larger (half-point) cut" at the Fed's meeting in mid-September, said Michael Pearce, an economist at Oxford Economics. Instead, economists increasingly expect the Fed to begin cutting interest rates next month with a modest quarter-point reduction in its key rate, which affects many consumer and business loans.

Will coming cuts put a shine on their stocks?

High interest rates have dimmed the solar sector

NEW YORK, Aug 17, (AP): More sunshine could be in the forecast for solar power companies like SolarEdge Technologies and Sunrun, whose stock prices have been dimmed by high interest rates.

Wall Street is betting that those high rates could start coming down by September. The Fed's key rate is at a twodecade high, making borrowing expensive and difficult. That's hampered financing for the residential solar sector and weighed down companies with growing inventory backlogs.

Interest rate cuts should trickle down to consumers and businesses. Most home solar projects are financed, with homeowners taking out loans for the installation. Often, companies allow homeowners to sign a lease for the equipment, which means the companies themselves need financing in order to operate.

Shares of SolarEdge, one of the biggest makers of rooftop panels and other solar power equipment, have slumped 76% in 2024, while more traditional energy giants like Exxon and

Chevron have been rising. The residential solar industry is also dealing with big rule changes in the key California market, which cut the value of electricity generated via rooftop solar systems. The sector remains

sensitive to changes in state policies. The Solar Energy Industries Association expects 2024 to remain a weak year for the residential solar market. The first quarter of 2024 was the weakest quarter in two years.

SunPower, once one of the biggest solar technology companies with a market value of \$10 billion, recently filed for bankruptcy. The stock shed 73% in 2023 and is down another 90% in 2024, trading for less than \$1.

In July, SolarEdge Technologies announced it would cut 400 employees as it faces an inventory backlog. That followed an announcement a month earlier that a customer had filed for bankruptcy and might not be able to pay its \$11.4 million debt.

Most of the sector has tumbled, though FirstSolar has been an outlier, rising thanks to subsidies gained through the Inflation Reduction Act

China's NEV industry speeds up for greener, smarter future

BEIJING, Aug 17, (Xinhua): China's new energy vehicle (NEV) sector has achieved a milestone by surpassing the market share of fuel-powered cars for the first time, in an accelerated drive toward a greener and more intelligent future.

Retail sales of NEVs nationwide reached 878,000 units in July, accounting for 51.1 percent of the total market, according to data released by the China Automobile Dealers Association.

It is a historic moment not only for the transformation of the country's automotive industry but also for the global shift toward green transportation, analysts said.

"This is the beginning of a 'quali-

signed into law in 2022.

Projections for solar energy growth were strong coming into 2024. The Energy Information Administration foretative change' in the NEV market," said Zheng Yun, a senior partner and Asia head of automotive practice at Roland Berger, a consultancy.

The NEVs' market share in China was just above 1 percent in 2015 but surged in the following years thanks to an expedited green transition of the economy. The market penetration rate exceeding 50 percent marked a solid step toward accomplishing the government's target of making electric vehicles the mainstream of new automobile sales by 2035.

Industry insiders attributed the popularity of NEVs to factors ranging from favorable government poli-

cast that U.S. solar power generation, along with wind power, would lead growth in the broader U.S. power generation sector. It expects solar power cies to corporate innovation.

Traditional automakers like BYD have rapidly embraced electric and digital technologies, while more tech firms, including Xiaomi, are also scrambling for a foothold in the auto sector. Advances in core technologies from batteries to intelligent systems and the formation of an efficient and reliable industrial chain have further enhanced the competitiveness of Chinese NEVs.

Bill Russo, founder and CEO of Automobility Limited, noted that favorable subsidies and incentives initially spurred consumer interest in NEVs, but now consumers are driven by more diverse reasons.

New NEV models in China offer

generation to grow 75% between 2023

up the vast majority of power genera-

Other power sources will still make

and 2025.

better experiences for tech-savvy users than before, with enhanced technology features, lower maintenance costs, a longer driving range and improved power performance.

China's rapid expansion of charging infrastructure has also alleviated drivers' anxiety over range. The total number of charging piles jumped 54 percent from a year ago to 10.24 million by the end of June of this year.

"Demand-driven rather than policy-driven has become the main factor boosting the sales of domestic NEVs," said Liu Jia, an electronics & automotive analyst of Nomura Orient International Securities.

tion, but coal power generation is expected to contract, while natural gas and nuclear power generation remain flat.

What's On



A group photo of the Sawa'ed Al Khaleej team with Salma Al-Hajjaj and Badr Al-Ali in the center.



Gulf Bank sponsors the diving trip.





Gulf Bank team waiting for the returnees from the diving trip.

Return of the divers on the closing day.

Organized by Kuwait Sea Sport Club, under the patronage of His Highness the Amir

Gulf Bank concludes sponsorship of 33rd Memorial Pearl Diving Journey

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: In line with its commitment to fostering sustainability and preserving Kuwaiti heritage, Gulf Bank concluded its sponsorship of the 33rd Memorial Journey for Pearl Diving. Organized by the Kuwait Sea Sport Club and held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the event engaged 150 young Kuwaitis from August 10 to 15.

Al Dasha ceremony initiated the diving journey involving four ships, departing from the coast of Kuwait Sea Sport Club in Salmiya. Young participants honed their diving skills in the waters of Hairat Al Khiran, paying tribute to their fathers and forefathers who were once pearl divers.

The memorial journey for pearl diving events culminated in 'AlQoffal Day', which drew a large crowd of citizens and guests to welcome the returning diving ships and their crews. Assembling at designated points opposite the honor platform, they showcased the harvested oysters.

Al Falaq (the prod ovster shucking) the commenced, while a group of young divers showcased marine arts, including Al-Dawari and Al-Haddadi. This served as a prelude to the formal pearl harvest demonstration on the platform. The young divers formed a line in front of the honor platform, signaling the start of the ceremony Activities on Al Qoffal Day included a tour of the Gulf Diving and Maritime Heritage Revival Journey exhibition, organized by the Kuwait Sea Sports Committee for Marine Heritage. Participants also visited the corner of Expo 965 Team for Heritage Crafts Exhibitions and Talented Kuwaitis. The event showcased a display of collectibles and handicrafts.

Before embarking on the pearl diving journey, the young participants underwent comprehensive training in both the theoretical and practical aspects of traditional diving. This included instruction on preparing and equipping the diving vessels for the journey, as well as acquiring knowledge of marine arts.

Commenting on the event, Gulf Bank's General Manager of Human Resources, Salma Al-Hajjaj expressed pleasure in the community's appreciation for Kuwaiti heritage and the young people's avidity for knowledge about pearl diving. This reflects their strong desire to preserve their heritage and immortalize the memory of their pearl-diving ancestors.

"Gulf Bank's support for the 33rd Memorial Journey for Pearl Diving is part of its ongoing commitment to sponsoring civil society organizations and assisting them in achieving their objec-tives," Al-Hajjaj stated. "We believe that the private sector plays a crucial role in supporting the civil society organizations and assoc She pointed out that Gulf Bank's sponsorship of the event demonstrates its strong commitment to raising awareness among young people about the significance of preserving Kuwaiti heritage and its ancient traditions. This aligns with the bank's ongoing efforts to foster sustainability in society by supporting various events and initiatives that showcase authentic Kuwaiti heritage. Al-Hajjaj emphasized that Gulf Bank, an integral part of Kuwaiti society, continues its pioneering role in preserving authentic Kuwaiti identity, customs, and traditions through its sponsorship

of various social activities and events. She noted that the diving journey resonates with Gulf Bank's identity, symbolized by 'AlBoom' logo and epitomized by its flagship savings account, 'AlDanah', and the sea-inspired design of its headquarters in the heart of Kuwait City.

Meanwhile, a large number of the Sawa'ed Al Khaleej team expressed keen interest in participating in the activities of the Memorial Journey for Pearl Diving, sponsored by the bank. This enthusiasm stems from the bank's deep-rooted belief in the importance of reviving the nation's heritage and preserving ancient Kuwaiti traditions. By commemorating the hardships and challenges faced by their ancestors, the journey aims to inspire new generations of Kuwaitis to uphold the traditions and values forged during this pivotal chapter of their history.

Gulf Bank aims to be Kuwait's leading bank, fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace to deliver exceptional customer service while contributing sus-tainably to the community. Through its extensive branch network and innovative digital services, the bank empowers customers to conduct banking transactions conveniently and efficiently, ensuring a seamless experience. In alignment with Kuwait Vision 2035, "New Kuwait," and its commitment to fostering collaborative partnerships, Gulf Bank is dedicated to driving robust sustainability initiatives across environmental. social, and governance (ESG) dimensions. The bank is committed to implementing strategically selected and diverse sustainability programs both internally and externally.

'Expert tips for saving on groceries'

Grocery prices up 21% amidst easing inflation

NEW YORK, Aug 17, (AP): If you've noticed that you're paying more than before for the same amount of groceries, you're not the only one. Inflation is easing, but grocery prices are still high - up 21%, on average, since inflation started to surge more than three years ago. Unlike some other items, you can't just stop buying groceries when they get pricey. There's nothing you can do about inflation, but you can find ways to save on groceries so they don't heavily affect your wallet or your eating habits. These include using coupons, budgeting and buying in bulk

You need a plan, but before you make one, ensure you know what you currently have in your fridge and your pantry. Sarah Schweisthal, personal finance expert and social media manager at budgeting app YNAB, recommends taking everything out and making an inventory so you don't buy duplicates of

Enhancing products with exceptional benefits and rewards, says Al-Othman

NBK unveils second 'AI Jawhara' millionaire for 2024 onboard yacht on Umm Al Maradim Island

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: Marking the unveiling of the second grand prize draw for Al Jawhara and Al Jawhara Junior Accounts for 2024, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) hosted a unique event onboard a luxury



vacht on Umm Al Maradim Island. With a stunning maritime backdrop, the event featured a variety of entertainment activities, contests, and draws for the audience who showed remarkable engagement.

Thecelebration was attended by a number of NBK executives, where the draw was conducted in the presence and oversight of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as a rep-

Al-Othman

resentative of Deloitte, revealing Al Jawhara Account holder Abdullateef Majeed Abdulkareem Ramadhan as the lucky winner of the KD 1 million prize, making him the secondAl Jawhara millionaire for this year. In addition, Al Jawhara Junior Account holder Abdulmohsen Anwar Abdulmajeed

Behbehani was announced as the winner of the grand

prize worth KD 10,000, noting thatthe grand prize draws for both Al Jawhara and Al Jawhara Junior Accounts are conducted 3 times a year.

Celebrating the announcement of the winners. the event featured a variety of engaging entertainment activities and games for children and adults. It also included a number of competitions and draws on valuable prizes include Galaxy smartphones and two cruises on board a luxury yacht to Umm Al Maradim Island in collaboration with the Waves app.

Comprehensive Banking Experience

Commenting on this occasion, Mr. Mohammed Al-Othman, CEO-Consumer and Digital Banking at National Bank of Kuwait said,"Today, we are celebrating the first millionaire in Al Jawhara grand prize draws for this year, as well as the winner of Al Jawhara Junior grand prize. This aligns with our strategy to reward customers from different segments through an array of special draws, prizes and offers all year round.

Al-Othman added, "Al Jawhara and Al Jawhara Saver accounts as well as the Al Jawhara Junior draware instrumental tools to promote a culture of savings and financial inclusion among the public," noting that "NBK always seeks to provide customers with a comprehensive banking experience in which top-notch products and services are complemented with unmatched benefits and rewards.

'NBK has increased the total amount of the Al-Jawhara Account prizes to KD 5 million starting this year, and recently launched Al Jawhara Saver Account, offering customers a bonus interest rate up to 1.5% for the first year, in addition to the chance to enter the monthly and grand draws if savings reach KD5,000 and above. The bank is also offering customers who have been banking with it for more than 2 years double chances, in case they were not eligible to earn the existing double chances," he explained.

"Seeking to enhance the benefits and rewards provided to Al Jawhara Account holders, NBK introduced Al Jawhara Junior Draws for Al Jawhara Account holders below the age of 21 with 7 winners of monthly draws (KD 1,000 for 3 winners and KD 500 for 4 winners) in addition to 1 winner of KD10,000 prize with each grand prize draw," he mentioned.

NBK has already increased Al Jawhara prizes by more than the double in early 2023, making it the biggest in Kuwait, with KD 20,000 prize weekly, KD 125,000 monthly, and grand prizes worth KD 1,000,000 each, three times a year.



Photos for Al Jawhara draw at Umm Al Maradim Island

Here's are some expert recommendations for saving on groceries:

Kiersten Torok started using coupons back when she was in high school, after her parents lost their jobs during the 2008 recession. She began relying on them even more in 2020, when she lost her own job during the pandemic. Now she's using her social media platform to help others learn how to save.

'When times like these come up, coupons are a necessity for so many Americans," said Torok, known on Instagram and TikTok as Torok Coupon Hunter.

Many might think that using coupons means cutting them out of a magazine. While you can certainly still do that, there are now easier ways to get the discounts. Many stores, like Walmart and Target, have coupons available on their

"All you have to do is scan an item in a store, the coupons pop up on your app and then they automatically apply in the register," Torok said. "It's become much more streamlined?

One of Torok's coupon golden rules is: Never pay big for toothpaste - there's always a combination of coupons and offers available. For anyone who wants to try couponing, Torok recommends that you first start using them at your favorite store and never buy things you don't need, even if there's a big discount.

Apps like Flipp, which lets you browse for coupons from all major grocery stores, and Ibotta, an app that gives you cashback for using coupons, can make your journey with couponing easier.

Making a budget is a key to keeping grocery spending under control, and the first step is to track how much you're already spending. Start by reviewing how much you have spent on the last few times you've gone grocery shopping, recom-mended David Brindley, deputy editor for AARP Bulletin.

If you don't keep receipts from past grocery runs, try looking at your bank account statement and adding up the grocery charges. Once you know how much you spend on groceries, set a goal, for example, staying within a specific budget or reducing your spending.

things you already have on hand.

Brindley also recommends planning to cook multiple meals with similar ingredients, which saves money and also cuts down on food waste.

Once you've tracked your spending and inventoried what you already have, the next step is to make a plan. Write down the items you're looking to buy and your estimated cost, making sure you stay on budget. Meal planning for the week or month can be a good way to stay on top of your spending, Schweisthal said.

Going up and down the aisles can sometimes make you crave things that you haven't planned for, like a snack or a new dish. If you foresee that it'll be hard for you to stick to your list, include some flexibility in your plan, such as allotting a specific amount to buy snacks or a random item you see at the checkout line.

"I think having flexibility in a plan actually helps you stick to it more." Schweisthal said.

Making a plan can be as simple as writing down a list on paper or in your phone's notes app. Or, you can use apps that specifically help you with meal planning such as AnyList or Mealime.

If you tend to wander off your grocery list because every time you go to the store you buy things you don't need, shopping online and picking up curbside is a good workaround.

"I 100% recommend sitting down Sunday morning and just looking at the stores and comparing the items you need for the week, especially with things you can get for curbside pickup," Torok said.

If you buy your groceries from multiple stores because each has better prices on some items, ordering ahead of time can also save time.

If you are in charge of buying groceries for your entire family, it can be beneficial to include them in your grocery budgeting routine. For Torok, this has meant teaching her children how to scan coupons while they shop.

Since buying in bulk can be very cost-effective. Brindley also recommends that you team up with a friend or a family member to buy specific items in bulk and share the discount.

Lastly, you can save money by using food-sharing apps such as Olio, which connects people around their community to share extra grocery items, and Too Good to Go, where you can buy surplus food at a discount.



Swift's Eras tour returns in London, with assist from Ed Sheeran

LONDON, Aug 17, (AP): Taylor Swift's history-making Eras Tour made a triumphant return, accompanied by Ed Sheeran, in London Thursday night.

He joined the headliner on stage at Wembley Stadium for the acoustic section, playing on two of their collaborations, "Every-thing Has Changed" and "Endgame," before a burst of Sheeran's hit "Thinking Out Loud."

Swift teased the audience before his appearance, which lead to loud screaming from an audience that had already been energetically singing, dancing and doing heart hands throughout the show.

Sheeran's appearance was one of the highlights of the finely-honed stage spectacular and musical celebration of Swift's career to date. It's been tough few weeks for the singer and tour.

Heartbreak remains after the death of three young fans in Southport, northern England, who were killed by an attacker at their Swift themed dance class.

And fear followed the foiled plan to attack her concert venue in Austria, where police arrested three Islamic State-inspired extremists.

The August shows in Vienna were canceled, making Thursday's Wembley concert the return of the Eras Tour to the stage. Neither were addressed on stage by Swift, who kicked things off with an "Oh hi London," and admitted her "mind went blank" when she first greeted the crowd, which she likened to a "love system overload."

She thanked the 92,000-strong audience for making the effort to attend, which had involved increased security measures.

Swift has four remaining dates at Wembley Stadium, which will make it a record breaking solo residency at the venue and round out the European leg of The Eras Tour.

It picks up again in Toronto in November.

The enthusiasm of Swift's fans and a set list that includes more than 40 songs from all phases of her career have helped make the Eras Tour the biggest revenue earner of all time.

According to Pollstar, which collects data on the live music industry, it took more than \$1 billion in ticket sales last year.

The tour is expected to push that record to more than \$2 billion before it ends later this year in Indianapolis.

Also:

NEW YORK: Katy Perry will receive the Video Vanguard Award at the 2024 MTV Video Music Awards next month. She will also perform.

Previous recipients include Shakira, Beyoncé, Nicki Minaj, Madonna, Janet Jackson, Jennifer Lopez, Rihanna and Missy Elliott. Perry will return to the MTV VMA stage for the first time since 2017, when she performed and hosted the award show.

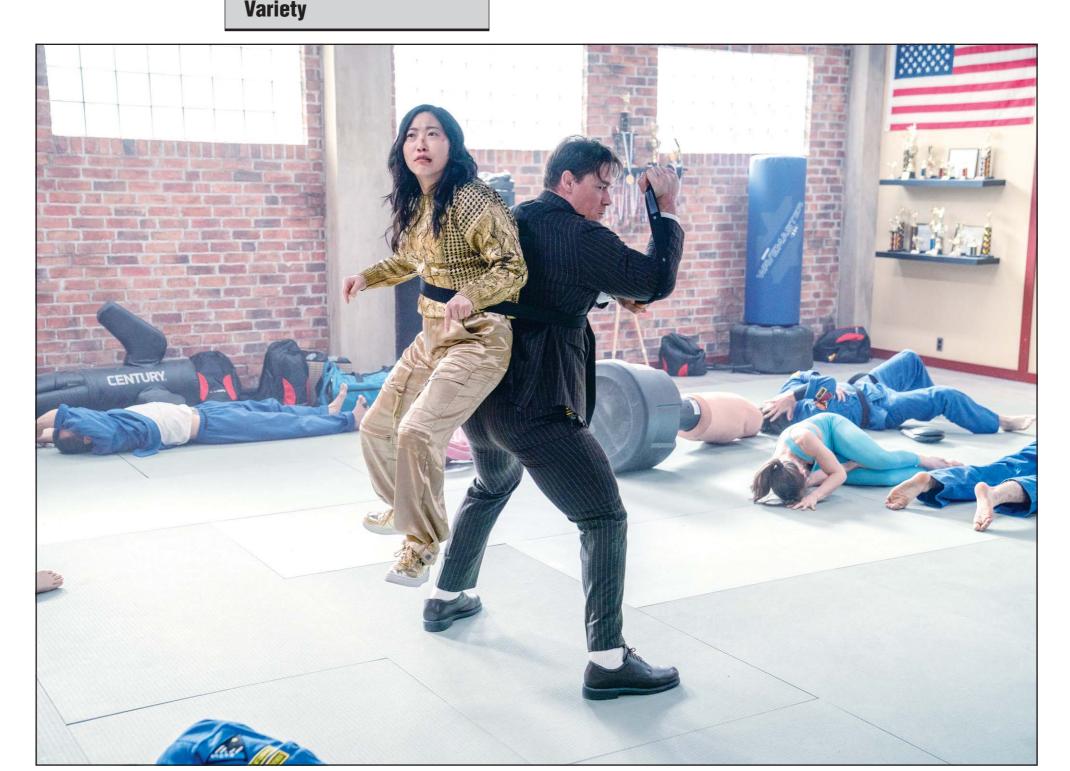
The pop singer has won five VMAs across her career. She took home her first three awards in 2011: video of the year ("Firework"), best collaboration and best special effects (both for "E.T.," featuring Kanve West).

"Katy is a musical powerhouse and true pop culture icon," said Bruce Gillmer, chief content officer of music at Paramount+ and president of music, music talent, programming and events at Paramount. "With her game changing creative vision, she has become a global phenomenon and taken over the world's biggest stages.'

Taylor Swift tops the 2024 VMA nominations with 10 - eight for her "Fortnight" music video and nods in the artist of the year and best pop categories. She's followed by her "Fortnight" collaborator Post Malone, who has nine. He is nominated along with Swift eight times and earned his ninth nom for his country hit "I Had Some Help," featuring Morgan Wallen.

The 2024 MTV VMAs will air live on Sept. 11 at 8 p.m. Eastern from the UBS Arena on New York's Long Island. Fan voting begins online Tuesday across 15 gender-neutral categories and ends Aug.

Voting in the best new artist category will remain active throughout the show.



Film

Feig puts a farcical twist on an old story

Awkwafina brings star power to 'Jackpot!'

By Jake Covle

Finally, a movie for everyone who read Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" and wished it had been a comedy

Paul Feig's "Jackpot!" is a farcical twist on an old story that, if it doesn't remind people of Jackson's short story will surely sound familiar to those who enjoyed "The Purge" and its sequels. In a near-future California, buying a lottery ticket enters you a chance to win billions. But there's a catch.

Everyone else is free to try to kill the winner and take the prizemoney. The "winner" has until sundown to survive and keep their money. The only rule: No guns. Hovering drones keep an eye on winners, helping violent mobs find their way to him or her. This state-sponsored Hunger Game is the new low for a government depleted of funds. Meanwhile, the local TV news chipperly announces a few new billionaires every day.

My principle disappointment with "Jackpot!" is that they didn't go with a title like "Mega Murders" or its original name: "Grand Theft Lotto." This is a very high concept for a comedy, one that Feig and screenwriter Rob Yescombe lean into to craft a mildly entertaining, streaming-only comedy that's only a touch less disposable than a losing Powerball ticket.

Mostly, "Jackpot!" is an action-comedy vehicle that pairs Awkwafina and John Cena for a romp through a few clever economic inequality gags and a lot of cartoonish mayhem. At the least, it's a more satirical, silly take on a dystopian genre that usually receives more somber treatments. "Mockingjay - Part 1" certainly never had John Cena trying to stomp out a groin on fire.

"Jackpot!," which debuted Thursday on Prime Video, stars Awkwafina as Katie Kim, a former child actor who, out of midlife desperation, has returned to Los Angeles in 2030 to try to break back into the movie business. A Hollywood where half the town is out for blood is, of course, not such a far-fetched, futuristic concept. That backdrop of raging competitiveness is a running gag in "Jackpot!" Katie is at an audition when she's announced as the lottery winner, immediately sending the other auditioning actors after her head.

As the quickly forming mob closes in on Katie, a pinstripe suit-clad man comes to the rescue, pledging to protect her for a 10% fee. Noel Cassidy (John Cena) is his name, and, as the two make their getaway, a buddy comedy ensues. Aside from the main task of staying alive, the abiding tension of the movie is how much Katie can trust Noel, and why this very sincere special agent is so dedicated to saving lives. Not only does Noel keep Katie from harm, he makes sure to put a helmet on anyone's head before kicking them out of a moving car.

Predictable

Awkwafina's sarcasm plays well off Cena's niceguy earnestness. In one scene, she says he looks like "a bulldog that a witch cast a spell on and turned into a human." Any comedy with her in the lead role has a fairly high floor, yet "Jackpot!" never pays off. It's amiably disordered but the high-concept always feels like a ridiculous goof, and its predictable machinations grow increasingly tiresome. Still, this is the rare film where you can say Machine Gun Kelly (whose panic room comes in handy for Katie and Noel) is a surprisingly perfect tonal fit. (Later, a turtlenecked Simu Liu turns up as the smarmy head of a larger, better funder protection agency.)

Feig, the director of "Bridesmaids," "Spy," "The Heat" and 2016's "Ghostbusters," may be more adept at balancing broad comedy and action sequences than any other working filmmaker. But the bigscreen comedy heyday he was once so central to has largely faded in recent years, as studios have grown disappointingly reluctant to gamble with laughs in theaters. It's hard not to see "Jackpot!" - which pales next to Feig's better films - as an example of this diminished era for theatrical comedies. Then again, as Awkwafina notes in "Jackpot!" Hollywood stardom isn't what it once was. Now, she says, even wrestlers and YouTubers can do it.

"Jackpot!" an Amazon Studios release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for pervasive language, violence, and sexual references. Running time: 104 minutes. Two stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Finally, the Sydney Sweeney nun thriller "Immaculate" makes its Hulu debuted on Friday, Aug. 16. Sweeney produced and also stars as a young American nun, Cecilia, who's decided to join an Italian convent where she's to help tend to older, dying nuns. The prettiness of the new surroundings is just a front, of course, and she starts to discover some sinister happenings within the ancient walls. In my review, I wrote that it's "a great showcase for Sweeney's range (she gets to go from somewhat meek to primal scream) and is full of interesting visuals, beautiful costumes and accomplished makeup work showing all manner of bloody, mangled faces and limbs. But it's also a movie that does not seem as sure of itself or the point it's trying to make."

BEIJING: Japanese animation "Detective Conan: The Million-Dollar Pentagram" led Chinese mainland's daily box office on Friday, according to the China Movie Data Information Network.

The newest installment in Japan's ever-popular "Detective Conan" animation franchise grossed approximately 46.15 million yuan (about 6.46 million U.S. dollars) on its release day.

It was followed by sci-fi thriller "Alien: Romulus" that made debut both in the United States and on the Chinese mainland on Friday, raking in about 41.01 million yuan.

Domestic crime film "Go for Broke" came in third with 29.7 million yuan in revenue on the day.

The total box office revenue on the Chinese mainland on Friday was 168.13 million yuan. (Agencies)

and documents that were quickly suspected to be phony. Graceland opened as a museum

and tourist attraction in 1982 and draws hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. A large Presleythemed entertainment complex across the street from the museum is owned by Elvis Presley Enterprises. The announcement of charges came



Presley

on the 47th anniversary of Presley's death at the age of 42.

"Ms. Findley allegedly took advantage of the very public and tragic occurrences in the Preslev family as an opportunity to prey on the name and financial status of the heirs to the Graceland estate, attempting to steal what rightfully belongs to the Presley

family for her personal gain," said Eric Shen, inspector in charge of the **US** Postal Inspection Service Criminal Investigations Group. An attorney for Findley,

who used multiple aliases, was not listed in court documents. A voicemail left with a phone number believed to be associated with Findley was not immediately returned, nor was an email sent to an address prosecutors say she had used in the scheme.

She's charged with mail fraud and aggravated identity theft. The mail fraud charge carries up to 20 years in prison. She remained in custody after a brief federal court appearance in Missouri, according to court papers. (AP)

she announced during her 66th birthday celebrations in Pompeii. While touring the Pompeii archeological park Friday with its director, Gabriel Zuchtriegel, the American pop star met a group of teenagers involved in "Sogno di Volare," or "Dream of Flying." As part of the project now in its fourth year, hundreds of young artists perform re-adapted comedies by Aristophanes, starting from

ROME: Madonna will fund an artistic project involving youths,

Pompeii's amphitheater, Teatro Grande, and then touring other Italian theaters. Madonna announced she would fund "Dream of Flying" for one year - about 250,000 euros (\$275,000).

"This project generously supported by Madonna is strategic for Pompeii, because it is directed to the people who live in this marvelous and complex territory, in particular youths," said Zuchtriegel. He noted that many of the kids involved live in poor southern towns where rates of school dropout and unemployment are higher. (AP)

WASHINGTON: A Missouri woman has been arrested on charges she orchestrated a brazen scheme to defraud Elvis Presley's family by trying to auction off his Graceland mansion and property before a judge halted the mysterious foreclosure sale, the Justice Department said Friday.

Lisa Jeanine Findley, 53, of Kimberling City, falsely claimed Presley's daughter Lisa Marie Presley borrowed \$3.8 million from a bogus private lender and had pledged Graceland as collateral for the loan before her death last year, prosecutors said. She then threatened to sell Graceland to the higher bidder if Presley's family didn't pay a \$2.85 million settlement, according to authorities.

Findley posed as three different people allegedly involved with the fake lender, fabricated loan documents, and published a fraudulent foreclosure notice in a Memphis newspaper announcing the auction of Graceland in May, prosecutors said. A judge stopped the sale after Presley's granddaughter sued. Experts were baffled by the

attempt to sell off one of the most storied pieces of real estate in the country using names, emails

NEWS/FEATURES

People & Places

Obits

Jack Russell dies

Brazilian TV legend Silvio Santos dead

BRASILIA, Brazil, Aug 17, (AP): Silvio Santos, a Brazilian television executive and presenter known for his beaming smile and catchphrase "Who wants money?" has died after a decades-long career in the spotlight. He was 93.

Santos owned the television network SBT and created several variety shows. The most famous of them carried his name, which he hosted since 1963, and in recent years had aired on Sunday nights. It is one of Brazil's longest running television programs. Santos brought several other successful programs to his network, such as "Show of the Million" and the reality show "Artists' House."

"Today heaven is happy with the arrival of our beloved Silvio Santos. He lived 93 years to bring hap-



piness and love to all Brazilians. ... That wide smile and familiar voice will forever be remembered with much gratitude," the SBT network said in a statement Saturday on social media.

The cause of death was not disclosed. He had been reportedly admitted to a hospital in recent weeks.

antos

His passing will change weekends in millions of Bra-

zilian homes that have tuned in to the "Silvio Santos Program" and were welcomed by its opening jingle: "Here comes Silvio Santos!" He folded airplanes of cash and tossed them over the crowd during his show, some episodes of which extended for as long as 10 hours. He constantly interacted with audience members and - with a custom microphone attached to his collar -- was free to wave his hands in the air.

Even into his 90s, he continued dying his hair brown, adding to the agelessness he exuded. His wellgroomed hair became another of his trademarks.

In 2013, Forbes magazine compared him to Oprah Winfrey and movie directors Steven Spielberg and George Lucas.

Santos was known universally by his stage name, though he was born Senor Abravanel in the raucous Lapa neighborhood of downtown Rio de Janeiro. As an adolescent, he sold pens and plastic sleeves for electoral identification cards and did tricks with coins and playing cards.

Success

So engaging were his sales pitches that they led to an offer to audition to be a radio host. He bounced from station to station in Rio and after a stint in the military finally found media success in Sao Paulo. His first television job came in the early 1960s with the Globo network, at the time called TV Paulista, where the "Silvio Santos Program" was later born.

About a decade later, he acquired his first television concession and set out to build an empire. He founded SBT, which by 2021 was the third most-watched network among the country's 214 million people.

Not all of his quips landed well. He was repeatedly accused of misogyny for comments about women's appearances or that caused discomfort. On at least two occasions, he declined to embrace female starlets on his show, saying he didn't want to get "excited." In 2016, ne asked a 5-year-old girl on air whether she preferred sex, drugs or money. But, as owner of his own network, he never faced any punishment. Santos also had ventures in cosmetics, hotels and even a bank. Forbes estimated Santos' net worth from 30 companies to be 2 billion reais (about \$380 million) in 2020. His broad appeal - not to mention his control over airwaves - at times drew the attention of political parties that proposed putting him up as a candidate for office. He tested the waters in 1989, with the launch of a presidential campaign, but the electoral authority barred his candidacy due to his ownership of a television network. Still, he remained close to politicians, and kept a program on air for 15 years titled "The President's Week." It exhibited positive things the leader had accomplished set to a soundtrack of trumpets and drums. It lauded the achievements of the last general who commanded Brazil during the dictatorship, João Figueiredo, up to Fernando Henrique Cardoso toward the turn of the century.



Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band perform on Thursday, Aug 15, in Pittsburgh. (AP)

People

Five charged in Perry's death

LOS ANGELES, Aug 17, (AP): Nearly 10 months after the death of Matthew Perry, the long-simmering investigation into the ketamine that killed him came dramatically into public view with the announcement that five people had been charged with having roles in the overdose of the beloved "Friends" star.

Here are key things to know about the case, including the two key figures who could be headed for trial and the possibility of the steepest of prison

What is ketamine, drug tied to fatal overdose of 'Friends' star

NEW YORK, Aug 17, (AP): The investigation into the death of "Friends" star Matthew Perry has led to a sweeping indictment that pulled in five people who prosecutors say contributed to his ketamine overdose in October, including two doctors and a street dealer involved

off-label uses

In Perry's case, he was using it to treat depression. He was receiving ketamine infusion therapy from his physicians, but prosecutors said the actor turned to other sources when his doctors refused to give Ketamine also has been used by paramedics as a sedative, often while working alongside police when they believed subjects were out of control. Some states and agencies have begun to rethink the practice due to its dangers. The 2019 death in Colorado of a young Black man named Elijah McClain brought scrutiny to the practice and led to a pair of paramedics being convicted for giving McClain an overdose of ketamine. Overall, the practice of giving ketamine and other sedatives to people detained by police has spread quietly across the nation over the last 15 years, built on questionable science and backed by policealigned experts, an investigation led by The Associated Press has found

Doctors, reputed dealer among those indicted

Later, Presidents Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Dilma Rousseff participated in a documentary about Santos shown in 2021, in honor of SBT's 40th anniversary.

One of his sons-in-law, Fabio Faria, became the minister of communications under President Jair Bolsonaro's administration.

In January 2022, Faria posted on Instagram a blackand-white video showing Santos' career that was narrated by the presenter himself.

Also:

NEW YORK: Jack Russell, the lead singer of the bluesy '80s metal band Great White whose hits included "Once Bitten Twice Shy" and "Rock Me" and was fronting his band the night 100 people died in a 2003 nightclub fire in Rhode Island, has died. He was 63.

"Jack is loved and remembered for his sense of humor, exceptional zest for life, and unshakeable contribution to rock and roll where his legacy will forever thrive," said a statement posted Thursday to his Instagram page. The death was confirmed by K. L. Doty, author of Russell's autobiography, "The True Tale of Mista Bone: A Rock + Roll Narrative."

Russell recently stopped touring after announcing he had been diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia and Multiple System Atrophy, which causes loss of coordination and balance, and changes in speech.

Fellow metal stars mourned Russell, with ex-Cinderella member Fred Coury writing on X: "The world lost 1 of the nicest guys in the business & 1 of the great voices to sail across the airways of the 80's." Poison singer Bret Michaels posted: "To my friend Jack Russell, such an amazing voice. May you rest in peace.'

A different iteration of Great White that Russell led - performing under the name Jack Russell's Great White - was involved in one of the most tragic concerts in U.S. history in 2003. During a show at The Station nightclub in Rhode Island, the band's pyrotechnics sparked a fast-moving blaze that caused a bottleneck as fans tried to flee. The fire killed 100 people, including the band's guitarist, Ty Longley, and injured more than 200 others.

"It was a horrible tragedy," Russell told The Roanoke Times in Virginia in 2010. "I wish we could go back in time and erase it. I wish there was something I could've done about it. This was one of those things where you don't see it coming - there's no way you can possibly see it coming. You just kind of pick yourself up and move on. You take what life gives you.

LOS ANGELES: Lawyers for The-Dream,

Variety

Actor Matthew Perry arrives at the

64th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los

Angeles on Sept. 23, 2012. (AP)

a Grammy-winning songwriter and producer, are seeking the dismissal of a woman's lawsuit that accused him of sexual assault and other abuse.

The producer, whose legal name is Terius Gesteelde-Diamant, was a writer and producer on huge hits including Beyoncé's "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)," Justin Bieber's "Baby" and Rihanna's "Umbrella." He has denied allegations of sexual assault, rape and other abuse made in a June lawsuit by singer Chanaaz Mangroe

Gesteelde-Diamant's lawyers want the suit to be thrown out entirely, writing in their motion filed Friday in a Los Angeles federal court that Mangroe's lawyers are "using the judicial system to propagate a false and defamatory narrative about Diamant, a highly respected Black musician in the arts industry, for their own financial gain and to his extreme detriment.

Mangroe, who performed under the stage name Channii Monroe, alleged in the June lawsuit that Gesteelde-Diamant lured her into "an abusive, violent, and manipulative relationship filled with physical assaults, violent sexual encounters, and horrific psychological manipulation" after she left her native Netherlands for the US with hopes of making it big as a singer. (AP)

BOGOTA, Colombia: Prince Harry and his wife Meghan arrived in Colombia on Thursday in their first visit to the South American country, where they will take part in several events promoting mental health for young people and how to combat cyberbullying, the office of Colombia's vice president said.

Harry and Meghan were welcomed at the residence of Vice President Francia Márquez in the heart of Bogotá, where they were treated to Colombian coffee and local pastries made with cheese and yuca. Márquez and Meghan greeted each other effusively, according to a photograph released by the Archewell Foundation, the couple's nonprofit organization.

Márquez, a human rights activist and Colombia's first Black vice president, said she will show the prince and the duchess the cultural richness of the country and the work Colombia's government is doing to fight inequality in a country where 33% of the population lives in poverty. (AP)

CAIRO: An Egyptian archaeological mission has unearthed an ancient Roman necropolis in the northwestern coastal city of Marsa Matruh, the tourism and antiquities ministry said on Thursday.

The discovery highlights Marsa Matruh's importance as a Mediterranean trade hub during the Roman era. The site includes two

catacomb-style tombs with 29 burial niches, as well as a complete Roman bathhouse with reception halls, seating areas, and water storage. Archaeologists also found artifacts such

as glass tear vials, inscribed offering tables a Roman toga-clad statue, a ram statue, and bronze coins. (Xinhua)

One or more arrests had been expected since investigators from three different agencies revealed in May they had been conducting a joint probe into how the 54-year-old Perry got such large amounts of ketamine.

The actor had been among the growing number of patients using legal but off-label medical means to treat depression, or in other cases chronic pain, with the powerful surgical anesthetic.

Recent reports suggested indictments might be imminent, but few outside observers, if any, knew how wide-ranging the prosecution would be, reaching much further than previous cases stemming from celebrity overdoses.

Danger

When Michael Jackson died in 2009 from a lethal dose of the anesthetic propofol, his doctor was charged with providing it. After rapper Mac Miller died in 2017, two men who prosecutors described as a dealer and a middleman were convicted of providing fentanyl-laced oxycodone that helped kill him.

But Perry's case pulled in both, with indictments against doctors and illegal distributors who prosecutors say preyed on his long and public struggles with addiction. The investigation even went after the live-in personal assistant who prosecutors say helped him get ketamine and injected it directly into him before Perry was found dead in his hot tub on Oct. 28, 2023.

"They knew what they were doing was risking great danger to Mr. Perry. But they did it anyway," US Attorney Martin Estrada said in announcing the charges.

The prosecution was well under way even before the announcement. Two people including the assistant, Kenneth Iwamasa, and a Perry acquaintance, Eric Fleming, have pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute the drug. A San Diego physician, Dr. Mark Chavez, has agreed to enter a guilty plea.

That leaves prosecutors free to pursue their two biggest targets.

An indictment unsealed Thursday alleges Perry turned to Los Angeles doc-

BEIJING: The winners of the 2024 Future Science Prize were announced in Beijing on Friday, with four scientists receiving prizes in life sciences, physical sciences. mathematics and computer science, respectively.

Deng Hongkui, Boya Chair Professor of Peking University and Leading Scientist of Changping Laboratory, received the prize in life sciences for his pioneering work on using chemical methods to reprogram soin providing Perry large amounts of the powerful anesthetic

Here's what to know about ketamine.

Ketamine is a powerful anesthetic approved by US.health regula-tors for use during surgery. It can be given as an intramuscular injection or by IV.

The drug is a chemical cousin of the recreational drug PCP. Ketamine itself has been used recreationally for its euphoric effects. It can cause hallucinations and can impact breathing and the heart.

Ketamine has seen a huge surge in use in recent years as a treatment for depression, anxiety and pain. While the drug isn't approved for those conditions, doctors are free to prescribe drugs for so-called

tor Salvador Plasencia when his regular doctors refused to give him more ketamine. Prosecutors allege Plasencia cashed in on Perry's desperation and addiction, getting him to pay \$55,000 in cash for large amounts of the drug in the two months before his death.

"I wonder how much this moron will pay," Plasencia texted a co-defendant, according to his indictment.

He pleaded not guilty to seven counts of distribution of ketamine in an appearance in federal court on Thursday afternoon.

Plasencia's attorney, Stefan Sacks, said outside court that he "was operating with what he what he thought were the best of medical intentions," and his actions "certainly didn't rise to the level of criminal misconduct."

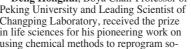
Prosecutors allege Jasveen Sangha, whom they describe as a drug dealer known to customers as the "Ketamine Oueen," provided the doses of the drug that actually killed Perry, injected into the actor by Iwamasa with syringes supplied by Plasencia.

Sangha also pleaded not guilty. Her attorney Alexandra Kazarian derided the "queen" moniker as made-for-media consumption during the hearing. The lawyer declined comment on the case outside court.

Prosecutors say the other doctor in

Harry

The-Dream



the case, Chavez, helped Plasencia obtain the ketamine he gave to Perry, while Perry's acquaintance, Fleming, helped get ketamine from Sangha to Perry

Chavez could get up to 10 years in prison, Iwamasa up to 15 years and Fleming up to 25 years.

Multiple messages seeking comment from attorneys for the three men were not returned.

Sangha could get life in prison if convicted as charged, while Plasencia could get up to 120 years. Each has a trial date in October, but it is highly unlikely any would be facing a jury by then, and the two may be tried together. They also could face testimony from the co-defendants who reached plea agreements.

Magistrate Judge Alka Sagar ruled Sangha should be held without bond while awaiting trial, citing prosecutors' contentions that she had destroved evidence and funded a lavish lifestyle with drug sales even after Perry's death

The judge agreed to release Plasencia after he posted a \$100,000 bond.

His attorney argued the Perry case was "isolated" and the doctor should be allowed to treat patients who depended on him at his one-man practice while awaiting trial.

matic cells into pluripotent stem cells, thereby changing cells' fate and state.

Zhang Tao, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences from the Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, and Li Yadong, a professor in the Department of Chemistry at Tsinghua University, shared the prize in physical sciences for their pioneering contributions to the development and application of Single-Atom Catalysis. (AP)



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War truce urged to launch mass vaccinations

Gaza sees first polio case as aid groups aim to prevent outbreak

CAIRO, Aug 17, (AP): The threat of polio is rising fast in the Gaza Strip, prompting aid groups to call for an urgent pause in the war so they can ramp up vaccinations and head off a fullblown outbreak. One case has been confirmed, others are suspected and the virus was detected in wastewater in six different locations in July.

Palestinian health officials on Friday reported the first case of polio in an unvaccinated 10-month-old child in the Gaza city of Deir al-Balah, the first case in years in the coastal enclave that has been engulfed in the Israel-Hamas war since Oct. 7.

After discovering the child's symptoms, tests were conducted in Jordan's capital of Amman and the case was confirmed to be polio, the health officials said.

The World Health Organization did not immediately respond to requests to confirm the case. However, UN health and children's agencies have called for seven-day pauses in the fighting, starting at the end of August, to vaccinate 640,000 Palestinian children against polio.

They said the polio virus had been discovered in wastewater in two major cities last month in Gaza, which has been polio-free for the last 25 years, according to the United Nations.

Polio was eradicated in Gaza 25 years ago, but vaccinations plunged after the war began 10 months ago and the territory has become a breeding ground for the virus, aid groups say. Hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians are crowded into tent camps lacking clean water or proper disposal of sewage and garbage.

To avert a widespread outbreak, aid groups are preparing to vaccinate more than 600,000 children in the coming weeks. They say the ambitious vaccination plans are impossible, though, without a pause in the fighting between Israel and Hamas.

A possible cease-fire deal couldn't come soon enough.

"We are anticipating and preparing for the worst-case scenario of a polio outbreak in the coming weeks or month," Francis Hughes, the Gaza Response Director at CARE International, told The Associated Press.

The World Health Organization and UNICEF, the United Nations children's agency, said in a joint statement Friday that, at a minimum, a seven-day pause is needed to carry out a mass vaccination plan.

The UN aims to bring 1.6 million doses of polio vaccine into Gaza, where sanitation and water systems have been destroyed, leaving open pits of human waste in crowded tent camps. Families living in the camps have little clean water or even soap to maintain hygiene and sometimes use wastewater to drink or clean clothes and dishes.

At least 225 informal waste disposal sites and landfills have cropped up around Gaza - many close to where families are sheltering, according to a report released in July by PAX, a Netherlands-based nonprofit that used satellite imagery to track the sites.

Polio, which is highly contagious and transmits mainly through contact with contaminated feces, water or food, can cause difficulty breathing and irreversible paralysis, usually in the legs. It strikes young children in particular and is sometimes fatal.

Immunized

The aid group Mercy Corps esti-mates some 50,000 babies born since the war began have not been immunized against polio.

WHO and **ÛNICEF** said Friday that three children are suspected of being infected and that their stool samples were being tested by a laboratory in Jordan. The Ministry of Health in Ramallah in the West Bank said late Friday that tests conducted in Jordan confirmed one case in a 10-month-old child in Gaza.

Aid workers anticipate the number of suspected cases will rise, and worry that the disease could be hard to contain without urgent intervention.

Health workers in Gaza are gearing up for a mass vaccination campaign to begin at the end of August and continue into September. The goal is to immunize 640,000 children under the age of 10 over two rounds of vaccinations, according to WHO.

The alarm over polio was first raised when the WHO announced in July that sewage samples collected from six locations in Khan Younis and Deir al-Balah, in the south and center of Gaza, tested positive for a variant of the virus used in vaccines. The weakened form of the virus used in vaccines can mutate into a stronger version and cause an outbreak in areas that lack proper immunization, according to WHO.

The only countries where polio is endemic are Afghanistan and Pakistan. But outbreaks of the vaccine-derived virus have occurred in war-torn Ukraine and Yemen, where conditions aren't nearly as bad as they are in Gaza.

Part of the challenge in Gaza, where polio hasn't been seen in a quartercentury, is to raise awareness so that health workers recognize symptoms, the UN says. The territory's health care system has been devasted by the war, where workers are overwhelmed treating the wounded, and patients sick with diarrhea and other ailments.

Before the war, 99% of Gaza's opulation was vaccinated against poio. That figure is now 86%, according to WHO. The goal is to get polio immunization levels in Gaza back above

While more than 440,000 doses of polio vaccine were brought into Gaza in December, that supply has diminished to just over 86,000, according to Hamid Jafari, director of polio eradication for the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region.

The 1.6 million oral doses being brought into Gaza will be a more advanced version of the vaccine that is less prone to mutating into an outbreak, the WHO said.

Getting the vaccine into Gaza is just the first step.

UN workers face difficulties retrieving medical supplies and other aid because of Israel's military assaults, fighting between troops and Hamas, and increasing lawlessness that has led to the looting of convoys.

Also, vaccines must be kept refrigerated which has become difficult in Gaza, where electricity is scarce. About 15-20 refrigerated trucks serve all of Gaza, and they also must be used to transport food and other medical supplies, said a senior Israeli army official with COGAT who was not authorized to talk with media and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Palestinians also face difficulties getting around. Their inability to reach health facilities will be an additional obstacle to the vaccination campaign, said Sameer Sah of Medical Aid for Palestinians.

Indonesia fast-tracks new TB vaccine

COVID-19 on the upswing in the US

NEW YORK, Aug 17, (Agencies): COVID-19 hasn't gone away, and data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests it's on the upswing around the country.

"We've seen these summer increases every summer that COVID-19 has been with us," said Dr. Amesh Adalja, a Johns Hopkins University infectious disease physician. "What's different about these cases this summer vs. prior summers is that they don't translate into hospitals in crisis

below the levels seen in winter - and far below the peaks seen earlier in the pandemic

The CDC also tries to monitor the spread of the coronavirus by looking for it in sewage and other wastewater at participating sites across the country.

The most recent wastewater data from the beginning of August - shows the highest levels since January. Detections were highest in the West and South, and lowest in the Northeast. nev labels nations viral activity level as "very high." Experts say to treat the data with caution because it has limitations. Tuberculosis: Indonesia is developing a new tuberculosis (TB) vaccine to strengthen the fight against TB, which has claimed an average of 150,000 lives annually.

Indonesian President-elect Prabowo Subianto, who is set to take office this October.

TB remains a life-threatening disease worldwide. According to the World Health Organization 2023 Global Tuberculosis Report, TB cases in Indonesia reached 1,060,000, equivalent to 385 cases per 100,000 population.

HIV infections: Fiji's Ministry of Health has recorded 552 new HIV infections in the first six months of this year, 33 percent more than the total

Experts advise avoiding close physical contact

Will mpox trigger another pandemic?



A woman walks past a sign that reads stop monkeypox at a clinic in Munigi, eastern Congo, Friday, Aug. 16. (AP)

Many unaware of threat

Congo crisis helped fuel mpox global emergency

GOMA, Congo, Aug 17, (AP): Sarah Bagheni had a headache, fever, and itchy and unusual skin lesions for days, but she had no inkling that her symptoms might have been caused by mpox and that she might be another case in a growing global health emergency.

She also has no idea where to go to get medical help.

She and her husband live in the Bulengo displacement camp in eastern Congo, a region that is effectively ground zero for a series of mpox outbreaks in Africa.

This year's alarming rise in cases, including a new form of the virus identified by scientists in eastern Congo, led the World Health Organization to declare it a global health emergency on Wednesday. It said the new variant could spread beyond the five African countries where it had already been detected - a timely warning that came a day before Sweden reported its first case of the new strain.

Medical

In the vast central African nation of Congo, which has had more than 96% of the world's roughly 17,000 recorded cases of mpox this year and some 500 deaths from the disease - many of the most vulnerable seem unaware of its existence or the threat that it poses.

"We know nothing about this," Bagheni's husband, Habumuremyiza Hire, said Thursday about mpox. "I watch her condition helplessly because I don't know what to do. We continue to share the same room

many mpox cases there might be in Bulengo because of a lack of testing, he said. There haven't been any recent health campaigns to educate the tens of thousands of people in the camp about mpox, and Faustin said he's worried about how many people might be undiagnosed.

"Just look at the overcrowding here," he said, pointing to a sea of ram-shackle tents. "If nothing is done, we will all be infected here, or maybe we are already all infected.'

Around 70% of the new mpox cases in the Goma area in the last two months that were registered at a treatment center run by Medair were from displacement camps, said Dr. Pierre Olivier Ngadjole, the international aid group's health advisor in Congo. The youngest of those cases was a month-old baby and the oldest a 90-year-old, he said.

In severe cases of mpox, people can develop lesions on the face, hands, arms, chest and genitals. While the disease originated in animals, the virus has in recent years been spreading between people via close physical contact, including sex.

Bagheni's best hope of getting a diagnosis for her lesions is a government hospital that's a two-hour drive away. That's likely out of the question, given that she already struggles with mobility having previously had both her legs amputated.

Also:

PESHAWAR, Pakistan: Pakistan's health ministry said Friday it has identified a case of mpox, but sequencing is being done to determine w ether is a new variant, days after the World Health Organization declared the spread of mpox a global health emergency

LONDON, Aug 17, (AP): The World Health Organization has declared the ongoing outbreaks of mpox in Congo and elsewhere in Africa to be a global emergency, requiring urgent action to curb the virus' transmission.

Sweden has since announced it had found the first case of a new form of mpox previously only seen in Africa in a traveler, while other European health authorities warned more imported cases were likely.

Here's a look at mpox and how likely it is to spread further:

That seems highly unlikely. Pandemics, including the most recent ones of swine flu and COVID-19, are typically sparked by airborne viruses that spread quickly, including by people who may not be showing symptoms.

Mpox, also known as monkeypox, is spread primarily through close skinto-skin contact with infected people or their soiled clothes or bedsheets. It often causes visible skin lesions that could make people less likely to be in close contact with others.

To stay safe, experts advise avoiding close physical contact with someone who has lesions resembling mpox, not sharing their utensils, clothing or bedsheets and maintaining good hygiene like regular hand-washing.

Outbreaks

On Friday, Europe's Centre for Disease Prevention and Control said that more imported cases of mpox from Africa were "highly likely," but the chances of local outbreaks in Europe were very low.

Scientists say the risk to the general population in countries without ongoing mpox outbreaks is low.

Mpox spreads very slowly unlike the coronavirus. Shortly after the coronavirus was identified in China, the number of cases jumped exponentially from several hundred to several thousand; in a single week in January, the case count increased more than tenfold.

By March 2020, when WHO de-scribed COVID-19 as a pandemic, there were more than 126,000 infections and 4,600 deaths - about three months after the coronavirus was first identified.

In contrast, it's taken since 2022 for mpox cases to hit nearly 100,000 infections globally, with about 200 deaths, according to WHO.

There are vaccines and treatments available for mpox unlike in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We have what we need to stop mpox," said Dr. Chris Beyrer, director of Duke University's Global Health Institute. "This is not the same situation we faced during COVID when there was no vaccine and no antivirals.'

It's unclear. The 2022 mpox outbreak in more than 70 countries was slowed within months, thanks largely to vaccination programs and drugs beavailable

Adalja said factors in the seasonal increase could be increased travel. people staying indoors to avoid summer heat and the virus' continued evolution - which could help it get around people's immunity

Testing for COVID-19 is sporadic and the true number of cases isn't clear because many infections aren't reported. But one way to spot trends is to see what percentage of lab tests come back positive. By that metric, COVID-19 is surging, with nearly 15% of tests coming back positive vs. less than 1% for flu.

Nevertheless, doctors' offices aren't seeing an outsized share of people with symptoms of respiratory illness. The proportion of doctor visits for flu-like symptoms remains low.

And COVID-19-related hospitalizations are rising, but they remain

"Our new domestically produced vaccine is now entering the clinical trial stage. The renewal of the TB vaccine was due to the fact that the existing vaccine had been outdated." Indonesian Minister of Health Budi Gunadi Sadikin told a virtual press conference on Friday.

He said the vaccine's launch process would be expedited to reduce the national TB rate, as mandated by

number recorded in 2023. The Ministry said in its statement on Friday that 73 percent of the new cases are individuals less than 39 years of age

It said while sexual transmission is the primary means of the spread of HIV in the Pacific island nation, 15 percent or 85 of the 552 new cases were recorded in individuals who identified themselves as injectable drug users.

The ministry is strongly encouraging the public and especially young people to refrain from engaging in high risk activities that would increase their chances of acquiring the HIV, including injectable drug use, sharing of needles, and unprotected sexual intercourse with multiple partners.

Millions are thought to be out of reach of medical help or advice in the conflict-torn east, where dozens of rebel groups have been fighting Congolese army forces for years over mineral-rich areas, causing a huge displacement crisis. Hundreds of thousands of people like Bagheni and her husband have been forced into overcrowded refugee camps around Goma, while more have taken refuge in the city.

Conditions in the camps are dire and medical facilities are almost nonexistent. Mahoro Faustin, who runs the Bu-

lengo camp, said that about three months ago, administrators first started noticing people in the camp exhibiting fever, body aches and chills - symptoms that could signal malaria, measles or mpox.

There is no way of knowing how

The case, in a man who had recently returned from a Middle Eastern country, is the first in Pakistan this year but the nature of the variant was yet to be determined. The first case was reported on Thursday by authorities in Sweden.

The ministry in a statement said the man was from Mardan, a district in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan.

It said the ministry has directed officials at border crossing points and airports to ensure strict surveillance and collect samples for medical tests if they see symptoms of the disease in any passenger returning from abroad.

tions in rich countries.

At the moment, the majority of mpox cases are in Africa - and 96% of those cases and deaths are in Congo, one of the world's poorest countries whose health system has mostly collapsed from the strain of malnutrition, cholera and measles. Although Congolese officials requested 4 million vaccines from donors, it has yet to receive

Despite WHO declaring mpox a global emergency in 2022, Africa got barely any vaccines or treatments.

Beyrer of Duke University said it was in the world's interest to invest now in squashing the outbreaks in Africa.

We are actually in a good place to get control of this pandemic, but we have to make the decision to prioritize Africa," he said.



14

Dream edge past Storm

Fever fend off furious Mercury rally in 98-89 win

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug 17, (AP): Caitlin Clark started fast and finished with 29 points and 10 assists while Kelsey Mitchell scored 28 points to help the Indiana Fever fend off a furious second-half rally from the Phoenix Mercury for a critical 98-89 victory on Friday night.

In the first game since the Olympic break, Mitchell made six 3-pointers and Clark had four as the Fever celebrated the restart of the WNBA season by adding another twist to the budding rivalry between Clark and three-time league champion Diana Taurasi.

Indiana swept the three-game season series with Phoenix as Clark tallied the 10th double-double of her rookie season.

Kahleah Copper, one of Phoenix's three U.S. Olympic gold medalists, led the Mercury with 32 points and eight rebounds. The other two - Taurasi and Brittney Griner - finished with 16 points and 10 points, respectively, after scoring just 12 combined in the first half.

Dream 83, Storm 81

In College Park, Rhyne Howard scored a season-high 30 points, Alli-sha Gray added 19 and Tina Charles

BASKETBALL

scored in the post with 1.1 seconds left to help Atlanta beat Seattle to snap an eight-game losing streak.

Charles finished with 16 points and Jordin Canada scored 10 points - all in the fourth quarter - to go with eight assists and three steals for Atlanta (8-17) in the first game back for both teams following a monthlong break due to the Paris Olympics.

Seattle entered the fourth quarter with a 60-55 lead, but Atlanta went on a 12-5 run to go ahead 67-65 with 5:37 to play. The Dream maintained a lead until Jewell Loyd hit a contested fall-away 3-pointer in front of the Seattle bench to make it 81-all with 4.6 seconds left. Loyd's tying shot came after she chased down a miss from Skylar Diggins-Smith.

The Dream called timeout to move the ball into the frontcourt and Charles caught the inbounds pass on the left block, faced the basket and pulled up for a short jumper to give Atlanta the win.

Sun 109, Wings 91

In Arlington, DeWanna Bonner scored a season-high 29 points, Marina Mabrey added 17 points in her debut for Connecticut and they beat Dallas Wings in the return to action for both teams after a monthlong break for the Paris Olympics.

Alyssa Thomas had 12 points, 14 assists and eight rebounds for Connecticut (19-6) while Tyasha Harris scored 14 points, Brionna Jones had 12 and Olivia Nelson-Ododa contributed 10 off the bench.

After an 8-0 start by the Wings, Thomas scored Connecticut's first six points to spark an 11-0 run that was capped by a Bonner 3-pointer. From there, the Sun never trailed again.

Satou Sabally finished with 20 points, eight rebounds, seven assists and two steals in her season debut for Dallas (6-20). The 2023 WNBA Most Improved Player missed the first 25 games of the season due to a shoulder injury sustained while helping Germany qualify for the Olympics.



Indiana Fever's Kelsey Mitchell, left, goes to the basket against Phoenix Mercury's Sophie Cunningham (9) during the second half of a WNBA bas-ketball game in Indianapolis. (AP)

Boxer praises Algeria

South Africa top Australia for 2nd straight win in Rugby Champ'ship



South Africa's players celebrate winning the Nelson Mandela plate after their victory over Australia in their rugby union test match in Perth. (AP)

Gold medal winner Khelif hailed upon home return

TIARET, Algeria, Aug 17, (AP): With an outpouring of fans greeting her as she arrived in her hometown, Olympic gold medalist Imane Khelif extolled Algeria for backing its athletes and said she hoped to again make her coun-try proud in the future.

The football-obsessed North Afri-can country has given Khelif the celebrity treatment since she returned to Algiers earlier this week. Nowhere has this been more true than Tiaret, the largely rural region in central Algeria where she grew up and learned to box. She and track star Djamel Sedjati were honored by local leaders and then paraded through the streets atop a city bus as hundreds of residents raised their hands and snapped photos.

BOXING

"All Algerian men and women have the right to be happy and celebrate,' she told reporters Friday at a local government office. "This proves that the government and the people are all behind sports.'

Algerians vigorously defended Khelif as she advanced through the Olympic Games amid international scrutiny and uninformed speculation about her

Despite being born and raised as a woman, she found herself in the crosshairs of Western debates about gender, sex and sports after failing unspecified and untransparent eligibility tests for women's competition from the nowbanned International Boxing Association in 2023.

As observers including billionaire Elon Musk, author J.K. Rowling and former U.S. President Donald Trump referred to her as a man in online posts, Algerians saw the controversy as an attack on their nation.

On Friday, Tiaret residents acknowledged the hardships that Khelif faced throughout the Olympics and said they hoped her success was just the begin-

"We hope authorities will support her in moments of victory like this as well as throughout the whole year. She has suffered enormously and started from scratch," Mohamed Hamou said, sitting next to Khelif in Tiaret on Friday afternoon.

Later at the parade, Nadjia Fehma, another Tiaret resident, reveled in her victory and said she was an inspiration. "She's made us really proud, espe-

cially given her career path and the way she's ended up succeeding," Fehma said.

Khelif's hometown welcome came days after she filed a criminal complaint for cyber-harassment in France, with her lawyer alleging a "misogynist, racist and sexist campaign" throughout the Olympics.

On Wednesday, Khelif acknowledged the difficulties and fear she felt on El Bilad, a private television channel in Algeria. Ŝhe said nobody had the right to question her sex and that she wasn't someone who enjoyed mixing politics and sports.

"Why was there such an outcry all over the world?" she asked. "I was afraid, but thank God, I was able to overcome it.'

PERTH, Australia, Aug 17, (AP): South Africa scored three second-half tries Saturday to hand Australia a second loss in two weeks, beating the Wallabies 30-12 in a rain-soaked Rugby Championship match.

South Africa, which led 11-9 at halftime, outclassed the Wallabies 33-7 last Saturday in Brisbane to hand Australia its first defeat of the season after three wins.

The Springboks went ahead 18-9 in the 43rd minute Saturday and after a Wallabies penalty goal increased its lead to 23-12 when hooker Malcolm Marx rolled over from a driving maul in the 64th minute. They scored their final try with six minutes remaining when Marx again scored from a maul with the Wallabies playing a man short before more than 58,000 fans in Perth.

"It's been an amazing two weeks coming down, getting two victories," South Africa lock Eben Etzebeth said. "It doesn't happen a lot. The Wallabies are a quality outfit ... we knew they would come out hard tonight and that's exactly what they did. Good result in the end."

RUGBY

On coach Rassie Erasmus making 10 changes to the starting side from last week's match at Brisbane, Etzebeth said: "I think he's a genius. They were great. Obviously the guys off the bench, they came on to finish. It was a good squad this whole tour.

Australia No. 8 Harry Wilson said the Springboks "won the big moments.

"They turned up, they played some good footy," Wilson said. "I felt we weren't far off, but we've got to win the big moments."

Australia coach Joe Schmidt said that, despite the loss, he was pleased with his team's performance.

"I can't fault the effort," Schmidt said. "Trying to combat a Springbok maul with a fully-fit pack is tough enough. With kind of a little bit of half a pack, it became very difficult, then we ended up when Seru Uru got sin-binned, you know, that's a really big

ask. "This is the best team in the world. This is no easy side to play against at the moment and we want to be mixing it with those teams."

South Africa split a two-match series at home with Ireland and beat Portugal before heading to Australia. The

Las Palmas hold Sevilla

Aspas caps 'eventful' game with late winner as Celta beat Alaves

set up the opening goal for Alaves 10

Aspas had a goal disallowed for off-

side before halftime but Celta equal-

ized midway through the second half

thanks to Williot Swedberg's superb

SOCCER

Aspas then received Swedberg's de-

"Iago is eternal," Alaves coach Luis

In the night's other game, Las Pal-

fense-splitting pass to score the winner

Garcia said. "He gets one chance and

mas came from a goal down twice to

with six minutes left.

he puts it away.

strike with the outside of his boot.

minutes later.

MADRID, Aug 17, (AP): Iago Aspas avoided an early red card thanks to a video review, had a goal chalked off just before halftime and then capped an eventful game by scoring Celta Vigo's winner against Deportivo Alaves in the Spanish league.

The 37-year-old Aspas was the focal point for Celta for much of last season and picked up where he left off in its opening game, netting in the 84th minute to seal a 2-1 victory for the hosts

He had been shown a red card after seven minutes when his arm made contact with Antonio Blanco, but it was downgraded to a yellow after a VAR review.

Blanco's cross to Kike Garcia then

Wallabies had two wins over Wales and a victory over Georgia to start Schmidt's reign as coach.

The Rugby Championship continues in two weeks when the Wallabies travel to Argentina for a two-test trip and the Springboks host the All Blacks for two matches in South Africa.

Meanwhile, Damian McKenzie scored a try among 17 points as New Zealand rebounded from last weekend's shock first test loss to beat Argentina 42-10 in the second Rugby Championship match on Saturday, extending its unbeaten record at Eden

Park to 50 tests over 30 years. McKenzie scored the first of the All Blacks' six tries and had a hand or foot in several others. He kicked superbly out of the hand and off the tee, and converted all six tries often from wide angles.

New Zealand had scored five tries by halftime, when it led 35-3, and there



Argentina's Mateo Carreras, left, is unable to stop New Zealand's Will Jor-dan from scoring a try during their rugby test match at Eden Park, Auck-land, New Zealand. (AP)

hold Sevilla to a 2-2 draw at home.

Alex Suarez's deflected a cross from the left past his own keeper to give Sevilla the lead after 24 minutes but an own goal at the other end by Tanguy Nianzo leveled the scores just before halftime.

Juanlu Sanchez then converted a neat cross by Isaac Romero to put Sevilla 2-1 up on the hour mark only for Sandro Ramírez to equalize 10 minutes later, just moments after coming on as a sub.

Las Palmas' two Scotland internationals, recent signings Oliver Mc-Burnie and Scott McKenna, both appeared for the home side and it was McBurnie's pressure on Nianzo that led to Las Palmas' first goal.

was no coming back for the Pumas who beat the All Blacks for only the third time last weekend and have never won back-to-back.

Winger Will Jordan returned to the All Blacks' starting lineup for his first test since last year's World Cup and scored a try in each half, his 32nd and 33rd in 33 tests.

"A great performance from the boys tonight," Jordan said. "We wanted to start fast and start strong and we did that, then held on at the end there.'

Beauden Barrett scored his 44th test try to move up to equal fifth on New Zealand's all-time try-scoring list and other tries went to Ardie Savea and winger Caleb Clarke.

If there was any disappointment, it was that New Zealand didn't score for the last 38 minutes while conceding a try to Pumas fullback Juan Cruz Mallia in a 7-7 second half.

The All Blacks were outplayed physically and tactically in last weekend's 38-30 defeat in Wellington. But on Saturday a passionate performance of the haka heralded a much more intense and physical effort from the All Blacks who were almost constantly in possession.

Argentina was continually on the retreat which left the visitors scrambling in defense and made it impossible to implement a kicking game which was needed in wet conditions.

Ghekiere dominates climb to win the 7th stage in women's Tour de France

LE GRAND-BORNAND, France, Aug 17, (AP): Justine Ghekiere claimed victory in the seventh stage of the women's Tour de France on Saturday, the first mountain challenge in the French Alps.

The 166-kilometer (103-mile) stage, the tour's longest, saw the Belgian rider leverage her climbing strength to break away during the final ascent to Le Grand-Bornand.

Wearing the red polka dot jersey, Ghekiere launched a decisive attack on the steep slopes of the Col de Saint-Jean-de-Sixt, distancing her rivals, including Marianne Vos, to cross the finish line solo.

"I really have no words," Ghekiere said after winning her first Tour de France stage. "I think I'm dreaming. I really want to thank my team who did an incredible job helping me today.'

Kasia Niewiadoma, who had taken the yellow jersey after Demi Vollering's crash earlier in the tour, struggled on the mountain stage but kept the jersey after finishing fourth. She leads Puck Pieterse overall by 27 seconds ahead of Sunday's final stage to Alpe d'Huez.

Vollering, unable to match Ghekiere's pace on the final climb, finished third in the stage and is 1:15 behind Niewiadoma overall.

CTTA backs crackdown on 'illegal' fan circle behavior

BEIJING, Aug 17, (Xinhua): The Chinese Table Tennis Association (CTTA) on Saturday expressed firm support towards authorities' efforts to crack down on illegal behavior of "fan circles" in sports.

The CTTA issued a statement after China's authorities ramped up their efforts to address the behavior of some online users since the opening of the 2024 Olympic Games.

Some netizens posted defamatory comments after the table tennis women's singles final on August 3. A 29-year-old woman, identified by her surname He, was arrested by Beijing police after she made derogatory remarks concerning athletes and coaches on August 4.

In an announcement released on August 15, China's Ministry of Public Security publicized four such cases, including that of He, while affirming its continued efforts to crack down on unlawful behaviors online. The authority also reminded online users that the internet is not a lawless zone and urged them to refrain from spreading groundless information and defaming others, in order to uphold a clean internet space.

In Saturday's statement, the CTTA said such behavior had severely impacted teams' training and competitions, bringing about negative influence towards the work, lives and families of athletes, coaches and managerial staff, while also causing grave social harm.

In terms of any abuse, defamation, slander or other forms of malicious attacks against the team and its members online and in other public spaces, the association vowed to gather evidence in accordance with the law and to take legal action against the organizations and individuals involved.

China's table tennis team expressed sincere gratitude for the support it has received from all sectors of society, and called for collective efforts to create a clean online environment.

"The CTTA will continue to commit itself to the healthy development of the Chinese table tennis cause, further promote the new image of Chinese sportsmanship in the new era, contribute to the nation's endeavors to become a sporting powerhouse, and win more glory for the motherland and people," read the statement.

At the Paris Olympic Games which concluded on August 11, China achieved a clean sweep of five gold medals across the table tennis events.

SPORTS

ARAB TIMES, SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024

Al-Qadisiya and Al-Arabi 'secure' hard-fought wins ahead of derby

Al-Mishaan acknowledges team's struggles

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: Al-Qadisiya secured a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Al-Yarmouk, earning its first three points in the Zain Premier League at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium during the second round of the tournament. The only goal came from Brazilian player Igor Rossi in the 12th minute.

Al-Arabi also achieved a narrow 3-2 win against Al-Tadamon at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium. Al-Arabi's goals were scored by Ali Aziz (40'), Aiwala (45+3'), and Ahmed Khalidi (71'), while Casimir (43') and Talal Al-Ansari (54') found the net for Al-Tadamon.

SOCCER

Despite both teams securing crucial victories and collecting three points, the performances of these rivals were less than convincing, especially with a "derby" match between them scheduled for next Wednesday in the third round of the league.

Al-Qadisiya bounced back after a loss in the opening round against Kuwait Club, but it was not the dominant side in the match. Al-Yarmouk managed to keep pace with its host and launched several attacks throughout the game, though none resulted in a goal.

Al-Qadisiya's coach, Mohammed Al-Mishaan, remarked, "This was the match



where we struggled the most with ball possession, but the most important thing is that we collected the points on a difficult day."

The match saw Al-Qadisiya dealing with multiple injuries, including Adhbi Shehab, Moaz Al-Dhafiri, and Rashid Al-Dosari. In the second match, Al-Arabi

raised its tally to six points, temporarily taking the top spot in the standings, pending the remaining results of this round.

Al-Arabi and Al-Tadamon delivered an entertaining first half, with both teams abandoning defensive caution, leading to an offensive spectacle. Although Al-Arabi scored twice, Al-Tadamon managed to equalize on both occasions.

In the second half, Al-Arabi scored its third goal, while Al-Tadamon's efforts to equalize again were thwarted, particularly in the final minutes, where Al-Arabi's goalkeeper, Suleiman Abdul Ghafoor, played a pivotal role in securing the win. Al-Arabi coach Nasser Al-Shatti acknowledged the difficulty of the match and expressed dissatisfaction with his team's performance. However, he emphasized the importance of the victory, despite the absence of several key players, and expressed confidence that the team will improve in the coming matches. **Best of the Rest**

Evanilson joins Bournemouth:

Brazil striker **Evanilson** signed for **Bournemouth** from Porto on Friday in a deal worth a reported 40 million pounds (\$51.6 million), a club record for the English team.

The 24-year-old Evanilson scored 13 league goals in Portugal last season and netted a hat trick in the group stage of the Champions League against **Royal Antwerp** in October. Evanilson will replace **Dominic Solanke**, who joined **Tottenham** on Saturday in a deal worth a reported 65 million pounds (\$83 million).

"Evanilson is a hugely soughtafter striker," Bournemouth chief executive **Neill Blake** said, "and for us to bring him to the club in a record-breaking deal shows our ambition and intent."

Tottenham has also bought winger Wilson Odobert, a France Under-21 international, from relegated Burnley for a reported 25 million pounds (\$32.3 million) while promoted Ipswich has signed Sam Szmodics, the top scorer in the Championship last season, from Blackburn and Kalvin Phillips on loan from Manchester City. (AP)

Shaqiri returns to Basel: Swiss playmaker **Xherdan Shaqiri** returned to **Basel** on Friday, 12 years after leaving the club where he began his career.

Basel announced in a statement titled "Welcome home, Shaq" that Shaqiri had penned a three-year deal. The Swiss club also posted a video on social media.

"It fills me with pride and I am very happy that I can return to my hometown of FCB today," Shaqiri said. "I have had a deep connection with the club and the region since I was a child. As a fan and of course as a player. (AP)

FIFA president in Cameroon: FIFA President **Gianni Infantino** arrived in Cameroon on Friday to pay tribute to former African football president **Issa Hayatou**, who died last week after a long illness.

Accompanied by **Patrice Mot**sepe, president of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), Infantino flew to the country's northern city of Garoua, where Hayatou will be buried on Friday.

A statement released by Cameroon Football Federation (FECA-FOOT) said the presence of Infantino and Motsepe was a testament to the "immense strategic and historical" role Hayatou played for African football. (AP)

Balanced group for Kuwait Club in AFC CL 2

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 17: The draw for the 2024/2025 AFC Champions League 2, held at the Asian Football Confederation's headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, placed Kuwait Club in Group D, alongside Shabab Al-Ahli of the

UAE, Nasaf of Uzbekistan, and Al-Hussein Irbid of Jordan from the Western Region.

Group A features Al-Wakrah, Tractor, Mohun Bagan, and Rafshan, while Group B includes Al-Taawoun, Air Force, Al-Khaldiya, and Al-Tin Asyr. Group C consists of Sepahan Isfahan, Sharjah, Esteghlal, and Al-Wehdat. Group E comprises of Sanfrecce, Sydney, Kaya FC and Eastern. Group F is made up of Zhejiang, Port FC, Lion City Sailors and Persib Bandung. In Group G, we have Bangkok United, Nam Dinh, Lee Man and Tampines Rovers. Group H teams include Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors, Selangor, Muangthong United and Dynamic Herb Ceb.

Kuwait Club secured its spot in the

Muller scores twice for the Bavarians

Bayern cruise into 2nd round after three Bundesliga clubs narrowly avoid upsets

BERLIN, Aug 17, (AP): Bayern Munich comfortably dispatched second-tier Ulm 4-0 in the German Cup but three other Bundesliga teams all needed extra time or penalties to overcome lower-tier





Kuwait Club player controls the ball as Bahrain's Al-Ahli player looks on.

group stage after defeating Bahrain's Al-Ahli 1-0 in a play-off match last Wednesday.

This edition of the tournament follows recent changes introduced by the Asian Football Confederation, including the creation of new competitions such as the AFC Champions League for Elite, AFC Champions League 2, and the Asian Challenge Cup.

The AFC Champions League 2, a second-tier competition, features 32 clubs divided into eight groups – four in the West and four in the East – each comprising four teams. The group stage will run from September 17 to December 5 in a double round-robin format. The top two teams from each group will advance to the round of 16 in February, with the quarter-finals in March, semi-finals in April, and the final match scheduled for May 17, 2025.

can fight [for silverware] in all com-

opposition on a night of near upsets.

Thomas Muller scored twice in the first 15 minutes for Bayern before Kingsley Coman and substitute Harry Kane added two more late on to give new coach Vincent Kompany a win in his first competitive game in charge. But Hoffenheim, St Pauli and Mainz

all had to work a lot harder before booking their place in the next round. Hoffenheim struggled most at third-

SOCCER

tier Wurzburger Kickers.

Hoffenheim went behind after 11 minutes but an own goal eight minutes later took the game to extra time. Wurzburg led again after scoring in the 100th minute, but Marius Bülter equalized for Hoffenheim in the 107th to take the game to penalty kicks.

Wurzburg captain Dominik Meisel was the only player to miss from the spot as Hoffenheim won the shootout 5-3.

Bayern Munich's Thomas Müller, second from left, celebrates after scoring a goal during a DFB Cup first round soccer match against Ulm in Ulm, Germany. (AP)

give it a 3-2 victory.

Mainz recovered from going 1-0 down against third-tier Wehen Wiesbaden and needed extra-time goals from captain Jonathan Burkardt and midfielder Nadiem Amiri to clinch a 3-1 win.

Martinez guides Racing to victory over Newell

Canales shines as Monterrey rise to Mexico's Liga MX summit

MEXICO CITY, Aug 17, (Xinhua): German Berterame and Sergio Canales scored either side of halftime as Monterrey rose to Mexico's Liga MX summit with a 2-1 away win over Puebla.

The visitors went ahead just after the half hour when Canales' longrange effort rebounded off the bar and into the path of Berterame, who slotted home from close range.

Former Real Madrid and Spain international attacker Canales doubled the advantage by sending a 25-yard rocket into the top left corner.

Santiago Ormeno reduced the deficit nine minutes from time but Los Rayados held on to secure their fourth win from five games so far in the Apertura season.

The result leaves Monterrey two points clear of second-placed Cruz Azul, who have a game in hand. Puebla are 13th in the 18-team standings, with just one win so far this campaign.

In Buenos Aires, Roger Martinez scored a sublime first-half goal as Racing Club climbed to the top of Argentina's Primera Division standings on Friday with a 1-0 away win over Newell's Old Boys.

Martinez capitalized on fine work from Agustin Almendra and took a steadying touch before thumping a 30-yard drive into the top left corner.

Newell's went close to equalizing

in the second half but were denied by a series of impressive saves from goalkeeper Gabriel Arias.

The result leaves Racing top of Argentina's 28-team top-flight standings with 20 points from 11 outings. Newell's are 21st, nine points further back.

"We should have had the victory secured a lot earlier," Racing manager Gustavo Costas said. "But we managed to get the job done. We have a lot to work in front of us on and our aim is to keep improving so that we

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Beckerman, president and CEO of Anschutz Entertainment Group, during a news conference at Dignity Health Sports Park in Carson, Calif. (AP)

Guoan hold Zhejiang, Jinmen Tiger edge Wuhan

Shenhua smash Port as Qingdao beat Shenzhen in CSL

SHANGHAI, Aug 17, (Xinhua): Brazilian striker Andre Luis scored twice to help Shanghai Shenhua beat city rivals Shanghai Port 3-1 in the Chinese Super League (CSL) on Saturday.

Port took the lead in the 12th minute through Wang Shenchao's header from a Matias Vargas cross.

However, in the 23rd minute, Port defender Wei Zhen stepped on Fei Nanduo's leg and was sent off, which became the game's turning point.

In the second half, leveraging the advantage of an extra man, Shenhua launched aggressive attacks. However, the score didn't change until substitute Yu Hanhao smashed in a volley during chaos in the box to equalize for Shenhua.

Just three minutes later, Shenhua took the lead when Luis latched onto Yu's pass and fired home a low shot.

In the sixth minute of stoppage time, Luis slot home again from close range to seal Shenhua's decisive victory.

With the win, second-placed Shenhua closed the gap to league leader Port to just two points, with six games left in the 2024 season.

Elsewhere, Martin Boakye's firsthalf tap-in saw Qingdao Hainiu beat Shenzhen Peng City 1-0, condemning Shenzhen to its third consecutive loss. Also on Saturday, Meizhou Hakka edged Changchun Yatai 2-1, while Shandong Taishan thrashed Chengdu

Fourth-tier Hallescher was seconds

Hallescher led 2-1 until Adam Dzwi-

gala equalized in the 94th. Substitute

Lars Ritzka scored the winner for the

Hamburg club in the 110th minute to

away from embarrassing last season's

second-division champion St Pauli.

Rongcheng 3-0. BEIJING, Aug 17, (Xinhua): Beijing Guoan and Zhejiang FC played out a 0-0 draw, while Tianjin Jinmen Tiger defeated Wuhan Three Towns 1-0 thanks to a last-gasp penalty in the Chinese Super League (CSL).

Beijing got the upper hand in the first half, as Wang Ziming and Chi Zhongguo had clear scoring opportunities for the home team but failed to convert them into goals.

The second half saw fierce competition with a more physical approach. Beijing's Zhang Yuning was sent off in the 88th minute for elbowing a Zhejiang player, and the game remained scoreless.

"Our team has made great progress both offensively and defensively. We played in an aggressive way and created chances in transition. There was disappointment for not seizing the win," said Beijing head coach Ricardo Soares afterwards.

Elsewhere, Andrea Compagno con-

verted a penalty in injury time to claim Tianjin's victory over Wuhan.

In other games, Qingdao West Coast crushed Nantong Zhiyun 3-0, while Cangzhou Mighty Lions beat Henan FC 2-0.

Beijing midfielder Li Ke has been suspended for four matches after he was sent off in a Chinese Super League (CSL) game on Sunday.

In the 87th minute of the game at Qingdao West Coast, Li was shown a red card after he grabbed Qingdao player Zhao Honglue by the throat and pushed him down.

In addition to the four-game ban, he was also fined 40,000 yuan (about 5575 U.S. dollars), according to a statement released by the Chinese Football Association on Friday. Changchun Yatai midfielder Pe-

Changchun Yatai midfielder Peter Zulj has been suspended for three games after he stamped on an opposition player in a Chinese Super League (CSL) game last Saturday.

In the 73rd minute of Changchun's 2-0 home win over Wuhan Three Towns, the Austrian was sent off for stamping on Pedro Henrique.

Henrique was also sent off after he kicked Zulj in retaliation.



Arsenal's Kai Havertz, left, scores his side's opening goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Wolverhampton Wanderers at Emirates Stadium in London. (AP)



Latest sports scores at — http://sports.arabtimesonline.com Liverpool's new era under Slot begins with win

Arsenal edge Wolves at home as Zirkzee scores on debut, Man U kick off campaign on winning note

LONDON, Aug 17, (AP): There were wins for Liverpool and Arsenal and records for the prolific Mohamed Salah and the enduring James Milner on the first Saturday of the Premier League season.

Liverpool's new era under Arne Slot began with a 2-0 victory over promoted Ipswich, with Salah netting the second to take his tally of goals in the opening round of a Premier League season to nine breaking a



Frank Lampard. Arsenal, runner-up in the league for the past two seasons, also won

greats Wayne Rooney, Alan

and

2-0 at home to Wolverhampton thanks to goals by

Kai Havertz and Bukayo Saka. Liverpool and Arsenal are widely expected to be the biggest threats to champion Manchester City in its bid for a record-extending fifth straight English top-flight title. City opens its title defense at Chelsea on Sunday, with the season having been launched Friday by Manchester United beating Fulham 1-0.

In other matches on Saturday, Newcastle overcame a 28th-minute red card to Fabian Schar for a headbutt to beat Southampton 1-0 through Joelinton's goal and Everton also had a player sent off, Ash-ley Young, in its 3-0 loss at home to Brighton.

Brighton's team featured James Milner, who - at 38 - was starting his 23rd season in the Premier League, beating the record of 22 he held jointly with Man United great Ryan Giggs. Milner is seven years older than his manager, Fabian Hurzeler, who had a winning start to English soccer after moving from German team St. Pauli.

Nottingham Forest drew 1-1 with Bournemouth in a match that featured a serious-looking leg injury to Forest's Brazilian midfielder Danilo, who was carried off on a stretcher



Liverpool's Luis Diaz, right, vies for the ball with Ipswich Town's Jacob Greaves during the English Premier League soccer match between Ipswich Town and Liverpool at Portman Road stadium in Ipswich, England. (AP)

leadership and looking to return to its former glories. Erik ten Hag was retained as manager despite guiding United to an eighth-place finish last season and this was a solid, if unspectacular, start to the campaign by his team.

"It's just the first game, but it's good to strengthen the belief and confidence in the team," Ten Hag said. "I have seen the places where we need to improve. But that's normal in the first game of the season."



Kuwait start strong in U15 GBA Cup

DOHA, Aug 17, (KUNA): Kuwait's U15 basketball team secured its first win in the Gulf Basketball Association (GBA) Cup (Qatar 2024) by defeating the UAE team 56-35 in Doha.

Owaid Al-Anzi, Head of the Kuwaiti mission to the championship, praised the victory, calling it a significant and early boost for the team as they aim for remarkable success in the ongoing tournament and future regional and international competitions. He also expressed gratitude for the Qatari Basketball Association's efforts in organizing the championship

In another match, Oatar defeated Oman 91-82.

early after screens were put up around him while he received treatment

Joshua Zirkzee marked his debut for Manchester United by coming off the bench and scoring an 87thminute goal to give his team a 1-0 victory over Fulham on the opening night of the Premier League season.

The Netherlands striker poked out his left foot to guide home a cross by fellow substitute Alejandro Garnacho at Old Trafford.

Zirkzee, who joined from Bologna for a reported \$47 million last month, was one of three offseason signings to make their first appearances for United, along with defenders Noussair Mazraoui and Matthijs de Ligt.

"To win here in my first home game, and to grab a goal, it couldn't be better," Zirkzee said.

Zirkzee, Mazraoui and De Ligt have arrived as part of a \$180 million spending spree by the record 20time champions, a club under new

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With Zirkzee not fully match sharp and Rasmus Hojlund injured, United started the season without an out-and-out striker on the field and it showed, with midfielders Bruno Fernandes and Mason Mount wasting the best opportunities in a game that was petering out before Zirkzee's late intervention.

Fulham goalkeeper Bernd Leno came to his team's rescue, saving twice at the feet of Fernandes in oneon-one chances then getting down sharply to deny Mount from close range in the second half.

Leno had no chance with Zirkzee's shot in front of the Stretford End, however, and Garnacho squandered a great chance to make it 2-0 in stoppage time when he dragged a shot wide in front of an empty goal. "That's the only criticism I have

of the team," Ten Hag said. "To kill. Kill in the box.'

Kuwaiti player out jumps his opponents to score during the opening game of GBA Cup between Kuwait and UAE.

Mazraoui played 81 minutes at right back - and was one of United's better players, along with Casemiro - before being replaced by De Ligt, three days after they both joined

clear." "Nobody here is talking about

winning seven titles. We are talking

from Bayern Munich. Zirkzee entered in the 61st.

Reigning champion Manchester City begins its title defense at Chelsea on Sunday.

Step by step for Ancelotti

Madrid kick off La Liga defense against Mallorca

MADRID, Aug 17, (Xinhua): Real Madrid will make its La Liga season debut against Mallorca on Sunday night, aiming to retain the title it won by 10 more points last season, and will be buoyed by having lifted the first trophy of the season during the week.

On paper, Carlo Ancelotti's side looks stronger than ever, with the additions of Kylian Mbappe and Endrick to their squad, and they showed their

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potential on Wednesday when they beat Atalanta 2-0 in Warsaw to win the European Super Cup - the first trophy of the season.

Some in Madrid have already been talking about the chance of the club winning seven trophies this season, but speaking to the press on Saturday, Ancelotti said he wanted to keep both feet on the ground.

"We still don't know how many

tournaments we have to play," he the Intercontinental Cup] which aren't said, pointing out that "there are two [the FIFA Club World Cup 2025 and



Real Madrid's Federico Valverde jumps for the ball with Atalanta's Mitchel Bakker, left, during the UEFA Super Cup Final soccer match between Real Madrid and Atalanta at the Narodowy stadium in Warsaw, Poland. (AP)

about the games that we have to win, starting with tomorrow [in Mallorca].

"We aren't thinking about anything else," said Ancelotti, who nevertheless said Madrid's squad can "compete for everything"

The coach touched on Madrid's title rivals, considering that "Barcelona and Atletico Madrid have strengthened very well and we will have to battle for everything, although we have started well." Eduardo Camavinga's absence due to a knee injury leaves Madrid short of cen-tral midfielders for their visit to Mallorca, but as their performance on Wednesday showed, that isn't necessarily a problem, with Vinicius Jr and Mbappe's pace on the break.

"He is an extraordinary talent and the club will try to make him feel comfortable," commented the coach, expressing his delighted with Mbappe's debut goal on Wednesday.

"He has fitted into the dressing room very well, with humility and he is very serious," said Ancelotti.

PSG open post-Mbappé era with win at Le Havre

PARIS, Aug 17, (AP): Paris Saint-Germain got its post-Kylian Mbappé era off a winning start by beating Le Havre 4-1 in its French league opener. However, the scoreline was more comfortable than the performance suggested, with PSG's last three goals coming in the final five minutes. The Paris club has dominated French soccer with 10 league titles in the last 12 seasons but is rebuilding after Mbappé left to join Real Madrid in the summer.

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It has one of the youngest squads in the league this season and is betting a new generation can take on more responsibility in Mbappé's absence. It started the match with home-grown 16-year-old Ibrahim Mbaye on the left wing and took the lead after only three minutes thanks to a goal from 23-yearold South Korean forward Lee Kang-

Randal Kolo Muani hit the bar after 25 minutes but when a second goal came it was at the other end. Gautier Lloris, brother of France's World Cup winning goalkeeper Hugo, equalized after 48 minutes and only a video review stopped the host from taking the lead after Josué Casimir hit the net five minutes later.

PSG piled on the pressure as the match went on but it wasn't until the 85th minute that Ousmane Dembélé headed the visitors in front again. The 21-year-old Bradley Barcola got the third a minute later and Kolo Muani added a fourth from the penalty spot in the final minute of the match. Another youngster, 19-year-old João Neves, claimed two assists.

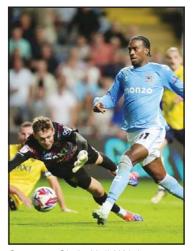
Meanwhile, Paris Saint-Germain striker Gonçalo Ramos is set to be out of action with an ankle injury for around three months, his club said Saturday.

Ramos suffered a severe ligament sprain in his left ankle during Friday's season opener against Le Havre in the French league, which PSG won 4-1.

overseas



In this file photo, PSG's Goncalo Ramos celebrates after scor-ing his sides third goal during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Lyon at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris. (AP)



Coventry City's Haji Wright scores their side's third goal of the game during a Sky Bet Championship soccer match against Oxford Unit-ed at The Coventry Building Society Arena in Coventry, England. Coventry won 3-2. (AP)

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