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Business Page 9

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 progress has been made due to a lack of vision and effective, realistic projects.

The reason is that those working on development are either driven by selfishness and self-interest, or lack a clear understanding of what needs to be done, or are getting bogged down in trivial disputes.

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 Bedouin 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 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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NewsWatch

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 residential 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.

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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.

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, especially 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.

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.

Continued on Page 5

Money-laundering thrives as fake trade mafias proliferate

Keep away from scammers, public warned

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: According to experts, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry'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 refuses to disclose all its invoices, as it will otherwise be considered a partner with money launderers, especially since invoices are exploited to manipulate money laundering operations.

In this regard, Lawyer Jarrah Al-Wawan said the decision of

Continued on Page 5

Home biometrics for handicapped

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.

Continued on Page 5



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)

Bridge of connectivity records rising number of suicide bids

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

attempt. 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

Govt must relinquish hold on economy to pull investments

Al-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.

'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

175 activities exempted from store licensing requirements

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has exempted 175 activities from the requirements for licensing commercial stores to consider them self-employment activities (micro-businesses 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 evidence 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.

Continued on Page 5



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

During the reception, Al-Failakawi conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

to the King, wishing him everlasting well-being, and further progress 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)

Prayer Timings

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

Local

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 in 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 Day.

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.

dence 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 celebration 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.



KUNA photo

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 decision-makers' 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 of Kuwait, reflecting his unwavering commitment to the nation's security and development.



Al-Hajeri

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

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 expertise.

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.

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

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.

In a statement, the ministry said the move 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 ministry reiterates its affirmation of 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."

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 17: The Indonesian Embassy in Kuwait has emphasized the growth in bilateral relations between Indonesia and Kuwait since the establishment 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 health-care 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.

Indonesian Embassy highlights growth in Kuwait ties since '68

Embassy celebrates country's 79th Independence Day



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 (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 Palestinians 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

borders with Gaza.

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 containing clothes, utensils, and personal hygiene supplies, as well as around 500 tons of shelter

supplies, containing 1,200 fully equipped tents, Al-Mesbah added.

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 proactive 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-Seyassah 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.



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

Al-Seyassah photo

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.



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 Fi-

nancial 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-



Speed control radar.

Mol photo

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 high-traffic 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.

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 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 Sulaiybiya 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.

diwaniya ديوانية

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, contem-

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

"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 ruling.

"Final, conclusive judicial rulings 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.

"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 significant 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.

"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

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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 operations on rainwater drainage system kicked off in Al-

Naem, 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, stated: "Dr. Pasha has specialized in Middle Eastern issues, researching, teaching, and writing since 1978. He is one of the foremost scholars in his field, having authored and edited over sixty books on 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."

The Indian Studies Unit at Reconnaissance 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



Dr. Aftab Kamal Pasha



Reconnaissance Research logo

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

comprehensive understanding of India's domestic, economic, and foreign policies, along with their potential impact 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.

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.



KUNA photo

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 Requirements" 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 congratulated

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-Seyassah daily.

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

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 Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser met with the Acting Director General of the Roads and Land Transport Authority, Khaled Al-Osami, 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.

Awqaf 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-Seyassah daily.

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

The committee's 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



Dr. Al-Mutairi

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.

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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 Kuwait 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 process of oyster shucking) then 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 show-

cased 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 objectives," Al-Hajjaj stated. "We believe that the private sector plays a crucial role in supporting the civil society organizations and associations."

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 sustainably 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.

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 apps.

"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, recommended 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.

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 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.

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

NBK unveils second 'Al 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 yacht 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.

The celebration 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 representative of Deloitte, revealing

Al Jawhara Account holder Abdullateef Majeed Abdulkareem Ramadhan as the lucky winner of the KD 1 million prize, making him the second Al 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 that the 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."

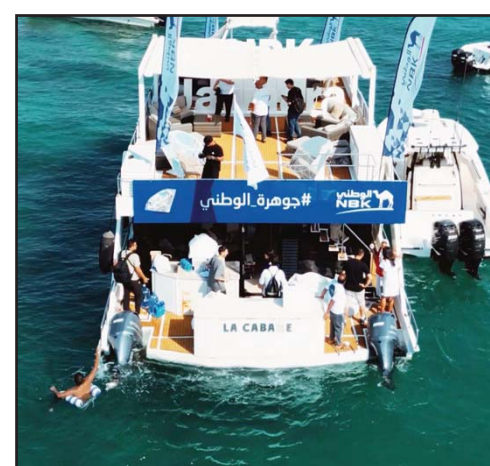
Al-Othman added, "Al Jawhara and Al Jawhara Saver accounts as well as the Al Jawhara Junior draw instrumental tools to promote a culture of savings and financial inclusion among the public," noting that "NBK always seeks to provide customers with a

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

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, "Everything Has Changed" and "Endgame," before a burst of Sheeran's hit "Thinking Out Loud."

Swift teased the audience before his appearance, which led 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 Kanye 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. 30.

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

MUSIC

Variety



This image released by Prime Video shows John Cena, (right), and Awkwafina in a scene from 'Jackpot!' (AP)

Film

Feig puts a farcical twist on an old story

Awkwafina brings star power to 'Jackpot!'

By Jake Coyle

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 nice-guy 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 turtle-necked 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 big-screen 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 debut 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)

Features

ARABIC TIMES

ARAB TIMES, SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024

ROME: Madonna will fund an artistic project involving youths, 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 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

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 Presley-themed entertainment complex across the street from the museum is owned by Elvis Presley Enterprises. The announcement of charges came



Madonna



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 Presley 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)

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 happiness 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.

His passing will change weekends in millions of Brazilian 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 well-groomed 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, he 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.

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 black-and-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 on 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."



Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band perform on Thursday, Aug. 15, in Pittsburgh. (AP)

People

Doctors, reputed dealer among those indicted

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 sentences.

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-

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 in providing Perry large amounts of the powerful anesthetic.

Here's what to know about ketamine.

Ketamine is a powerful anesthetic approved by U.S. health regulators 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

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 it.

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 police-aligned experts, an investigation led by The Associated Press has found.

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 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 Queen," 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

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 destroyed 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.



Actor Matthew Perry arrives at the 64th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles on Sept. 23, 2012. (AP)

Variety

LOS ANGELES: Lawyers for **The-Dream**, 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 Mangrove**.

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 Mangrove'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."

Mangrove, 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 **Francía 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)

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 Changing Laboratory, received the prize in life sciences for his pioneering work on using chemical methods to reprogram so-



The-Dream



Harry

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)

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, Rhyné Howard scored a season-high 30 points, Allisha 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, Brianna 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 basketball game in Indianapolis. (AP)

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)

NZ rout Argentina to stay perfect in 50 matches at Eden Park

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

Aspas caps 'eventful' game with late winner as Celta beat Alaves

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

set up the opening goal for Alaves 10 minutes later.

Aspas had a goal disallowed for offside before halftime but Celta equalized midway through the second half thanks to Williot Swedberg's superb strike with the outside of his boot.

SOCCER

Aspas then received Swedberg's defense-splitting pass to score the winner with six minutes left.

"Iago is eternal," Alaves coach Luis Garcia said. "He gets one chance and he puts it away."

In the night's other game, Las Palmas came from a goal down twice to

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 Tangyu 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 Ramirez to equalize 10 minutes later, just moments after coming on as a sub.

Las Palmas' two Scotland internationals, recent signings Oliver McBurnie 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 37 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.



Argentina's Mateo Carreras, left, is unable to stop New Zealand's Will Jordan from scoring a try during their rugby test match at Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand. (AP)

Boxer praises Algeria

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 country proud in the future.

The football-obsessed North African 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 sex.

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 now-banned 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 beginning.

"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, Nadja Fehma, another Tiaret resident, revealed in her victory and said she was an inspiration. "She's made us really proud, especially 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. She 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."

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.



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)

Sports

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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 tie he had with English soccer greats Wayne Rooney, Alan Shearer and Frank Lampard.



Salah

Arsenal, runner-up in the league for the past two seasons, also won 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, Ashley 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 Hürzeler, 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 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 87th-minute 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 20-time champions, a club under new



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."

SOCCER

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 one-on-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."

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

tournaments we have to play," he said, pointing out that "there are two [the FIFA Club World Cup 2025 and

the Intercontinental Cup] which aren't clear." "Nobody here is talking about winning seven titles. We are talking



Real Madrid's Federico Valverde jumps for the ball with Atalanta's Mitchell 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 central 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.



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

from Bayern Munich. Zirkzee entered in the 61st.

Reigning champion Manchester City begins its title defense at Chelsea on Sunday.

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, Qatar defeated Oman 91-82.

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.

SOCCER

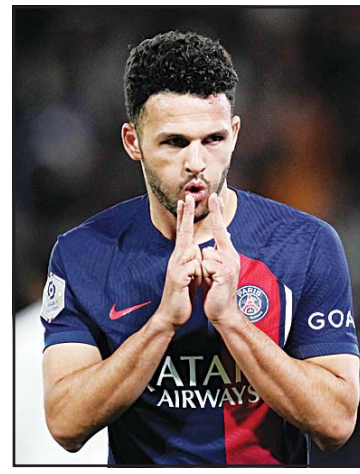
It has one of the youngest squads in the league this season and is betting a new generation can take on more responsibility in Mbappé's absence. It started the match with home-grown 16-year-old Ibrahim Mbaye on the left wing and took the lead after only three minutes thanks to a goal from 23-year-old South Korean forward Lee Kang-in.

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.



In this file photo, PSG's Gonçalo Ramos celebrates after scoring his side's 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 United at The Coventry Building Society Arena in Coventry, England. Coventry won 3-2. (AP)