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Opinion

Council of Ministers, be up to the challenge

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

FOLLOWING the decisive measures taken by His Highness the Amir, the political arena has become calm. This allows the Council of Ministers to perform its duties without obstacles and meet the challenges ahead. It now has the opportunity to work on expediting the implementation of projects that have been shelved for many years.



Al-Jarallah

In the past, the parliamentary-ministerial conflict was a pretext for inaction, but that is no longer an issue. If funding was an obstacle, the Council of Ministers now has the "thread and needle" to address this matter.

If outdated laws were the reason for the delay in progress, the Council of Ministers now has the authority to amend them within weeks.

However, after a hundred days in office, the administration has yet to meet the minimum expectations of the people. In fact, it seems it is seeking to destabilize the economy, which already was in need of careful management. This is evidence of its failure. It must acknowledge this because knowing the cause is the first step in the treatment process.

For example, the new requirement for non-Kuwaiti partners who hold visas other than those under Article 19 to sell their shares to a Kuwaiti when exiting the country is problematic.

Truth be told, this situation has existed since the time of the state's independence. It was a source of progress and development, and had increased commercial activity. This is what the officials should take into consideration.

What is particularly strange about this matter is not finding anyone to answer questions.

When writers and the press highlight the flaws in this shameful procedure, the responsible parties remain silent. They know they have jumped into the unknown and are unable to address the issues with statements that offer no real solutions. This disregard for effective governance and rational procedures is evident.

As a result, successful entrepreneurs are relocating to neighboring countries that offer incentives, even for innovative ideas, as they recognize ideas as valuable capital.

We therefore ask: Who can thrive in this gloomy and obstructive environment? Who will invest in a country that challenges and undermines creative and hardworking individuals? Do the ministers have a clear vision, or are they operating without direction?

People were optimistic about the Amiri measures and relied on the Council of Ministers to resolve their issues and amend laws that hinder all business. Instead, the situation has worsened, with the Council becoming increasingly strict in everything. This is negatively impacting the social and economic conditions and causing many problems. It seems as though the Council is enacting laws and decisions driven by revenge but against whom remains unclear.

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Ex-minister faces funds embezzlement 'probe'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19, (Agencies): The Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) has referred a former minister to the Public Prosecution on suspicion of facilitating the embezzlement of public funds and causing harm to the state's finances.

Nazaha posted on the social media platform (X) vowing to continue efforts aiming to collect evidence and investigate all well-founded information at their disposal to fight corruption and protect public funds.

The anti-graft body expressed appreciation for whistleblowers who play a crucial role in providing the necessary information regarding corruption incidents.

Nazaha re-affirmed commitment to ensuring the highest levels of protection and confidentiality for these individuals, as mandated by law.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health has said abandoned vehicles from parking lots of hospitals across all governorates will be removed immediately.

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Day by Day

THE desire for more entertainment projects in Kuwait is a sentiment shared by many who seek vibrant and engaging local options that can compete with international destinations.

When will we see such entertainment projects in Kuwait that could keep people from seeking recreation abroad? ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



(Left): First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah meets the US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara. (Right): First Deputy Premier Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah meets the Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait Aliya Mawani.



KUNA photos

Defense minister, envoys review regional situation

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19, (KUNA): Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah held discussions on Monday with a number of foreign ambassadors in Kuwait on issues of common interest.

In a statement, the Ministry of Defense said Sheikh Fahad Al-Sabah met, separately, with the Malaysian Ambassador Alauddin Mohammad Noor, the Indian Ambassador Dr. Adarsh Swaika, the Canadian Ambassador Aliya Mawani, and the US Ambassador Karen Sasahara.

The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation, as well as addressing recent developments on both regional and international fronts.

During the meeting, US Ambassador Sasahara honored Colonel Mohammad Abdulrahman from the Office of the Minister of Defense, recognizing his efforts in enhancing collaboration and coordination between the defense ministries of Kuwait and the United States.

Power to return in 24 hours

Gradual restoration to full production: MEW



Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Mahmoud Bushehri discusses with a Chinese delegation a number of energy projects being implemented in the country.

KUNA photo

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19, (Agencies): The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy (MEW) stated on Monday that electrical generating units at some power stations and water desalination plants would gradually return to operating capacities, following yesterday's power cuts.

In a press release, MEW explained that due to a malfunction affecting several electrical generating units at some stations over the past two days, caused by gas supply issues.

The ministry urged everyone to conserve electricity during peak hours -- from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm local-time -- expressing gratitude to everyone for their cooperation in this emergency, reflecting their sense of shared responsibility towards the stability of the electricity grid.

Haitham Al-Ali, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, has addressed the power outages affecting parts of residential areas, attributing the issue to a malfunction in the gas supply, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

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Kuwait & China focus on renewable energy

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Minister of State for Housing Dr. Mahmoud Bushehri met with a Chinese delegation, discussing with them a number of renewable energy projects to implement in Kuwait.

A statement by the ministry on Monday revealed that during the meeting the executive plans to complete phases 3 and 4 for the Al-Shagaya renewable energy station were discussed. The project has a production capacity of 3200 megawatts.

Each technical team was assigned on finishing their technical specifications promptly to keep up with the project schedule.

Additionally, the bilateral relations between Kuwait and China, and cooperation in the energy fields and ways to develop them were reviewed in the meeting.

The Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait, Zhang Jianwei attended the meeting, along with Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Asian Affairs, Ambassador Samih Hayat.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya received on Monday at the ministry's headquarters Ma Chao, Commissioner-General of the Representative Office for the Middle East and North Africa at the China Electric Power Investment Group, and her accompanying delegation during their visit to the country.

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WHO lauds Kuwait EPI achievements

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Health announced on Monday that the World Health Organization (WHO), through its Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO), has honored Kuwait for its outstanding achievements in the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) over the past fifty years.

The ministry said in a statement that the recognition highlights Kuwait's continuous efforts to align with the latest medical developments and recommendations in the field of immunization, aimed at preventing infectious diseases.

Head of the infectious diseases department, Dr. Hamad Bastaki emphasized that this achievement reflects Kuwait's commitment to advancing public health and ensuring the protection of the community from infectious diseases.

He also noted that the ministry will continue its efforts to improve and develop immunization programs in line with international standards and the latest medical guidelines.

IOM praises humanitarian role

Kuwait helps needy globally

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19, (KUNA): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reaffirmed Kuwait's unwavering position on lending a helping hand to people in need worldwide, while urging appreciation and respect for all humanitarian workers.

This came in a statement from the Foreign Ministry on Monday, in honor of World Humanitarian Day.

Additionally, the ministry said that Kuwait will always remember the humanitarian workers who lost their lives or were injured while in the field, noting Security Council Resolution No. 2730 (2024) regarding the necessity of protecting humanitarian workers and all United Nations personnel while performing their duties.

The UN named Kuwait as an international center for humanitarian efforts in 2014, and the late Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was named "humanitarian leader", humanitarian aid has been rooted in Kuwait far from political goals or discrimination.

This approach is encouraged by His Highness

the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in continuation of diplomatic and humanitarian work in the face of challenges.

Head of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission to Kuwait, Mazen Abul-Hosn praised, Monday, Kuwait's role in supporting humanitarian efforts around the world.

In a statement to KUNA on World Humanitarian Day, AbulHosn said that in the last three years, Kuwait has supported the organization's humanitarian operations around the world with an amount exceeding USD 14 million.

The support has been effective in providing life-saving assistance, shelter and protection to millions of displaced individuals and communities affected by conflicts, natural disasters and other emergencies, he added.

He noted that the organization has more than 27,000 staff, most of whom work in the field to effectively address the needs of migrants and displaced persons around the world despite the great challenges posed by conflict, limited access and harsh conditions in hard-to-reach areas.

As the UN celebrates the World Humanitarian Day Monday, Kuwait marks the occasion by continuing its vigorous effort support to humanitarian causes with an ever-present sense of responsibility and passion.

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AbulHosn

School cafeteria food list okayed

MoE introduces 'scan' feature for employee task verification

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Ministry of Education has started adding the 'scan' function for official assignments or tasks in the mail and correspondence system in order to exempt the concerned employees from using the fingerprint attendance device when carrying out official tasks.

Educational sources confirmed that the ministry is now adding official assignments and tasks to an e-mail or electronic correspondence system that is integrated with administrative and financial operations. Sources said it includes several main functions like scanning official documents and uploading them to the system, so the documents can be searched and retrieved easily when needed.

Sources pointed out that integration with the attendance system exempts employees assigned to do official tasks from using the fingerprint attendance device during the period of carrying out such tasks, so the attendance status is updated automatically through the addition of a feature that manages official tasks within the system.

Sources explained this allows the follow up of reports, as the system sends notifications via e-mail or text messages to inform employees about the new tasks or updates to the tasks assigned to them.

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Photo by Mohammad Morsi

Very few people seen at a restaurant in The Avenues Mall.

3rd biometrics leaves malls empty

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: Following the activation of the third fingerprint attendance system for all employees in government agencies, a noticeable impact was observed in shopping malls

during the morning hours. Some malls experienced a decline in shoppers, while others appeared nearly empty due to employees being required to be at their workplaces on time.

During the daily's recent tour of

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Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced the most recent issues of CBK bonds and related tawarruq at a total value of KWD 240 million for 3 months with rate of return 4.375%.

GAZA: The ongoing negotiations between Israel and Hamas "are the last chance to reach a ceasefire and prisoner exchange deal," said US Secretary of State Antony Blinken Monday.

This came in a press statement after Blinken's meeting with Israeli President Isaac Herzog. (KUNA)

GAZA: Al-Qassam brigades, the military wing of Hamas, claimed on Monday responsibility to an operation in Tel Aviv, which led to the injury of passerby.

According to a press statement, the operation -- in cooperation with Al-Quds brigades -- occurred at in southern of Tel Aviv, noting that the operative was killed during the process. (KUNA)

ISTANBUL: Police in Istanbul have launched a large-scale investigation after a Palestinian was killed and two others were wounded in a shooting as they sat in a car, officials and media said Monday.

The killer dropped a handgun fitted with a silencer at the scene, the Istanbul Governor's Office said in a brief statement. (AP)

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:54 Asr 15:27
 Sunrise .. 05:18 Maghrib .. 18:25
 Zohr 11:52 Isha 19:47

Local

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

Weather

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Very hot and relatively humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind to southeasterly wind, with speeds of 10-40 km/h.

By Night: Hot to rather hot and humid over coastal areas with light to moderate northwesterly wind to southeasterly wind, with speeds of 10-35 km/h.

Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**
 Kuwait City 47 36

Kuwait Airport 48 32
 Abdaly 48 31
 Jahra 49 34
 Salmiyah 41 34
 Jal Aliyah 48 32
 Nuwaisib 47 30
 Wafra 48 29

Three-day conference brings together national focal points from Arab nations

Kuwait participates in 6th Arab disaster risk reduction meet in Cairo

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The sixth meeting of the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction has commenced in Cairo, chaired by Bahrain; Kuwait is among the participating countries, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The three-day conference brings together national focal points from Arab nations to address key issues related to disaster risk management.

Ambassador Shahira Wehbe, Director of the Water Resources, Housing, and Disaster Risk Reduction Department at the Arab League, outlined the meeting's agenda saying the discussions will revolve around the statute of the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster

Risk Reduction and the status report on implementing the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its work program.

Kuwait's delegation will include National Liaison Officer for Disaster Risk Reduction Colonel Dr. Mishari Al-Faras and Engineer Souad Taqi from the Environment Public Authority, is actively participating in the discussions.

Key topics include – 'African-Arab joint fund for disaster risk reduction', 'Joint meeting between civil protection agencies and environmental authorities in Arab countries' and 'the Arab regional forum for disaster risk reduction'.

The meeting will also cover

preparations for the Global Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, the creation of a disaster risk reduction database for the Arab region, and the establishment of an "Arab Day for Disaster Risk Reduction," including the selection of a theme for 2025.

Furthermore, the agenda includes discussions on supporting less developed Arab countries in reducing disaster risks, reviewing the impact of tanker attacks in the Red Sea and enhancing efforts in Palestine.

The second meeting of Arab ministers concerned with disaster risk reduction is scheduled to take place at the League of Arab States headquarters, Wednesday.



Part of the proceedings of the sixth meeting of the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction, with the participation of Kuwait. KUNA photo



Ambassador Dr Swaika with First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad.

Indian ambassador calls on Deputy PM

The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Dr Adarsh Swaika called on HE Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Interior.

The Indian envoy highlighted the state and prospects of bilateral defense cooperation and apprised the minister of issues relating to the Indian community in Kuwait.

'A significant global recognition for Kuwait'

Dr Fattouh Al-Raqam elected member of AEE

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The American Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) has elected Dr. Fattouh Al-Raqam, a scientific researcher at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), to its leadership team.

Through this, Dr. Al-Raqam joins an elite group of energy scientists and engineers from around the world, including Dr. Leonardo Zhao from China, Catherine Luthen, Dr. Eric Wood Roof, Dr. Stefan Rosa, Dr. Shirley Hansen and Dr. Wayne Turner from the United States of America, Dr. Alexander Novoseltsev from Ukraine, Dr. L. J. Grobler from South Africa, and others.

This appointment marks a significant global recognition for Kuwait, as Dr. Al-Raqam is the first Arab to join this elite group of specialists.

The selection process requires candidates to have at least 20 years of documented achievements in energy management, including awards, certificates, scientific publications, and patents.

According to the protocol, a candidate for membership must be nominated by existing members. The selection committee then reviews the nominations to ensure the candidates meet the approved criteria before putting the matter to a vote among the members.

This year's competition featured 12 candidates, with Dr. Al-Raqam emerging victorious, representing the State of Kuwait.

It is worth highlighting that Dr. Fattouh Al-Raqam holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Florida in Gainesville.

She is a scientific researcher at KISR, with over 25 years of experience in energy conservation, energy efficiency, energy auditing, air conditioning, and hydrogen production.

Dr. Al-Raqam has an impressive

track record in research, having managed many projects and earned international recognition for her work in energy auditing.

She has published many articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals, secured several joint patents, and served on various committees that are specialized in energy efficiency, policy-making, and planning, including the Supreme Energy Committee for the State of Kuwait.

A notable achievement of Dr. Fattouh Al-Raqam is her success in establishing the Kuwait branch of the American Society of Energy Engineers, which she currently chairs. She has also been elected Assistant Director of International Development for the Middle East Region at the Society of Energy Engineers.

Among the awards she won representing the State of Kuwait are the Emirates Energy Award, the Distinguished Arab Engineer Award from the Federation of Arab Engineers, and the International Professional Development Award from the Society of Energy Engineers in the United States.



Dr Al-Raqam

MoE allocates budget, approves academic calendar for 2024/25

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Ministry of Education has set the budget of 616,800 dinars for the Office of the Undersecretary for Public Education and Technical Guidance for Academic Subjects for the 2024/2025 academic year, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a letter, Matrook Al-Mutairi, Acting Undersecretary of the Finance Sector, outlined the allocation details and procedural guidelines for the upcoming academic year.

According to the letter, the budget includes 12,000 dinars, with 2,000 dinars allocated for secret printing, 5,000 dinars for food, and 5,000 dinars for raw materials, 40,800 dinars for music, 50,000 dinars for Kindergarten and

267,000 dinars for practical studies.

This is in addition to 67,000 dinars for Art, 81,000 dinars, covering 30,000 dinars for sports courses 50,000 dinars for equipment, and 1,000 dinars for clothing for Physical Education for boys; 76,000 dinars, including 1,000 dinars for clothes, 30,000 dinars for sports equipment, and 45,000 dinars for additional sports gear for Physical Education for girls and 13,000 dinars for religious education administration.

The ministry also announced the academic calendar for religious education for the 2024/2025 year.

The key dates include First-Grade Learners, Classes start on September

16; Other Stages -- Primary, middle, and secondary learners will begin on September 17; Mid-Year Vacation is from Jan 19 to Jan 30; Second Semester Start on Feb 2; End of Primary Stage, May 29; Intermediate Stage Exams slated for May 8 to May 21; Secondary Stage Exams will begin on May 4 and end on May 21 and 12th Grade Exams from June 1 to June 23.

The ministry emphasized that the approved budget must be utilized efficiently and that all materials and needs should be acquired through the Purchasing Department of the Supply Department before March 31, 2025. Advances and cash covenants are not to be requested.

Al-Ghanim meets with transportation, trade minister

Egypt, Kuwait eye broader bilateral co-op: envoy

CAIRO, Aug 19, (KUNA): Egypt and Kuwait plan to ratchet up bilateral cooperation across numerous fields, with emphasis placed on the industrial and transportation sectors, Kuwait's Ambassador to Cairo Saqer Al-Ghanim said on Monday.

Lauding the meteoric development seen in the Arab world's most populous nation, the Kuwaiti diplomat expressed his country's "eagerness" to propel cooperation with Cairo to greater levels, he told KUNA after talks with Egyptian Transportation, Trade and Industry Minister Kamel

Al-Wazir.

Progress in trade relations would help usher in more growth in the two nations' economies, the Kuwaiti diplomat underlined, saying his talks with the Egyptian minister also focused on existential "opportunities" for further cooperation.

PAM holds event to mark World Humanitarian Day

'Expatriate workers in Kuwait highly respected'

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) has organized a special event to celebrate the World Humanitarian Day, in cooperation with the Permanent Coordination Committee in charge of linking PAM with civil society institutions and public benefit associations.

The event was held at PAM's Expatriate Workers Shelter on Monday; in collaboration with Kuwait Society for Human Rights, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and Patients Helping Fund Society.

The celebration included recreational activities, distribution of symbolic gifts to the residents, and a workshop on first aid conducted by KRCS to stress the importance of teaching life skills.

Aseel Al-Mazyad -- Director of the Public Relations and Media Department, official spokesperson of PAM and Chairperson of the Permanent Coordination Committee in charge of PAM with civil society institutions and public benefit associations -- confirmed that PAM is keen on celebrating this global occasion with the residents of the shelter in partnership with public benefit associations in order to improve the services provided to the residents. She emphasized that the State of Kuwait plays a vital role at the local and international levels.

She affirmed that workers in the State of Kuwait are highly appreciated and respected, highlighting their pivotal role in driving economic progress. She stressed the importance of celebrating this occasion at the shelter, as it reflects the dimensions of distinguished humanitarian work.

She said PAM remains committed to developing the shelter and providing all the necessary services to residents, while praising the continuous efforts of public benefit associations in this field.

She added this event is not just a celebration, as it is an open invitation to everyone to promote cooperation and giving, for Kuwait to become a model in humanitarian work.

At the end of the celebration, a group of residents expressed their gratitude for various services provided by PAM at the shelter.

They also spotlighted the positive impact of the event on their daily lives, as it enhances the humanitarian and generosity values in society.



Sheikh Jarrah Jaber receiving the Canadian ambassador. KUNA photo

Deputy FM receives Canadian envoy

Kuwait's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Monday Ambassador of Canada to Kuwait Aliya

Mawani. The two sides discussed bilateral ties and issues of common interests. (KUNA)

Other Voices

Malaysia ... selling cars for cash

By Ahmed alsarraf

After a delay of 30 years, the Ministry of Commerce issued a decision prohibiting the sale or purchase of cars in cash if their price exceeds 1,500 dinars. This long-awaited step came within broader moves in the same direction to improve the country's reputation in international assessments and contain suspicions of "money laundering and financing terrorism." Without it, the situation would have remained the same, knowing that the huge amounts of cash that leak into the banking system are mostly drug money!

The ministry's measures will inevitably limit the inflation of accounts and the fictitious paper sales, which in recent years have come to include several fields, from watches and real estate, to the sale of camels and medicines, and others.

It was striking the mistake made by one of the senior colleagues, when he downplayed, in an article, the seriousness of money laundering cases, especially the Malaysian fund, on the pretext that it was not our case, and "may God reward whoever did it," and that the money laundering law was imposed on us by Western countries, and we have no interest in implementing it, and that the money laundered by the accused is not our money, and the accused violated the money laundering law, and profited from the operation, but they did not steal Kuwaiti money (!!)

Courts in Kuwait have previously sentenced five defendants in the IMDB case to prison. Kuwait was one of the most prominent stations in the chapters of the case, which ended with the sentencing of former Malaysian prime minister Najib Abdul Razak to prison, on the background of embezzling funds from the sovereign fund.

In the summer of 2020, the Kuwaiti Public Prosecution filed money laundering cases against five defendants, after a British newspaper published an extensive investigation into the crime.

The Malaysian sovereign fund was established in 2009 with a capital of one billion dollars. In 2015, the authorities began investigating the theft of 700 million from the fund, and the investigation revealed that it went to the prime minister and his family. However, it turned out that the issue is bigger than that, and that it is one of the biggest financial scandals in the world, with more than 3.5 billion dollars embezzled between 2009 and 2015!

It is not known how the relationship between the Sheikh and "Joe Low", the mastermind of the largest embezzlement operation in history, began, who visited Kuwait in 2016, where money began to flow into Kuwait after that, and to several accounts, starting from September 2016.

At that time, the US Attorney General announced the prosecution of Joe Low, and the embezzlement scheme from the Malaysian sovereign fund was exposed to the world, but that did not prevent Jho and his partner, the sheikh, from trading and laundering the tainted money, to cover up whatever embezzlement could be covered.

In 2018, Malaysia contacted the Kuwaiti Financial Investigation Unit to investigate the role of the sheikh and the reason for the inflation of his bank accounts. The investigations revealed transfers from foreign companies to Kuwaiti companies owned by him, amounting to 343 million dinars, which were laundered in the banking system, on the basis that they were consulting fees. This was followed by a transfer abroad worth 200 million dinars, leaving 143 million, which the accused sheikh transferred to accounts inside and outside Kuwait, in an attempt to disguise its source, and spend part of it on purchasing luxury items!

From all of this, we see that money laundering, whether domestic or foreign, is a serious international crime that must be pursued. Its goal may be to fight terrorism and protect the West, as our colleague mentioned, but it remains a serious international crime that benefits drug dealers, arms brokers, and terrorists.

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diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Humanitarian contributions define a nation's greatness'

"NATIONS are not judged by their population size, land area, or even by their strategic geographic locations. Instead, the true measure of a nation's greatness lies in the quality of humanitarian services it provides – services that enhance the well-being of its people, uplift other nations, and benefit all of humanity," columnist **Muhammad Salem Al-Balhan** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"These acts of generosity, carried out by the citizens of such nations, bestow upon them a unique distinction and pride that far surpasses any material measure. High-quality humanitarian services undoubtedly deserve gratitude and recognition from those who benefit from them. These acts of kindness bring happiness, comfort, and security to human lives, creating an environment where people can thrive.



Al-Balhan

"Consider the remarkable contributions of Thomas Edison, whose invention of the electric bulb revolutionized the world. His breakthrough illuminated not just homes and streets but also sparked a new era of optimism, safety, and convenience.

"Through this invention, humanity transitioned from darkness and ignorance to a world filled with light, knowledge, and progress. Edison's contribution exemplifies how a single invention can elevate a nation's stature, propelling it into the realm of greatness.

"Similarly, the invention of television – an extraordinary feat of human ingenuity – transformed communication by bridging vast distances. The ability to transmit images across the globe is a testament to the brilliance of its inventor. Such advancements highlight the divine gifts of intelligence and creativity bestowed upon humanity, deserving of deep respect and admiration. There are countless other examples of how knowledge and innovation have changed the world, too numerous to list here. These inventions were the fruits of relentless pursuit of knowledge and hard work. As the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) advised in the noble hadith.

"Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim. Had our nation truly embraced this wisdom, it would have achieved even greater heights. The Arab poet aptly said: 'Knowledge builds homes without pillars, while ignorance destroys homes of pride and honor'.

"Today, it is evident that the industrialized and inventive nations are the dominant forces in the world. They dictate global affairs, transforming other countries into markets for their technological advancements – products essential for modern life. All of this has been achieved through the pursuit of science, knowledge, and relentless effort."

Also:

"Since our earliest memories, we have heard that the Middle East is always on the edge of a volcano, poised to erupt and send shock waves throughout the world. From crises to wars, from uprisings to coups, and intelligence operations, the region's residents have grown accustomed to this constant state of turmoil," columnist **Suad Fahd Al-Muajel** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"For those living in this hotbed of conflict, these challenges have become a daily reality. The pressing question remains: What are the root causes of this instability? Why does peace seem so elusive in the Middle East, and how can the cycle of escalating conflicts be stopped?"

"Many people attribute the instability to political, economic, and developmental factors, particularly the lack of scientific and technological growth. Others point to the Middle East's position as a strategic hub, drawing intense competition between Western and Eastern powers. This rivalry has turned the region into a battleground for global interests, leading to a seemingly endless cycle of conflict and destruction.

"The legacy of colonialism cannot be ignored when examining the region's instability. Colonial powers left behind borders drawn along ethnic and sectarian lines, sowing the seeds of division and conflict. This has been painfully evident in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, where wars have deepened these divides.

"However, the issue extends across much of the Arab world, where tensions can flare up at the slightest provocation. The end of colonialism did not bring stability, as the movements that replaced colonial rule often lacked the democratic foundations needed to build modern states. Instead, many countries turned into military regimes, conservative bureaucracies, tribal alliances, or opportunistic "civil" movements.

"The ideological dimension of the region's instability is also crucial. Take Jerusalem, for example -- a city of less than one square kilometer, yet it holds deep religious significance for three major faiths, each of which claims it as a holy city. Similar religious disputes exist in places like Ur in Iraq and various shrines in the Levant.

"The intertwining of religion and territory has turned the Middle East into a focal point for global religious narratives, with some even believing that the apocalyptic battle of Armageddon will take place within its borders. Militari-

zation plays a significant role as well. Despite representing just six percent of the world's population and contributing a similar percentage to global GDP, the Middle East accounted for nearly a third of the world's arms imports from 2013-2017. It is the most militarized region globally, with several of its countries leading the world in arms imports.

"The history of the Middle East is a history of unending conflict. Even during periods of relative calm, the region remains in a tense state of neither full war nor lasting peace. The Arab-Israeli conflict is one of the most prolonged, but recent events in Gaza have marked a new and dangerous chapter.

"The Palestinian resistance has inflicted more damage on the Israeli military in this latest confrontation than all previous Arab wars combined. The Middle East has reached an unprecedented boiling point, with many placing their hopes on the Palestinian resistance to bring about a decisive change. Only then, perhaps, can we dare to imagine a new and stable Middle East."

"Nothing compares to the memory of death, especially when there is no closure. It is particularly painful when one cannot bury their loved ones or mourn properly, and is left only with memories and photographs to hold onto. The inability to properly grieve and say a fitting farewell intensifies the sorrow. The scenes of widespread deaths have continued for many months, not just from October 7," columnist **Khawla Matar** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"You can hear this from the wailing of mothers in Palestine, a sound that echoes from alley to alley, street to street, from one refugee camp to another, and from town to town, reaching every corner of a world that is still awake. Death carries an immortal memory, just like the life that follows it, especially when death becomes a daily reality for our people in Palestine and South Lebanon.

"In Lebanon, as they marked the anniversary of the July 2006 war, their skies and land were once again violated by planes pursuing Lebanese women, children, men, and the elderly, much like what happens in Palestine. The repeated justifications from the aggressors are weak, especially when faced with the reality of lives lost and borders crossed by those who show little regard for human life.

"Lebanese often say, 'It will be remembered but not repeated,' and the list of what they wish 'to be remembered but not repeated' is extensive. It includes the invasion of their capital, Beirut – the "bride" of cities, the daily violations of their sovereignty, and the bombings that, while mostly concentrated in southern Lebanon, extend throughout the entire country.

"All homelands are violated by the aggressors without justification or accountability. The anniversary of the "July War" has passed, a grim reminder of the deaths and the heroic efforts of the Lebanese people in their struggle to defend their lives.

"Pictures from memory or a few excerpts from my writings at the time come back to me. They were not buried in the dark corners of my mind, as they resurface whenever the same plan of extermination continues for over 75 years. I'm struck by how my words, written about the war in the south, now seem relevant to the current conflict in Gaza.

"I struggle to find words that capture the reality in Gaza and Lebanon amid the ongoing genocide and ethnic cleansing of Arabs. Here is what I wrote in 2006 – "The southerners cried out, "Don't send us milk or bread, but shrouds and coffins. All the fabric and wood in the universe are no longer enough to cover those bodies that have remained under the rubble for days, waiting for the sky to make room for them to enter the depths of the earth and rest!"

"The surprise came when I found clippings from the "July War" that revealed that many of us were aware of the intention to exterminate not just Palestinians, but also Lebanese, Syrians, and eventually every Arab.

"One particular clipping read, "Those who do not participate in a sit-in, march, or demonstration repeat, without a sign declaring 'Israel is carrying out a war of extermination against the Palestinians and Lebanese,' and they look on with a sense of helplessness, reduced to only shouting in protest."

"They used to say how much today resembles yesterday, perhaps we should change this phrase a little or update it to say how short our memory is or how much we do not learn lessons or do not read beyond the moment to understand that such an enemy, i.e. the Zionists, their friends, followers, financiers and those who remain silent about their crimes, will not be satisfied with the genocide in Gaza until they capture the last pure soul. They will continue their assault on Nablus, Ramallah, Haifa, Jaffa, and all the cities of Palestine, whose identities they have tried to erase by renaming them.

"And then they will move on to southern Lebanon, targeting areas from Kfar Kila to Khiyam, Bint Jbeil, Nabatieh, Tyre, and all of the south – indeed, all of Lebanon and beyond!

"The pressing question that follows is, "Who will be next?" Will we stand by and watch, or will we take action to support our people, even if only with words and speech, which is truly the weakest form of faith?"

– Compiled by PFX Fernandes and Mahmoud Ateyieh



Security officers being briefed during the launch of security campaign.

Mol photo

Mol organizes security campaign in Ahmadi

462 traffic violations issued, 3 held for drugs

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: As part of the public security sector's efforts to monitor the security situation, combat negative phenomena, impose security and stability, enforce the law, and arrest violators, the Ahmadi Governorate Security Directorate implemented a security campaign on Friday, August 16, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

This was done under the direct supervision of the Director General of the Ahmadi Security

Directorate, Brigadier General. Muhammad Ahmed Rajab, and a number of security officials in Sabah Al-Ahmad Marine City (Al-Khairan), with the participation of the Traffic and Operations Sector, the General Administration of the Coast Guard and the Kuwait Municipality.

The campaign resulted in the issuance of 462 traffic violations, 7 environmental violations, the seizure of 3 over drug cases, two

arrests for truancy, one person for expiration of his residency, and the handling of four public morals reports.

The General Administration of the Coast Guard issued several violations for illegal marine vessels and dealt with two reports on sea beaches, providing humanitarian aid, towing a number of mobile vehicles (caravans), and the Municipality removed some encroachments.

PAM lays down mechanism to tackle absconding maids issue

Citizens urged to be aware of fraudulent recruitment offices

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: Cases of housemaids fleeing from their employers have drawn attention as they affect the daily lives of citizens due to the prevalence of fraudulent labor recruitment offices and brokers that lure domestic workers with offers of high-paying jobs in restaurants, cafés and gyms, reports **Al-Shahed** daily.

Lawyers have stressed the need for citizens to take the necessary steps as soon as their housemaids run away. These measures include prompt filing of an absence report and consulting the Labor Recruitment Department at the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM). They clarified that if the housemaid has worked for less than six months, the labor recruitment office is obligated to reimburse the recruitment fees and the cost of return tickets. Citizens have the right to file a civil suit for damages, with claims up to KD500, they confirmed.

Meanwhile, security sources have warned against harboring or employing runaway housemaids; as many of them have violated the Residency and Labor laws. Anyone who shelters or covers up for such workers could face legal consequences. Citizens and residents are urged to cooperate with security agencies to help address these issues, sources added.

In a related development, PAM has laid down a mechanism for dealing with domestic workers who leave their employers without notice. The process starts with filing an absence report at one of the citizens service centers affiliated with the Ministry of Interior, and then lodging a complaint in the Department of Regulating the Recruitment of Domestic Workers at PAM. If the worker has not been employed for six months, the recruitment office must compensate the employer for the recruitment fees and the return ticket. If the sponsorship period has ended, the complaint will be referred to the judiciary to determine compensation and responsibility for the return ticket.

Security sources have emphasized the importance of quickly reporting fake labor recruitment offices and cooperating with security authorities. They also cautioned against dealing with unlicensed agencies that advertise domestic workers who are paid per hour of work on various media platforms including social networking sites, as these are often scams.

They stressed that employers should only deal with licensed offices approved by the Ministry of Interior to avoid falling prey to fraudulent transactions. They added a joint team, whose members are from the Residency Affairs Investigation General Department and the Residency Affairs General Department, is closely monitoring fake and illegal advertisements to take the necessary legal action against anyone behind such fraudulent acts.

2 soldiers referred to prosecution: The General Department for Drug Control has referred two soldiers to the Public Prosecution on charges of possessing and consuming narcotics, according to a report by **Al-Anba** daily.

A security source revealed that the arrests were made after authorities received a tip-off about a soldier working in a criminal investigation office who was allegedly involved in drug use and trafficking. Following the issuance of a search and arrest warrant, the soldier was apprehended.

During questioning, the soldier implicated a second soldier from a different investigation office. The second suspect was later arrested in the Hawalli Governorate, where authorities discovered narcotics in his possession.

These arrests underscore the principle that the law applies equally to all, regardless of their position.

Over 45K traffic violations in 1 week: The security campaigns conducted by the General Traffic Department from the Aug 10 to 16 resulted in the issuance of 45,854 traffic citations, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

During the same period the GTD men responded to 999 traffic accidents, including 340 that resulted in injuries and 569 with only material damages.

During the campaign 43 juveniles were arrested for driving vehicles without a license.

The operations also led to the arrest of 66 persons wanted by law, including seven reported absconding, 37 violators of the residence and labor laws and 22 persons wanted for various reasons.

The authorities also seized 68 vehicles and 14 motorcycles for failing to meet security and safety conditions.

Furthermore, 53 violators were referred to traffic police for committing serious offenses, and 53 vehicles were impounded, including one that was reported stolen, with the others being linked to pending cases.

Briefs

CHEAT: A Gulf national filed a complaint at a police station in Farwaniya Governorate, stating that he paid KD500 deposit for a vehicle, but the owner of the vehicle evaded his calls after receiving the money, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

A security source told the daily that the complainant informed police he does not hold any document proving that he paid the deposit, which may have prompted the vehicle owner to procrastinate in transferring the ownership of the vehicle to him.

Nevertheless, the complainant provided police with the screenshots of his WhatsApp conversations with the accused, the source revealed.

A breach of trust case was registered and investigations are ongoing to arrest the suspect, the source added.

MARKET: The Ministry of Interior has announced that the central market, previously designated for ministry employees, will now be open to all citizens throughout the week, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

This move allows also residents to take advantage of discounts and special offers available on a wide range of goods.



KUNA photo

The new building for the Department of Deportation and Temporary Detention Affairs in the Sulabiya area.

Mol opens new facility for deportees

The Ministry of Interior has announced the opening of the new building for the Deportation and Temporary Detention Affairs Department in Sulabiya, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The transfer of persons on the deportation list to the new facility will be carried out in stages.

This initiative is part of the directives of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister

of Interior, Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef, reflecting his commitment to supporting projects that continuously address the needs of inmates in correctional institutions.

The new building is designed in accordance with international standards that prioritize respect for human rights and includes various service facilities aimed at ensuring the well-being of those housed there.



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MoF urges agencies to stick to budget ceilings

Ministry calls for fiscal discipline

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Ministry of Finance has issued new directives urging all government agencies to prepare their draft budgets for the fiscal year 2025/2026 within the limits of their allocated expenditure ceilings, reports Al-Jarida daily.



Dr Al-Mudhaf

This directive was communicated through an annual circular released by Dr. Anwar Al-Mudhaf, Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs

and Investment.

According to the circular, all budget preparations should adhere to the controls and instructions set forth by the Ministry.

The focus will be on compressing expenditures, rationalizing spending, and enhancing revenue generation without compromising performance standards. This initiative is part of a broader effort to align with fiscal policies aimed at managing public funds efficiently.

The circular outlines the principles and rules that must guide the preparation of budget estimates. It includes detailed instructions on the required forms and tables to be completed by government agencies.

These guidelines ensure that budget estimates are based on solid

Governor of Farwaniya reviews preps for upcoming school year

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Athbi held a meeting with the Acting Director General of the Farwaniya Educational District, Jassim Bu Hamad, to review preparations for the upcoming academic year 2024-2025, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the meeting, Sheikh Athbi emphasized the importance of developing strategic plans to enhance the educational environment and improve its efficiency.

Jassim Bu Hamad acknowledged the governor's ongoing support and commitment to creating an appealing and effective educational setting for students.



Al-Seyassah photo

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Athbi with Jassim Bu Hamad, the Acting Director General of the Farwaniya Educational District.

scientific principles and meet the necessary financial and economic policy directions.

The government agencies are instructed to use the Government Financial Management Information System (GFMS) for preparing their budget estimates.

They must adhere to the specified instructions and submit all required tables and forms. The Ministry of Finance has emphasized the importance of meeting deadlines and ensuring that all submissions comply with the outlined requirements.

The agencies are warned that delays in submitting draft budgets will result in the Ministry estimating revenues based on previous fiscal years' performance, considering current circumstances and variables.

The circular also references Decree No. 31 of 1978, which outlines the rules for preparing public budgets and monitoring their implementation.

According to Article 5 of the decree, entities must prepare initial revenue estimates as per the Minister of Finance's instructions and submit them by the specified date. If deadlines are missed, the Ministry will estimate the revenues based on historical data.

Article 9 requires entities to prepare expenditure estimates and submit them with a detailed distribution of expenditures according to the Minister's instructions. Article 42 extends these provisions to supplementary budgets, except where specified otherwise.

Ministry directed to maximize fiscal efficiency

MoE enforces budget protocols

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: Assistant Undersecretary for Financial Affairs at the Ministry of Education Matrouk Al-Mutairi has urged all sectors of the ministry to address the Supply and Warehouses Department with their needs according to the approved budget for the 2024/2025 fiscal year, and requested that they utilize the allocated funds before March 31, 2025.

In the memorandum approved yesterday, Al-Mutairi stressed the importance of adhering to specific priorities during budget implementation. These priorities include:

■ **Fulfilling actual contracts** that will be implemented in the current fiscal year of 2024/2025.

■ **Managing tenders** that have been awarded and those expected to be awarded during the same fiscal year.

He highlighted the need to address the following entities during budget implementation:

■ **Computers and Computer Programs:** Coordinate with the Information Systems Department.

■ **Inks:** Coordinate with the General Registry Monitoring Department at the Ministry of Education.

■ **Stationery:** Coordinate with the Supplies and Warehouses Department.

■ **Furniture:** Provided by the Supplies and Warehouses Department according to warehouse measurements.

Al-Mutairi emphasized the need to start coordinating with the Supplies and Warehouses Department to request financial linkage for the allocated budget, and avoid requests for advances and cash deposits.

Additionally, he affirmed the importance of sourcing all materials and needs through the Purchasing Department in the Supplies and Warehouses Department, in accordance with Circular and Guide to Purchasing Systems for Public Entities No. 5/2020 issued by the Ministry of Finance.

Al-Mutairi added, "If this is not

Al Saad Foundation, UNESCO renew partnership until 2029

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Al Saad Foundation for Knowledge and Scientific Research has renewed its partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) until 2029. This renewal highlights the Foundation's dedication to advancing education and culture on a global scale, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Sheikha Fadia Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Foundation, emphasized that this renewed partnership underscores the Foundation's commitment to enhancing education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). These fields are central to UNESCO's mission in education and natural sciences.

Sheikha Fadia noted that the Foundation's ongoing efforts align with UNESCO's goals and values, particularly in promoting global sustainable development goals for 2030. The partnership will focus on education and international cooperation amid current global challenges.

Established in Kuwait in 2009, the Al Saad Foundation supports talented individuals and adopts innovative scientific projects to foster cultural and scientific exchange.

The Foundation is committed to enhancing environmental culture, supporting scientific research, and collaborating with local and global entities to advance education and sustainable development.



Al-Seyassah photo

Sheikha Fadia Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of Al Saad Foundation.

possible, present a letter from the Supplies and Warehouses Department explaining the situation in a timely manner."

He stressed the importance of avoiding financial commitments for works, needs, and supplies near the end of the fiscal year simply to exhaust remaining budget amounts. This practice is discouraged to prevent the violations reported by the Financial Controllers Bureau and the State Audit Bureau.

He said agencies must adhere to budget implementation rules, which require avoiding last-minute commitments for works, services, or urgent purchases that lack proper research and planning to deplete remaining budget appropriations.

Municipal online ad revenue rises

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Kuwait Municipality has reported a significant increase in revenues from advertising licenses following the launch of an electronic issuance system last Wednesday, reports Al-Jarida daily.

According to the Municipality sources, over the past five days, a total of 20,890 advertising licenses were approved and issued online, generating KD 58,000.

This shift to an online system has streamlined the process, making it more efficient for advertisers and increasing overall revenue collection for the Municipality.

Adapting education for all through 2040

MoE expands home study plan

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: As the Ministry of Education is keen on achieving educational and teaching goals in line with the New Kuwait Vision 2035, a document on the home study project indicates that work is still ongoing within the framework of the ministry's educational strategy for the years 2005 to 2025.

The ministry is working hard to develop a comprehensive strategy for the years 2025 to 2040, covering all of its sectors in accordance with the latest developments, while ensuring the efficiency of the teaching staff. It is keen on linking education to the labor market, so it will amend the curricula to comply with international standards, while taking into account the cultural identity of the State of Kuwait.

The home study project is part of the ministry's educational strategy for the years 2005 to 2025. It is one of the forms of distance education -- an educational process outside the school. This will make the role of parents almost primary and the role of the school is limited to of follow-up and evaluation. In this manner, sick students, those with special needs, those attending evening classes, those dismissed from school, the gifted and slow learners will pass their academic stage according to the study plan for the local curriculum and complete their educational journey outside the school.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the project document; revealing that the start date was April 1, 2013 and it will end on Dec 31, 2025. It is one of the strategic government development projects. A preparatory and executive budget was allocated for the project over the years amounting to KD 271,000; but the path of achievement is still weak and did not exceed 37 percent implementation.

Developmental feasibility study

Among the quantitative objectives of the project is to provide a new path for students under the supervision of parents that expands educational options in the country. This will accommodate a large segment of students whose circumstances make them unable not to commit to school attendance. An educational path will be provided for such students and its impact on parents, students and educational administration will be assessed and compared to previous years.

The qualitative objectives of the project include supporting students' talent and creativity by following up measures for improving their abilities and talents and achieving tangible field results to raise the efficiency of academic achievement in line with international and global standards.

Beneficiaries of flexibility in educational methods

■ Sick students whose health condition requires staying in hospitals for long periods, including immunodeficiency patients, cancer patients, those exposed to fractures, and those who have undergone various types of surgeries and others. In such cases, the student is forced to be absent from school for long periods due to his stay in the hospital for a period that may extend to the period of final exams or beyond.

■ Students whose circumstances require their presence outside the State of Kuwait. Examples: overseas medical treatment trips, scholarship for one of the parents to complete his studies abroad, and attending

an external training course, etc. In these cases, the project will contribute to the student passing his academic stage according to the study plan of the local curriculum.

■ Accommodating the requirements of people with special needs as home study will ensure dealing with students with special needs on an individual level, so an educational plan is designed for each student according to his needs.

■ Talented students who want to focus on developing their talents and allocate more time to such activity -- whether in literature, music, sports, carpentry, etc., while adhering to the prescribed curriculum without wasting the school year.

■ Evening education students who often do not suit the study timing and their attendance is hampered for various reasons.

■ Slow learners who will have the option not to be classified under this name in schools and will be able to spend more time understanding and absorbing lessons without committing to a specific time period.

■ Those expelled from schools who repeatedly violate the school rules like commitment to the morning assembly or attending classes or their repeated absence due to their circumstances, in addition to those who were expelled for violating any of the ministry's regulations. In such cases, the student will be able to complete his/her educational journey outside the school walls.

After the first phase (preparatory), the second phase (executive) was implemented on Jan 21, 2021 and it will continue until the end of 2025. It includes collecting instructions on the trends of different educational systems worldwide in terms of implementing the home study program, studying all categories benefiting from the project and reviewing home study experiences around the world.

The next stage includes extracting what is consistent with the educational system, reviewing legislation and laws in the State of Kuwait, determining what the home study project requires in terms of regulations and laws, conducting an awareness media campaign, and explaining its importance and roles, setting the general framework for home education and linking it to the Sustainable Development Goals (Four Goals), holding workshops for individuals and relevant bodies, and communicating with bodies, institutes, associations and organizations related to home education.

This will achieve the principle of community partnership, determine the administrative and technological requirements for the home study project, and coordinate with related projects such as the National Standards Project in the State of Kuwait, adopt standards for home education, develop guidelines (Guide for Parents - Guide for Learners - Guide for Teachers), and preparing systems and mechanisms.

The stage of implementing the home study project includes developing a plan for the experimental phase to implement it by holding workshops for parents to train them on educational practices at home; analyze the results; obtain observations and recommendations from the experimental phase; make the necessary amendments and additions to the documents, papers, systems and work mechanisms to start implementing the project; coordinating with the relevant bodies in the ministry; determining the roles and tasks; and surveying the opinions of parents about home education.



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Syria and Emirates earn top honors

Kuwait Int'l Children's Story Writing Competition unveils winners

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Secretariat General of Awqaf on Monday announced the winners of the Sixth Kuwait International Children's Story Writing Competition in the field of charitable and voluntary endowments under the patronage of Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi.

In a press statement, acting Secretary General of Awqaf Amal Al-Dallal disclosed that the competition witnessed an increase in the number of participants by 40 percent this year,

compared to previous years – a reflection of the huge interest and massive participation in the country. "Since its inception, the competition has opened an unprecedented field in writing, literary creativity and the production of purposeful stories on endowment, charitable and voluntary work," she added.

The competition focuses on the child and his intellectual, cultural and religious upbringing; such that the winning stories are published in Arabic and English. This contributes to enriching the children's library in the field of endowment with the aim of reviving the Noble Prophetic Sunnah and promoting positive values among children through the 'Qtoof Al-Khair' project.

Al-Dallal revealed that the number of participants this year reached 1,095 from 35 countries. She asserted "this is a manifestation of the popularity of the competition at all levels and the increased interest of Kuwaiti, Arab and Islamic societies in participating in the competition."

She stated that a panel of competent judges who are experts in assessing children's stories sorted, evaluated and critiqued the participating stories in an environment characterized by integrity and transparency; and according to scientific and objective criteria that take into account the highest scientific standards.

She disclosed the first place winner was withheld due to

technical considerations, arbitration standards and academic degrees – all of which must be found in the story to win the first prize. She said Noura Al-Khouri from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) took the second place for her story 'Peach-Colored Leaves', while Huda Al-Rifai from Syria who wrote the story 'Nashmeez and Halmaks in the Coral Roots' and Areen Al-Jaradat from Jordan who wrote the story 'In the Mailbox' tied in third place.

She added the winners of the Distinguished Stories Award were Yamam Kharsh from Syria for her story 'The Birds' Swing' and Rawaa Sunbul from Syria for her story 'The Secret of the Bread Cave'.



Photo during the announcement of the winners of the Kuwait International Children's Story Writing Competition in the field of charitable and voluntary endowments for the sixth season.

'Masarra' volunteer campaign concludes

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, through the Family Development Department's Center for Free Studies in the Capital Governorate, concluded the "Masarra" volunteer campaign under the slogan "Initiative... Volunteer... Empower." The campaign included voluntary field visits by the campaign volunteers to various government agencies, such as the Makki Juma Center for Cancer Patients, Abdullah

House for Child Care, the Elderly Care Department "Farah Center," and the Al-Kharafi Center, reports Al-Anba daily.

The volunteers created a joyful atmosphere and brought happiness to patients through gifts, competitions, and simple art workshops. At the end of the program, the ministry held a closing ceremony on Tuesday to honor the volunteers, program organizers, and participants.

Council of

Continued from Page 1

What is puzzling is that everyone shifts the blame to others. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry blames the Public Authority for Manpower, and others on ministerial orders, and those who issue them offer justifications like reforming the demographic structure, which seem insubstantial.

Therefore we repeat the question: What would the state do if other countries with Kuwait investments demand that Kuwaiti citizens or even an official investing body must sell their investments to the citizens of those countries before exiting?

In this regard, there is also another question: Why did the London Investment Office lose its immunity? Why were assets sold at low prices in some Arab countries?

The Council of Ministers should have a clear work program that is transparent to the public. If ministers are working "silently" to avoid envy and "the evil eye," it means that the Council of Ministers is definitely not up to the challenge.

Power to

Continued from Page 1

This malfunction led to the failure of several units at the Al-Subiya and Doha West power stations.

In a statement to Kuwait TV, Al-Ali explained that the outages were exacerbated by the unusually high temperatures, which have soared to 46.5°C, compared to 37.5°C at the same time last year. Efforts are being made around the clock to restore the affected units and address the issue.

To manage the situation, the ministry initially cut power to factories and farms before extending the outages to some residential areas, with interruptions lasting between one and two hours.

Al-Ali noted that while the gas supply quality has improved, its previous state caused some units to temporarily fail. He expects that within the next 24 hours, power will be fully restored and the situation will improve.

In response to ongoing power outages announced by the Ministry of Electricity and Water, the Fire Department has issued a warning to avoid using elevators if and when necessary, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The department advises the public to remain calm and composed if they find themselves inside an elevator during power outage.

They recommend not attempting to force open the elevator doors. Instead, individuals should sit on the elevator floor, stay calm and use the emergency number 112 to request assistance.

3rd biometrics

Continued from Page 1

some shopping malls, it was observed that some of these malls, once bustling with activity, have seen a significant decline in morning shoppers due to employees' commitment to being at their workplaces on time.

Most shops and cafes were surprisingly empty, with only a few elderly visitors present. The lively atmosphere of movement and conversation had diminished, leaving some malls unusually calm and quiet.

This morning calm in the shopping malls will reflect a major shift in employees' daily routines, as they are now required to be in their offices from early hours.

The wide aisles in some shopping malls, once crowded with visitors, now appeared almost empty. Shops with open doors were frequented by only a few customers, while many vendors waited for customers.

This shift highlights how the fingerprint attendance system has impacted the dynamics of daily life, with mornings now focused on work and commercial activity awaiting a resurgence after the official working hours.

MoE introduces

Continued from Page 1

In another development, the ministry, in cooperation with the competent authorities at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), has approved the list of foods permitted to be sold in school cafeterias.

The list consists of brown bread sandwiches with natural ingredients like vegetables and cheese, natural juices (without added sugars), and low-fat milk with calcium and vitamins.

Sources stated that a number of foods and drinks are prohibited from being sold in school cafeterias like soft drinks, energy drinks, sweets with high sugar content, fried foods and fast food.

Sources revealed the ministry has signed contracts with a number of local companies specialized in providing healthy foods to students, stipulating strict conditions to ensure the quality and safety of foods sold in school cafeterias.

Kuwait &

Continued from Page 1

During the meeting, they discussed joint efforts and bilateral work to begin implementing and translating the agreements and memoranda of understanding signed during the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the People's Republic of China in September 2023.

They also addressed the latest developments related to the memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the electric power system and the development of renewable energy. This includes the implementation of various energy projects by specialized Chinese companies according to the latest technical standards and specifications.

Kuwait helps

Continued from Page 1

Since independence 63 years ago and prior, Kuwaitis continued to be people of a highly generous nature, providing assistance to all suffering from natural or man-made disasters.

This year's theme for World Humanitarian Day 2024 is "Act For Humanity", a slogan highlighting the importance of protecting civilians and humanitarian workers, especially during the time of war.

The celebration is held on the 21st anniversary of the attack against the UN headquarters in Baghdad in 2003 where several casualties occurred during this sorrowful event.

Back to the efforts of Kuwait, the Gulf State earned an unprecedented honor in 2014 when it was named by the UN as an international hub for humanitarian efforts and the then Amir the late Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was named as global humanitarian leader.

Kuwait, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, continues to uphold the humanitarian legacy of the country with the Amir affirming back on May 12 during his meeting with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres that the State of Kuwait would keep steadfast with helping all those in need.

This affirmation earned praise from Guterres who commended Kuwait's humanitarian support namely in aiding the Syrian refugees.

Whether on the level of government entities, NGOs, the private sector, or through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), and other entities, Kuwait made it its mission to provide assistance no matter where or when.

On the Foreign Ministry level, Kuwait had launched an electronic system for humanitarian work to ensure that the help needed by others around the globe was served and reached whoever was requiring it.

Kuwait also played a pivotal role in providing aid to the world during the COVID-19 pandemic and surely, no matter the challenge, this small country with great heart would carry on its humanitarian duty no matter what.

Ex-minister faces

Continued from Page 1

The daily added, this initiative will be carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Interior and the Kuwait Municipality.

In a press statement, the Ministry emphasized its commitment to maintaining the security and safety of health facilities, ensuring smooth traffic flow, and providing adequate parking for those needing quick access to health services.

The Ministry also called on the public to cooperate by refraining from leaving cars in hospital parking lots for extended periods.

Al-Mashaan reviews Sabah Al-Nasser Bridge project after a 12-year hiatus

Minister calls for increased resources and timely completion

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan yesterday held an inspection tour of the Sabah Al-Nasser Bridge project at the intersection of Sabah Al-Nasser with Kabd Road and the Sixth Ring Road in order to follow up the latest developments in the project.

In a press statement issued during the tour, Dr. Al-Mashaan explained that the inspection tour was aimed at following up the work progress of the project, especially after a 12-year hiatus. The efforts exerted by the Ministry of Public Works to strengthen the infrastructure are based on the directives of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah to urge ministers to conduct field tours and inspection visits. He had also stressed the need for constant cooperation and continuous coordination among all government agencies to unify efforts and harness energies for accelerating the implementation of strategic development projects in the country.

Emphasizing the need to accelerate progress, Minister Al-Mashaan urged those responsible for the project to increase the number of equipment and labor to ensure the completion of the project within the specified timeframe and according to the contract.

She indicated that field visits and inspection tours of projects are an important step to ensure the safety of vital projects and infrastructure in the country.

The minister highlighted the need to follow up the condition of the bridge and carry out the necessary maintenance to ensure the safety of everyone as well as the safety of the surrounding roads, with the aim of improving road and transportation services and ensuring their sustainability for a better future for citizens.

She assured that the completion of the bridge project linking Sabah Al-Nasser area and Sulabiya Road No. 604 will solve all previous problems of water accumulation in this area, especially during the winter and rainy seasons.



Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, during the inspection tour of the Sabah Al-Nasser Bridge project.

Filipino remittances from Kuwait drop 2.3%

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: During the first half of 2024, remittances from Filipino workers in Kuwait saw a 2.3% decline, totaling \$267.22 million. This marks a decrease from the \$273.51 million recorded during the same period in 2023, reports Al-Anba daily.

Data shows that remittances from Filipino workers in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries accounted for 96.17% of the total remittances from the Middle East in the first half of 2024. The remittances from the Gulf countries during this period reached \$2.66 billion, reflecting a 3.76% increase compared to the first half of 2023.

These remittances represent a significant portion

of the total \$2.76 billion sent from Filipino workers in the Middle East during the first half of 2024, as reported by "Information Direct."

Filipino workers' remittances from the Gulf countries also made up 41.10% of the total remittances sent from Asia, which amounted to \$6.46 billion.

Out of the global remittances of \$16.25 billion sent by Filipino workers in the first six months of 2024, the Gulf countries contributed 16.34%.

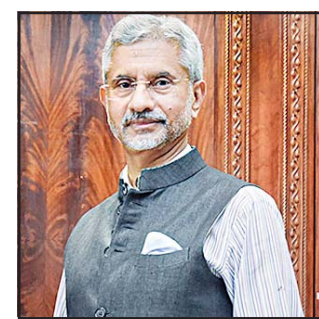
Saudi Arabia led with the highest remittances at \$968.94 million, followed by the UAE with \$658.31 million, Qatar with \$465.1 million, Kuwait with \$267.22 million, Bahrain with \$133.35 million, and Oman with \$162.38 million.

Dr Jaishankar thanks Kuwaiti leadership

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: During his official visit to Kuwait on Aug 18, India's External Affairs Minister HE Dr. S. Jaishankar called on His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, says a press release issued by the Indian Embassy in Kuwait.

Dr Jaishankar thanked the leadership of Kuwait for the guidance in strengthening the bilateral relations between India and Kuwait.

The meeting of Dr Jaishankar with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister HE Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, provided an opportunity to discuss avenues to further deepen bilateral relations in all spheres, including through greater exchanges of



H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar, India's External Affairs Minister.

visits at various levels.

The visit of the External Affairs Minister provided a strong interest on both sides for giving more content to the economic partnership, both in trade and investments.

Both sides also discussed new areas of untapped potential

for further enhancing collaboration, particularly in pharma, technology, education, etc. Further streamlining of labor and manpower issues and their implementation was stressed. Both ministers also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

During his visit Dr Jaishankar met a cross-section of prominent members of Indian community in Kuwait as well as representatives of various professional and community associations.

The large and vibrant Indian community in Kuwait continues to be a 'living bridge' between the two countries.

The visit was instrumental in imparting a fresh momentum to our bilateral relations and preparing a framework for forthcoming exchanges and concrete deliverables.

The Second-Hand Construction Material Disposal Notice

SINOPEC FIFTH CONSTRUCTION COMPANY is offering the Second-Hand Construction Material for sale. This comprehensive package includes Construction material, Electric tools, Household appliances, Steel Scrap, and others. The quantity and current situation of materials shall be subject to the actual material in site.

Descriptions :

Key Details:

- 1). Bidding Type: Sealed bid, Deadline: Sep. 1, 2024, at 10:00 AM
- 2). Evaluation Criteria: Highest bidder.
- 3). Site visit time: Interested parties are welcome to participate in a site visit scheduled 6th-10th day from notice date.
- 4). The buyer shall submit a bid security of 1,000 KWD transfer to Sinopec finance account by T/T.
- 5). The quotation includes loading, transportation, site clearance and etc., which should be fully considered in the quotation.
- 6). The second-hand Material Location: Sinopec-5 workshop, Al Zour Ahmadi, Kuwait.
- 7). Validity of Notice: 5 days from the notice publish date.

Terms & Conditions:

- 1). The buyer shall submit the bid security of 1,000 KWD before 1 days of bid opening date.
- 2). The buyer shall sign the contract and sign relevant Sinopec files same days after bidding opening.
- 3). The buyer shall pay all the payment to the designated account within 2 days after signed the contract and remark the description of the payment.
- 4). The buyer shall complete all the cleanup work within 5 days after signed the contract.
- 5). During loading and transportation, the workers and equipment of buyer shall strictly implement site safety regulations, workers shall complete the safety orientation before start working.
- 6). The buyer fails to sign the contract or fails to pay the payment within the prescribed time, we shall have the right to cancel the transaction and confiscate the bid security.

Contact details :

Send your interest to Mr.Xia Wei, xiaw.swuj@sinopec.com

and Mr.Zhang Hongyi, zhanghy.swuj@sinopec.com

Contact Number: +966 55 828 5468



The Governor of Abyan lays the foundation stone for the construction of a Kuwaiti-financed residential village.

Kuwait charity builds new village in Yemen

ADEN, Aug 19, KUNA: The Kuwait-based Al-Najat Charity laid Sunday the foundation stone for a new village in the southern Yemeni province of Abyan.

During the ceremony, Governor of Abyan Abu Baker Hussain praised Kuwait's commitment and pioneering efforts in supporting development projects, infrastructure and basic services in various Yemeni regions.

The Kuwaiti charity also funded the digging of a water well in Diau village also in Abyan province.

In a press release, head of the Yanabie Al-Khair, the local charity which implements the two projects, Tawfiq Al-Babai said Al-Kaireen 9 village in Al Nashira area includes the construction of 30 housing units on an estimated area of 10,000 square meters.

He pointed out that the village also includes a small mosque, a school, medical a center and an administrative office.

Al-Babai expressed gratitude to the State of Kuwait and Al-Najat Charity for their continuous support for the Yemeni people in this delicate time.

World News Roundup

Europe

'Probe pipeline blasts'

Ukraine issues an evacuation order

KYIV, Ukraine, Aug 19, (Agencies): Ukrainian authorities on Monday ordered families with children to urgently evacuate the eastern city of Pokrovsk, where the Russian army is bearing down after a six-month slog across Ukraine's Donetsk region following the capture of Avdiivka.

Local authorities said Russian forces are advancing so quickly that families must leave the city and other nearby towns and villages. Some 53,000 people still live in Pokrovsk, officials say.

The relentless assault on Ukrainian strongholds in Donetsk and neighboring Luhansk, which together make up the Donbas industrial region, has cost Russia heavily in troops and armor. However, the onslaught has gradually paid dividends as Ukrainian defenders have no choice but to pull back from positions blown to pieces by Russian artillery, missiles and bombs.

One of Kyiv's attempts to ease the pressure was the Aug. 6 incursion into Russia's Kursk region, opening an unexpected front in the hopes of unnerving the Kremlin and compelling it to split its military resources.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday the daring incursion is trying to create a buffer zone that might prevent further attacks by Moscow across the border, especially with long-range artillery, missiles and glide bombs.

That Ukrainian operation was continuing Monday under tight secrecy.



Zelenskyy

Leave

In Pokrovsk residents have just two weeks to leave the city safely, officials said in an interview with the US-funded Radio Liberty. Officials warned last week that Russian forces were rapidly advancing and were just 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the city's outskirts.

Oleksandr Syrskyi, Ukraine's Commander-in-Chief, said Monday that "heavy battles" were taking place in the Pokrovsk area. The nearby town of Toretsk, whose capture would open the door for a Russian advance on the key stronghold of Chasiv Yar from the south, is also under heavy pressure, he said.

The Institute for the Study of War said Russian forces have been advancing roughly two square kilometers (0.8 square miles) per day in the Pokrovsk region over the last six months.

They have relied on frontal infantry assaults from village to village, notching incremental progress as they make their manpower and materiel advantages tell, the Washington-based think tank said late Sunday.

Pokrovsk, which had a prewar population of about 60,000, is one of Ukraine's main defensive strongholds and a key logistics hub in the Donetsk region. Its capture would compromise Ukraine's defensive abilities and supply routes and would bring Russia closer to its stated aim of capturing the entire Donetsk region.

Pokrovsk officials were meeting with the residents to provide them with logistical details on the evacuation. People were offered shelter in western Ukraine, where they will be hosted in dormitories and separate houses prepared for them.

Russia plant explosion injures 3: Russian authorities announced on Monday that three people were injured in an explosion that occurred south of Russia in the city of Bashkortostan.

The Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Russian Federation said in a statement that one of the gas pipelines suffered an explosion due to underground pressure followed by a huge fire, noting that the explosion occurred under the influence of natural factors.

The ministry added that it was able to transfer the injured -- two men and a woman -- to the hospital, and said that they were in critical conditions.

Located south of Russia, Bashkortostan is the center of Russia's most important petrochemical plants.

'Probe Nord Stream pipeline blasts': Russia has officially requested Germany to investigate the sabotage of the Nord Stream pipelines, a Russian Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

Russia is pushing for negotiations to ensure Germany meets its international obligations in the fight against terrorism, said Oleg Tyapkin, director of the Third European Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry, in an interview with Russia's RIA Novosti news agency.

Expressing dissatisfaction with the progress of the German investigation, Tyapkin said that German authorities have recently issued an arrest warrant for one of the suspected perpetrators, a Ukrainian national.

He noted that German media have been promoting the narrative that these individuals acted independently and were not connected to any state, but warned that this could lead to the investigation being closed without identifying the true masterminds behind the sabotage.

1 dead after yacht sinks off Sicily: A luxury superyacht sailboat carrying foreign tourists capsized and sank off Sicily in bad weather early Monday. One body was found, six people were missing and 15 people were rescued, authorities said.

The British-flagged, 56-meter (184-foot) "Bayesian" had a crew of 10 people and 12 passengers, representing British, American and Canadian nationalities, the Italian coast guard said. Fifteen people were rescued initially and taken to shore at Porticello, where eight were in the hospital. One body was found near the wreck, but six others were unaccounted for, said Luca Cari, a spokesman for the Italian fire rescue service.

A helicopter and rescue boats from the coast guard, carabinieri, fire rescue and civil protection service were at the scene searching for the missing and had located the wreck at a depth of 50 meters (163 feet). The boat capsized around 5 am off the port of Porticello.

Britain takes emergency action: Britain has taken emergency action to prevent prisons from becoming overcrowded as hundreds of people are sentenced in connection with the civil unrest that gripped the country earlier this month.

Under the measures, defendants in northern England will be held in police cells while awaiting early court appearances, and they will be summoned to court only when there are prison spaces available for them. Similar measures were temporarily implemented in May by the previous Conservative-led government.

The recent civil disorder has heaped pressure on prisons in England and Wales, which were already running out of room amid budget constraints, a growing population and tougher sentencing guidelines.



Britain's King Charles III inspects the Balaklava Company, 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, at the gates of Balmoral, Scotland on Aug 19 as he takes up summer residence at the castle. (AP)

Politics

Harris, Walz embark on bus tour in Pennsylvania

GOP releases impeachment report on Biden

WASHINGTON, Aug 19, (AP): US House Republicans have released their initial impeachment inquiry report into President Joe Biden, alleging an abuse of power and obstruction of justice in the financial dealings of his son Hunter Biden and family associates.

The nearly yearlong inquiry by Republicans stops short of alleging any criminal wrongdoing by the president. Instead, the almost 300-page report out Monday, asserting the Biden family traded on its "brand" in business ventures in corrupt ways that rise to the Constitution's high bar for impeachment.

With Biden no longer running for reelection, next steps are highly uncertain. House Republicans have not had support from their own ranks to actually impeach the president, and removal by the Senate is even further afield. Many Republicans prefer to focus attention on Vice President Kamala Harris, with some probes getting underway.

The White House has dismissed the House impeachment inquiry as a "stunt" and encouraged House Republicans to "move on."

"The totality of the corrupt conduct uncovered by the Committees is egregious," wrote the House Oversight and Accountability, Judiciary and Ways & Means panels leading the inquiry.

The report said the Constitution's "remedy for a President's flagrant abuse of office is clear: impeachment by the House of Representatives and removal by the Senate."

Focus

Republicans have spent the better part of their time in the House majority with a hyper focus on Biden and his family's businesses, encouraged by Donald Trump as the twice impeached and indicted former president makes a comeback bid for the White House.

The impeachment inquiry has been a cornerstone of the House GOP's effort, launched by former Speaker Kevin McCarthy shortly before he was booted from leadership and formalized in December under new Speaker Mike Johnson. Republicans are investigating many aspects of Biden family finances going back to 2009 when he was vice president to Barack Obama.

Through bank records, interviews from some 30 witnesses, whistleblower accounts and millions of documents, House Republicans allege a years-long practice by Hunter Biden and his associates to solicit foreign business deals using the family's proximity to power in Washington.

Much of the focus of the report is not on Biden's time as president, but on the years when the Biden family was in turmoil after the 2015 death of his oldest son, Beau, and as the vice president was bowing out of elected office, declining to run for president in 2016.

Hunter Biden has acknowledged a serious addiction to crack in these years. He was convicted in June of felony gun charges and is set to stand trial next month on federal tax charges. Former Hunter Biden associate Devon Archer, who was sentenced to a year in prison in 2022 in another matter, told the committee, "At the end of the day, part of what was delivered is the brand."

Tie

To tie the elder Biden to his son's actions, the Republicans rely on a series of phone calls and pop-by dinner meeting visits Joe Biden made while Hunter was conducting business. At times, Hunter would put his dad on speakerphone for his guests as the father and son exchanged pleasantries.

The Bidens are a famously tight-knit family and acknowledge they speak almost daily, including during this time, with the father checking on his son's well-being.

In his own defiant closed-door deposition to House investigators, Hunter Biden insisted he did not involve his father in his business.

All told, the House Republicans allege the Biden family and its associates received some \$27 million in business payments from partners or clients in Russia, China and other countries. They allege another \$8 million in loans, including some from Hunter Biden benefactor Kevin Morris, a Hollywood attorney, and question the purchases of the son's artwork.

The report said it is "inconceivable" that President Biden did not understand what was going on. "President Biden participated in a conspiracy to

monetize his office of public trust to enrich his family," the report claims.

Biden himself declined a request to testify before the House.

Touchbacks to Trump's impeachments at the hands of Democrats run throughout the report's pages as Republicans work to contrast his grounds for removal to Biden family's dealings and "grift." But the difference are stark, as the indicted Trump faces actual criminal charges, including in the conspiracy to overturn Biden's 2020 election and draw supporters to Washington on the day of the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol attack.

Also:

ROCHESTER, Pa.: Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris and running mate Tim Walz gave pep talks to campaign volunteers and a high school football team Sunday, with their bus tour in a corner of Pennsylvania.

Vice President Harris and Walz, the governor of Minnesota, were joined by their spouses, Doug Emhoff and Gwen Walz, as they stopped off to visit volunteers at a campaign office not far from Pittsburgh before continuing on to a firehouse and a high school in another town. The tour, in a bright blue bus decorated with the candidates' names and the phrase "A new way forward," also included pilgrimages to a convenience store and a restaurant known for its towering sandwiches.

Despite running as the sitting vice president, Harris told reporters she feels she has ground to make up in the race against former President Donald Trump, the Republican presidential nominee.

"I very much consider us the underdogs," Harris said at a stop in the township of Moon. "We have a lot of work to do to earn the vote of the American people. That's why we're on this bus tour today, and we're going to be traveling this country as we've been and talking with folks, listening to folks, and hopefully earning their votes over the next 79 days."

Southwestern Pennsylvania is a critical part of a key battleground state that has long commanded the attention of presidential candidates. The state voted for Trump in 2016 and for Biden in 2020. Both Harris and Trump are vying to see who can put Pennsylvania in their column on Nov. 5.



US President Joe Biden follows his grandson Hunter Biden out of the University of Pennsylvania bookstore during a campus visit in Philadelphia on Aug 16. House Republicans have released their initial impeachment inquiry report into Biden, alleging an abuse of power and obstruction of justice in the financial dealings of his son Hunter Biden and family associates. (AP)



Nessel



Cunningham

America

Baltimore shooting kills 1: A shooting at a gathering in Baltimore has left one person dead and seven others wounded, police said.

It appears that "multiple people opened fire" just after 8 p.m. Sunday in east Baltimore, Police Commissioner Richard Worley told reporters.

"Officers located multiple victims as well as multiple firearms on the scene," Worley said.

A 36-year-old man died in the shooting, Worley said. Conditions of the wounded were critical to stable, Worley said, and they ranged in age from 22 to 45 years old, according to preliminary information.

The identity of the man who died wasn't immediately released. The shooting was under investigation Monday. (AP)

Mall guards face trial: Four security guards are facing trial this week in the death of a man who was pinned to the ground during a fierce struggle more than 10 years ago at a suburban Detroit shopping mall.

McKenzie Cochran, 25, was unarmed and repeatedly told guards, "I can't breathe," while face down, following a dispute at a jewelry store inside Northland Center in 2014, witnesses said.

The Oakland County prosecutor at the time declined to file charges after consulting with the US Justice Department. But Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel intervened in 2021 with involuntary manslaughter charges against four men.

The case of Cochran, who was Black, got fresh attention in 2020 during a local race for prosecutor and amid outrage over the death of George Floyd, a Black man who was pinned to the ground by Minneapolis police. Prosecutors have not alleged race to be a factor in Cochran's death.

Jury selection starts Monday. Defense attorney Blake Wright said the guards were moving ahead with their lives when the case was suddenly revived.

But Gerald Thurswell, an attorney who represented Cochran's family in a lawsuit, said video of the struggle will be strong evidence. (AP)

Human remains discovered: Investigators have discovered human remains during a search of property in southeastern Michigan that belongs to a man whose wife disappeared more than three years ago and is

presumed dead.

Dee Warner's family reported her missing in April 2021. Her husband, Dale John Warner, 56, was charged in November with open murder and tampering with evidence in her disappearance. He has pleaded not

guilty.

Michigan State Police said in a statement Sunday that they recently searched Dale Warner's property in Lenawee County and found human remains.

"The remains are currently in the process



In this photo provided by Ukraine's 24th Mechanised Brigade press service, servicemen of 24th mechanised brigade repair tracks of a BRM1k infantry fighting vehicle near Chasiv Yar town, in Donetsk region, Ukraine on Aug 17. Ukrainian local authorities on Aug 19 ordered families with children to urgently evacuate the eastern city of Pokrovsk. (AP)

of being recovered and there will be a great deal of work and testing completed before positive identification is made," the agency said in a social media post. "The family of Dee Warner has been contacted and advised of the findings. This continues to be an ongoing investigation."

Family members told WTVG-TV and WTOL-TV that the remains were found Friday in a sealed, empty tank meant for anhydrous ammonia, which is used as fertilizer for crops. (AP)

Ga deputy killed in shooting: A Georgia sheriff's deputy was shot and killed while responding to a reported domestic dispute in what police said was an ambush on officers by a suspect who took his own life.

Two deputies responded to a call shortly after 6 pm Saturday and immediately were fired upon from a home in a subdivision in Hiram, Georgia, Major Ashley Henson of the Paulding County Sheriff's Office said during a briefing.

The male suspect also fired "a hail of bullets" at other officers but only one was shot, Henson said.

Deputy Brandon Cunningham, 30, died at a hospital from a gunshot wound, Paulding County Sheriff Gary Gullede confirmed during the briefing.

"Tonight, we've lost a hero," Gullede said, adding that "it's going to be a tough time for all of us and all of our guys." (AP)

Subcontinent

19 students fall ill

'Tougher laws to protect workers'

NEW DELHI, Aug 19, (Agencies): Hundreds of doctors protested near India's Health Ministry on Monday to demand stringent laws to protect health care workers from violence and to seek justice for their colleague who was raped and killed at a state-run hospital.

The protesting doctors, holding up placards like "Justice delayed is justice denied," were stopped by police as they tried to set up free outpatient services outside the ministry in New Delhi.

Doctors and medics across India have held protests, candlelight marches and temporarily refused care for non-emergency patients after the rape and killing of the 31-year-old trainee on Aug. 9 in the eastern city of Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal state. West Bengal Chief Minister is Mamata Banerjee.

The doctors say the assault highlights the vulnerability of health care workers in hospitals and medical campuses across India. They are demanding stronger laws, including making any attack on on-duty medics an offense without the possibility of bail, increase in security at hospitals and safe spaces for them to rest.

"If a lady is not safe at a workplace, at a hospital ... then I wonder which lady in this country is safe?" said Daisy Singh, a protesting doctor.

The government has asked the doctors to return to work and said it will set up a committee to look into their demands.



Banerjee

Focused

The rape and killing of the trainee doctor at Kolkata city's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital has also focused rage on the chronic issue of violence against women.

A police volunteer working at the hospital has been arrested and charged with the crime, but the family of the victim alleges it was a gang rape and more people were involved. Federal investigators were handling the case.

Thousands of people, particularly women, have marched in the streets of Kolkata demanding justice for the doctor. They say women in India continue to face rising violence despite tough laws that were implemented following the gang-rape and murder of a 23-year-old student on a moving bus in Delhi in 2012.

That attack had inspired lawmakers to order harsher penalties for such crimes and set up fast-track courts dedicated to rape cases. The government also introduced the death penalty for repeat offenders.

Despite tougher legislation, sexual violence against women has remained a widespread problem in India. In 2022, police recorded 31,516 reports of rape - a 20% jump from 2021, according to the National Crime Records Bureau.

19 Indian students hospitalized: At least 19 nursing students were ill after inhaling fumes from rat repellent sprayed inside their hostel building in the southern Indian city of Bengaluru, police said Monday.

The incident took place at the Adarsh Nursing College hostel. According to police, the students experienced breathing problems and nausea on Sunday night because of the rat repellent sprayed by the hostel management.

The students were shifted to a hospital and three of them were critical and were shifted to the intensive care unit of the hospital, a senior police official told media, adding the remaining ones were stable.

Police have registered a case against the hostel management and ordered an investigation into the incident.

Officials said the hostel management had engaged a private person to spray rat poison on the premises to rid the building of rodents. However, soon after the poison was sprayed, its fumes quickly spread throughout the building, leading to the discomfort of students and warranting their immediate hospitalization.

Pak copter rescues 2 Russians: A Pakistani army helicopter rescued two Russians while one is missing after their team was hit by a pile of ice on a treacherous peak in the country's north, an official said Monday.

Karrar Haidri, the secretary of the Alpine Club of Pakistan, said a rescue mission was underway to safely bring down two more climbers who were part of the five-member Russian team stranded on Gasherbrum peak in the Karakoram range after the ice formation hit their team.

"Unfortunately, the expedition encountered a devastating disaster. As the team ascended the mountain, an ice formation, possibly a serac, collapsed, unleashing a catastrophic event," Haidri said.

He said the rescue mission was launched on Saturday after the ice hit the climbers, who were on a mission to retrieve the body of a climber lost on the same mountain in 2023.

He said there was no government advisory about bad weather and the climbers faced the disaster suddenly after the mass of ice fell on them.

Hundreds of climbers try to scale mountains in northern Pakistan every year, and such accidents are common because of avalanches and sudden weather changes. Last week, a Pakistani climber Murad Sadpara, 35, known for taking part in high-altitude rescue missions died during a descent from one of the country's tallest mountains in the north.

Bangladesh plans nat'l elections soon: Chief Adviser to the Bangladeshi interim government Muhammad Yunus has said a free, fair and participatory election will be arranged as soon as possible after bringing necessary reforms in the state system.

"We will hold a free, fair participatory election as soon as we can complete our mandate to carry out vital reforms in our election commission, judiciary, civil administration, security forces and media," he told a meeting with diplomats in Dhaka Sunday.

Yunus said the top priority of the interim government would be to bring the law and order situation under control.

"We will be close to normalcy within a short period of time, with the unwavering support of our people and patriotic armed forces. The police force has also resumed their operations," he said.

He said the armed forces will continue to serve in aid of civil power as long as the situation warrants. "Our government remains pledge-bound to ensure the safety and security of all religious and ethnic groups."



South Korean army soldiers work on their K-9 self-propelled howitzer in Paju, South Korea, near the border with North Korea on Aug 19. (AP)

Asia

Chinese, Philippine ships collide again

South Korea, US troops begin military drills

SEOUL, South Korea, Aug 19, (AP): US and South Korean troops kicked off a large-scale exercise Monday aimed at strengthening their combined defense capabilities against nuclear-armed North Korea, which again accused the allies of practicing an invasion.

The annual summertime exercise comes amid heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula as the pace of both North Korea's weapons demonstrations and the U.S.-South Korea combined military exercises have intensified in a cycle of tit-for-tat.

The exercise began hours after North Korea's Foreign Ministry issued a statement repeating the North's contention that such exercises are "provocative war drills for aggression." It said the North's nuclear ambitions are thus justified, adding that it is crucial to "constantly maintain the balance of power for preventing a war by stockpiling the greatest deterrence."

The United States and South Korea described their joint drills as defensive in nature and have been expanding and upgrading their training in recent years to cope with the North's evolving threats.

The US and South Korean militaries did not immediately react to the North Korean Foreign Ministry statement.

The Ulchi Freedom Shield drills, which continue for 11 days, through Aug. 29, include both computer-simulated war games and more than 40 kinds of field exercises, including live-fire drills. The allies said this year's program is focused on enhancing their readiness against various North Korean threats, including missiles, GPS jamming and cyberattacks and will also reflect lessons learned from recent armed conflicts.

Attack

About 19,000 South Korean military personnel will participate in the drills, which will be held concurrently with civil defense and evacuation drills from Monday through Thursday that will include programs based on North Korean nuclear attack scenarios.

The US military has not confirmed the number of American troops participating in the drills or said whether they will involve US strategic assets. The United States in recent months has increased its regional deployment of long-range bombers, submarines and aircraft carrier strike groups to train with South Korean and Japanese forces.

The drills could trigger a belligerent

response from North Korea, which has been flaunting its growing weapons program and issuing verbal threats of nuclear conflicts against Washington and Seoul.

Earlier this month, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un staged a huge ceremony in the country's capital, Pyongyang, to mark the delivery of 250 nuclear-capable missile launchers to frontline military units and called for a ceaseless expansion of his military's nuclear program.

The event added to concerns about Kim's weapons program as he demonstrates an intent to deploy battlefield nuclear weapons along the North's border with South Korea and claims that his military could react with preemptive nuclear strikes if it perceives the leadership as under threat.

Analysts say Kim may seek to dial up pressure in a US election year as he advances his long-term goals of forcing Washington to accept the idea of the North as a nuclear power and negotiate economic and security concessions from a position of strength.

Also:

TAIPEI, Taiwan: Chinese and Philippine coast guard ships collided at sea, damaging at least two vessels, in an encounter early Monday near a new flashpoint in their increasingly alarming confrontations in the disputed South China Sea.

Each blamed the other for the collision near Sabina Shoal, a disputed atoll in the Spratly Islands, where Vietnam and Taiwan also have overlapping claims. There were no reports of injuries.

China's coast guard accused the Philippines of deliberately crashing one of its ships into a Chinese vessel. It said in a statement on its website that two Philippine coast guard ships entered waters near the shoal, ignored a warning from the Chinese coast guard and intentionally collided with one of the Chinese boats at 3:24 a.m.

"The Philippine side is entirely responsible for the collision," spokesperson Gan Yu said. "We warn the Philippine side to immediately stop its infringement and provocation, otherwise it will bear all the consequences arising from that."

Jonathan Malaya, assistant director-general of the Philippine government's National Security Council, accused the Chinese coast guard of falsely saying the Philippine coast guard ships had rammed its vessels.

Video and photographs, including

ones taken by journalists from a US TV network who were on board one of the Philippine coast guard ships, showed that the Chinese ships caused the collisions, Malaya told a news forum in Manila.

The Philippines' National Task Force on the West Philippine Sea said two of the coast guard ships, BRP Bagacay and BRP Cape Engaño, "encountered unlawful and aggressive maneuvers" from Chinese coast guard vessels while en route to Patag and Lawak islands, which are occupied by Filipino forces, in the contested region.

"These dangerous maneuvers resulted in collisions, causing structural damage to both Philippine Coast Guard vessels," the statement said.

The task force said the collision between BRP Cape Engaño and one of the Chinese ships created a hole in the deck of the Philippine ship about 5 inches (12.7 centimeters) in size.

About 16 minutes later, the other Philippine ship, BRP Bagacay, was rammed twice on its port and starboard sides by a different Chinese vessel, leading to structural damage, the task force said.

TOKYO: Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, which honors Japan's war dead, including convicted World War II war criminals, was vandalized again overnight Monday.

"It is deplorable that an act seeking to denigrate the shrine's dignity has happened again," the shrine said in a statement.

In May, a stone pillar at Yasukuni was spray-painted red. A Chinese suspect was arrested in July.

Neither the police nor the Shinto shrine would go into details of the latest vandalism, saying an investigation was ongoing.

Japanese media reports said graffiti reading "toilet" in Chinese, written with what appeared to be black markers, was found Monday morning on a stone pillar near the shrine's arch.

Asian nations that suffered from Japanese aggression before and during World War II see Yasukuni as a symbol of militarism.

Convicted Class A war criminals, including Hideki Tojo, Japan's wartime prime minister, are among the 2.5 million Japanese war dead enshrined at Yasukuni. The shrine itself, a dramatic-looking building with sweeping roofs, also includes in its grounds memorials and museums dedicated to kamikaze pilots.



This photo provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, shows damage on the Philippines coast guard vessel BRP Cape Engano (MRRV-4411) after a collision with a Chinese coast guard ship Monday, Aug. 19, 2024 in the disputed South China Sea. (AP)



Schreiber



Mnangagwa

Africa

6 shot dead in South Africa: Six people were shot dead at an informal settlement in Umlazi, KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa, Saturday night, confirmed local police Sunday.

"Police in KwaZulu-Natal have launched a massive manhunt for suspects who shot and killed six men at an informal settlement in Section V6 in Umlazi on Saturday night," the provincial police said in a statement. "Reports indicate that three men were seated outside their rented accommodation consuming alcohol when unknown suspects arrived and opened fire at them. The suspects proceeded to the landlord's house where they shot him and another man who was also inside the house. The suspects also shot another man on the pathway. All six victims, aged between 20 and 40, were declared dead at the scene."

The motive of the killings is still unknown, according to the statement.

The police also appealed to the public to assist with information which could help them to apprehend the suspects. (Xinhua)

95 Libyans deported: The South African Department of Home Affairs on Sunday deported 95 Libyans who were arrested at a suspected illegal military training base in South Africa last month.

The 95 Libyan nationals were arrested by police in July after allegedly being found doing military training in White River in Mpumalanga province. South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), however, on Thursday withdrew charges against them, saying there is no sufficient evidence to convict them for contravening the Immigration Act.

The Department of Home Affairs said in a statement issued Sunday that it had concluded its role in the deportation of the 95 Libyans by declaring "They are scheduled to leave South Africa from the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport this morning in a flight that has been paid for by the Libyan Government."

Their flight departed from the airport Sunday, according to local media reports.

"I commend the home affairs officials and other law enforcement officers who worked tirelessly to ensure an expeditious deportation. We will continue to deploy all resources at our disposal to ensure that the country's immigration laws are respected and observed," said Leon Schreiber, South African minister of Home Affairs, in the aforementioned statement.

The home affairs department canceled the visas of the Libyans, saying they made misrepresentations in their visa applications that they were coming to South Africa to train as security guards. (Xinhua)

'Preserve African history': Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa on Sunday urged African countries to ensure that the continent's history is accurately documented and secured to prevent histori-

cal inaccuracies.

Speaking during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Liberation Square at the Museum of African Liberation in the national capital of Harare, Mnangag-

wa said Zimbabwe will continue to deploy resources towards the institutionalization of African narratives and perspectives on the decolonization of the continent.

"We are aware that the history of our continent has been and continues to be de-

liberately distorted to suit the parochial interests of our former erstwhile colonial masters," said Mnangagwa during the ceremony which was also attended by some of the SADC countries' leaders.

The Museum of African Liberation, which is still under construction in Harare, is situated on a 103-hectare site known as Liberation City.

The Liberation City, which will be constructed in different phases, will house the Liberation Museum as the main attraction and will also include a five-star hotel, an animal park, and various national monuments including a heritage village. Groundbreaking of the Museum took place in December 2020, but construction started in 2022. The construction work is expected to take two years.

Mnangagwa, who assumed the SADC chairmanship at the 44th Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Harare Saturday, said it is the responsibility of this generation to ensure that the important phase in the history of Africa is accurately documented and secured.

"This museum is an affirmation of the liberation struggles of the African continent. It should ultimately be the custodian and embodiment of all that characterized respective countries, the decolonization of our region and the entire African continent, including the African Diaspora," he said, stressing that exhibitions that showcase the heroic struggles of the African people and the victories registered against colonialism will be displayed at the museum. (Xinhua)



Doctors shout slogans as they protest against the rape and murder of a trainee doctor, in New Delhi, India on Aug 16. Hundreds of doctors protested near India's health ministry on Aug 19 as they demanded stringent laws to protect health care workers from violence and sought justice for their colleague who was raped and killed at a state-run hospital. (AP)

KOC advances renewable energy, environment drive

The Kuwait Oil Company is making strides in its renewable energy efforts by commissioning a technical feasibility study to explore the development of a diverse renewable energy portfolio, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This study, conducted with the help of a technical consultant, aims to assess the feasibility of integrating various renewable technologies, including wind power and photovoltaic solar en-

ergy, with the goal of producing 1 gigawatt of energy. This initiative is expected to partially meet the company's electricity demands.

The company has also taken proactive measures to embrace green energy and mitigate global warming. Solar panels have been installed at South and North Kuwait sites as part of the United Nations Program for the Reclamation of Lands contaminated by the Iraqi invasion.

This move has led to a notable reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, cutting over 16 tons, and increasing the share of renewable energy at these locations to 36 percent in northern Kuwait and 15 percent in southern Kuwait.

In addition to its renewable energy projects, the Kuwait Oil Company has made significant progress in environmental clean-up efforts.

KIC partners with Tadweer for e-waste recycling

Kuwait Insurance Company has announced its collaboration with Tadweer, a specialist in electronic waste recycling, to further its commitment to environmental sustainability, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This partnership aligns with the company's dedication to sustainable practices and supports its efforts to contribute to Kuwait Vision 2035.

The key points of the initiative include the following:

E-Waste Recycling -- Kuwait Insurance Company has recycled over 200 electronic items, including printers, computer monitors, and various devices. This initiative addresses the dangers of e-waste, which contains toxic additives and hazardous materials like mercury that can harm the environment if not properly managed.

Promoting Sustainability -- The company aims to educate the community about sustaina-

bility and environmental responsibility through this initiative. It reflects Kuwait Insurance Company's broader goals of social responsibility and environmental stewardship.

Leadership in Sustainability -- Sami Sharif, CEO of Kuwait Insurance Company, highlighted the company's role as a leader in sustainability initiatives, emphasizing the alignment with Kuwait Vision 2035.

Market Movements

19-08-2024

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
SAUDI - TASI	+41.63	12,023.03	DUBAI - DFMGI	-5.62	4,237.52
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+42.50	6,889.87	JAPAN - Nikkei 225	-674.05	37,388.62
			EGYPT - EGX 30	-140.06	29,320.18
			PAKISTAN - KSE 100	-357.10	77,806.63

Business



Zain joined in awarding the winners.



Officials from Zain, LOYAC, and partners with the participants.

Company celebrated winners of LOYAC's 9th KON program

Zain empowers next generation of young entrepreneurs

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: In a continued effort to empower and inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs, Zain participated in awarding the winning students of the 9th KON Social Entrepreneurship Program. The ceremony, marking the program's conclusion, was held at the American University of Kuwait.

Zain's ongoing support for this successful initiative came under its strategic partnership with the leading non-profit organization LOYAC, a collaboration that spans 20 years and has empowered thousands of ambitious young people in Kuwait through hundreds of engaging programs.

Over the course of a month, students engaged in interactive workshops, field visits, and insightful training sessions.

They culminated their experience by presenting final business pitches to a panel of judges, which included experts and executives from Zain and other private sector companies. The judges selected the winners and then recognized them on stage at the closing ceremony.

Zain commends the dedication and passion of all the young participants, who worked tirelessly to transform their ideas into viable, sustainable business ventures. Their efforts align seamlessly with KON's objectives and Zain's vision to nurture young talent and strengthen the local innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems.

To add value to the program, Zain hosted at its Innovation Campus (ZINC) a special session on the essen-

tials of public speaking and business pitching. This provided the students with invaluable insights into how to effectively pitch their ideas to potential investors, helping them turn their visions into sustainable startups.

The KON program, which came in collaboration with Babson College, a leading U.S. academic institution for business and entrepreneurship, featured over 50 young individuals aged 12-16. The program was designed to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with the skills and knowledge needed to launch and manage their own businesses in the future.

The program featured interactive workshops, field trips, training sessions, and more. These activities provided the students with a hands-on

understanding of business and entrepreneurship, while also deepening their awareness of social and environmental challenges. Under the guidance of experienced entrepreneurs, activists, and industry professionals, the students developed innovative solutions to these challenges.

The strategic partnership between Zain and LOYAC has resulted in numerous successful programs and initiatives over the past 20 years, empowering thousands of Kuwaiti youth in business, volunteering, and academic projects. Zain considers this collaboration a testament to the strength and resilience of the ecosystem between the private sector and non-profit organizations in fostering youth empowerment in Kuwait.

Bank supports 'Diraya' campaign

Burgan Bank offers travel safety tips and warnings for customers

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: For the fourth consecutive year, Burgan Bank upholds its committed support for the "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) financial literacy and banking awareness campaign, launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) with the support of Kuwaiti banks. As part of its active contribution to the campaign during the summer vacation and travel season, the Bank published a series of awareness tips across its social channels and website, which included short videos filmed as part of Burgan representatives' presence at the Paris 2024 Olympics with Team Kuwait.

The Bank's latest awareness campaign covered a wide range of tips for travelers on how to use their bank cards securely while enjoying the exclusive benefits that Burgan offers its various customer segments. The campaign also included vital warnings about the risks of falling victim to scamming attempts as a result of not following the safety precautions.

On this note, Mrs. Kholoud Al-Feeli, Deputy General Manager - Marketing and Communication at Burgan Bank, said: "The travel season is always met with great enthusiasm for all the fun and memorable experiences it promises. Just as many travelers go to extra lengths to plan the details of their trips with delicate care, it is equally important to take all safety measures that guarantee secure overseas transactions. Our latest Diraya campaign was designed to ensure that our customers and community members are updated with all the precautionary measures they need during their travels abroad."

Among the first tips the campaign underscored was the importance of downloading the Burgan Mobile application and activating the SMS notifications service, which instantly updates the customers on their card transactions. In addition, customers were advised to memorize or save their passwords and PINs separately from bank cards or mobile phones and not to share them with anyone.

The campaign also highlighted the danger of sharing the one-time password (OTP), confirming that the Bank representatives would never ask customers to reveal any bank-related information or personal data, such as the username, password, or bank card information via email, SMS, WhatsApp, or phone.



Kholoud AlFeeli

As for securing bank accounts from the danger of being hacked, Burgan strongly advised customers to refrain from connecting to public Wi-Fi networks or signing in to their bank accounts from public devices, which can pose a great security risk. The Bank also advised customers to check their bank cards' expiry date and credit limit before traveling and notify the bank of the trip's destination and duration beforehand. Furthermore, customers were recommended to pay in the travel destination's local currency during their trips abroad.

Other fraud risks that customers were cautioned about included checking for any foreign devices attached to ATMs and covering the keypad while inserting their PIN. In case of facing any trouble, the Bank advised customers to contact the Burgan customer service call center immediately.

Upon returning from their travels, Burgan Bank advised customers to change their bank card PIN and thoroughly check that their card spending activity matches their receipts, urging them to report any discrepancies or unfamiliar transactions found.

It serves to note that Burgan Bank's efforts to spread vital financial literacy awareness tips on its social media accounts align with its comprehensive social responsibility program. In addition to its year-long awareness campaign, the Bank continues to fortify its data protection and cybersecurity systems, guaranteeing top protection for the customers' assets against breach or theft.

Kuwait real estate assets reach KD 6.02 bln in H1 2024, up 3.5%

Liabilities of Kuwait real estate firms rise by 7.8% to KD 3.07 bln

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The value of assets held by real estate companies listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange reached 6.02 billion dinars during the first half of 2024, an increase of 206 million dinars (3.5%) compared to 5.8 billion dinars during the same period in 2023. Meanwhile, the liabilities of these companies rose to 3.07 billion dinars, up by 223 million dinars (7.8%) from 2.85 billion dinars.

According to statistics compiled by Al-Jarida, real estate companies' liabilities now represent about 48.9% of their total assets. Mabane Company led the sector with the highest asset value at 1.45 billion dinars, up from 1.18 billion dinars, followed by United

Real Estate Company with assets of 650.6 million dinars, down from 667.7 million dinars. Al-Tijaria Real Estate came in third with assets of 573.4 million dinars, up from 553.6 million dinars, while Salhia Real Estate Company held assets worth 523.1 million dinars, compared to 436.3 million dinars. The National Real Estate Company reported assets of 505.4 million dinars, down from 606.5 million dinars.

Sanam Real Estate Company saw the most significant asset growth, increasing by 49.9% from 7.9 million dinars to 11.9 million dinars. Mabane Company followed with a 22.8% growth, and Osos Holding Company grew by 20.4%, reaching 20.1 million dinars from 16.7 million dinars. Salhia Real Estate Company grew by 19.8%, and Kuwait Business City Real Estate Company saw an 18.3% increase, rising from 89.6 million dinars to 106.1 million dinars.

Conversely, Al-Masaken International Real Estate Development Com-

pany experienced the largest asset decline, falling by 34.6% from 19.2 million dinars in the first half of 2023 to 12.5 million dinars in 2024. Mazaya Holding Company followed with a 22.5% decrease, with assets dropping from 186 million dinars to 144 million dinars. Arabian Real Estate Company also saw a 16.9% decline, with assets decreasing from 135 million dinars to 112 million dinars. National Real Estate Company and Tamdeen Real Estate Company saw declines of 16.6% and 13.9%, respectively.

In terms of liabilities, Mabane Company again led, with liabilities increasing to 741 million dinars from 517 million dinars. United Real Estate Company followed with liabilities of 455 million dinars, down from 476 million dinars. Salhia Real Estate Company's liabilities reached 346 million dinars, up from 265 million dinars, and Al-Tijaria Real Estate Company saw liabilities rise to 257 million dinars from 243 million dinars. Kuwait Real Estate Company reported liabilities of 248 million dinars, up from 233 million dinars.

Sanam Real Estate Company expe-

rienced the most significant growth in liabilities, increasing by 344% from 116,000 dinars to 516,000 dinars. Osos Holding Company saw liabilities grow by 51.5%, reaching 7 million dinars from 4.6 million dinars, while Mabane Company's liabilities increased by 43.2%. Kuwait Business City Real Estate Company's liabilities rose by 33.7%, and Salhia Real Estate Company saw a 30.4% increase in liabilities.

On the other hand, Al-Masaken International Real Estate Development Company saw the largest decrease in liabilities, falling by 35.8% to 8.3 million dinars from 12.9 million dinars. Dalqan Real Estate Company followed with a 27.3% decrease, dropping from 2.3 million dinars to 1.7 million dinars. Mazaya Holding Company's liabilities decreased by 26.5%, falling from 129.1 million dinars to 94.8 million dinars. Arabian Real Estate Company saw a 24.5% decrease, with liabilities dropping from 97.8 million dinars to 73.8 million dinars, while Munshaat Real Estate Projects saw a 16.7% decrease, with liabilities falling from 84.7 million dinars to 70.4 million dinars.

76 trained employees spread across 12 equipped branches

KFH offers inclusive banking services for special needs customers

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: Kuwait Finance House (KFH), the world's leading Islamic financial institution, remains committed to delivering high-quality banking services to all segments of society in support of sustainable development.

KFH's comprehensive banking services aim to serve all segments of society, including those with special needs. These qualitative initiatives demonstrate KFH's commitment to meeting customer expectations and reinforcing its CSR leadership.

Additionally, KFH is committed to ensuring that customers with special needs can easily access banking services. To achieve this, KFH provides trained staff to assist with banking transactions and offers alternative communication channels to meet individual needs.

KFH has 76 trained employees spread across 12 equipped branches, fully experienced in sign language to assist customers.

Features & Facilities

KFH is keen to enable all its customers, regardless of their disability, to benefit from its banking services. Therefore, KFH has allocated branches equipped with a thorough set of features and services that support its main objectives. These include designated parking for individuals with special needs and wheelchair-accessible entrances to ensure easy, quick access upon arrival, access to ATMs, headphone features in ATMs, safety deposit boxes, in addition to staff trained in sign language.

KFH employees receive extensive training in sign language to assist custom-



One of the branches of KFH.

ers with hearing impairments. Moreover, account opening forms, contracts, and transaction documents are printed in Braille. In the digital sphere, KFH doors are equipped with sensors to facilitate smooth transitions between customers, automatically closing until the transaction is completed.

Integration and Employment

KFH's commitment to inclusivity extends to creating an accessible workplace for employees with disabilities. Additionally, KFH is aligning with Kuwait's vision of hiring disabled candidates and prioritizing skills over disabilities in hiring practices. In addition, KFH regularly assesses workplace accessibility, invests in assistive technologies, and makes necessary accommodations to ensure all employees can thrive. In 2023, KFH provided a welcoming, accessible, and safe workspace for 234 employees with disabilities at the Group level.

Strategic Partnerships

KFH is willing to conclude strategic partnerships with entities concerned with people with special needs and provide appropriate training. Notably, KFH have established a partnership with the Kuwait Society for the Handicapped (KSH) aimed at integrating individuals with disabilities into the community. This partnership focuses on providing training and development opportunities that lead to sustainable job placements, improved psychological well-being, and a more inclusive work environment for people with disabilities. Since this partnership in 2021, KFH has delivered extensive training programs to employees across KFH functions and departments, enhancing their ability to contribute meaningfully to the Bank.

In partnership with the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA), KFH is the first bank in Kuwait to launch a comprehensive program to integrate people with special needs, offering them practical training programs and full-time jobs.

AMD buying ZT Systems for \$4.9b

AMD is buying server maker ZT Systems in a cash-and-stock deal worth \$4.9 billion as the chipmaker strengthens its artificial intelligence capacity in its efforts to compete with Nvidia.

AMD plans to sell its server manufacturing business after the deal closes, with mergers and acquisitions in tech and elsewhere getting a closer look by the Biden Administration. ZT

Systems, based in Secaucus, New Jersey, is a privately held company that has designed and rolled out data center and storage infrastructure systems to cloud companies for more than a decade.

The transaction includes a contingent payment of up to \$400 million based on post-closing milestones. Once the deal closes, ZT Systems will join the AMD Data Center So-

lutions Business Group. AMD said Monday that it will look for a buyer for its U.S.-based data center infrastructure manufacturing business.

The transaction, which was approved by AMD's board, is expected to close in the first half of next year. Shares of AMD, based in Santa Clara, Calif., rose more than 2% before the market opened. (AP)

China, Vietnam pledge to strengthen political and economic ties

The leaders of China and Vietnam pledged to further their economic ties and gave a nod to their shared communist ideology during the first visit by Vietnam's new president to Beijing on Monday.

To Lam, who took office in May, made China the destination of his first state visit, signaling the continuing importance of the Southeast Asian nation places on its giant neighbor despite ongoing territorial frictions in the South China Sea.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Li Yuan, hosted a ceremony for Lam and his wife, Ngo Phuong Ly, at Beijing's vast Great Hall of the People, replete with flags, flowers and a marching band.

Xi remarked on the "deep friendship" between Vietnam and China and said Vietnam was a priority for Beijing's "neighborhood diplomacy." "As two ruling Communist parties in the world today, the two parties of China and Vietnam should ... contin-

ue their traditional friendship ... and jointly promote the development of the world's socialist cause," Xi said. "I believe that our road will expand wider as we walk further."

Lam's three-day visit to China comes about two weeks after he was confirmed as general secretary of Vietnam's Communist Party, the country's top political position. He succeeded Nguyen Phu Trong, who died last month after 13 years as leader. (AP)

Travelers idling in standstill traffic

Too many people, not enough management: A look at the chaos of 'overtourism' in the summer of 2024

SINTRA, Portugal, Aug 19, (AP): The doorbell to Martinho de Almada Pimentel's house is hard to find, and he likes it that way. It's a long rope that, when pulled, rings a literal bell on the roof that lets him know someone is outside the mountain-side mansion that his great-grandfather built in 1914 as a monument to privacy.

There's precious little of that for Pimentel during this summer of "overtourism."

Travelers idling in standstill traffic outside the sunwashed walls of Casa do Cipreste sometimes spot the bell and pull the string "because it's funny," he says. With the windows open, he can smell the car exhaust and hear the "tuk-tuk" of oversized scooters named for the sound they make. And he can sense the frustration of 5,000 visitors a day who are forced to queue around the house on the crawl up single-lane switchbacks to Pena Palace, the onetime retreat of King Ferdinand II.

"Now I'm more isolated than during COVID," the soft-spoken Pimentel, who lives alone, said during an interview this month on the veranda. "Now I try to (not) go out. What I feel is: angry."

This is a story of what it means to be visited in 2024, the first year in which global tourism is expected to set records since the coronavirus pandemic brought much of life on Earth to a halt. Wandering is surging, rather than leveling off, driven by lingering revenge travel, digital nomad campaigns and so-called golden visas blamed in part for skyrocketing housing prices.

Anyone paying attention during this summer of "overtourism" is familiar with the escalating consequences around the world: traffic jams in paradise. Reports of hospitality workers living in tents. And "anti-tourism" protests intended

to shame visitors as they dine - or, as in Barcelona in July, douse them with water pistols.

The demonstrations are an example of locals using the power of their numbers and social media to issue destination leaders an ultimatum: Manage this issue better or we'll scare away the tourists - who could spend their \$11.1 trillion a year elsewhere. Housing prices, traffic and water management are on all of the checklists.

Cue the violins, you might grouse, for people like Pimentel who are well-off enough to live in places worth visiting. But it's more than a problem for rich people.

"Not to be able to get an ambulance or to not be able to get my groceries is a rich people problem?" said Matthew Bedell, another resident of Sintra, which has no pharmacy or grocery store in the center of the UNESCO-designated district. "Those don't feel like rich people problems to me."

The phrase itself generally describes the tipping point at which visitors and their cash stop benefiting residents and instead cause harm by degrading historic sites, overwhelming infrastructure and making life markedly more difficult for those who live there.

It's a hashtag that gives a name to the protests and hostility that you've seen all summer. But look a little deeper and you'll find knottier issues for locals and their leaders, none more universal than housing prices driven up by short-term rentals like Airbnb, from Spain to South Africa. Some locales are encouraging "quality tourism," generally defined as more consideration by visitors toward residents and less drunken behavior, disruptive self-taking and other questionable choices.

"Overtourism is arguably a social phenomenon, too," according to an analysis for the World Trade Organization

written by Joseph Martin Cheer of Western Sydney University and Marina Novelli of the University of Nottingham. In China and India, for example, they wrote, crowded places are more socially accepted. "This suggests that cultural expectations of personal space and expectations of exclusivity differ."

The summer of 2023 was defined by the chaos of the journey itself - airports and airlines overwhelmed, passports a nightmare for travelers from the US. Yet by the end of the year, signs abounded that the COVID-19 rush of revenge travel was accelerating.

In January, the United Nations' tourism agency predicted that worldwide tourism would exceed the records set in 2019 by 2%. By the end of March, the agency reported, more than 285 million tourists had travelled internationally, about 20% more than the first quarter of 2023. Europe remained the most-visited destination. The World Travel & Tourism Council projected in April that 142 of 185 countries it analyzed would set records for tourism, set to generate \$11.1 trillion globally and account for 330 million jobs.

Aside from the money, there's been trouble in paradise this year, with Spain playing a starring role in everything from water management problems to skyrocketing housing prices and drunken tourist drama.

Protests erupted across the country as early as March, when graffiti in Malaga reportedly urged tourists to "go f--- home." Thousands of protesters demonstrated in Spain's Canary Islands against visitors and construction that was overwhelming water services and jacking up housing prices. In Barcelona, protesters shamed and squirted water at people presumed to be visitors as they dined al fresco in touristy Las Ramblas.

In Japan, where tourist arrivals fueled by the weak yen were expected to set a new record in 2024, Kyoto banned tourists from certain alleys. The government set limits on people climbing Mount Fuji. And in Fujikawaguchiko, a town that offers some of the best views of the mountain's perfect cone, leaders erected a large black screen in a parking lot to deter tourists from overcrowding the site. The tourists apparently struck back by cutting holes in the screen at eye level.

Air travel, meanwhile, only got more miserable, the U.S. government reported in July. UNESCO has warned of potential damage to protected areas. And Fodor's "No List 2024" urged people to reconsider visiting suffering hotspots, including sites in Greece and Vietnam, as well as areas with water management problems in California, India and Thailand.

Not-yet-hot spots looked to capitalize on "de-tourism" drives such as Amsterdam's "Stay Away" campaign aimed at partying young men. The "Welcome to MonGolia" campaign, for example, beckoned from the land of Genghis Khan. Visits to that country by foreign tourists jumped 25% the first seven months of 2024 over last year.

Tourism is surging and shifting so quickly, in fact, that some experts say the very term "overtourism" is outdated.

Michael O'Regan, a lecturer on tourism and events at Glasgow Caledonian University, argues that "overtourism" has become a buzzword that doesn't reflect the fact that the experience depends largely on the success or failure of crowd management. It's true that many of the demonstrations aren't aimed at the tourists themselves, but at the leaders who allow the locals who should benefit to become the ones who pay.

60-megawatt capacity

Indonesia & Saudi to build a floating solar plant in W. Java

JAKARTA, Aug 19, (Xinhua): Indonesia's state-owned electricity company PT PLN Indonesia (PLN) has partnered with a Saudi Arabian company to develop a 60-megawatt floating solar power plant at Saguling Reservoir in West Java.

"This project aims to strengthen the renewable energy sector in Indonesia, minimize the impact of climate change, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions," said PLN President Director Edwin Nugraha Putra on Sunday.

This project is also Indonesia's effort to accelerate the energy

transition and support the target of net-zero emissions by 2060, Edwin added.

Targeted to be commercially operational by June 2026, Edwin believes this project will boost investment and strengthen Indonesia-Saudi Arabia relations.

On Nov. 9, 2023, Indonesia inaugurated the Cirata floating solar power plant, funded by United Arab Emirates-based company Masdar, covering an area of 250 hectares in West Java with a peak capacity of 192 megawatts, making it the largest in Southeast Asia.

Latest party plenum sends positive signals on China's economic growth

US business leader welcomes new policies

WASHINGTON, Aug 19, (Xinhua): A U.S. business leader welcomed the economic policies from the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), noting that these measures will help expand domestic market demand, improve market exit mechanisms and promote technological innovation and green development.

"I am excited by the recent third plenum ... It appears that macro-economic policy is headed in the right direction," Craig Allen, president of the U.S.-China Business Council (USCBC), told Xinhua in a recent interview in Washington D.C.

He applauded the measures introduced at the plenum aimed at boosting consumption and expanding domestic demand, viewing these practical measures as a positive signal that the Chinese government is moving in the right direction.

Regarding the "overcapacity" issue alleged by the West, the U.S. business leader said that China's manufacturing exports are currently thriving, with banks significantly increasing loans to manufacturers and substantially reducing loans to the real estate sector, but meanwhile Chinese manufacturers are facing challenges such as low profitability and low capacity utilization.

Allen added he is very pleased to see that the plenum discussed revising the bankruptcy law, which can help poorly performing companies exit the market through bankruptcy, benefiting the overall development of China's economy.

He also took notice of the strong emphasis on technology and innovation at the plenum. As China's research and development (R&D) investment already accounts for 2.6 percent of its GDP, he expected this percentage to increase significantly, which he said is significant for U.S. businesses.

"There was an emphasis on innovation and the green economy. And both of those are useful and important focal points for the American economy, for American companies, and we can contribute to both," said Allen.



Craig Allen, president of the U.S.-China Business Council, delivers a speech at a promotion event in New York, the United States. (Xinhua)

China-US financial working group holds fifth meeting

BEIJING, Aug 19, (Xinhua): The China-U.S. financial working group held its fifth meeting in Shanghai from Thursday to Friday, discussing a range of issues related to the financial policies of both countries, according to China's central bank.

Xuan Changneng, deputy governor of the People's Bank of China (PBOC) and Brent Neiman, deputy under secretary for international finance at the U.S. Department of the Treasury co-chaired the meeting. Representatives from China's National Financial Regulatory Administration, China Securities Regulatory Commission, the U.S. Federal Reserve and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission attended the meeting, according to a statement released by the PBOC on Monday.

The two sides had professional, pragmatic, candid and constructive communication on a range of financial policy topics of mutual interest, including the broader strategy of further deepening comprehensive reforms as discussed at the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the central bank said.

The discussions also covered the economic and financial situation, monetary policies, financial stability and regulation, securities and capital markets, cross-border

payments and data, international financial governance, financial technology, sustainable finance, as well as anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing.

During the meeting, a group of technical experts presented a report on various topics, including disposal mechanisms for global systemically important banks, operational resilience of financial institutions, climate risk stress testing, and supervision of cross-border financial services, according to the statement.

China and U.S. financial institutions also held their first roundtable meeting under the framework of the China-U.S. financial working group. Focusing on sustainable finance, participating members shared their experiences and practices and exchanged views on potential cooperation opportunities.

During the meeting, the PBOC and the U.S. Department of the Treasury signed an exchange of letters to enhance cooperation on financial stability. They also exchanged lists of financial stability contacts to ensure timely and unobstructed communication between their financial regulatory authorities during financial stress incidents and operational risks of financial institutions, thereby reducing uncertainty.

The central bank said the two sides agreed to maintain communication.

Germany's employment rate grows in Q2, still 'lags behind' EU average

BERLIN, Aug 19, (Xinhua): Germany's employment rate grew by 0.1 percent in the second quarter (Q2) of this year compared to Q1, with around 46.1 million people being employed or self-employed in the country, according to data released Friday by the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis).

The year-on-year comparison showed a 0.4 percent increase in employment in Q2, according to preliminary calculations by Destatis.

However, these figures fell short of the European Union (EU) average. The data from the Eurostat, the EU statistics office, showed that employment

in the 27 EU member states rose by an average of 0.7 percent in Q2, while the euro area saw an increase of 0.8 percent year-on-year.

In Q2, job creation in Germany was driven primarily by the service sectors, which added 229,000 new positions.

The manufacturing sector, however, continued to struggle. Excluding construction, the number of people employed in this sector declined by 44,000 in Q2, or 0.5 percent year-on-year. The trend of declining employment was also evident among self-employed people, including assisting family members. The number of self-

employed people dropped by 29,000, bringing the total to 3.8 million.

In comparison, the number of employees in the country rose to 42.3 million in Q2, an increase of 196,000 compared to the same period last year. On average, those employed worked 318.2 hours during Q2, marking a slight increase of 0.4 percent in working hours.

In June, the number of unemployed people in Germany reached 1.52 million, representing an increase of 194,000 people, or 14.6 percent, compared to the same period last year. As a result, the unemployment rate climbed to 3.4 percent, up from 3 percent last June.

Currently, the USCBC has over 200 American member companies doing business in China. Allen told Xinhua that these U.S. companies are very eager to continue strengthening cooperation with China in areas such as climate change, health care, tourism, education, finance, and entertainment.

Taking health care as an example, Allen said that as China's population ages, its people become wealthier, and private health insurance plans become more popular, U.S. companies are excited about the opportunities for collaboration with China in the sector.

There was further discussion on a

unified national market and issues of provincial protectionism at the plenum, he said. "We strongly support that, as it will lead to yet more opportunities for strong Chinese companies as well as foreign companies."

"We are pleased that the government is heading in that direction," he added.

Technological co-op, digital innovation key to deepening China-Kenya ties

NAIROBI, Aug 19, (Xinhua): Technological cooperation and digital innovation are key to fostering mutual growth and prosperity and deepening the relationship between China and Kenya, a Kenyan expert has said.

"China is very strategic in offering affordable technology," which is crucial for Kenya to leverage, especially considering the expensive technologies from Europe, said James Shik-

wati, a Kenyan libertarian economist and the director of the Inter Region Economic Network, in an interview with Xinhua.

Shikwati underscored China's importance as a major importer of Kenya avocados and expressed Kenya's eagerness to enhance its agricultural value chain. He emphasized the need for Kenya to create platforms for research exchanges with China.

Kenya could tap into areas of synergy with China by facilitating expert exchanges and transferring relevant technologies, Shikwati said.

He spoke of China's prominence as a digital powerhouse, citing platforms like Alibabaweb as an example, and emphasized the potential for collaboration with Kenya's M-Pesa system.

"There's an opportunity for exchanges in digital technology," he said,

adding that a regulatory framework facilitating e-commerce and interoperable payment systems could be of great value.

Shikwati also touched on China's support in helping Kenya achieve its sustainable development goals, particularly through the adoption of solar technology, and the importance of Chinese manufacturers in supplying solar panels for private use in Kenyan

households.

The Kenyan expert spoke highly of the Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation to be held in Beijing in September, expressing his hope for Africa to become a major player in the Chinese market.

Looking into the future, Shikwati stressed the need for Africa to be actively engaged in the developments of digital technology and artificial intel-

ligence.

It will be strategic for China to prioritize involving Africa in learning about the latest trends and create training opportunities for Africans, he said.

Shikwati voiced optimism for a shared future that promotes culture, peace and prosperity.

"Creating possibilities for a shared future aligns well with the aspirations of both China and Kenya," he added.

What's On



NBK & LOYAC leaders in social entrepreneurship training program.



Group picture of the social entrepreneurship training program.

50 students complete NBK and LOYAC's social entrepreneurship training

NBK and LOYAC conclude 9th year of 'KON' social entrepreneurship program

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) and LOYAC concluded the "KON" social entrepreneurship training program. The program is held with NBK's Platinum Sponsorship, as part of its strategic partnership with LOYAC for the 9th year in a row, in collaboration with Babson College for Entrepreneurship Education to enhance students' leadership and innovation skills for introducing projects that drive community development.

The program ran for 5 weeks with the participation of 50 male and female students between the age of 12 and 16, and included training sessions, discussions, lectures and workshops, which aim to introduce and promote pioneering social programs in Kuwait.

The program was delivered by leaders from NBK as well as experts from the participating companies and institutions who transfer their knowledge and expertise and give the necessary advice to the participants to help them develop their projects.

Speaking on this, Joanne Al Abdul Jaleel, Manager, Public Relations Officer at National Bank of Kuwait, said, "At NBK, we are proud of our sponsorship of the "KON" program, which embodies our keen endeavors to deliver

Al Abdul Jaleel:

Our sponsorship of the program reflects our keen endeavors to qualify and empower young national talent

Our support of LOYAC's educational and youth activities emanates from our firm belief in its impactful contributions

on our social responsibilities, especially with regard to qualifying national talent from "today's youth, tomorrow's leaders", and empowering them with knowledge and training to perform their crucial role towards a better future for our country, Kuwait."

"Our strategic partnership with LOYAC, and consistent sponsorship of its meaningful cultural and youth activities emanate from our firm belief in its impactful contributions in supporting the endeavors of the government and

private sector's endeavors towards achieving sustainable development," she added.

Al Abdul Jaleel expressed her pleasure with the program's outputs and the noticeable tremendous development in the performance and knowledge of the participating students, who emphasized they have greatly benefited from the entire program's content, which reflects highly careful preparation based on prudent scientific study.

The program was attended by 50 students between the age of 12 and 16 and included training sessions, discussions, online lectures and virtual workshops.

NBK continues its annual humanitarian initiatives and support for social welfare programs in line with its unwavering commitment to deliver on its social responsibilities and firm belief in the powerful impact of these programs in serving the society and people, as well as in reflecting its leading role in this field over long decades.

LOYAC is a nonprofit organization that runs several programs for the youth to develop their professional skills, enhance their personal growth and help them find their sense of purpose by extending themselves to others.



A glimpse of the activities of the tote bag painting workshop.

Custom tote bags support Gulf Bank's environmental goals

Gulf Bank hosts tote bag painting workshop with Zainab Al-Baqsam

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: In its ongoing commitment to customer engagement and community involvement, Gulf Bank recently organized a tote bag painting workshop in collaboration with artist Zainab Al-Baqsam. This event was part of the bank's "GB Masterclass" series, which features experts and specialists across various fields.

Participants expressed their appreciation for Gulf Bank's role in promoting community sustainability and its dedication to addressing customer needs and interests.

The workshop supports the bank's sustainability goals by encouraging customers to use their customized, hand-painted bags, thereby reducing plastic consumption and minimizing environmental impact.

Gulf Bank is dedicated to fostering strong community connections year-round through its GB Masterclass series, which covers a range of topics relevant to the public.

Last year, the bank hosted a series of two-hour lectures and workshops on subjects of interest to both the public and its customers. Gulf Bank values its strong ties with the community and is dedicated to meeting customer

needs through meaningful initiatives and events.

In line with Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait," Gulf Bank is committed to advancing sustainability in environmental, social, and governance areas through strategically selected initiatives both within the bank and in the wider community.

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.

'Bank rewards Visa cardholders'

KIB announces winners of second draw in 'Summer Card Campaign'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) has announced the names of the winners of the second draw in its Summer Card Campaign, designed to reward its Visa Credit and Prepaid Cardholders and recently launched in collaboration with Visa. The winners are Naser Abdulaziza AlMutawaa, Talal Abdullah Alkhourayef, Athaar Rasheed AlMutairi, Abdulaziz Saad AlFathli, Mudhi Anwar AlSharhan, Abdullah Hassan Mohammed, Mohammad Bkheet AlAsfour, Abdullah Awadh AlMutawtah, Hani Abdulrahman AlRasheedi, and Dawoud Sulaiman Shebeeb. The announcement was made in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as KIB representatives.

Commenting on the occasion, Laila Naserallah, Senior Manager of Product Development at the Digital Innovation and Data Intelligence Department, said: "The Summer Card Campaign falls within the framework of KIB's comprehensive strategy, which underscores the Bank's commitment to offering the best banking benefits and products that enhance the customer experience and suit their lifestyle, in line with its main slogan, "Bank for Life." This initiative, aimed at rewarding KIB customers, runs throughout the travel and holiday season, making it a valuable addition to their lives and providing a great opportunity to enjoy an exceptional shopping experience both in Kuwait and abroad."

This special campaign, which runs until August, continues to attract more customers who wish to earn double Cashback on purchases made with their cards, both within Kuwait and abroad. The prize amount will be equal to the Cashback earned during the draw spending period, with the minimum prize set at KD 150 and the maximum prize set at KD 600. This means that for every purchase made, cardholders will have a chance to win and receive twice the usual Cashback amount.

The latest campaign enables KIB customers who are holders of Visa Classic, Gold, Platinum, Signature, and Infinite Credit Cards or Visa Prepaid and Multicurrency Prepaid Cards to qualify for the campaign. Customers enter the monthly draw when using eligible KIB cards for their purchases of at least KD 600 for Credit Cards and KD 200 for Prepaid Cards, whether within or outside Kuwait. They will receive one chance to enter the draw for every KD 10 spent locally, and three chances for every KD 10 spent internationally during the campaign period.

It is worth noting that KIB spares no effort in launching different banking initiatives in partnership with Visa, such as the "Surprises for Every Season" campaign, the February promo-



KIB's Summer Card Campaign

tion commemorating Kuwait's National and Liberation Day, and the 'Win with KIB Rewards' campaign, and much more. The Bank encourages its customers to keep an eye on KIB's different platforms and social media accounts for updates on how to maximize their benefits, along with other promotions and services it continuously offers to fulfill all their needs.

About KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: "Bank for Life".

Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait, KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and activities.

Today, KIB has taken concrete steps in implementing its new strategic objectives. The Bank has cemented its role as a key player in the local banking industry and has continued to maintain its strong financial performance; enabling it to be globally recognized for its strong credit rating and financial position.



Laila Naserallah

Gurkha Khukri wins IMA Kuwait's volleyball tournament

IMA Kuwait/United Volleyball Club celebrate 78th Independence Day of India

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: A sports activity plays an important role in shaping and developing the personality of a person in both their individual and social life. It develops a team spirit and a leadership skill and quality in a person associated with the games and sports in different formats. Keeping these facts in mind, Indian Muslim Association (IMA) Kuwait has always strived to promote different cultural and sport activities among its members at various levels, starting right from its Children Circle, & Youth Wing up to the higher levels among its main cadres.

In a vibrant celebration of India's 78th Independence Day, the United Volleyball Club, an entity of IMA Senior Members organized a thrilling Volleyball Tournament on the 9th and 16th of August 2024 at Salmiya Garden. The event saw enthusiastic participation from a total of 14 teams.

The tournament was a grand success, fostering a spirit of unity and sports-

manship among the community members. The matches were highly competitive, showcasing remarkable talent and teamwork across all participating teams.

The winner was Team Gurkha Khukri while IMA Kuwait Team ended up as a runner in the tournament led by its captain Br Siraj.

The tournament concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where the Chief Guest IMA Senior Member Mr Ahmed Ali Sahab, presented the winner's trophy to the triumphant Gurkha Khukri team. The team's victory was a testament to their dedication and skill on the court.

Brother Seraj, the captain of the IMA team, graciously accepted the runner-up trophy, commending his team for their outstanding performance and determination throughout the tournament.

The Best Setter Award was given to Mr. Helerio, the captain of Team Gur-

kha Khukri while the Best Attacker Award went to Mr. Siraj, the captain of Team IMA Kuwait / United Volley Ball Club.

The event was a fitting tribute to India's Independence Day, bringing together community members in a joyous and competitive environment. The United Volleyball Club looks forward to organizing more such events in the future to continue promoting sports and camaraderie within the community.

IMA Kuwait, an Indian socio-religious organization, operates under the patronage of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Kuwait. It focuses on providing a platform for the spiritual, social as well as cultural enhancement of expatriates living in Kuwait through various programs and social gatherings. It looks forward to organizing more beneficial programs and sport activities in the future, catering to the needs of the expatriate community, especially the Indian diaspora.



Photos during the event.

'Alien: Romulus' bites off \$41.5 million to top box office charts

LOS ANGELES, Aug 19, (Agencies): "Alien: Romulus," the latest installment in the 45-year-old franchise, opened in first place at the North American box office. The 20th Century Studios release earned an estimated \$41.5 million in its first weekend, where it was playing in 3,885 locations in the US and Canada.

Including \$66.7 million from international showings in 49 markets, "Alien: Romulus" boasted a \$108.2 million global debut. The Walt Disney Co., which owns 20th Century Studios, claimed the top two spots on the charts, with Marvel's "Deadpool & Wolverine" now in its fourth weekend, taking second place with \$29 million. The company has been responsible for an estimated 42% of the industry's summer box office haul, including hits "Inside Out 2" and "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes."

August can often be slow for the movie business, or, less charitably, a dumping ground. But while 2024 has lagged overall for the movie business, a string of recent hits including "Deadpool & Wolverine" and "It Ends With Us" helped build a momentum that put this late August weekend over 30% ahead of the same weekend last year. It's also up over 10% from August 2019.

"The summer started off pretty gloomy, but it's winding up really strong," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "We thought we were going to coast through August, but now we're powering through August towards a much better overall summer number than we expected for the box office."

Fede Álvarez directed "Alien: Romulus," set around the time of "Alien" and "Aliens," and recruited a cast of up-and-coming 20-somethings to lead the cast including Cailee Spaeny, David Jonsson and Isabela Merced. The sci-fi film leans into Álvarez's propensity for all things horror, as he is known for "Evil Dead" and "Don't Breathe," and embraces the franchise's horror roots.

Reviews have been a little mixed, but mostly positive, with an 81% on Rotten Tomatoes. Audiences gave it a B+ CinemaScore.

Romantic

The romantic drama "It Ends With Us" landed in third place with \$24 million, down just 52% from its triumphant opening. The Sony movie starring Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni, who also directed, has made \$97.8 million to date. It cost only \$25 million to produce.

The film was adapted from the bestselling Colleen Hoover novel of the same name that follows Lively as Lily Bloom, a woman at a crossroads when a past love upends her current relationship with Baldoni's Ryle Kincaid.

Rumors of behind-the-scenes drama on the film also continues to dominate social media discourse and tabloid headlines - but "Don't Worry Darling" also taught us that gossip and chatter don't always translate to box office returns.

"Twisters" placed fourth in its fifth weekend with \$9.8 million from 3,483 theaters. The Universal release has made over \$238.4 million

domestically.

Rounding out the top five was a re-release: "Coraline," which Fathom Events put on over 1,500 screens for its 15th anniversary where it made \$11.3 million in four days and \$8.6 million from Friday through Sunday. The stop-motion animated film was an adaptation of a Neil Gaiman novella, written and directed by Henry Selick and marked the first-ever release for Laika. It'll be in theaters until Aug. 22.

"Borderlands," the video game adaptation starring Cate Blanchett, Kevin Hart and Jamie Lee Curtis, brought in \$2.4 million in its second weekend bringing its total box office earnings to \$13.5 million compared to its reported \$120 million budget.

Meanwhile, "Alien: Romulus" topped the Chinese mainland's daily box office on Sunday, according to the China Movie Data Information Network.

The seventh installment of the successful "Alien" franchise, the movie grossed approximately 79.98 million yuan (about 11.2 million U.S. dollars) on its third day of screening.

It tells the story of a group of young space colonists who encounter the universe's most terrifying life form while scavenging the deep ends of a derelict space station.

Coming in second was domestic crime film "Go for Broke," which raked in approximately 35.7 million yuan on Sunday.

The Japanese animation "Detective Conan: The Million-Dollar Pentagram" came in third with 31.47 million yuan in revenue on the day.

Film

Variety



This image released by the Salzburg Festival shows a performance of Sergei Prokofiev's 'The Gambler' by director Peter Sellars on Sept. 25, 2023. (AP)

Stage

Prokofiev's opera gets colorful twist

Sellars' bold 'Gambler' wows Salzburg

SALZBURG, Austria, Aug 19, (AP): Offbeat operas have been some of the Salzburg Festival's best in recent years, the latest a colorful, outlandish and entertaining staging of Sergei Prokofiev's "The Gambler" by director Peter Sellars.

Starring soprano Asmik Grigorian as Polina and tenor Sean Panikkar as Alexei, the 125-minute work was met with enthusiastic applause when it opened recently in the Felsenreitschule, the theater built into the Mönchsberg mountain known for its appearance in the 1965 film "The Sound of Music."

Seven large roulette wheels/chandeliers rise and fall, each looking a bit like a pinball bumper or the Jupiter 2 from "Lost in Space." The Felsenreitschule is covered with green moss and its archways filled with mirrors, mostly broken, in George Tsybin's set design.

"You get these thrilling sounds because the mountain is just exploding with sonic energy," Sellars said.

James F. Ingalls, the lighting designer, used Astera PlutoFresnel lamps to illuminate the action without cables, creating rich reds, greens, purples and yellows in what Sellars termed the style of Rainer Werner Fassbinder and Martin Scorsese.

"It's something I needed to get used to," Grigorian explained. "I said, 'Peter, I think with every single rehearsal, I'm getting more and more blind.' The lights are really very strong, but in a few days you are getting used to it."

Grigorian's outfit, by costume designer Camille Assaf, made the message clear. Playing the stepdaughter of the debt-ridden General, she wears jeans and a burnt orange and black T-shirt that reads: "Path Chosen - All or Nothing."

"The gambler is like an emblematic figure of our time," festival artistic director Markus Hinterhäuser said. "We are surrounded by gamblers. They're playing with us. They're playing with our existence, with our world, with the climate. They're playing with cryptos and bitcoins."

Scenes morph into each other instead of ending. Panikkar commands the stage as tutor for the children of the debt-ridden General and would-be lover of Polina. An American from Pennsylvania, his sometimes imprecise diction during early rehearsals sparked laughter from Grigorian, a Lithuanian.

"It suddenly became some bad words in Russian," she said.

Even when Panikkar's pronunciation sharpened, memories of early rehearsals prompted cackles as opening night approached.

"When I'm staring into her eyes in this dramatic moment and I say this, it just made her crack up," Panikkar recalled.

Among Sellars' updates to the libretto, adapted by Prokofiev from Fyodor Dostoyevsky's 1866 novel, is changing "telegram" to "email" in the on-stage English titles.

In a story set in the mythical German resort town Roulettenberg, Polina is in debt to the Marquis, apparently her former lover. She is in Sellars' view an activist who persuades Alexei to splash orange paint on the sports jacket of Baron Wurmerhelm (bass Ilya Kazakov) as a climate-change protest. The General, here a corrupt government contractor, awaits the death of wealthy grandmother (mezzo-soprano Violeta Urmana), who arrives at the casino and loses big. Alexei wins enough to pay off Paulina's debt only for her to reject him and return to Mr. Astley, an English venture capitalist who is another former lover.

Addiction

The opera ends with Alexei collapsing and exclaiming: "Red came up 20 times in a row!"

"I have family members that dealt with gambling addiction, not necessarily in a casino environment but more on the day-trading side of things," Panikkar said. "I have family members that are alcoholics. Everybody has somebody that they can relate to that struggles with various addictions."

Sellars wrote his undergraduate thesis at Harvard on Vsevolod Meyerhold, who was to direct the premiere in 1917 at St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theater before it was postponed due to the Bolshevik Revolution. Meyerhold was executed in 1940 during the Great Terror, but cleared of wrongdoing 15 years later. The opera didn't premiere until 1929 at Brussels' La Monnaie and received its Russian premiere at Moscow's Bolshoi in 1974 - 21 years after Prokofiev's death.

"Economics were censored. The politics were censored. The erotic element was censored," Sellars said. "It was presented as a really Soviet opera made out of steel, like a warship, but not very sensual, not alive with all these colors,

not the wild Soviet avant-garde of collage."

There are five additional performances through Aug. 28, and a stream will be available on Medici.tv starting Aug. 24.

Hinterhäuser also programmed well-received productions of Bohuslav Martinů's "The Greek Passion" last summer and of Mieczyslaw Weinberg's "The Idiot," also based on a Dostoyevsky novel, this season.

Russia is being highlighted. Timur Zangiev conducts the Vienna Philharmonic in his festival debut in "The Gambler" and Nina Khrushcheva, great-granddaughter of the former Soviet Communist party head Nikita Khrushchev and a US-based professor, gave the festival's keynote speech on July 26. Teodor Currentzis, criticized by some for alleged funding ties to the Russian establishment, is conducting a revival of Mozart's "Don Giovanni."

While condemning Russia's government and invasion of Ukraine, Khrushcheva argued against cultural cancellation.

"Since 2 1/2 years I have this situation where I have to explain why I don't ban every Russian artist and every outfit from the festival," Hinterhäuser said. "It's impossible for me. This is something which didn't exist a few years ago, these kind of pressures. It's also due to the social media now, which are very powerful."

Also:

NEW YORK: Yuval Sharon, an American known for innovative productions, will direct the Metropolitan Opera's next stagings of Wagner's Ring Cycle and "Tristan und Isolde," both starring soprano Lise David-son and conducted by music director Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

The Met also said that Nézet-Séguin's contract had been extended by six years through 2029-30.

Sharon's "Tristan" opens March 9, 2026. The Ring launches with "Das Rheingold" starting the second half of the 2027-28 season, includes "Die Walküre" and "Siegfried" in 2028-29, and will be completed with "Gotterdammerung" in 2029-30. David-son will sing Brünnhilde, and there will be complete cycles in the spring of 2030.

Sharon was chosen by Nézet-Séguin and Met general manager Peter Gelb.

CALI, Colombia: Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle wrapped up their visit to Colombia on Sunday by participating in a forum on the challenges facing women of African descent as they participate in politics.

The couple also met with young people as part of a traditional music festival in the Pacific coast city of Cali.

The tour by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex began Thursday at the invitation of Vice President Francia Márquez, Colombia's first Black vice president. The visit has been defined by cultural and social causes, in line with the couple's support of the Archewell Foundation, a nonprofit organization.

Surrounded by the Afro-influenced sounds of drums, saxophones, marimbas and poetry, the couple sat in the front row hearing reflections from Black leaders at a forum called "Afro Women and Power."

"I can feel this embrace from Colombia. It is incredible, thank you very much," the Duchess of Sussex said in Spanish to the forum of Afro-Colombian women and leaders, revealing that she learned the language 20 years ago.

The role of leaders implies working "to reduce inequality and poverty" in Black communities, panelist Ana Granja said in describing challenges for female leaders in Colombia. She said the struggle of Black women to participate in politics is more complex because of racism and discrimination.

"Our living conditions make us strong, brave women," Colombia's vice president added. Márquez asked the couple to generate financial support and strengthen social programs for women affected by gender violence and youth.

The event's objective was to show the work "to restore dignity to ethnic peoples" and promote actions for the development and welfare of women, children and adolescents, the vice president said.

A day earlier, Harry and his wife visited two towns recognized for preserving their African roots. They met with communities and their leaders in towns like San Basilio de Palanque in Cartagena, on Colombia's Caribbean

coast. (AP)

LONDON: The gorilla and other animals that appeared to have escaped from the London Zoo in Banksy's most recent work have been taken into safekeeping.

The zoo said it removed the elusive street artist's mural on its gate



Markle



Harry

Friday evening to preserve it and return its entrance to full operation after mobs of visitors came to see it over five days last week.

It was covered with a reproduction of the work and a sign using British slang that said: "Banksy woz ere."

"We're thrilled by the joy this artwork has already brought to

so many, but primarily, we're incredibly grateful to Banksy, for putting wildlife in the spotlight," Kathryn England, the zoo's chief operating officer, said on its website. "This has become a significant moment in our history that we're keen to properly preserve."

The work spray painted with a stencil showed an ape holding up

part of the roll-down gate, allowing birds to fly off and a sea lion to waddle away as three sets of eyes peered out from the darkness inside.

It was the final animal-themed work by the artist to pop up over nine consecutive days around London. And it's the most recent one to disappear from public view. (AP)

People & Places

Obituary

'Daytime talk king'

Phil Donahue, talk show pioneer, dies

NEW YORK, Aug 19, (AP) — Phil Donahue, whose pioneering daytime talk show launched an indelible television genre that made household names of Oprah Winfrey, Montel Williams, Ellen DeGeneres and many others, has died. He was 88.

NBC's "Today" show, citing family members, said Donahue died Sunday after a long illness.

Dubbed "the king of daytime talk," Donahue was the first to incorporate audience participation in a talk show, typically during a full hour with a single guest.

"Just one guest per show? No band?" he remembered being routinely asked in his 1979 memoir, "Donahue, my own story."

The format set "The Phil Donahue Show" apart from other interview shows of the 1960s and made it a trendsetter in daytime television, where it was particularly popular with female audiences.

Later renamed "Donahue," the program launched in Dayton, Ohio, in 1967. Donahue's willingness to explore the hot-button social issues of the day emerged immediately, when he featured atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair as his first guest. He would later air shows on feminism, homosexuality, consumer protection and civil rights, among hundreds of other topics.

The show was syndicated in 1970 and ran on national television for the next 26 years, racking up 20 Emmy Awards for the show and for Donahue as host, as well as a Peabody for Donahue in 1980. It included radio-style call-ins, which Donahue greeted with his signature, "Is the caller there?"

The show's last episode aired in 1996 in New York, where Donahue was living with his wife, actress Marlo Thomas, at the time of his death. The two had been married since 1980. Donahue had five children, four sons and a daughter, from a previous marriage.

Donahue returned briefly to television in 2002, hosting another "Donahue" show on MSNBC. The station canceled it after six months, citing low ratings.



Donahue

Recalled

He was born Phillip John Donahue on Dec. 21, 1935, part of a middle-class Irish Catholic family in Cleveland. They moved to Centerville, Ohio, when Donahue was a child, where he lived across the street from Erma Bombeck, the future humorist and syndicated columnist.

Donahue was in the first graduating class of St. Edward High School, a Catholic all-boys preparatory school in Lakewood, in 1953 and graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in business administration in 1957. He later rebelled against, and left, the church, though he poignantly recalled in his book that "a little piece" of his faith would always be with him.

After a series of early jobs in radio and TV, Donahue was invited to move an earlier radio talk show to Dayton's WLWD television station in 1967. It moved in 1974 to Chicago, where it stayed for years, then ended its run in New York.

The show featured discussions with spiritual leaders, doctors, homemakers, activists and entertainers or politicians who might be passing through town. He said striking upon the show's winning formula was a happy accident.

"It may have been a full three years before any of us began to understand that our program was something special," Donahue wrote. "The show's style had developed not by genius but by necessity. The familiar talk-show heads were not available to us in Dayton, Ohio. ...The result was improvisation."

That lent a freedom to the show that persisted as it grew to No. 1 status in its class.

With an amiable style and a head of salt-and-pepper hair, Donahue boxed with Muhammad Ali. He played football with Alice Cooper. His guests gave cooking lessons, taught break dancing and, more controversially, described "mansharing," being a mistress, lesbian motherhood or - with the help of gathered video that got shows banned in certain cities - how natural childbirth, abortion or reverse vasectomies worked.

A stop on "Donahue" became a must for important politicians, activists, athletes, business leaders and entertainers, from Hubert Humphrey to Ronald Reagan, Gloria Steinem to Anita Bryant, Lee Iacocca to Ray Kroc, John Wayne to Farrah Fawcett.

Outside of his famous talk show, Donahue pursued several other projects.

He partnered with Soviet journalist Vladimir Posner for a groundbreaking television discussion series during the Cold War in the 1980s. The US-Soviet Bridge featured simultaneous broadcasts from the United States and the Soviet Union, where studio audiences could ask questions of one another. Donahue and Posner also co-hosted a weekly issues roundtable, Posner/Donahue, on CNBC in the 1990s.

Donahue also co-directed the 2006 documentary "Body of War," which was nominated for an Oscar.

Also:

PARI: Alain Delon, the internationally acclaimed French actor who embodied both the bad guy and the policeman and made hearts throb around the world, died at age 88, French media reported.

Delon was also a producer. He also appeared in plays, and in later years, in television movies.

French President Emmanuel Macron paid tribute on X to "a French monument."

"Alain Delon has played legendary roles and made the world dream," he wrote. "Melancholic, popular, secretive, he was more than a star."

Delon's children announced the death on Sunday in a statement to the French national news agency Agence France-Presse, a common practice in France. tributes to Delon immediately started pouring in on social platforms, and all leading French media switched to full-fledged coverage of his rich career.

Earlier this year, his son Anthony had said his father had been diagnosed with B-cell lymphoma, a type of cancer.

The Cannes Film Festival on Sunday expressed its "sadness." Delon "embodied French cinema far beyond its borders," it said, in a statement.

The Brigitte Bardot Foundation, dedicated to animal protection, paid tribute to "an exceptional man, an unforgettable artist and a great friend of animals," in a statement released on social media. Delon was "a close friend" of French film legend Brigitte Bardot "who is deeply saddened by his passing," the statement said. "We lose a precious friend and a man with a big heart."

French film producer Alain Terzian said Delon was "the last of the giants."



Post Malone performs at Outside Lands Music Festival on Sunday, Aug. 11, in San Francisco. (AP)

Music

'F-1 Trillion' captivates with Nashville stars

Malone reveals his 'country heart'

LOS ANGELES, Aug 19, (AP) — Two days before Post Malone released "F-1 Trillion," his sixth studio album and his first country record, he made his debut at the Grand Ole Opry.

A starry-eyed Brad Paisley introduced him, celebrating Malone for his incredible career accomplishments and "country heart." When Malone took the stage, he was gracious and grateful - characteristic "sirs" and "ma'ams" flying out of his mouth with the same kind of effortless, anxious charm that allows Malone to slide into any genre as a collaborator, singer, rapper and instrumentalist. It simply made sense, and on the 18-track "F-1 Trillion," so too does the idea of Malone as a Nashville superstar.

Paisley isn't his only endorsement. Co-signs, Malone has a few: Dolly Parton, Hank Williams, Jr., Morgan Wallen, Jelly Roll, Lainey Wilson, Tim McGraw, Blake Shelton, Chris Stapleton, Ernest, Sierra Ferrell, HARDY, Billy Strings and Luke Combs - who appears twice - are all featured on the album. It gives "F-1 Trillion" a gargantuan feeling, if not overstuffed, with tracks ripe for country radio. But is too much of a good thing, bad?

Take "I Had Some Help," which features Wallen. The modern classic has spent more weeks at No. 1 than any other song this year so far; there's no denying that honkytonk hook, Malone's idiosyncratic autotuned vibrato or the singalong chorus. It hits less like a country music crossover and more like something completely organic - the sonic equivalent of a full

embrace in the back of a truck bed, bright stars stretched out big and wide as if to reflect the curves of the earth.

"Guy For That" with Combs slows things down bit, all heartbreak and hangovers; "Pour Me A Drink" with Shelton breaks out the fiddle and celebrates a cold one at the end of a long day spent trying to make a decent living. "Losers" with Jelly Roll is an anthem for outsiders; "Never Love You Again" brings American roots musician Sierra Ferrell to the fore.

Collaboration

In fact, solo songs are so rare here, they're limited to three. The decision serves a few purposes. It is a direct reflection of Malone's position as an ever-featured artist on other people's songs and his penchant for constant collaboration. This year alone, Malone was featured on Beyoncé's "Levii's Jeans," from her country-and-then-some masterclass, "Cowboy Carter," and harmonized with Taylor Swift on "Fortnight," the lead single from "The Tortured Poets Department."

But most importantly, the features on Malone's album really showcase that unlike some pop acts who've flirted with country music recently as it continues to dominate the cultural zeitgeist - the ones who operate inside the genre but outside of its politics and the well-oiled Nashville machine - Malone asked for permission to join in. That particular industry is new territory for him, but the music is not. It's formative, having grown up on

outlaw country from his mom, and the '90s stuff from his dad. Malone went to Nashville, entered the insular songwriting apparatus, and came up with a sometimes traditionalist genre record.

That's evident on the solo songs as well. "Right About You" is lovely '90s country, and the closer, "Yours," is a real tearjerker about Malone's daughter, now 2 years old, addressed to her future partner. "And she might be wearin' white, but her first dress, it was pink," he sings. "She might be your better half, but to me, she's everything."

On paper, "F-1 Trillion" may seem like a far cry from the melodic rap that made Malone one of the most popular voices in contemporary music. (Let's forget that his previous work is by and far his most popular. Or the most popular of any artist: "Sunflower" featuring Swae Lee, written for the "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" soundtrack became the first song to ever be certified double-diamond.) But that's a myopic view. In the South, listeners of a certain age are raised on both rap and country. Malone's seamless pivot into the latter is the most immediate and clear-cut example of that.

There's a tweet from Malone, posted back in 2015, that has reemerged around "F-1 Trillion." "When I turn 30 I'm becoming a country/folk singer," he shared a few months before his cloud rap debut single, "White Iverson," was heard 'round the world.

Now, he's 29. The message is prescient. At age 29, his arrival is a bit early. It's also right on time.



This cover image released by Mercury/Republic Records shows 'F-1 Trillion' by Post Malone. (AP)



Nasri



John

Variety

TUNISIA: The 58th Carthage International Festival concluded on Saturday with a performance by Syrian artist **Assala Nasri**, following 18 musical shows from various Arab and international artists since July 18.

The festival stood out for its solidarity with the Palestinian people amid the ongoing Israeli aggression on Gaza since October 7.

This year's edition budget reduced by around five percent compared to the previous edition, making it the least costly in the last four years, included 18 evenings of various artistic styles with the opening night dedicated to honoring Tunisian artist **Lotfi Bouchnak** for his nearly 50-year career.

The Carthage International Festival, which took place for the first time in 1964, is considered to be one of the biggest music festivals in the world. (KUNA)

NEW YORK: Chinese artist **Liu Jingtao** on Thursday kicked off his solo exhibition of 17 artworks on Chinese landscapes, Tibetan Buddhist art, and fine-brush flower-and-bird paintings in New York City.

Included are several thangka paintings bearing innovative characteristics, one of which was displayed in the Carrousel Hall of the Louvre in Paris, France, in 2023.

Liu, an artist from central China's Hubei province, said his thangka paintings were designed to entertain modern aesthetic interests with innovations on design, use of mineral pigments and intrinsic contents.

The exhibition, staged at Murray Hill Art Museum in Flushing of Queens borough, New York, is expected to open through the end of August, according to the museum. (Xinhua)

LOS ANGELES: City of Hope, one of the largest and most advanced cancer research and treatment organizations in the United States and a leading research center for diabetes and other life-threatening illnesses, has announced that its Music, Film and Entertainment Industry (MFEI) volunteer and fundraising group's Gala will include a headlining performance by

Elton John!

Taking place on Oct. 22, 2024, at the historic Shrine Auditorium and Expo Hall in downtown Los Angeles, the 51st

annual affair will present **Jay Marciano**, chairman and CEO of AEG Presents, with City of Hope's prestigious 'Spirit of Life' Award. Marciano will be recognized for his

longtime philanthropic and humanitarian efforts.

"I am honored to be receiving The 'Spirit of Life' Award from City of Hope and to be able to contribute to raising awareness and funds to speed its important work of eradicating cancer and improving lives for so many," Marciano said. "I am also humbled and grateful that Elton John, a true superstar in every regard, has agreed to lend his immeasurable talents to this event with a performance that's sure to inspire support for a cause that unfortunately touches so many lives. (AP)

COPENHAGEN, Denmark: An archaeology student unearthed seven "spectacular" Viking-era curled silver arm rings earlier this year north of Denmark's second-largest city, a Danish museum said on Monday, adding the finding has ties to Russia, Ukraine and the British Isles.

The Moesgaard Museum, located south of Aarhus where the relics were found, said in a statement that **Gustav Bruunsgaard**, a 22-year-old Dane, came upon the armlets while scouring the area, known as a historical Viking settlement, with a metal detector and a spade.

"The find emphasizes that Aarhus was a central hub in the Viking world," said **Kasper H. Andersen**, a historian at the museum which is dedicated to archaeology and ethnography. (AP)



Golden Leopard winner Saule Bliuvaite, film director from Lithuania, poses with the award 'Pardo d'Oro-Grand Prize of the Festival and City of Locarno' of the 'Concorso internazionale' category for the movie 'Akiplasa' (Toxic) during a photocall at the 77th Locarno International Film Festival, in Locarno, Switzerland, Saturday, Aug. 17. (AP)

Devastating floods, conflict compound people's misery

Sudan confirms cholera outbreak has killed at least 22 people

CAIRO, Aug 19, (AP): Sudan has been stricken by a cholera outbreak that has killed nearly two dozen people and sickened hundreds more in recent weeks, health authorities said Sunday. The African nation has been roiled by a 16-month conflict and devastating floods.

Health Minister Haitham Mohamed Ibrahim said in a statement that at least 22 people have died from the disease, and that at least 354 confirmed cases of cholera have been detected across the county.

Ibrahim didn't give a time frame for the deaths or the tally since the start of the year. The World Health Organization, however, said that 78 deaths were recorded from cholera this year in Sudan as of July 28. The disease also sickened more than 2,400 others between Jan. 1 and July 28, it said.

Cholera is a fast-developing, highly contagious infection that causes diarrhea, leading to severe dehydration and possible death within hours when not treated, according to WHO. It is

Philippines reports 1st mpox case since 2024

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 19, (KUNA): The Philippines' health ministry announced on Monday its first mpox (monkey pox) case since World Health Organization declared it a global health emergency. The patient is a 33-year-old male with no travel history.

In a statement, the ministry mentioned that the new case was reported last Sunday, adding that the last registered case was in December 2023. This new case, mentioned the ministry

transmitted through the ingestion of contaminated food or water.

The cholera outbreak is the latest calamity for Sudan, which was plunged into chaos in April last year when sim-

is the 10th since July 2022.

All previous cases were quarantined, cared for and recovered, clarified the ministry.

The patient began developing symptoms more than week ago, starting with a fever and then a skin rash over several areas in the body.

The ministry called on all dermatologists and other doctors to log down name and contact information of suspected cases and directing them to the

nearest hospital.

When asked about the strain type in a press conference, Ministry Spokesperson Albert Domingo mentioned that they are awaiting lab results for further information.

Last Wednesday, WHO declared monkey pox a global health emergency following an outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo that spilled into neighboring countries, causing widespread concern.

battlefields, wrecking civilian infrastructure and an already battered health care system. Without the basics, many hospitals and medical facilities have closed their doors.

It has killed thousands of people and pushed many into starvation, with famine already confirmed in a sprawling camp for displaced people in the wrecked northern region of Darfur.

Sudan's conflict has created the world's largest displacement crisis. More than 10.7 million people have been forced to flee their homes since fighting began, according to the International Organization for Migration. Over 2 million of those fled to neighboring countries.

The fighting has been marked by atrocities including mass rape and ethnically motivated killings that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, according to the UN and international rights groups.

Devastating seasonal floods in recent weeks have compounded the misery. Dozens of people have been killed and critical infrastructure has been washed away in 12 of Sudan's 18 provinces, according to local authorities. About 118,000 people have been

displaced due to the floods, according to the UN migration agency.

Cholera is not uncommon in Sudan. A previous major outbreak left at least 700 dead and sickened about 22,000 in less than two months in 2017.

Tarik Jašarević, a spokesman for WHO, said the outbreak began in the eastern province of Kassala before spreading to nine localities in five provinces.

He said in comments to The Associated Press that data showed that most of the detected cases were not vaccinated. He said the WHO is now working with the Sudanese health authorities and partners to implement a vaccination campaign.

Sudan's military-controlled sovereign council, meanwhile, said Sunday it will send a government delegation to meet with American officials in Cairo amid mounting U.S. pressure on the military to join ongoing peace talks in Switzerland that aim at finding a way out of the conflict.

'Take ownership of your data'

Complicated app settings are a threat to user privacy – experts

By Joseph K. Nwankpa
Miami University

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

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Default privacy settings in popular mobile apps seem like a convenience, allowing you to use a single setting to control the level of privacy - who can see which actions you take - across all of the app's functions. But default privacy

unique challenges. They combine financial transactions with social media, a blend that can significantly increase privacy risk, especially when coupled with often-ambiguous privacy settings.

As a cybersecurity scholar, I find that the privacy settings in many apps can often make end users more vulnerable to data exposure despite being presented as enabling privacy. These apps intentionally come with complicated default privacy settings that paradoxically make the user's information more public than private.

Users are often unaware of the additional steps needed for the best privacy settings. Understanding an app's complex privacy policy may require examining the fine print of each app's policy.

Transactions

For example, Venmo's privacy setting requires the user to choose whether to share transactions or friends lists with the public, only friends, or keep them private. However, users need to set their Default Privacy Settings, Past Transactions and Friends List separately. Default Privacy Settings do not span all of the app's functions. Also, when you create a Venmo account, all of your transactions are public by default, immediately exposing your financial activities to anyone online.

Unsurprisingly, some high-profile people, including Ohio Sen. and Republican Vice Presidential nominee JD Vance, have left their Venmo privacy settings public, resulting in their Venmo transactions and connections becoming available for anyone using the app to see. These events highlight the importance of understanding these settings to ensure your privacy is protected.

But Venmo is not alone in this. Apple released an app called Journal in late December 2023. Journal helps iPhone users write journal entries about their thoughts and feelings. These journal entries can include photos,

merging tensions between the military and a powerful paramilitary group exploded into open warfare across the country.

The conflict has turned the capital, Khartoum and other urban areas into

settings are also a potential risk to your privacy.

The US app market generated US\$44.9 billion in 2023, with smartphone users spending 217 billion hours on their apps. The growing popularity of mobile apps can be attributed to their convenience, ease of use, connectivity and flexibility.

For instance, Venmo, a popular peer-to-peer payment app for iPhone and Android users, lets users send and receive money from anyone with a Venmo account. It is particularly convenient when dealing with transactions that involve multiple people or groups, such as splitting bills.

However, mobile payment apps like Venmo present

'Artificial heart'

Rocket tech-powered device saves heart failure patients

TIANJING, Aug 19, (Xinhua): Li Haining was once on the brink of death from severe heart disease, but 1,174 days ago, he was given a new lease of life.

The 25-year-old patient from the city of Shijiazhuang, north China's Hebei Province, underwent surgery three years ago to implant an artificial heart in place of his failed organ. The surgery was a success, and his condition has now massively improved, allowing him to live a normal life with the aid of the medical device, which is powered by aerospace technology.

Called HeartCon, the artificial heart was jointly developed by Tianjin-based TEDA International Cardiovascular Hospital and the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, the country's leading rocket maker.

It functions as a pump delivering blood to the whole body, significantly

videos, cities you visited and other personal activities. The app also uses an on-device artificial intelligence feature to provide personalized suggestions on topics relevant to the user.

Users recently discovered that underneath the complicated privacy settings of the Journal app was the "Discoverable by Others" option that posed a serious privacy concern. According to Apple, this feature allows other iPhones that are in your contacts and that have Journal to detect when you are nearby. The purpose is to help prioritize the other users' Journal prompts by including you.

However, the contacts on your

relieving the symptoms of heart failure. Engineers of the HeartCon project said the device works like a rocket's servomechanism, driven by a hydraulic pump.

In 2022, the device gained market approval and has now saved over 190 patients in advanced stages of heart failure, like Li.

These patients wear a small controller, similar in size to a mobile phone, on their waist. The machine records various data such as the speed, flow, power and heart rate of the blood pump. A thin wire connects to the battery which continuously assists in pumping blood to organs throughout the body.

Li used to suffer from cold sweats and struggle with breathing difficulties. He waited anxiously for a heart transplant, but there was a lack of donors.

phones are not exclusively filled with close acquaintances you are eagerly waiting to discover and have discover you. Instead, your phone contacts may include random numbers such as a plumber you used once for your home maintenance, a realtor who was recommended but you never used, and so on. As with other apps, the concern is that the "Discoverable by Others" feature is the default setting for new users regardless of whether you turned on the journaling suggestions.

The key step to achieving privacy in a world of pervasive digital connections is to take ownership of your data and privacy. (AP)

Updated guidelines for parents

Cold symptoms? When should kids take sick day from school

1 in 4 has vision issues

Make eye exams part of back-to-school checklist

NEW YORK, Aug 19, (AP): When a little boy burst into tears in her third-grade classroom last fall, Audrey Jost pulled him aside while the other kids were at recess. He said he was getting headaches and falling behind the other students, so Jost spoke with his parents about getting his eyes tested.

A few days later the boy returned with contact lenses, seeming like a different kid, said Jost, who teaches in a public school in Gilbert, Arizona.

"It was amazing, just the change that had in him, academically, socially," she said. "He just lit up that day."

In her 18 years of teaching, Jost said she's seen this problem — and its relatively simple solution — many times before, including with one of her own daughters.

That's why experts say late summer is a great moment to add an eye test to the back-to-school checklist.

Vision problems often go undiagnosed

The American Optometric Association says 1 in 4 children start school with some sort of vision problem, impairing their ability to learn, participate in sports and observe the world around them.

But many kids won't tell you something is wrong because they don't know they have a problem, said Annette Webb, an optometrist in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Looking for an activity that's social and will give you a workout? Give sport climbing a try

"They don't have anything to compare it to," said Webb, who recounted a story about a boy who loved to draw trees but had never seen individual leaves until he got glasses. "They think everybody sees like they do."

Many children with undiagnosed vision issues can develop behavior problems because they are predisposed to be disengaged. They might seek to entertain themselves, thereby disrupting the class.

Or they could be perceived as copying a neighboring student's work, but

really they can't see a math problem on the board, Webb said.

"Don't initially just assume they're cheating all the time," Webb said. "If somebody's habitually looking at a neighbor's paper, then I would definitely say that's a red flag."

How to spot a vision issue (HH) Other indicators parents and teachers should look out for are squinting, requests to move around the classroom and headaches, particularly ones during the afternoon that are likely caused by eye strain.

"Any complaints of any sort, saying they can't see, rubbing their eyes a lot, if they have red eyes, if they're bumping into things, they should get checked," said Megan Collins, an ophthalmologist at Johns Hopkins University.

Collins emphasized that vision screenings, which are mandated in most states, are an important first step to identifying kids with potential eye problems. As a public health researcher, she advocates for strengthening in-school vision programs to help address disparities in access to screenings and eye exams in underserved areas.

But she said the end of summer is still a good time to remind families about the importance of vision for learning. A good place to start is at yearly check-ups with a pediatrician, who should do a routine vision screening that will detect kids at risk for the most common ailments.

She said the exceptions are children with a family history of eye problems or diseases that can affect the eye, such as diabetes, or kids who take medications with potential side effects. They should have a proper eye exam every year.

How to access eye care If you don't have a vision plan or can't afford glasses, check with the school nurse. Some schools, particularly in large cities and underserved areas, have programs to provide eye exams and glasses for free.

PHOENIX, Aug 19, (AP): As schools reopen for another year, they are focused on improving student attendance. But back-to-school is hitting just as COVID-19 cases are increasing, raising the question: When is a child too sick for school?

School absences surged during the pandemic and have yet to recover. Nearly 1 in 4 students remains chronically absent, defined as missing 10% or more of the academic year, according to the latest data analyzed by The Associated Press.

One reason for continued high absences: After years of COVID-19 quarantines, parents are more cautious about sending children to school when they might be contagious with an illness.

When a child misses school, even for an excused absence like a sick day, it's harder for them to stay on track academically. So schools and health experts are trying to change the culture around sick days.

Medication

Here's what they want parents to know.

During the pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urged people who tested positive for COVID-19 to isolate at home for a set number of days and to quarantine after exposure to the coronavirus. In some settings, people with any mild illness were urged to remain home until symptoms were clear.

Those standards, and the caution behind them, remained for years after schools reopened to in-person instruction. That meant children often missed large portions of school after contracting or being exposed to COVID-19 or other illnesses.

This spring, COVID-19 guidance officially changed. Now, the CDC suggests people treat COVID-19 like other respiratory illnesses, such as the flu and RSV.

If a child has a fever, they should stay home, no matter the illness.

A child can return to school when their fever has been gone for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication. Other symptoms should be improving.

If a child doesn't have a fever, it's OK to send them to class with some signs of illness, including a runny nose, headache or cough, according to schools and the American Academy of Pediatrics. If those symptoms aren't improving or are severe, such as a hacking cough, call your child's doctor.

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Charles scores 22 as Dream top Sun for 2nd straight win

Clark breaks WNBA rookie assists record as Fever beat Storm

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug. 19, (AP) — Kelsey Mitchell scored 27 points, Caitlin Clark added 23 points and nine assists, and Lexie Hull scored 12 of her career-high 22 points in the fourth quarter Sunday to help the Indiana Fever beat the Seattle Storm 92-75.

With 232 assists so far this season, Clark broke the previous WNBA rookie record of 224 by Ticha Penicheiro in 1998. The No. 1 overall pick in the 2024 draft has scored at least 20 points in five of her last six games. She is averaging 23.7 points on 47% shooting from the field, and 11.7 assists over that span.

Mitchell hit 10 of 19 from the field and 5 of 8 from 3-point range, while Hull was 8-of-10 shooting and hit a career-best six 3s on seven attempts. Aliyah Boston grabbed 15 rebounds to go with nine points and a career-high eight assists for Indiana.

Dream 82, Sun 70

In College Park, Tina Charles scored 22 points and grabbed 15 re-

bounds, Jordin Canada scored 13 of her 19 points in the second half and Atlanta beat the Connecticut Sun for the Dream's second consecutive win following a monthlong break for the Paris Olympics.

BASKETBALL

Atlanta (9-17) had lost eight consecutive games, and 15 of 18, prior to the break. The Dream won back-to-back games - against two of the top four teams in the WNBA standings - for just the second time this season. Atlanta beat the Seattle Storm on Friday.

Rhyné Howard scored 13 points, and Allisha Gray added 11 for the Dream. The duo, who are Atlanta's top-two scorers this season and average a combined 31.9 points per game this season, made just 5 of 21 (24%) from the field.

Aces 87, Sparks 71

In Las Vegas, A'ja Wilson scored

34 points and grabbed 13 rebounds - her WNBA-record 17th game this season with 20-plus points and 10-plus rebounds - to help the Las Vegas Aces beat the Los Angeles Sparks.

Wilson broke her own single-season record for 20-10 games of 16, set in 2023. The 6-foot-4 center has scored at least 20 points and grabbed 10-plus rebounds in eight consecutive games, also a WNBA record. The two-time WNBA MVP is averaging 29.3 points, 14.4 rebounds and 3.6 blocks while shooting 53% (85 of 161) from the field and 93.3% (56 of 60) from the free-throw line during that span.

Kelsey Plum hit four 3-pointers and finished with 18 points, Tiffany Hayes scored 11 and Jackie Young 10 for Las Vegas (17-9).

In Phoenix, Diana Taurasi scored 12 of her 23 points in Phoenix's highest-scoring first quarter of the season, Sophie Cunningham added 13 points and a career-best 10 rebounds - her first double-double in

the WNBA - and the Mercury led for nearly 38 minutes Sunday night in their win over the Chicago Sky.

Brittney Griner added 18 points. Monique Billings, who signed a seven-day contract with Phoenix (15-13) earlier in the day, made 5 of 7 from the field and finished with 13 points, eight rebounds and two steals in 23 minutes.

Taurasi, on the fastbreak, hit a pull-up 3-pointer from behind the hash mark to make it 7-4 and the Mercury led the rest of the way. The six-time Olympic gold medalist hit three free throws to spark an 11-3 run that pushed the margin to 22-11 when Griner made a short jumper 6 minutes into the game. Taurasi hit a jumper to close the first quarter and make it 32-19.

Angel Reese scored 19 points and grabbed a career-high 20 rebounds for Chicago (11-16). The No. 7 draft pick has grabbed double-digit rebounds in 20 consecutive games. After just 27 games, she is the fastest in league



Indiana Fever's Caitlin Clark (22) goes to the basket against Seattle Storm's Jewell Loyd, right, during the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Indianapolis. (AP)

history to record 20 double-doubles, including each of the last four games. She also had 12 points and 11 rebounds in the WNBA All-Star Game.

Chennedy Carter added 16 points, six rebounds and six assists for the Sky. Kamilla Cardoso and Isabelle Harrison scored 12 points apiece.

Matsuyama survives collapse to win FedEx Cup 'playoff' opener



Hideki Matsuyama of Japan is presented with his trophy after winning the St. Jude Championship golf tournament in Memphis, Tenn. (AP)

Koepka tops Rahm in LIV Golf

MEMPHIS, Aug. 19, (AP) — Hideki Matsuyama lost a five-shot lead in four holes and responded with birdies on two of the toughest holes on the course to salvage an even-par 70 and a two-shot victory Sunday in the FedEx St. Jude Championship.

The start of the PGA Tour's post-season had tense moments at the top of the leaderboard and on the bubble to determine the top 50 players in the FedEx Cup who advanced.

Staked to a five-shot lead at the start of the day, Matsuyama went 27 straight holes without a bogey and led by five when he rolled in a 20-foot birdie putt on the 11th.

And then it all came undone - a three-putt bogey on the 12th, a tee shot into the water on the par-3 14th and a scramble for bogey, two chips to reach the 15th green for a double bogey.

GOLF

Just like that, he was one shot behind hard-charging Viktor Hovland, the defending FedEx Cup champion.

Hovland, however, took bogey from the bunker on the 17th hole and missed a 9-foot birdie chance on the 18th for a 66. He tied for second with Xander Schauffele, who played bogey-free in the stifling heat for a 63.

Matsuyama got onto the front of the green at the 17th from the left rough and made a birdie putt from just over 25 feet to stay one ahead and added another birdie on 18.

Matsuyama, who finished at 17-under 263, won for the second time this year. He shot 62 in the final round to win the Genesis Invitational at Riviera. Coming off a bronze medal at the Olympic, his performance except for that awful four-hole stretch was golden. He won \$3.6 million and moved from No. 8 to No. 3 in the FedEx Cup.

It was quite a week for the Japanese star, who had to find a fill-in caddie and could only work with his coach over the phone. All of them were out to dinner in London on their way home from the Paris Olympics when someone stole their bag when they weren't looking.

Brooks Koepka picked up his sec-

Pharma expert calls for further testing over US swimmers' facial discoloration concerns at Oly

BEIJING, Aug. 19, (Xinhua) — A Chinese expert in pharmaceutical analysis has called for further analysis of U.S. swimmers' samples to sort out controversy over their flushed faces at the Paris Olympic Games.

Despite the conclusion of the Paris Olympics, debates continue over the facial discoloration observed in some American swimmers after their competitions in Paris.

The expert, who asked not to be named, pointed out that it is crucial to base any suspicions on concrete evidence.

"Without proper scientific testing, accusations of drug use by any athletes remain unfounded and lack the necessary rigor from results in laboratory analysis," said the expert.

One substance that has sparked online speculation is myo-inositol trisphosph-

osphate (ITPP), which can cause a red or purple complexion after intense physical activity. Although ITPP is not specifically listed in the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA's) Prohibited List, it fits the definition of prohibited methods (M1.2): Artificially enhancing the uptake, transport or delivery of oxygen.

ITPP could help treat conditions such as heart disease, cancer and Alzheimer's disease. However, scientific studies have shown that the drug can enhance the maximum exercise capacity in laboratory mice, raising fears that it could be misused by athletes seeking a competitive edge.

"The Paris Olympic laboratory could develop a specific testing method to analyze the athletes' samples for this substance if it was not initially screened during the Games. Alternatively, the samples can be sent to an-

other WADA approved doping control laboratory with the capability to further test the suspected substances at IOC or WADA's discretion," he said.

It can be found in public scientific literatures that, a doping control research group from German Sport University Cologne, he said, had already published a reliable method to detect ITPP in human urine in 2014.

The 2015 World Anti-Doping Code officially incorporated the provision extending the storage period for athletes' doping test samples to 10 years. Since the Athens 2004 Olympics, IOC has preserved doping test samples from each edition of the Games, which allows for re-testing of samples whenever new, reliable testing methods are developed to ensure fair competition and maintain public trust in the integrity of the Olympics.

He picked up his fifth career victory since the Saudi-funded league began in June 2022.

Koepka's four-man squad, Smash, won the team title by three shots.

Jose Luis Ballester, a senior-to-be at Arizona State, became the first player from Spain to win the U.S. Amateur, fending off Iowa sophomore Noah Kent 2 up at Hazeltine in the 36-hole match on his 21st birthday.

Ballester, who was the only player in the top 10 of the world amateur ranking to reach the round of 16, took the lead on the second hole and never trailed. He joined Jon Rahm as the only players from Spain to win a USGA tournament. Rahm, who also played for the Sun Devils, won the U.S. Open in 2021.

Both finalists gained exemptions for the Masters and the U.S. Open next year, and Ballester also got a spot in the British Open.

Kent, from Naples, Florida, entered the week as a long shot at No. 560 in the world amateur ranking.

Lauren Coughlin pulled away with superb putting and shot 3-under 69 to win the Women's Scottish Open on Sunday, her second LPGA title this summer, to secure a spot on the U.S. Solheim Cup team.

Auxerre battle past Nice

Rennes rout big-spending Lyon 3-0 in French league

PARIS, Aug. 19, (AP) — Rennes enjoyed a commanding 3-0 victory over big-spending Lyon in the French league.

Benjamin Bourigeaud opened the scoring in the 19th minute with a deflected free kick. Just over a minute later, Amine Gouiri doubled Rennes' lead after a swift counterattack.

SOCCER

Henrik Meister, a Danish striker acquired by Rennes this summer, sealed the win with a stoppage-time goal to cap a dominant performance.

Lyon, which struggled last season, started this campaign poorly despite heavy spending in the transfer window. Forward Georges Mikautadze, who was bought for 18.5 million euros (\$20 million) after an impressive

Euro 2024 campaign with Georgia, failed to score from the penalty spot on Sunday. Lyon central defender Moussa Niakhaté, a 32 million euro (\$35 million) signing from Nottingham Forest, was at fault for two of the three goals conceded.

In other matches, Auxerre celebrated its return to Ligue 1 with a 2-1 victory over Nice at Stade de l'Abbé Deschamps. Nice took the lead through a header from Mohamed-Ali Cho, but Auxerre equalized before halftime thanks to Rayan Raveloson's goal. Lasso Coulibaly scored the winner in stoppage time.

Lens defeated promoted side Angers 1-0. Wesley Saïd scored in the first half, marking a successful league start for new coach Will Still.

Toulouse and Nantes played out a 0-0 draw, while Montpellier and Strasbourg shared the points in a 1-1 draw.

Ready for rescheduled bout with Paul

Tyson feels good after a health scare

NEW YORK, Aug. 19, (AP) — Mike Tyson is 58 years old and coming off a health scare that forced the postponement of his return to the ring.

The boxer once considered the most dangerous man in the world could be putting himself in danger by putting the gloves on again. Yet he was quick to respond Sunday when asked why he was going through with his bout against Jake Paul.

"Because I can. Who else can do it but me? Who else is he going to fight to make this happen?" Tyson said, motioning toward the crowd at a packed press conference where fans cheered the former heavyweight champion and booed Paul.

"We've just got to listen to the facts. We've got a YouTuber fighting the greatest fighter that ever lived."

Tyson and Paul restarted the buildup to their match that is now scheduled for Nov. 15 at the home of the Dallas Cowboys in Arlington, Texas. They had been set to meet July 20 before Tyson became nauseous and dizzy on a flight from Miami to Los Angeles in May, with his representatives attributing the episode to an ulcer problem.

Tyson said Sunday he resumed training two or three weeks ago and feels fine.

"Hey listen, I'm just ready," Tyson said.

The undisputed heavyweight champion 1987 to 1990, Tyson (50-6, 44 KOs) retired in 2005 before coming back for an exhibition match against Roy Jones in 2020. Fans seem excited for his return, with a number of them turned away Sunday because too many showed up for their press conference on the final day of the Fanatics Fest event in New York.

Paul (10-1, 7 KOs) sparred as much with the fans who booed him as with the fighter across the stage.

"Hey New York, you're just like Mike Tyson," Paul said. "You were good 20 years ago."

Tyson's most dominant days are

actually longer ago than that, and Paul understands that he probably wouldn't get much credit for a victory against such a diminished opponent. Yet the former Disney Channel star who insists he will become a boxing champion said there is benefit to fighting Tyson even now.

"Big moments, big pressure, big stages, one of the greatest to ever do it, more experience than me, more fights than me, I'm going to learn a lot in this fight and through this training camp," Paul said. "So this is helping me in my future fights and everything that I want to accomplish."

BOXING

He took a fight after Tyson had to pull out, stopping bare-knuckle fighting champion Mike Perry in the sixth round on July 20. Perry, like many of the fighters on Paul's resume, comes from the mixed martial arts world, rather than from a boxing background.

He preferred to fight Tyson then and is eager now for his second chance.

"I was ready before, you needed a little break," he said to Tyson. "Your tummy hurt still?"

The fight that will stream on Netflix will be an official bout, though contested with eight 2-minute rounds and heavier gloves than usual. The truest boxing match on the card might be the one that precedes it, when super lightweight champion Katie Taylor and Amanda Serrano have a rematch of Taylor's thrilling victory in 2022 in the first women's boxing match to headline at Madison Square Garden.

Then Paul will try to show what he hopes to become in boxing, or perhaps Tyson can demonstrate what he once was. He said his health problems won't prevent that.

"I had a small adversity. I got sick, but I'm better," Tyson said. "I feel good."

Former Chinese football official sentenced to 11 years in prison

WUHAN, Aug. 19, (Xinhua) — A Chinese court on Monday sentenced Li Yuyi, a former vice-president of the Chinese Football Association, to 11 years in prison for taking bribes.

Li was fined 1 million yuan (about 139,860 U.S. dollars) and his illegal gains from the bribery will be recovered and turned over to the state treasury, according to a statement issued by the Intermediate People's Court of Jingzhou in central China's Hubei Province.

On the same day the People's

Court of Jiayu County in Hubei sentenced Fu Xiang, formerly executive vice president and secretary-general of the Wuhan Football Association, to 11 years in prison for embezzlement, taking and giving bribes.

Fu, also former head of the Wuhan soccer administrative center, was fined 1.4 million yuan with the money he embezzled returned and illegal gains from the bribery recovered and turned over to the state treasury, according to a court statement.



Jose Luis Ballester tees off at the 15th hole in Chaska, Minn., Sunday, Aug. 18, 2024, during the championship match against Noah Kent in the U.S. Amateur golf tournament. (AP)

SPORTS

Significant milestone for KCC to organize & co-host a tournament outside Kuwait

Kuwait cricket team embarks on a crucial journey to Malaysia

Conte has work to do, Napoli lose at Verona

Kvaratskhelia injured

MILAN, Aug 19, (AP): Antonio Conte has a lot of work to do.

Conte became Napoli's fifth coach in little more than a year when he was hired in June and on Sunday he saw his new team crumble 3-0 at Hellas Verona in his first match back in Serie A.

Dailon Livramento and Daniel Mosquera - twice - scored on their league debuts to hand Verona the win on the opening weekend of the Italian league

SOCCER

season and there was further bad news for Napoli as it lost key player Khvicha Kvaratskhelia to injury.

Napoli has been in a slump since Luciano Spalletti left last summer after steering the club to its first title in more than 30 years. The southern team finished 10th last season and it hoped for much better under Conte, who led Juventus and Inter Milan to the title.

However, it drew 0-0 with Serie B side Modena in the Italian Cup on Conte's debut, going through on penalties, before second-half horror show.

Conte's side had the better of the early stages in Verona and had chances with Matteo Politano, André-Frank Anguissa and Stanislav Lobotka before the home side almost gifted it the lead in first half stoppage-time.

Verona defender Martin Frese played a woefully short back pass to goalkeeper Lorenzo Montipò and Kvaratskhelia raced onto it but Jackson Tchatchoua came flying in for a heroic last-ditch tackle.

Kvaratskhelia had to come off immediately afterward, appearing to be indicating that he was feeling dizzy.

Frese played another poor back pass moments later that forced Montipò into an acrobatic clearance.

Verona came out a different team after the break and Grigoris Kastanos curled just past the far post with its first real chance of the match before the home side took the lead when Livramento managed to get enough on Darko Lazović's cross to poke the ball into the bottom right corner.

Anguissa hit the crossbar in the 61st but Verona doubled its lead when it



Bologna's Dan Ndoye, left, and Udinese's Nehuen Perez battle for the ball during the Serie A soccer match between Bologna FC and Udinese at the Dall'Ara Stadium, Bologna, northern Italy. (AP)

Al-Arabi Club ends contract with Egypt's Jebna

By Hassan Musa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: Al-Arabi Club has ended its relationship with Egyptian professional Abdelrahman Khaled, known as "Jebna," who had

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been signed earlier this August. This month also saw the club secure the services of Brazilian player Carlos Alberto, known as "Jaco."

In addition to Jebna and Jaco,

won the ball in a midfield tussle and Ondrej Duda played it through for substitute Mosquera to fire past Alex Meret in the 75th.

Mosquera had only been on the

Al-Arabi's roster includes Nigerian player Anabo Ayoala, Algerians Ahmed Khaldi and Sofiane Bouchar, Moroccan Hamza Khaba, as well as Algerian Imad Eddine Boubaker and Tunisian Aymen.

Boubaker and Aymen are under contract with Al-Arabi until the next season, but the club's technical staff informed the board last May that they were not interested in retaining the players due to their poor performance.

On a different note, Al-Arabi was placed in the first classification of the eighteen teams in the Asian

Challenge Cup, alongside Bahrain's Al-Ahli and India's East Bengal. The group stage draw will take place next Thursday at the Asian Federation headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The group stage will feature the participating teams divided into five groups: three groups of four clubs from the western region and two groups of three clubs from the eastern region.

The group stage matches will be held in a single-stage, round-robin format over three rounds from October 26 to November 2.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: Hong Kong - China, Kuwait and Malaysia will compete in a T20 International Tri-Nations Cup. This tournament, which offers ICC team ranking points, will take place from August 21st to 27th, 2024, at Selangor Turf Club, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The series will follow a round-robin format, with each team playing two matches against each other before a final match that shall determine the deserving champion.

Kuwait Cricket is the organizer and co-host of this Tri-Nations Cup, partnering strategically with the Ma-

laysian Cricket Association, which will be the commercial partners and host to the tournament. This will serve as the ideal preparation for the teams, ahead of the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Asia sub-regional Qualifier A, also in Malaysia, starting from August 30th, 2024 in Kuala Lumpur.

Haider Farman, President of KCC, expressed his sheer excitement about this groundbreaking event, as it marks a significant milestone for KCC to organize & co-host a tournament outside of Kuwait with higher ranked teams. He declared that this is just the beginning of many initiatives that are underway by the KCC Board and wished all the participating teams the best of luck.

Sajid Ashraf, Director General at KCC, expressed that Kuwait's experience in organizing international events has grown significantly in recent years with its skilled management. He emphasized that strategically KCC has to keep on moving by breaking barriers through innovative solutions for its national team's progress, and this is just one of them with a lot more to follow, including

CRICKET

for the national women's team as well.

Head Coach & Development Manager of KCC, Qasim Ali after having tasted the grand success of List A Status for Kuwait mentioned that the team has been working extremely hard in the scorching heat of Kuwait throughout the summer and is quite well-prepared for the tournament, seeing it as an excellent opportunity to acclimatize to the conditions ahead of the upcoming T20 World Cup Qualifiers in Malaysia later in August 2024.

Mohammad Aslam, the successful captain of the Kuwait Men's team, thanked the KCC Board for provid-



Top and above flyers of the T20 International Tri-Nations Cup.

ing such opportunities for associate players to showcase their talents on an international stage such as this, and mentioned that his boys are absolutely pumped up and looking forward to the tournament.

OCA cancels AIMAG; Thailand misses the 'deadline' for hosting conditions

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Olympic Council of Asia has canceled the 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games Bangkok-Chonburi 2021 as the AIMAG Organizing Committee's was unable to satisfy the criteria requested in the Host City Contract by the latest deadline of Monday, August 19, 2024, 17:00, Bangkok time.

The decision was taken following the progress report presented to the 43rd OCA General Assembly in Bangkok, Thailand on May 11, 2024, by the AIMAG Organizing Committee which promised that all Games requirements will be ready by July 2024.

During the OCA Executive Board Emergency Meeting held on Thursday, August 15, 2024,

the Executive Board unanimously agreed to cancel the event unless the AIMAG Organizing Committee satisfied nine conditions needed to guarantee the hosting of the Games by Monday, August 19, 2024, 17:00, Bangkok time. With those conditions not met by the deadline, the OCA had no choice but to cancel the event.

The OCA Executive Board also unanimously agreed that if Thailand wished to host the AIMAG in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 2026 after the next edition, it could apply as per normal procedure to the OCA.

The 6th AIMAG was scheduled for November 21-30, 2024, after being postponed several times due to the Covid pandemic and a change of government in Thailand.

Italian downplays a statement sent out by Sterling's reps

Maresca defends decision to make Fernandez captain

LONDON, Aug 19, (AP): Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca defended his decision to give midfielder Enzo Fernandez the captain's armband for the team's opening Premier League game of the season despite the Argentina international being filmed singing a racist chant this offseason.

Maresca's first game in charge ended with a 2-0 loss to Manchester City at Stamford Bridge, but many of the post-game questions focused on Fernandez and Raheem Sterling, who had expressed his dissatisfaction with being left out of the match-day squad completely.

Fernandez captained the team in the place of the injured Reece James, even after he was criticized by Chelsea teammate Wesley Fofana for posting a video on social media showing him and other Argentina players appearing to sing about French players with African heritage after their Copa America title win.

Fofana, who is French and also started Sunday's match for Chelsea, had referred to the Argentina players' chant as "uninhibited racism."

The French Football Federation also filed a complaint to FIFA.

But Maresca said Fernandez - who reportedly apologized to his teammates - had acknowledged he made a mistake

and that it was time to move on.

"The reason why (he was captain) is because I can see that his teammates, they recognize him like a reference, like a captain," the Italian

said. "I don't know about you but I did mistakes in the past, and I recognized (it). And I think as a human being if you did a mistake and you recognize (it), you are not going to be punished your whole life."

Like other Premier League games this opening weekend, it began with all players taking a knee before kick-off to highlight the ongoing fight against racism in soccer.

SOCCER

Maresca also downplayed a statement sent out by Sterling's representatives saying they wanted "clarity" about the winger's future at the club after he didn't even make the bench against City. Chelsea bloated its already large squad even further by bringing in nine new players in the offseason, none of which started the season opener.

"It was a technical decision, no more than that," Maresca said about Sterling being left out. "In the next day, we will clarify in case we need to.



Manchester City's Erling Haaland scores his side's opening goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Manchester City at Stamford Bridge stadium in London, England. (AP)

'A pretty confident player'

Noel turns pro after winning NCAA tennis title

WASHINGTON, Aug 19, (AP): NCAA champion Alexa Noel's debut as a professional tennis player arrives next week at the U.S. Open - a decade after she went to Flushing Meadows with a racket in hand for the first time.

When she was about 11, the now-21-year-old American recalled, she was invited to a camp run by the U.S. Tennis Association at the site of the year's last Grand Slam tournament.

"They let us stand on (the court in Arthur Ashe Stadium)," Noel said in a video interview with The Associated Press. "And I was like, 'This is so cool. I want to be here one day.'"

Noel earned this trip to New York, and a spot in her first Slam singles bracket, by winning a title for the University of Miami as a redshirt junior in May, the same month she graduated with a degree in sociology. She is giving up her final year of NCAA eligibility to go pro; Thursday's draw will determine her first opponent.

"She's ready. She's a pretty confi-

dent player and she likes challenges," said her coach, Lorenzo Cava, who used to work with 2020 Australian

Open champion Sofia Kenin. "To be thrown into such an important event, there can be a question mark: How will

she react? To the environment? To the big stage? To the pressure?"

As someone who showed promise at age 16 by reaching Wimbledon's junior final, Noel now aims to emulate the sort of success seen recently for athletes who went to college before heading to the tour.

That group includes NCAA champs Ben Shelton of Florida, a 2023 U.S. Open semifinalist; Danielle Collins of Virginia, a 2022 Australian Open finalist; Emma Navarro of Virginia, a Wimbledon quarterfinalist in July; and Peyton Stearns of Texas, who reached the fourth round in New York a year ago.

"It allows players to have somewhere to go, grow up, mature, become physically stronger, have some type of responsibility outside of just tennis," Noel said, "and then give you a shot."

She will walk away from the U.S. Open, where play begins Aug. 26, with a minimum of \$100,000, the amount earned by players losing in the first round.



In this file photo, the winners' trophies are displayed during the reveal of the 2018 U.S. Open tennis tournament draw, in New York. (AP)



In this file photo, Switzerland's goalkeeper Yann Sommer dives to attempt a save during a quarterfinal match between England and Switzerland at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Duesseldorf, Germany. (AP)

Sommer ends international career

Hertha and Cologne advance

BERLIN, Aug 19, (Agencies): Former Bundesliga teams Hertha Berlin and Cologne reached the second round of the German Cup in contrasting fashion.

Hertha routed third-division side Hansa Rostock 5-1 away in the first round. Cologne, which was relegated from the Bundesliga last season, needed extra time to overcome third-tier Sandhausen 3-2 after squandering a 2-0 lead and conceding for 2-2 in the sixth minute of stoppage time.

Second-division side Jahn Regensburg upset Bundesliga team Bochum 1-0, while Augsburg - the other top-flight team playing Sunday - came from behind to beat fourth-tier Viktoria Berlin 4-1.

Second-division Elversberg enjoyed the biggest win of the first round so far with a 7-0 rout of Hildesheim. Hamburger SV went close to matching it with a 7-1 win over fourth-tier Mepfen.

Bayern Munich, Borussia Dortmund, Union Berlin and Leipzig all secured their progress.

Defending champion Bayer Leverkusen and Stuttgart had their first-round games postponed because of their participation in the German Supercup.

1 goalkeeper, Yann Sommer retired from the national team on Monday at age 35 to focus on playing for Inter Milan.

Sommer's decision announced by the Swiss soccer federation will likely see Gregor Kobel of Borussia Dortmund step up as the first-choice 'keeper.

Sommer went to three World Cups and three European Championships with Switzerland after making his debut in 2012.

The last of his 94 games was a penalty shootout loss to England after a 1-1 draw in the Euro 2024 quarterfi-

SOCCER

nals last month in Germany.

Sommer's finest moment for the national team was saving Kylian Mbappé's penalty to seal a shootout win against France after a 3-3 draw in the round of 16 at Euro 2020.

Sommer helped Inter win Serie A in his first season in Italy, and also won league titles in Germany with Bayern Munich and four times in Switzerland with Basel.

The 26-year-old Kobel has played five times for Switzerland including once at the 2022 World Cup, a 3-2 win over Serbia in Qatar, when Sommer was sidelined by a heavy cold.

After a decade as Switzerland's No.



Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappé, centre, prepares to shoot on goal during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Mallorca and Real Madrid at the Son Moix Stadium in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. (AP)

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

Mbappé fires blank, Mallorca frustrate Real

Rayo upset Sociedad

MADRID, Aug 19, (AP): Defending champion Real Madrid couldn't manage more than a 1-1 draw at Mallorca in Kylian Mbappé's first Spanish league match.

In his second game with Madrid after debuting midweek, Mbappé failed to break through. The France great had scored in Madrid's 2-0 win against Atalanta in the UEFA Super Cup on Wednesday.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti started with the same squad that beat Atalanta, with Rodrygo, Vinicius Junior and Mbappé in attack.

"They change position from time to time," Ancelotti said of Vinicius

and Mbappé. "Sometimes Mbappé plays more centrally and sometimes one of the two has to occupy this flank, without a particular plan. It depends on how they feel about it."

It was Rodrygo who put Madrid ahead against Mallorca 13 minutes into the match, but the hosts equalized with Vedat Muriqi's goal in the 53rd.

"We got off to a good start, taking the lead and then had a chance to get the second goal," Ancelotti said. "We didn't find the balance in the second half. We could have lost as there was no balance at the back. It wasn't a good game. We need to defend better. We're a very attacking team, but defensive balance is a fundamental factor."

SOCCER

Madrid defender Ferland Mendy was sent off deep into second-half stoppage time for a hard foul on Muriqi.

"I don't want to make excuses for anything, but we just need to do better and with a better attitude," Ancelotti said. "We can learn a lot from this match. It's quite clear where our problems could come from."

Rafael Nadal, who is from the island of Mallorca, was among those watching the match at the Son Moix Stadium.

Mallorca's players provided a guard of honor for the Super Cup winners, lining up to applaud the Madrid team as they entered the field before kickoff.

Real Sociedad, which finished sixth last season, was upset 2-1 at home by Rayo Vallecano, which fought to avoid relegation in the last campaign.



Real Madrid's Rodrygo, left, celebrates with Federico Valverde after scoring the opening goal during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Mallorca and Real Madrid at the Son Moix Stadium in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. (AP)



A Kuwaiti player goes for a spike as an opponent defends during the West Asian Volleyball Championship match between Kuwait and Syria.

Jorge de Frutos and Sergio Camello scored second-half goals to put Rayo in front, while Sociedad

only found the net with Martín Zubimendi's goal deep into stoppage time.

Kuwait secure 2nd straight win in West Asian Volleyball Champ'ship

By Khaled Al-Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

UAE, Aug 19: Kuwait youth volleyball team achieved its second consecutive victory in the preliminary round of the Second West Asian Volleyball Championship, currently taking place in Al Ain, UAE, and running until August 25. Kuwait secured a well-deserved win by defeating Syria in straight sets, 25-13, 25-16, and 25-15. This victory raises Kuwait's tally to six points, placing it at the top of the standings alongside Bahrain, whom it will face today

in the final match of the preliminary round. Syria and Qatar have two points each.

The draw for the "West Asia" Championship placed the Kuwait team in Group A, alongside Qatar, Yemen, Syria, and Bahrain, while Group B includes UAE, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia.

Following Yemen's withdrawal from Group A before the start of the championship, the remaining four teams have already secured spots in the quarter-finals. They are now competing to determine the group standings.

Preparations for qualifier to commence on Aug 24

Pizzi introduced as new coach of Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19, (KUNA): The Kuwait Football Association (KFA) officially introduced Argentine coach Juan Pizzi as the new head coach of the Kuwait senior team during a press conference on Sunday.

Acting Chairman of the KFA, Hayif Al-Mutairi, highlighted the association's strategic decision in appointing Pizzi, emphasizing his impressive track record as a crucial factor in addressing the current challenges faced by football in Kuwait. Al-Mutairi stressed that the KFA has a clear and determined plan to guide the national team through the difficult qualification stage, ensuring that the team performs in line with the high standards of Kuwaiti football.

Speaking at the press conference, Coach Pizzi expressed his honor and excitement in leading the team. He assured that both he and his technical staff are fully committed to working hard and sharing their extensive experience with the players.

SOCCER

Pizzi also announced that preparations will commence on August 24, 2024, ten days before the crucial World Cup qualifier against Jordan.

Pizzi brings valuable experience from the Gulf region, having managed the Saudi Arabia National Team from 2017 to 2019, Al-Wasl Club in the UAE from 2022 to 2023, and the Bahrain National Team from 2023 to 2024. His career highlights include winning the Copa America with Chile in 2016 and securing the Argentine league title with San Lorenzo in 2013.

Boca overcome San Lorenzo 3-2

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 19, (Xinhua): Boca Juniors recovered from a goal down to secure a 3-2 home victory over San Lorenzo in Argentina's Primera Division.

Andres Vombergar gave the visitors the lead from the penalty spot before Milton Santos equalized just after halftime.

Marcelo Saracchi put the hosts ahead with a 54th-minute strike and Miguel Merentiel extended the advantage by slotting home on the counterattack.

Saracchi went from hero to villain when he was sent off in the 94th minute for bringing down Ivan Leguizamon in the penalty area. The latter converted the resultant spot-kick but it was nothing more than a consolation as Boca clinched their fourth campaign win.

Strong possibility of a major shakeup in BCB

Hathurusingha wants to complete contract

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Aug 19, (AP): Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha is still interested in completing his contract with the men's national cricket team to 2025 despite the recent political turmoil in

the country.

There is a strong possibility of a major shakeup in the Bangladesh Cricket Board after the turmoil.

"I have signed a contract till whatever the date and I'm look-

ing forward to serve that term," the 55-year-old Hathurusingha told reporters in Rawalpindi on Monday.

"If the board (is) changed and the new people want to make a change, I'm OK with that. (If) they want me to continue, if they're happy with me, I'm happy with that."

He also said his "thoughts and prayers are with the families that lost loved ones."

Hathurusingha is preparing his team for the opening game of a two-match test series against Pakistan, starting Wednesday at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

Hathurusingha, a former Sri Lankan international cricketer, was appointed Bangladesh's all-format coach early in 2023 on a two-year contract. It was Hathurusingha's second stint as Bangladesh coach after 2014-17 before he left to coach Sri Lanka.

CRICKET

The unrest in Bangladesh disrupted the preparations back home of its test team and players got an additional three days of training in Lahore when they arrived in Pakistan last Tuesday.

Six Bangladesh test players, who came with the country's "A" team, also got a four-day practice game against Pakistan Shaheens in Islamabad, although the drawn game was disrupted by the weather.

The Bangladesh test squad includes star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who was a lawmaker in ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government, but was playing in Canada at the time she resigned earlier this month.

Pakistan has included pace bowlers Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah, Khuram Shehzad and Mohammad Ali in its playing XI for the first test.

The selectors had already released sole specialist leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed and uncapped batter Kamran Ghulam.

Rawalpindi will also host the second test from Aug. 30.



In this file photo, Sri Lanka's head coach Chandika Hathurusingha walks on the field during a training session ahead of the Tri-Nation one-day international cricket series in Dhaka, Bangladesh. (AP)



Acting Chairman of the KFA, Hayif Al-Mutairi, addresses the media after the introduction of Juan Pizzi as the new manager.



Matthew Richardson of Australia shows the silver medal of the men's sprint event, at the Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

Track sprint medalist Richardson switches from Australia to Britain

LONDON, Aug 19, (Xinhua): Olympic track cyclist Matthew Richardson has announced he is switching allegiance from Australia to Britain just a week after winning three medals in the Velodrome at the Paris Olympic Games.

Richardson claimed a bronze medal as part of the Australian team sprint squad and then took silver in the men's sprint and keirin events, where he was only bettered by Dutch sprint sensation Harrie Lavreysen, who ended the Games with three gold medals.

However, from now the 26-year-old will ride for Britain after having his application to switch approved by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) - the governing body of world cycling.

Richardson was born in England and moved to Australia when he was nine years old, maintaining dual nationality.

Writing on social media, he said it was a "difficult decision." "It was a personal choice, made after care-

ful consideration of my career and future. It's not something I decided on quickly or easily. I deeply respect Australia and the AusCycling Team and it will always be a part of who I am." "But this decision is about following my passion and pushing myself to new heights," he said.

He will now work with the British sprint squad, which is coached by Sir Jason Kenny, who won seven Olympic gold medals.

CYCLING

The Executive General Manager of Performance at AusCycling, Jesse Korf, said he was surprised by the decision, adding that it was disappointing that Richardson would be leaving a program that had delivered great personal and national success," although he admitted he understood the "desire to compete for a country one was born in can bring forth strong emotions."