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## Opinion

# 'Silent' working government, this is the policy of sleeping in honey

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

KUWAIT is at a vital stage now. Everyone is required to work in accordance with the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in order to avoid ambiguity in any movement or activity, so the matter is not interpreted in a way other than what is intended.

Therefore, working in 'silence' does not indicate sagacity; as it rather proves that the person who uttered this statement is not up to the huge responsibility placed on his shoulders.

Yes, this is His Excellency the Minister of Finance, who holds the most important portfolio in the country. He has sparked a lot of controversy with this provocative statement.

It is as if he does not know that the basis of economic activity is reassurance -- whether in Kuwait or abroad -- about the measures that ensure stability first, and secondly, that those responsible for public finances provide everything which helps bring investments into the country.

However, if the concerned minister announces that he expects the deficit to reach about \$85 billion in the

next four years; and adds, "we are working in silence," His Excellency should allow us to say: "This is not how things are handled in such a vital portfolio, which requires prudence in approaching matters, clarifying plans and explaining them in detail, as well as encouraging investments, not the other way round."

In this regard, there are observations on some of the ministers. The issue is not limited to the Minister of Finance. It is as if their selection was done in haste or they were reshuffled from the previous Council of Ministers; especially since some of them were friends of His Highness the former Prime Minister, so they are the untouchables.

Thus, choosing a cabinet in haste is a major mistake. As we mentioned previously; the current stage is vital, because it is transformative in every sense of the word. His Highness the Amir has stressed this more than once. The ministers must live up to the expectations of His Highness first, and then the people of Kuwait.



Al-Jarallah

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Initiative to yield 400 million dinar annual savings

# Kuwait society plans renewable energy hub to spearhead 15% electricity target

By Mohammed Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: The head of the Kuwaiti Society for Sustainable Energy, Engineer Suad Al-Hussein said following the implementation of the royal directive Kuwait will produce 15% of electricity from renewable energy sources and save the nation approximately 4,600 million barrels of oil annually worth about 400 million dinars annually, with the average price of 88 dinars per barrel according to current global prices.

In an exclusive interview with Al-Seyassah daily, Al-Hussein emphasized the urgent need to establish the Kuwait Center for Renewable Energy, urging the Council of Ministers to make a swift decision to advance Kuwait's renewable energy initiatives.

She explained that this center would serve as a hub of expertise, providing resources, statistics, and space for experiments and studies in renewable energy. It would also unify all national efforts, as currently, responsible agencies work in isolation without shared data or statistics that could aid decision-makers.

Al-Hussein noted that the regional center would act as a reference for all Gulf and Arab centers, highlighting Kuwait's historic role as a pioneer in adopting modern scientific, intellectual, and cultural ideas.

She mentioned that the Sustainable Energy Association continuously coordinates with all parties involved in renewable energy to achieve more progress in this crucial and essential field, especially given global challenges such as rising temperatures and environmental pollution, which necessitate expanding renewable energy projects as an alternative to fossil fuels.

She also stated that a meeting is planned between the association and the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy to discuss ways to educate citizens on the application of legislation for purchasing energy from them. This includes informing citizens about the installation, maintenance, and cleaning of solar panels, as well as the benefits of using them to save traditional energy and gain financial returns.

Engineer Suad Al-Hussein, head of the Kuwaiti Society for Sustainable Energy, indicated that within four years of installing solar panels, citizens will not pay for electricity consumption but will instead earn returns from selling energy to the electrical network under the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy.

She added that the authorities are making significant efforts to implement renewable energy projects following the success of the Al-Shaqaya pilot project, which produces 70 megawatts of renewable energy. Plans are underway to expand this project to produce an additional 1,100 megawatts, with approvals obtained and a decision from the Council of Ministers expected soon.

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## Day by Day

WE had eagerly anticipated this period of political stability. We needed a decision maker whose directives are fully respected and followed. We have wasted many years in chaos, where words were not backed by actions.

Our leader, how wonderful you are! You have clearly defined your vision, helping us understand what we truly need. What we need is a righteous will. There is great wisdom in promoting goodness and justice.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

## NewsWatch

**TEHRAN:** Iranian naval destroyer has sunk while it was being repaired in a port near the Strait of Hormuz, state media reported Sunday.

State-run IRNA news agency reported that the Sahand destroyer, being repaired at a wharf lost its balance due to water infiltration into the tanks. (AP)

**GAZA:** Ehab al-Ghusein, undersecretary of the Hamas-run Ministry of Labor, was killed in an Israeli airstrike on the west of Gaza City on Sunday, said Palestinian sources.

Israeli forces targeted a house west of the city in the northern Gaza Strip, killing four Palestinians, including the senior official, Palestinian security sources told Xinhua. (Xinhua)

**RAMALLAH:** Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Sunday expressed readiness to work with Britain to achieve peace through a two-state solution based on international legitimacy, stressing the importance of Britain recognizing the State of Palestine.

During a phone call, Abbas briefed new British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on the latest developments in the Palestinian territories, according to the Palestinian official news agency Wafa. (Xinhua)

**CAIRO:** The Arab Parliament on Sunday strongly condemned the Israeli occupation forces' shelling of the UNRWA-affiliated Al-Jaouni School, which houses thousands of displaced people in Al-Nuseirat camp in central Gaza, killing and wounding dozens.

In a statement, the parliament denounced the occupation's continued targeting of schools and centers for displaced people, considering this targeting a continuation of the genocide and ethnic cleansing against the Palestinians and a blatant challenge to all international resolutions and laws, especially international humanitarian law. (KUNA)

**DAMASCUS:** A total of 13 people were killed and 37 others injured on Sunday in a traffic accident on the southern entrance bridge to the central Syrian province of Homs, according to a statement by the Syrian Interior Ministry.

The incident occurred on the Homs-Damascus highway when a bus, carrying passengers from the northwestern province of Latakia to the capital Damascus, overturned at a diversion bridge on the highway. (Xinhua)

**NEW DELHI:** At least seven Indians were killed and several injured in collapse of a residential building in Surat city of western Indian state of Gujarat, the police said.

The Press Trust of India said quoting local police that seven bodies were recovered from the rubble today after the six-storey building located at Pal area of Surat collapsed last evening.

The police said teams of National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force, police personnel and firemen were involved in the rescue operation. One body was recovered last night while six more were recovered today, the police said. (KUNA)

# M.O.I. STEPS UP ARRESTS, DEPORTATIONS OF VIOLATORS Kuwait's skilled labor drought deepens amid crackdown blitz

Residency law enforcement disrupts construction timelines

By Mohammed Al-Musleh and Munif Naif  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 7: There has been a notable increase in the wages of skilled and professional workers and the situation continues to exacerbate, leading to a shortage of labor. This has notably impacted citizens who own plots of land and are seeking to build their homes.**

One of the main reasons is the exodus of large numbers of violators of residency law and the

rest who are being arrested during the intensive security campaigns following the expiry of the grace period for failing to regularize their status, the Ministry of Interior said all these people will be arrested.

Many workers have taken advantage of this shortage to double their daily wages, causing delays in construction, especially for finishing and renovation work.

Khaled Al-Anzi, head of the Mutlaa residents' committee, informed Al-Seyassah that the Ministry of Interior's crackdown on illegal workers has presented challenges for plot owners in building their homes. He noted that some workers have increased their daily wages from 15 to 30 dinars due to the scarcity of labor available for tasks such as surveying, electrical work, and finishing.

Al-Anzi emphasized the importance of the Ministry's efforts to control illegal workers but acknowledged that these campaigns have created fear among workers about coming to Al-Mutlaa. Many workers are apprehensive about falling into procedural issues, which has led to them avoiding the area, further exacerbating the labor shortage. He pointed out that some workers have exploited the situation to raise their wages, disrupting ongoing projects due to their inconsistent presence.

He called for allowing workers with professional experience to transition to roles that match their skills, even if they were initially hired for different jobs such as drivers or farmers.

Al-Anzi praised the government decision to facilitate the transfer of workers from Article 20 (domestic workers) to the private sector to address the labor shortage.

Al-Anzi urged the authorities to expedite the process of bringing in legal labor, provide incentives to attract trained workers, and allow those with technical qualifications to work in the private sector.

Khaled Al-Daihani, head of the South Abdullah Al-Mubarak Residents Committee, told Al-Seyassah that although the Ministry of Interior's campaigns aim to regulate the labor market and ensure compliance with the laws, they have inadvertently caused many workers to abandon construction projects out of fear of legal repercussions.

Al-Daihani noted that some workers have valid residence permits but are employed in professions different from their official designation, such as finishing and electrical work, causing delays in construction, particularly in tasks not covered by the main contractor's contract.

Al-Daihani called for the adoption of effective policies and procedures to regulate the labor market and provide trained and legal labor to ensure the continuity of construction projects.

In related news, the Ministry of Interior continues its efforts to arrest workers who have not taken advantage of the humanitarian grace period to amend their status or leave the country.

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Kuwait skyline obscured by dust as strong northwesterly winds bring reduced visibility. On Sunday, the Meteorological Department issued a weather warning amid gusts exceeding 50 km/h.

# Private sector key to Kuwait's income diversification

By Najeh Bilal  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 7:** After the Minister of Finance, Dr. Anwar Al-Mudhaf, emphasized on the importance of activating the private sector to diversify sources of income, the Al-Seyassah daily raised several critical issues such as who benefits from the Kuwaiti capital escaping abroad, which some experts estimate at about 20 billion dinars by the end of 2024.

The question arises, 'Can lifting subsidies on water, electricity, and land from private companies exacerbate the crises in Kuwait's industrial sector, thereby negatively affecting the policy of diversifying income sources?'

Another pressing question is how long the slogan "Made in Kuwait" will remain merely 'ink on paper' for local consumption as some call it?

Housing expert and businessman Khaled Al-Enezi expressed regret over the Kuwaiti private investors 'fleeing' abroad, which are projected to reach about 20 billion dinars by the end of 2024. He attributed this capital migration to bureaucracy and said he considers the option of investing in Saudi Arabia due to lower rents for industrial and commercial plots.

In Saudi Arabia, renting 10,000 meters costs 160 dinars per month, while a 25-meter shop rents for around 60 dinars.

In contrast, Kuwait sees demands for increased fees on industrial and commercial lands and even suggestions to lift support from the private sector.

Al-Enezi called on the government, in its new reform era, to accelerate the implementation of plans aimed at diversifying income sources by encouraging local private sector investment in Kuwait.

Diversifying sources of income, he said, requires reducing the public sector's dominance over the national economy, which heavily relies on oil, constituting nearly 90% of the state's resources.

He emphasized the need to stimulate the private sector by facilitating access to necessary financing and land for industri-

alists and eliminating bureaucracy, which is a primary reason for Kuwaiti capital moving abroad. He also highlighted the importance of implementing slow development plans to support this goal.

He emphasized that the slow implementation of the state's development plans negatively affects the private sector, especially the contracting sector. The failure to release sufficient land by the Public Authority for Industry increases the cost of leasing industrial land, negatively impacting revenues and pushing many Kuwaiti manufacturers to neighboring countries to implement their projects.



## Prayer Timings

|            |       |            |       |
|------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Fajr ..... | 03:20 | Asr .....  | 15:27 |
| Sunrise .. | 04:54 | Maghrib .. | 18:51 |
| Zohr ..... | 11:53 | Isha ..... | 20:22 |

# Local

**Expected weather for next 24 hrs:**  
**By Day:** Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 12-38 km/h.  
**By Night:** Hot to rather hot with

## Weather

light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-35 km/h.

| Station     | Max Exp | Min Rec |                |    |
|-------------|---------|---------|----------------|----|
| Kuwait City | 47      | 35      | Kuwait Airport | 48 |
|             |         |         | Abdaly         | 48 |
|             |         |         | Jahra          | 48 |
|             |         |         | Salmiyah       | 43 |
|             |         |         | Nuwaisib       | 48 |
|             |         |         | Wafra          | 48 |
|             |         |         |                | 36 |
|             |         |         |                | 30 |
|             |         |         |                | 34 |
|             |         |         |                | 35 |
|             |         |         |                | 33 |
|             |         |         |                | 34 |

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

## Increased seats for medical specialties in latest ministry plan

### 'Higher Education' ensures fairness in '24/'25 foreign mission acceptance results

KUWAIT CITY, July 7, (KUNA): Lamia Al-Malhem, Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, affirmed that the acceptance results for the 2024/2025 annual foreign mission plan align with the educational standards of both public and private sectors, ensuring equitable opportunities for all applicants. Al-Malhem emphasized the ministry's commitment to transparency and equality in a press statement today, underlining that recent social media claims are unsubstantiated and misleading.

She clarified that selection criteria for the annual scholarship plan are based on equivalent averages for medical and engineering fields, and high school averages for other disciplines, along with students' preferences (up to 8 choices) and the availability of seats in medical specialties as per agreements with universities in assigned countries. Emphasizing privacy concerns, Al-Malhem detailed the secure mechanism used to announce this year's external scholarship results, reflecting the ministry's dedication to

safeguarding applicants' personal and educational data.

Al-Malhem urged individuals with inquiries about their non-acceptance into the 2024/2025 scholarship plan to verify their details through the Ministry of Higher Education and utilize legal avenues under the Right to Access Law to address any grievances with the Grievance Committee. She also highlighted the ministry's ongoing commitment to various external scholarship programs, including excellence scholarships and direct delegation scholarships for medical fields. Interested students can apply via the ministry's official website until February 2025.

Regarding the direct delegation plan, Al-Malhem clarified that specific seat allocations are not predefined. Instead, acceptance depends on meeting university and cultural office requirements in the respective countries, ensuring academic compliance. This approach aims to provide multiple pathways for students aspiring to pursue specialized studies abroad, aligned with labor mar-

ket demands.

Dr. Adel Al-Adwani, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, approved the names of 3,325 male and female students for the 2024/2025 external scholarship plan. These students obtained their General Secondary Certificates between 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 from diverse government, private, and foreign educational institutions.

The plan for this year introduces new specialized fields to diversify educational outcomes and meet evolving labor market needs, particularly in enhancing the healthcare system with high-quality medical and related specialties. Al-Malhem noted that the number of seats allocated for medical specialties in this year's plan has been increased compared to previous years, reflecting ministerial directives and the diligent efforts of cultural offices in assigned countries.



Al-Rai photo

The Islamic Presentation Committee (IPC) praised the efforts exerted by the Secretariat General of the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs to support the teaching of Arabic to non-speakers of different nationalities, reports Al-Shahed daily. Director of the Public Relations and Resources Department at IPC Mohammad Al-Kandari confirmed that the ministry fully supports the committee, indicating the ministry covered the expenses related to the 57 training courses that the committee organized in 2023 for 400 students in the six governorates. He added the Secretariat General is keen on providing support for the committee to continue teaching Arabic to non-speakers.

## Apartment fire claims Syrian family

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: An Egyptian was charged with manslaughter after a fire broke out in his apartment in Farwaniya; causing smoke to spread to the apartment of his neighbor – a family of Syrian nationality including

the father, mother, two children and a disabled juvenile who all died due to the fire.

The Operations Unit at the Interior Ministry dealt with the fire incident, which caused the death of a Syrian woman. Her husband and children were rushed to Farwaniya Hospital where they were declared dead upon arrival.

## Other Voices

### 'Country's national flag & the unpatriotic behavior'

By Ahmed alsarraf

In an act that was met with a lot of disapproval, one of the schools, perhaps a preparatory one, held a graduation ceremony for its students, where they entered the hall, carrying the flag of the State of Palestine, and all those present stood up when the Palestinian national anthem was played.

This behavior was already forbidden by law. Therefore, it was not strange for

the Council of Ministers to allocate a valuable amount of its "precious" time to issue a decision stressing that all parties, institutions and public bodies are committed to not raising any flag, or playing any national anthem of another country, on any official occasion inside or outside Kuwait.

It is good to be concerned about your country's national flag, but at the same time the Ministry of Information is required to pay attention to the unfortunate situation, in which our flag appears on a large number of governmental, and even private institutions, and it is in a shabby and not appropriate condition that does not match its iconic reality. In many places we see the flag of Kuwait torn, as if it is not a symbol worthy of respect.

The current Kuwaiti flag was raised for the first time on November 24, 1961, and its colors were inspired by two verses of poetry by Safi Al-Din Al-Hilli, which read:

"We are a people whose good morals refuse to begin harming those who do not harm us.  
 "Our good deeds are white, our battles are our enemies' black days, our pastures are green, our swords are red."

When Al-Otaibis settled in Kuwait, two centuries or more ago (no one can be completely certain of the exact date), Kuwaiti ships were raising a red flag with a white serrated strip attached to it near the mast, similar to the current flag of Bahrain.

It was called the Sulaimi flag, and this flag was raised when Sheikh Sabah bin Jaber ruled from 1762 until 1871. After that, the Gulf countries, including Kuwait, raised the Ottoman flag as the Islamic flag of the Caliphate and because they were part of the sub-

sidary states, even though Kuwait was not one of those subsidiaries.

The decision came during a visit by Sheikh Abdullah bin Sabah al-Baghdadi, to negotiate regarding some farms that belonged to his father, Sheikh Sabah bin Jaber, so he was convinced of the necessity of raising the Ottoman flag to protect his ships, and also to avoid paying high customs in the ports of India.

This was done in 1871, but it was abandoned after the Battle of Al-Sarif in 1901 during the reign of Mubarak Al-Sabah, as a sign of non-subordination to the Ottomans. After Kuwait was linked to Britain. Kuwait kept its own flag, but then abandoned it in favor of the Ottoman flag.

This continued until 1940, during the reign of Sheikh Ahmed Al-Jaber, when a new red triangular flag was adopted, with serrations similar to the flag of Bahrain, and it was added: "There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of God," in vertical letters towards the mast.

Then the Sabah label was added to it, and this flag remained raised on the public Security Command Headquarters until 1961 all days except Fridays and on official holidays.

It is hoisted on the Naif Palace on Fridays and official holidays, as for the triangular flag with the word "Kuwait" written on it. Only, it is raised at all official departments, except for the Seif Palace, Public Security Command, and border centers.

It is not raised on Fridays and official holidays. The third triangular flag with the words "There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger" written on it and the word "Kuwait" is hoisted on all official departments on Fridays, holidays, and official holidays.

It is hoisted on the Naif Palace, except for Fridays. Again, I would like to call upon the concerned institution to pay attention to the condition and form of the flag raised by official departments, as well as private sector parties, and to work to remove the damaged flags immediately.

Note: We support the Ministry of Interior's decision to ban all religious manifestations, including flags and slogans, installing booths and exploiting public squares, for any purpose, and applying the decision to everyone, without exception.



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# Cybersecurity experts express concern as fraud cases surge

Fake trading companies preying on Kuwaitis

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Technology experts have warned about fake trading in financial portfolios; pointing out these fraudulent companies have increased in recent years and some of them operate in Kuwait.**

They were surprised that local bank fraud cases are on the rise. An official entity have announced that the number of such cases has reached 128,000 -- 8,082 in 2020; 65,492 in 2021 and 54,066 in 2022.

Cybersecurity expert, President of the Kuwaiti Society for Information Security and Computer Professor at Kuwait University Dr. Safaa Zaman confirmed the increase in the number of fictitious trading companies in the country, which use various methods to deceive victims by making them believe that they specialize in trading and have real estate, commercial and other activities. She cited the case of a citizen who was recently deceived by a fake trading company that took KD300,000 from the victim.

She was surprised by the fact that fake trading companies have their headquarters in well-known complexes in the country. She said these companies use the names of trading companies or financial brokerage and investment companies by changing one of the letters so that the victim thinks he is dealing with a reputable company.

She pointed out that in the past, fake trading companies exploit people who are fluent in the Kuwaiti dialect even if they are not Kuwaitis in order to convince the Kuwaiti victim; indicating that the caller from the fake company also speaks to the client in his dialect. The caller speaks quickly and persists in convincing the victim, tempting the latter to gain trading profits exceeding 100 percent, so the supposed client falls victim to the trap, she explained.

She added fake companies exploit social media celebrities to promote them, as it happened in the country some time ago. She warned that official trading companies do not contact clients in such manner. If they contact clients, they give the clients enough time to verify the company's licenses and official and legal status, she asserted.

## Warned

She also warned about applications that hack into bank accounts, especially applications that request email and password, since some of these applications are run by a mafia that hacks bank accounts.

She expressed regret that two Kuwaiti banks, which are among the largest in the country, downloaded applications to transfer money abroad through those applications. She said fraudulent companies may use the logo of any bank and steal its email, using such information for the victim to send money through the company that used the bank's logo. She wondered if these banks took precautions or left the customers to the electronic fraud mafia, urging the people to refrain from clicking any link that reaches the customer through social media.

She stressed the need to update the Central Bank's laws, as the mafia of bank accounts and fake trading companies exploit the latest technologies in fraudulent operations, including artificial intelligence.

She also pointed out that the awareness campaigns carried out by banks is insufficient in light of the increasing incidents of theft on customer accounts. She affirmed the importance of Kuwait signing agreements with other Gulf countries, which have gone a long way in protecting customers from electronic theft. She cited as an example



Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness holds a program to incubate medical innovators in cooperation with the Spanish IE University.

## Kuwait's Sabah Al-Ahmad Center partners with Spain's IE University to boost medical innovation

KUWAIT CITY, July 7, (KUNA):

The Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity, part of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), recently held a program to support medical innovators in collaboration with Spain's IE University. The program aimed to transform innovative ideas into practical solutions that benefit society and strengthen Kuwait's healthcare sector, aligning with the center and foundation's goals.

Nada Al-Daihani, the center's Director General, announced in a press statement on Sunday that the program, which hosted over 40 doctors, specialists, and medical field activists, concluded last Thursday after five days. This comprehensive initiative was designed to help idea owners, entrepreneurs, doctors, and healthcare workers transition smoothly to the global industrial market.

Al-Daihani explained that the program focuses on enhancing innovation and technological progress in healthcare through a specialized

curriculum combining in-depth lectures and practical workshops. This initiative aims to position Kuwait as a leading exporter of medical innovations and advanced services regionally and globally. She expressed pride in the collaboration with IE University, renowned for its innovation and excellence, providing a unique educational experience with its esteemed faculty and advanced resources, ensuring the highest standards of global business education.

Three participants were selected by the university's specialized evaluation committee to attend the annual Innovators Day (IE Venture Day) in Madrid on July 11. Al-Daihani wished them success in presenting their projects to specialists and investment entities at the forum. The selected participants are:

1. Engineer Sarah Abu Jaib for her invention "Scans X," a portable medical device using deep learning and infrared technologies for quick and accurate diagnosis of brain injuries and internal bleeding, which

helps save lives and reduce medical costs.

2. Engineer Mohammed Al Shammari for his smart glasses for deaf students, which convert the teacher's voice into instant translation displayed in the glasses' lenses using augmented virtual reality technology supporting 120 languages, addressing the shortage of sign language teachers and interpreters.

3. Dr. Nahla Al-Mai'a for her project "Spray," a portable device for the immediate detection and effective cleaning of radioactive contamination, ensuring the safety of medical procedures.

Akhlaq Saydo, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology at IE University, expressed his admiration for the participants' ideas and innovations. He noted that participants would learn to identify opportunities in healthcare, create innovative and scalable solutions, build profitable business plans, design products and prototypes, test them, communicate effectively, and present their solutions to potential investors.

the Central Bank of Saudi Arabia, which has taken steps to reduce theft of customer accounts.

Meanwhile, Computer Science Professor at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr. Bader Al-Khudary stated that fake trading companies target the elderly who are tempted by quick profits. Since majority of the elderly are not proficient in using technology, they fall prey to the fraud mafia from fake trading companies or those stealing from bank accounts.

He expressed astonishment over the 128,000 fraudulent transactions in 2020, 2021 and 2022; wondering what the regulatory authorities did as a result of this large number of fraudulent operations.

He underscored the need to intensify awareness campaigns, not only through social media, but also through street advertisements; urging

all State agencies to come together to intensify awareness campaigns.

He added anyone who wants to invest his money must do so through the banks as they are the best ones to do this task. He advised the public to refrain from using any application or link without verifying the source.

He said telecommunications companies must regulate the sale of mobile phone lines, while setting many conditions to protect people from the electronic fraud mafia that buy mobile phone lines and use them for bank account robberies.

## Fraud

Financial and technological expert Khaled Al-Kandari pointed out that electronic fraud is on the rise in the Gulf region in general; but they are focusing on Kuwait due to the ease of infiltration here.

It is worth mentioning that when fake trading companies contact a

person, they convince him of a systematic fraud, as the caller claims that he is from a company trading in gold, real estate and currencies. Initially, he asks the victim to open an account with an amount ranging from KD50 to KD90. After opening the account with them, another official from the same fraudulent company calls the victim and asks him to increase the value of his trading by huge amounts. Once the victim transfers the amount to that trading company, his bank account is robbed of everything in it.

Al-Kandari revealed there are some ways to detect fraudulent trading companies by using search engines. He said there is a database for many of these companies. If the name of company is not listed among the international fraudulent companies, the licenses and trading records must be verified as well, he suggested.



# diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Enduring legacy of Burgess & vanishing art of letter writing'

"THE past is what makes us, it always creates us. I do not think that the past is a disgusting thing, but rather it is like a spring that never stops giving. I know that I am eighty years old, and I may die at any moment, but until that moment comes, I only have dreams, dreams which turn into words. There may be mistakes in them, but I will never apologize for them" -- Burgess in the 1980s," columnist **Hassan Al-Issa** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.



Hassan Al-Issa

"A long time has passed since the absence of the literary poet Burgess, yet his words remain engraved in our consciousness. Burgess did not suffer from nostalgia for the past. Instead, he assured us that in the world of thought and literature, memories remain a source of inspiration and consolation for their owner. Does this mean that our present, which becomes the past with every passing moment, has become miserable?"

"I say, miserable because of the feelings of alienation people live with today -- this sentiment resonates with the "Baby Boomer" generation, those born after World War II and during the 1960s.

"These individuals, now old and elderly, feel lonely due to the absence of human contact and the spirit of familiarity. Spatial distances have widened, and gatherings of family, friends, and relatives have become rare. The "ego" spirit has taken over -- each person is absorbed in their own world, with their own worries, disconnected from others.

"In this era of consumer alienation, do today's children even know how to write? Do they know how to compose tender words of love? Handwritten letters have vanished, buried by the rise of technology. As Lebanese musician Nabil Mroue writes on the Daraj website. "Our handwriting on paper has a relative ability to compensate for our physical absence in front of the addressee, as it almost bridges the distance and time between two correspondents." Nabil adds, "I long to write a message to someone, write it with a pen on white paper, put it in a paper envelope, and throw it in the mailbox. What I miss most is receiving a letter in my mailbox."

"What letters and mailboxes have gone to the world of annihilation are you talking about, Nabil? In this digital age, faster communication has replaced the intimate act of letter writing. Why write 'I love you' when a red rose emoji can be sent instead? A smiling face emoji signifies joy, and a thumbs-up indicates support. Letters and words have faded, and language has become hollow.

"Meanings have become connotations without depth. The deceased philosophers and thinkers who feared and predicted the loss of the beautiful human spirit cannot be blamed.

"They warned of a world dominated by mute symbols and deaf machines, a world we are now drowning in. The realm of dreams, imagination, and beauty has dissipated, and we have forgotten our existence."

**Also:**

"Coinciding with the countdown to the US presidential elections, we witnessed a historic debate a few days ago between the current President Joe Biden, with his wife's present, and former president Donald Trump, whose wife was notably absent from the media," columnist **Dr Nada Suleiman Al-Mutawa** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"Unlike previous debates, this event was marked by a heated exchange of accusations without any mention of achievements, promises, or reassurances to voters. The discussion covered various topics such as abortion, immigration, the economy, health insurance, Ukraine, and Gaza.

"This raises the question: Why is there stagnation in the elections? How did the electoral system produce two candidates, one in his eighties with declining physical abilities, and another in his late seventies, who is accused and prosecuted, despite recently obtaining partial immunity?"

"Trump criticized Biden's methods and even democracy itself, likening it to that of the developing world. Perhaps electoral system reforms will begin in major industrialized countries to balance election outcomes, especially with the rise of far-right parties in Europe.

"Regarding Biden, his team could have better prepared him for the debate, providing the vital information American voters seek. Interestingly, this is one of the rare times when voters eagerly anticipate the president's ability to express his thoughts. Some have speculated: What if Biden were replaced by another figure from the Democratic Party?"

"Our Arab world, confused about its own issues, wonders about the Arabs in Michigan and their limited influence on decision-makers despite their large numbers. This is particularly relevant amid the White House's attempts to build bridges with Muslims, who are resentful over its stance on Gaza. This wound continues to deepen.

"Ultimately, will losing the debate cause a loss in the election? Let's wait and see.

"Recently, there has been a noticeable trend of professionals in important fields turning to work as fashionistas, seeking financial gain by advertising products like face powders, clothes, or beauty clinics.

"This raises the question of whether unions have a role in addressing this issue. Professions such as law and medicine are vital, and it is necessary to protect those in these fields from being drawn into commercial promotions."

"Medical scientists believe human lifespan could reach 150 years... The great doctors were busy finding out the secret of life and prolonging life, so medicines appeared, including innovations, commercial manipulation, herbal medicines, organized food without excess, balancing the nervous system, rest, mental and physical exercises." **Abdullah Khalaf** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"Scientists said that in ancient times, the average human lifespan was 18 years, and then it increased to 22 and 25 about 1,500 years ago. Egyptian lines were found engraved on a mummy, which indicates the average human lifespan 2,000 years ago ranged from the mid-20s to the early 30s, then it increased to 50 in the 19th century.

"At the beginning of the 20th century, medicine eliminated the epidemics that were killing people like childhood infections, until the wonder of penicillin and vitamins became known and Science mobilized its offensive forces to solve problems of the heart, arteries and circulatory system.

"Dr. Bortz, President of the Association of American Physicians, believed that the lifespan of the average person should be 150 years. There is strong evidence that it is possible to prolong human lifespan to 150 years. Scientific developments have been reached in Ukraine, including rejuvenation therapy. Dr. Iskander Boltz, Director of the Institute of Biology in Kiev, conducted a research years ago, confirming that if a person is free of diseases, he will live between 120 to 150 years.

"Dr. Thomas Parr, the Englishman, was convinced that a person can maintain his body by walking and eating moderate food until he reaches 152. They said that Stalin's death and his health were kept a secret like Russia's greatest military secrets... They said that a double life is longer than a single life.

"It is said that death launches its first attack on obese bodies, and is delayed on a person who walks regularly in the open air... and slow, balanced breathing that frees the body from the bloody corruption that approaches the end of life. Medical opinions say that a person is destined to increase his lifespan in order to reach the desired age of 150. As life goes on, the circle of diseases increases and narrows with the advancement of Medical Science. Allah knows best."

"In his first public appearance, the minister of finance proved and demonstrated his inability to confront anyone. By Allah, it is said that the minister of finance of the State of Kuwait, which has the strongest currency in the world, is supposedly working in silence!" **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"In fairness, we do not know, but this minister may be knowledgeable about the affairs of his ministry. Yet, his appearance on government television proved that he cannot confront anyone, has no capability to argue and persuade and does not know how camels respond. So, what if the appearance was on international stations that hunt and search for mistakes... In what way do you attack the State?"

"Is this what the government wants from a minister who manages Kuwait's finances? What message did the minister take from the government to convey to the Kuwaiti people through this meeting, which is supposed to be arranged and well-thought of, as the questions are known before they are raised and the answers are agreed on?"

"The Kuwaiti street, which is impatiently waiting for an improvement in living conditions, was surprised by the talk about disability that is taken as its goodness and does not make it fat or satiated.

"All Kuwaitis waited for the meeting with the minister of finance, but they were all disappointed after the meeting. All this is in one hand and the supposed silent story is in the other hand.

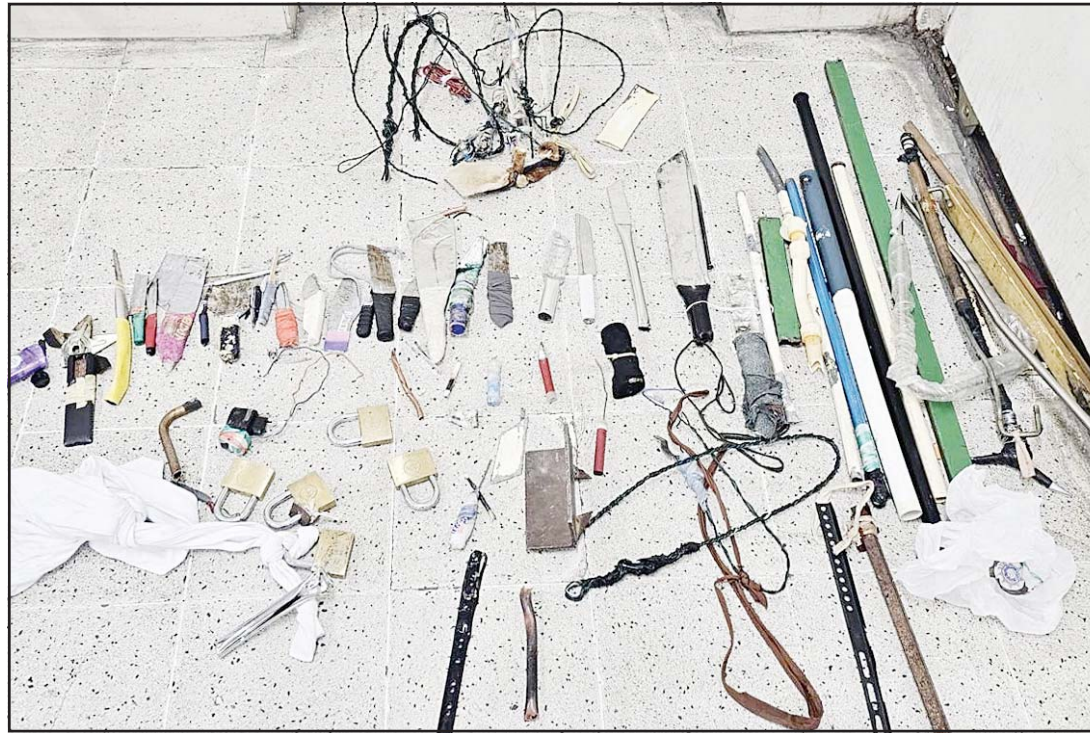
"It is neither reasonable nor acceptable for the minister of finance to appear in public through television and tell us that he is working as a 'silent person'. Who sent you to the television building and made you appear on air live? If you do your job silently as you said, did you remain silent after that?"

"The minister post is a political position. Through his presence in the Council of Ministers, he participates in drawing up the country's higher policies. If a politician goes out to the people, he must have something to say or at least promote the achievements of the government he represents; otherwise, he should not go out to the people and leave the media to his family!"

"The important question that is circulating among people on the Kuwaiti street is: If the National Assembly is present, will this minister continue in the ministry?"

"For your information, only His Highness the Prime Minister has the answer to this question."

— **Compiled by PFX Fernandes and Mahmoud Ateyieh**



The items seized from the Central Prison during surprise raid.

Al-Jarida photo

## Special Forces conduct surprise raids

### Cell phones, knives seized from Central Prison

**By Munif Naif**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: In compliance with the instructions of Assistant Undersecretary for Private Security Affairs in the Interior Ministry Major General Abdullah

Saffah, the Special Forces officers, in cooperation with the anti-drug authorities, continued their security campaign at the Central Prison.

The most recent campaign resulted in the seizure of a number of mobile phones, sharp tools like knives and narcotic materials.

A security source revealed that the Special Forces officers carried out the campaign at dawn without warning. They suddenly inspected a number of cells where several prohibited items were confiscated and then referred to the concerned authorities.

# PAFN seizes 586-kg unfit food, shuts down 14 establishments

Securitymen nab 25 people in possession of 7,250 kilos of drugs

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

**KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Hanan Abbas, Head of the Hawalli Governorate Inspection Department at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, revealed that the department inspected 474 food establishments in June.**

These inspections led to the seizure and destruction of 586 kilograms of food unfit for human consumption, the issuance of 186 violation reports, and the closure of 14 food establishments.

In a statement, Abbas said that, based on directives from the Director General of the Authority, Dr. Reem Al-Fulaij, and under the supervision of the Director of the Hawalli Governorate Inspection Department, Abdullah Al-Kandari, inspection tours were organized with the assistance of technical specialists in food safety. These tours aimed to ensure effective control over food establishments, guaranteeing the quality and safety of food, thereby protecting consumers' health.

Abbas added that the violations included operating a food facility without a health license from the authority, selling food items unfit for human consumption that had changed in color, shape, and smell based on visual examination, and employing workers handling food without health certificates to ensure they are free from infectious diseases. These violations are issued to both the worker and the employer.

She also noted that violations involved non-compliance with general hygiene rules. Insects and cockroaches were found on the premises leading to non-compliance with personal hygiene standards for workers, handling food without meeting technical and health requirements, and leaving food or waste outside establishments. Abbas urged consumers to report any complaints via the hotline 1807770 or through the website.

In a related context, the PAFN Capital Governorate inspection teams issued 16 citations during recent inspection tours of restaurants and food establishments in the region.

**25 people arrested with drugs:** The Ministry of Interior announced that the Criminal Security Sector, specifically the General Department for Combating Narcotics, has arrested 25 people, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The arrests were made in connection with possession of approximately 7,250 kilograms of various types of narcotic substances, including chemicals, shabu, hashish, marijuana, and heroin.

Moreover, about 10,000 psychotropic pills, eight marijuana seedlings, six unlicensed firearms, live ammunition, and sums of money were seized during the operations. The money seized is believed to be proceeds from the sale of drugs.

**52,872 traffic violations:** During the past week, the General Traffic Department reported a total of 52,872 violations. Among these, 17 juveniles were referred to prosecution for driving without licenses, and 101 motorbikes were seized for various infractions.

**3 Americans injured:** Three Americans were injured when the four-wheeler they were riding in overturned on Al-Liyah Road, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source revealed that two of the three Americans sustained minor injuries, while the other suffered from a broken right elbow. All of them were taken to Jahra Hospital. The source added that the vehicle was severely damaged.

**Gold jewelry stolen:** An expatriate was caught stealing a piece of gold jewelry from a shop inside a complex in Fahaeel, reports Al-Anba daily.

The security team in the complex and passers-by chased the thief immediately after he ran out of the shop where he pretended to be a buyer. The thief was taken to Fahaeel Police Station and a case was filed against him.

**Judiciary digitalization:** Minister of Justice, Endowments and Islamic Affairs Mohammad Al-Wasmi has disclosed that amendments are being prepared to ease judicial procedures and reduce the workload of courts, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Wasmi said the amendments include the electronic litigation regulations that will be finalized soon to simplify judicial procedures and provide electronic services to the public. He pointed out that the Ministry of Justice is currently providing a number of services through Sahel application where citizens and expatriates can obtain information about cases, pay fines and contact various directorates.

He added the ministry is keen on complying with the directives of HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah to expedite the completion of transactions, upgrade the services and push for digitalization.

## Kuwaiti woman loses all her money in fraud click

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: A female Kuwaiti citizen lost her entire bank balance within a few minutes when she clicked the link that an unknown person, who claimed to be a representative of a famous domestic labor recruitment company, sent to her, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source disclosed that when the citizen clicked the link, the suspect obtained all of her data and banking information, including the password.

Case files indicate that the citizen searched for the telephone number of the domestic labor recruitment company and called the number.

The suspect informed her that she was required to send KD2 through link for a reservation. She agreed provided he sends her a representative. He then asked her to send the location of her residence through WhatsApp and he sent her a link for KD2.

The citizen disclosed: "I clicked on the link and suddenly found that my entire bank balance amounting to KD528 was withdrawn. I immediately contacted the bank's customer service and informed that my balance was withdrawn through a banking operation. At the same time, KD1,000 was deposited to my account as per the bank's confirmation, but it was withdrawn at the same time."

The security source called on citizens and expatriates to be careful and to refrain from clicking on unreliable links, so as not to lose their bank balances.

## Call to register new address

### PACI 'deletes' residential addresses of 322 persons

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: The Public Authority for Civil Information has announced the deletion of residential addresses for a new batch of 322 individuals. This action is based either on the declaration of the residence owner or due to the demolition of the building, reports Al-Rai daily.

In its announcement published in the newspaper "Kuwait Today," the authority confirmed that those

whose addresses have been deleted must visit the authority to register their new address.

They need to provide the necessary supporting documents within 30 days from the date of this announcement to avoid penalties stipulated in Article 33 of Law No. 32 of 1982. The penalty is a fine not exceeding 100 dinars, multiplied by the number of persons involved.

## Visit to radar warning squadrons

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Chief of Staff of the Kuwait Army, Lieutenant General Pilot Bandar Al-Muzain, paid a visit to the Air Force's radar warning squadrons on Saturday, reports Al-Qabas daily.



Al-Muzain

According to a press release issued by the army, during the visit, General Al-Muzain received a detailed

briefing on the operational procedures and mechanisms followed by the radar warning squadrons.

He also assessed their readiness levels and was briefed on the latest tasks and responsibilities of the defense systems responsible for safeguarding Kuwait's airspace.

At the conclusion of the visit, the Chief of Staff commended the efforts of the squadron members and their high level of readiness. He emphasized the importance of sustained effort to uphold the security and safety of the homeland.



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# Audit Bureau raises environmental concerns in Kuwait oversight report

Urgent calls for enhanced marine pollution controls

**KUWAIT CITY, July 7:** The annual report of the Performance Oversight Department issued by the Audit Bureau for 2023/2024 highlighted significant

challenges and issues regarding environmental oversight and management of marine and coastal environments in Kuwait, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Here are the key findings and recommendations from the report:  
**Lack of Unified Environmental Oversight Plan** -- The report identified a lack of a unified and clear environmental oversight plan and mechanism among the agencies responsible for protecting the marine and coastal environment from water pollutants. This is due to the multiplicity of agencies, varying jurisdictions, and unclear powers among them.

**Jurisdiction Issues** -- The Ministry of Public Works and the General Authority for Roads and Land Transport have overlapping responsibilities regarding rainwater and sewage networks. The report noted confusion and duplication in monitoring processes, leading to ineffective enforcement of environmental regulations.

**Responsibility for Rain Networks** -- The report highlighted that while the law establishing the General Authority for Roads and Land Transport (Law No. 115 of 2014) does not explicitly assign tasks related to rain networks, there is confusion over its responsibilities in managing and maintaining these networks.

The report recommended several measures to address these issues such as clarifying and defining responsibilities clearly between the Ministry of Public Works and the General Authority for Roads and Land Transport regarding rain and sewage networks; establishing contracts specifically for the maintenance of rain sewers to ensure accountability and prevent pollution risks and including representatives from all relevant agencies in joint work teams tasked with monitoring and addressing environmental violations.

This is in addition to forming a committee to define responsibilities to untangle and define responsibilities between the Ministry of Public Works and the General Authority for Roads and Land Transport. This committee addressed legal aspects to determine which agency is responsible for designing, constructing, and maintaining rain outlets and networks.

Overall, the report underscores the urgent need for coordinated efforts and clear regulatory frameworks to protect Kuwait's marine and coastal environments from pollution and to safeguard public health and safety. Addressing these issues requires robust collaboration among government entities and adherence to legal mandates to ensure effective environmental management.



Kuwait University campus.

## KU forms committee to look into complaints, suggestions

**KUWAIT CITY, July 7:** The Director of Kuwait University has established a committee dedicated to addressing complaints and suggestions from academic staff members, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This initiative aims to enhance institutional operations, identify key challenges affecting academic activities, foster better communication with faculty members, and attentively address their academic, research, and administrative needs.

Chaired by the University's Vice President for Planning, Dr. Asaad Al-Rashed, the committee includes Dr. Nasser Al-Tanak, the Vice President for Research, Prof. Dr. Jassim Al-Hamdan, the Dean of Student Affairs, and Dr. Fadel Aziz, the Dean of Admissions and Registration, alongside the university director's legal advisor.

The committee will convene regularly to facilitate ongoing dialogue and proactive improvements within Kuwait University.

## Sheikh Ali Abdullah Al-Salem, son of nation-building legacy, passes away

**KUWAIT CITY, July 7:** Sheikh Ali Abdullah Al-Salem, aged 78, has passed away after a distinguished life devoted to serving the nation, reports Al-Qabas daily.

He was the son of the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem, and brother to the late Amir Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

Sheikh Ali Abdullah Al-Salem held various significant positions throughout his career, notably serving as the Governor of Mubarak Al-Kabeer for several years.

The news of his passing has deeply saddened Al-Qabas, which extends heartfelt condolences to the family



Sheikh Ali Abdullah Al-Salem

of the deceased. May Allah bestow mercy and forgiveness upon Sheikh Ali Abdullah Al-Salem and grant him eternal paradise.

Final guidelines to be approved by July 22

## Virtual meet addresses resumption of Filipino domestic worker recruitment

**KUWAIT CITY, July 7:** Abdulaziz Al-Ali, Director General and Advisor to the Union of Owners of Domestic Workers Recruitment Offices, has disclosed details of an urgent virtual meeting held recently via Zoom, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This meeting involved Khaled Al-Dakhnan, President of the Union, and his Filipino counterpart, to discuss updates on the resumption of domestic worker recruitment from Manila to Kuwait.

Al-Ali highlighted that prior to this, the Philippine side had a crucial meeting with the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labor in Manila to finalize guidelines for labor export, known as the "Guide line." These guidelines include recruitment procedures, required documentation, and the "job order," which Kuwaiti local offices must provide to initiate employment contracts.

According to Al-Ali, the Philippine side informed them that the finalized guidelines are expected to be approved by July 22, after which local offices can begin submitting "job order" applications to the labor attaché at the embassy on July 23.

Regarding recruitment costs, Al-Ali

mentioned that this remains unresolved, especially amidst reports of the Ministry of Commerce reconsidering recent price-setting decisions.

The Philippine side indicated their preference to maintain current cost structures without nationality-based adjustments, which could impact the feasibility of recruiting Filipino workers due to competitive pricing pressures in the Gulf region.

Local recruitment offices are fully prepared to resume bringing in domestic workers from the Philippines, addressing a critical need in the market left by the absence of Filipino workers since the import ban.

Filipino domestic workers are highly valued for their communication skills, caregiving abilities, educational backgrounds, and familiarity with Kuwaiti customs and traditions.

The impact of Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Resolution No. 2 of 2024, which standardized recruitment costs, including travel tickets, has been noted as potentially detrimental to the quality and suitability of incoming workers for Kuwaiti and expatriate families.

## Rapid implementation urged

## Municipal Council allocates plots to address labor housing problem

**KUWAIT CITY, July 7:** A number of Municipal Council members confirmed that the council has played its role in addressing the labor housing issue by allocating plots and handing them over to the concerned government agencies, reports Al-Rai daily.

The council members told the daily that the council is ready to hold an emergency meeting to discuss this issue and present plausible solutions, on the condition that the concerned institutions implement the proposed establishment of labor housing cities.

Deputy Chairman of the Council Khaled Mufleh Al-Mutairi stated that the council is keen on solving the labor housing problem through the allocation of plots for this purpose.

He urged the concerned government agencies to expedite the completion of the proposed labor housing cities, because they will contribute significantly to solving the problems of workers residing in investment, private and model housing areas.

He asserted: "We have warned many times in the past that the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh problem is a ticking bomb. We might witness a recurrence of the Mangaf building fire if we do not implement the solutions presented by committees tasked to deal with the issue."

Council member Fahd Al-Abduljader stressed that the council will not delay, regardless of the circumstances, taking any step to solve the problem in order to protect lives, even if it necessitates holding an emergency meeting. He clarified that "the problem is not only about the regulations or laws, as the real



Labor housing projects.

issue is the implementation."

Council member Walid Al-Dagher said the council's role is to allocate plots for labor housing and it has already done its part through the allocation of many plots, which were handed over to the concerned entities.

Council member Fahd Al-Khanain stressed the need for the council to provide the necessary health and living facilities in the labor housing cities for Kuwait to be worthy of emulation, away from the slums that tarnish the reputation of the country and its people.

Council member Abdullah Al-Enezi affirmed that the council plays an important role in studying privatization requests, specifically those related to integrated labor cities and the extent of the requesting party's commitment to all conditions that serve humanity.

He pointed out that the labor housing cities must be developed to reduce pressure on investment and commercial housing areas, some of which seem to have violated the laws.

## No tents, banners allowed

## Mol issues restrictions on activities outside Husseiniyas for Muharram

**KUWAIT CITY, July 7:** In preparation for Muharram, the Ministry of Interior has issued strict guidelines for the officials of Husseiniyas, reports Al-Jarida daily. Key measures include:

**Prohibition of tents or kiosks outside Husseiniyas**

Restriction on raising any flags or banners except for the State of Kuwait flag, and only one banner without any slogans is allowed on the Husseiniya.

**Ban on organizing any marches.**

These directives follow a coordination meeting between the Ministry of Interior and Husseiniya supervisors, reinforced by recommendations from a recent Cabinet meeting.

**Enforcement and Immediate Removal of Violations**

The General Department of Security Relations and Media at the Ministry of Interior has affirmed that any violations will be promptly addressed. Security personnel will be present within Husseiniyas to manage traffic and ensure safety. Volunteers are strictly prohibited from engaging in organizational activities outside Husseiniya premises, including directing traffic or arranging visitor seating in external areas.

**Recent Actions and Compliance**

In recent days, Kuwait Municipality's removal teams have dismantled several kiosks outside Husseiniyas in the Governorates of Hawalli, Ahmadi, and the Capital. According to Al-Jarida, the number of removed booths and tents did not exceed five, indicating a high level of compliance among Husseiniya owners.

**Comprehensive Security Plan**

The Ministry of Interior, under directives



One of the Husseiniya premises.

from high-level officials including the First Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior and Defense, has developed a robust security plan. This plan involves:

**Setting up security points around Husseiniyas and places of worship.**

Deploying personnel from various security sectors, including Traffic and Operations, Public Security, Criminal Security, State Security, and Special Security Forces.

Ensuring cooperation with the General Fire Force to maintain order and facilitate traffic flow during ceremonies.

**Ongoing Inspections by Kuwait Municipality**

Municipal teams continue to conduct intensive inspections to detect and remove any unauthorized structures on state property across all governorates. This includes building violations, unauthorized fencing, and illegal land seizures.

These measures aim to ensure the safety and orderliness of Muharram observances while maintaining respect for public property and adhering to national regulations.



# JULY

## Room Promotion






| Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)                                  |  |
|--|--|
| Queen Cabana<br>(2 persons inclusive of breakfast)<br>per night. | 2 Bedroom Chalet<br>(4 persons inclusive of breakfast)<br>per night. |
| <b>NOW</b>   | <b>NOW</b>   |
| <b>BHD 60.984 net</b>  | <b>BHD 136.198 net</b>   |
| Weekends (Thursday & Friday)                                     |  |
| Queen Cabana<br>(2 persons inclusive of breakfast)<br>per night. | 2 Bedroom Chalet<br>(4 persons inclusive of breakfast)<br>per night. |
| <b>NOW</b>   | <b>NOW</b>   |
| <b>BHD 76.230 net</b>  | <b>BHD 170.247 net</b>   |

Promo period from 23<sup>rd</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024

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Comprehensive research agenda aimed at enhancing research practices in Kuwait

# Reconnaissance Research: Five years of independent research

## 'Silent' working

Continued from Page 1

Perhaps, His Highness the current Prime Minister did not have enough time to review those who have the ability to handle the sensitive files they are in charge of. This must be taken into consideration. Cabinet reshuffle is an urgent necessity today, not tomorrow. We have no time to cry over spilled milk, because the ministers wasted time on matters that are not beneficial to the State.

For some time now, we have been talking about diversifying sources of income, not just selling oil and spending, as such moves contradict all economic theories.

On the other hand, other Arab Gulf states have diversified their national output for decades. Today, they are reaping the fruits. They have become financial, economic and commercial forces with a global presence; while Kuwait continued the traditional pattern it inherited for 60 years. It is even declining in the financial and economic indicators, compared to its position before the Iraqi invasion; as if its financial situation has a puncture. This deflation cannot continue due to the presence of ministers who work in 'silence' or do not know what they should do.

Some of them added many doors to wasting public money, while the living condition of citizens remains as it is. The salaries of employees have not increased for more than 14 years. Simply increasing salaries and improving the living conditions of citizens stimulate the financial and economic cycles.

At this point, everyone must admit that the Kuwaiti sovereign wealth, which has reached approximately \$900 billion, suffers from stagnation or lack of experience in managing it according to what is required to maximize the national product. It needs experts in finance, economics and trade who understand what it means to exploit opportunities.

It is also necessary to update the laws and ensure that they live up to the ambition of His Highness the Amir, who informed us about the tremendous work that awaits Kuwait in order to surpass its counterparts in the Gulf region.

For all of these reasons, the current Council of Ministers is forbidden from failing. It should get rid of those who work as if they are managing a 'grocery store'.

Whoever does not work to achieve the goals set by His Highness the Amir must cut himself loose, as this is not the time for 'silent' work or the policy of sleeping in honey.

## Kuwait's skilled

Continued from Page 1

Over the weekend, security services arrested 100 violators during campaigns in Al-Wafra, Al-Abdali farms, Amghara and other locations.

The security sources told the Al-Seyassah daily that these violators have been referred to the concerned authority for immediate deportation and barred from entering the country again.

Sources confirmed that security

campaigns against residency law violators will persist, with surprise check points planned to be erected to nab offenders.

Once arrested, these individuals will be fingerprinted and deported immediately with no possibility of returning to Kuwait again. The recent campaigns, launched in various locations, were supervised by Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs Major-General Hamad Al-Munifi, Major General Abdullah Safah, and other security leaders.

## Private sector

Continued from Page 1

Additionally, the failure of the free zone has led many industrialists to refrain from investing in Kuwait, causing them to emigrate.

Analyst and economic expert Mohammed Ramadan supports the necessity of stimulating and encouraging the Kuwaiti private sector to diversify income sources and provide an opportunity for the return of Kuwaiti capital. However, he rejects any tendency to impose taxes on the private sector, believing it will negatively affect citizens and consumers by increasing the prices of goods.

Ramadan also mentioned the state's plan to raise the value of industrial coupons, noting that this would revive both the industry and the state.

The industrial sector would benefit from the exit of non-essential industries, thereby increasing the competitiveness of national products and aiding in diversifying income sources.

He stressed the importance of giving a five-year grace period to new industries and maintaining support for water, electricity, and land for strategic industrial projects, including oil and pharmaceutical industries, which are essential to the state.

He pointed out that Qatar's recent move to reduce industrial fees is not directly applicable to Kuwait, as Qatar supports strategic projects.

In Kuwait, there are those who obtain industrial plots and rent them out, generating returns without benefiting the state.

Ramadan called for learning from the successful pharmaceutical industry in Ras Al Khaimah, specifically the Julphar Company, which exports medicines worldwide. He stressed the need to support industries that contribute to the national product and employ national cadres to address the employment problem.

## Kuwait society

Continued from Page 1

Al-Hussein pointed out that global and local changes, such as climate change and Kuwait's commitment to reducing carbon emissions, necessitate a shift toward renewable energy. The authorities in Kuwait are actively preparing to launch and implement various energy projects in response.

She highlighted the importance of the 2022 legislation on purchasing energy from citizens, which will bring a significant shift in renewable energy reliant on solar panels. The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable

Energy has made substantial progress in coordinating with regulatory bodies to finalize this comprehensive and gap-free legislation, which is expected to be approved soon.

Initially, the legislation focused on private housing, benefiting citizens by encouraging the installation of solar panels, which can provide up to 40% of a home's energy needs. Smart inverters will be installed to maximize the use of renewable energy from citizens' homes, supplying it to the electrical grid and purchasing it from the citizen at a set price per kilowatt.

Al-Hussein stressed the need for state and private sector support to motivate citizens to install solar panels, suggesting good loans to cover the project's cost, which has significantly decreased from 50,000 dinars to around 10,000 dinars for a 400 square meter house over the past decade due to advancements in technology and global competition.

She advocated for the use of renewable energy as a national project that would create job opportunities for Kuwaiti youth, similar to the renewable energy job market in Germany. She also called for the inclusion of renewable energy specializations in engineering colleges and scientific institutes to prepare for the promising future of this field.

Al-Hussein praised the housing welfare decision requiring new buildings to use 10-15% renewable energy and suggested increasing the percentage for the commercial and industrial sectors up to 25% based on feasibility studies. She also recommended applying these requirements to existing buildings, as long as technical and financial feasibility is ensured.

She emphasized that exploiting renewable energy is a global trend and essential for Kuwait to follow. She recalled the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad's initiative in 1978 to install solar panels in Germany, highlighting Kuwait's pioneering spirit.

Al-Hussein urged the Ministry of Education to install solar panels on school rooftops, utilizing the energy generated to support neighboring buildings during after-school hours.

She explained that failing to implement this initiative would be a waste of energy and emphasized the need for a decision from the Council of Ministers to approve this trend. She also suggested that buildings along the Gulf Coast could install solar panels on their roofs through a decision from the Tourism Projects Company, and that cooperative societies should be required to produce 50% of their electricity from solar panels, which would require a decision from the Ministry of Social Affairs. Additionally, solar panels could be installed on all lighting poles.

Suad Al-Hussein, head of the Kuwaiti Society for Sustainable Energy, mentioned that the organization was declared a public benefit association in 2022. Its mission is to educate society about the importance of sustainable energy and work alongside executive authorities to achieve the vision set by the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad in 2012, aiming to produce 15% of Kuwait's electricity from sustainable energy.

Since its establishment in 2018, the Association has conducted numerous activities and events, and it includes an elite group of specialists among its members. Al-Hussein reiterated that within four years of installing solar

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Reconnaissance Research announced the establishment of a new "Political Affairs Unit" in celebration of its fifth anniversary, founded in July 2019. This new unit aims to develop specialized content in political studies and advance research practices, broadening professional understanding of political systems on both Arab and international levels.

The unit's comprehensive research agenda will also address contemporary history and political transformation, aiming to promote good governance, rule of law, integrity, and public participation.

Reconnaissance Research Founder and CEO Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri stated, "Reconnaissance Research serves as a platform for dialogue, showcasing local and international expertise." He added, "We are proud to welcome Abdulaziz Al-Otaibi to our team. His experience and knowledge in political science will significantly contribute to enhancing the center's role and achieving its goals."

Abdulaziz Al-Otaibi, the new head of the Political Affairs Unit, commented, "I am honored to join Reconnaissance Research. I have long followed its publications, and now I am privileged to be part of its esteemed team."

He further outlined that the unit's activities will include individual and collaborative research projects on specific countries or comparative studies, organizing conferences, public and private seminars, and workshops aligned with the unit's



Abdulaziz Al-Otaibi, the new head of the Political Affairs Unit



Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri, Reconnaissance Research Founder and CEO



Reconnaissance Research logo

research agenda.

### Unit Director: Abdulaziz Al-Otaibi

He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania. His research focuses on Islamic and Jewish political thought, political Islam, and various political systems. He has participated in conferences, including the Political Parties in Africa Conference and the Annual Islamic Philosophy Conference at Harvard University. Recently, he published an article in the Cambridge Review of International Affairs.

### Key Activities of the Center

Since its inception in 2019, the center has produced over fifty research reports and analytical papers on diverse topics. The center has organized more than forty specialized conferences and workshops aimed at fostering academic and societal dialogue. It has hosted over thirty international experts from various fields.

### Partnerships and Affiliations

Among the academic and research institutions the center has collaborated with are the Georgia Institute of Technology, Doshisha University in Japan, the Near East and South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, the Institute of Energy Economics in Japan, and Jawaharlal Nehru University in India. These partnerships facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise between Kuwaiti researchers and their international counterparts, enriching scientific research and academic interaction.



Highlights from five years of Reconnaissance Research events, showcasing key moments and influential discussions.

## Kuwait, Guinea strengthen worker relations

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Marzouq Al-Otaibi recently met with Ambassador of Guinea to Kuwait Mamady Traoré and his accompanying delegation to discuss ways to strengthen relations between the two countries; particularly in the recruitment of technical and domestic workers, reports Annahar daily.

Al-Otaibi affirmed that PAM remains committed to co-

operating with Guinea to facilitate procedures for the entry of its workers to Kuwait where they could enjoy privileges stipulated in the labor laws of the country.

On the other hand, Traoré expressed his happiness over the meeting, especially the willingness of PAM to support workers from his country. He added that Guinea is keen on strengthening its relationship with Kuwait.

panels, citizens will not pay for electricity consumption. She stressed the importance of motivating citizens to install solar panels through good loans and educating them on maintenance

methods. She also highlighted the potential for significant energy savings and environmental benefits from these initiatives. Al-Hussein called for comprehensive support from both the state and private sectors to make these projects feasible, ensuring that Kuwait remains at the forefront of renewable energy adoption.

panels, citizens will not pay for electricity consumption. She stressed the importance of motivating citizens to install solar panels through good loans and educating them on maintenance



### عمليات الخفجي المشتركة

## AL-KHAFJI JOINT OPERATIONS



الشركة الكويتية لنفط الخليج  
KUWAIT GULF OIL COMPANY (K.S.C.)

ارامكو لأعمال الخليج  
ARAMCO GULF OPERATIONS

### TENDER ADVERTISEMENT

Aramco Gulf Operations Company Limited ("AGOC") and Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (K.S.C.) ("KGOC"), (Al Khafji Joint Operations) invites intending bidders to participate for **the Tender No. BT857MD24 - MDD In-House and Online Training Courses.**

Each intending bidder may purchase the tender documents upon payment of **Saudi Riyals Three Hundred (SR 300) or Kuwaiti Dinars Twenty Four (KD 24) only** which is non-refundable by visiting our Contracts Department at Al-Khafji, Saudi Arabia, or KGOC Commercial Affairs Group located in Al-Ahmadi, Block 9 - Road 51 (Al-Magwa Road) Old MOI Building. The bidder may visit our KJO website: [www.kjo.com.sa](http://www.kjo.com.sa) and follows the path; E-Services □ Tendering □ Contractors □ Ongoing Tenders to review part of tender documents, before purchasing.

The sale of Tender Documents will be effective from **July 8, 2024, until 10:00 am, July 29, 2024.**

A Pre-Tender meeting will be held at the Auditorium, "Office Park" Building, at Al-Khafji Joint Operations, Saudi Arabia, at **10:00 am local time on July 29, 2024.**

**Attending the Pre-Tender Meeting is Mandatory**

The Bidder shall have a minimum experience of Five (5) years in the last Ten (10) Years in similar scope of service under Schedule B Must have a proven record of training at least 100 employees in the last Four (4) years.

The bid proposal shall be delivered by hand-delivery or thru courier service to the Contracts Department in Al-Khafji Joint Operations, Al-Khafji, Saudi Arabia on or before the closing date **14:00 Hours, Monday, August 19, 2024** of the time stipulated in the tender document.

For more Information please contact

**Tel. No.: +966 (13) 765 5147      E-Mail: [ctdadmin@kjo.com.sa](mailto:ctdadmin@kjo.com.sa)**

**Website: [www.kjo.com.sa](http://www.kjo.com.sa)**



## JOINT OPERATIONS WAFRA

**SAUDI ARABIAN CHEVRON INC. (SAC) - KUWAIT GULF OIL COMPANY**

Joint Operations (Saudi Arabian Chevron Inc. / Kuwait Gulf Oil Company), announces the under-mentioned Public Tenders for procurement of materials.

Kuwaiti and Saudi Merchants, registered with either Company wishing to participate in any of the under-mentioned Tenders are invited to collect the Tender documents from Purchasing Section, Purchasing & Logistic Division, Administration Building, Ground Floor, Joint Operations, Wafra, during the official working hours from **8 JUL 2024** up to **28 JUL 2024** for a non-refundable fee mentioned against each tender. Tender Fees to be deposited in the National bank of Kuwait (NBK) Account No. 1001132057. Saudi Suppliers can collect the tender documents from Saudi Arabian Chevron office in Al-Khobar Telephone No.: (013) 8645104 - Fax No.: (013) 8985436

The closing date for the following Tenders will be on **Monday, 5 AUG 2024 @ 09:00 AM.**

| S.NO. | TENDER NO.  | MATERIALS   | FEES ( KD ) |
|-------|-------------|---|-------------|
| 1     | 014846 - R2 | S/F PACIFIC PUMPS   | 5           |
| 2     | 017603 - R1 | S/F SMITH PD METER  | 5           |
| 3     | 020239      | S/F WELL HEAD PROCESS CONTROL SCADA SYSTEM, EPRODUCTION SOLUTIONS | 5           |
| 4     | 020332      | LINER POLISHED ROD, HARBISON-FISCHER OR EQUIVALENT                | 15          |
| 5     | 020822      | BALL VALVES   | 5           |
| 6     | 020840      | AIR CONDITIONERS (COOLEX - GREE - PANASONIC) OR EQUIVALENT        | 15          |
| 7     | 020843      | PONY & SUCKER RODS  | 15          |
| 8     | 020904      | CONTROL VALVE, ROTORK OR EQUIVALENT                               | 15          |
| 9     | 021010      | S/F NUOVOPPIGNONE PUMP  | 35          |

**Notes:** Gate Passes are required for Suppliers entering JO-Wafra Administrative Offices to collect the tender documents and gate pass processing time is 48 hours. Please fill request for gate pass along with legible copies of Authorization letter, Civil ID, Car Registration, Supplier Registration (KGOC or SAC) to e-mail [HBJH@chevron.com](mailto:HBJH@chevron.com) and [CBMS@chevron.com](mailto:CBMS@chevron.com) at least 48 hours prior to arrival.

For additional information, you may contact: **Tel No.: 23983639 - Ext.: 2502 - 3477**



## World News Roundup

## Europe

## France votes

## Huge explosion hits Russian warehouse

KYIV, Ukraine, July 7. (AP): A village in a border region of western Russia was evacuated Sunday following a series of explosions after debris from a downed Ukrainian drone set fire to a nearby warehouse, local officials said.

Social media footage appeared to show rising clouds of black smoke in the Voronezh region while loud explosions could be heard in succession.

Gov **Aleksandr Gusev** said that falling wreckage triggered the "detonation of explosive objects." No casualties were reported, but residents of a nearby village in the Podgorensky district were evacuated, he said. Roads were also closed with emergency services, military and government officials working at the scene.



Gusev

A Ukrainian security official told The Associated Press that a strike had been carried out on a warehouse storing ammunition in the village of Serhiivka in the Voronezh region.

"The enemy stored surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, shells for tanks and artillery, and boxes of cartridges for firearms," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to give the information to the media. "It is from this warehouse that the occupiers supply ammunition to their troops in Ukraine."

Russia's Ministry of Defense did not address the strike in their morning briefing, but said that air defense systems had destroyed a Ukrainian drone over the Belgorod region.

Authorities in Russia's Krasnodar province on Saturday said a fire at an oil depot had also been caused by falling drone debris. Russia's emergency services said the blaze was extinguished Sunday morning.

The strikes come after a Ukrainian military spokesperson told The Associated Press Thursday that Kyiv's troops had retreated from a neighborhood on the outskirts of Chasiv Yar, a strategically important town in Ukraine's Donetsk region that has been reduced to rubble under a monthlong Russian assault.

Russian forces have for months tried to grind out gains in Ukraine's industrial east, in an apparent attempt to lock its defenders into a war of attrition. In a joint investigation published Friday, independent Russian news outlets Meduza and Mediazona reported that Moscow's forces were losing between 200 and 250 soldiers in Ukraine each day.

Military analysts say Chasiv Yar's fall could also compromise critical Ukrainian supply routes and put nearby cities in jeopardy, bringing Russia closer to its stated aim of seizing the entire Donetsk region.

Russian strikes have also heavily targeted Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

## Also:

**PARIS:** French President **Emmanuel Macron** voted in high-stakes legislative elections Sunday that could force him to share power with the rising far right.

Macron called the surprise vote after the anti-immigration, nationalist National Rally made huge gains in the June 9 European elections, taking a huge gamble that French voters would block the far-right party as they always have in the past.

But the National Rally instead won a larger share than ever in the first round on June 30, and its leader **Marine Le Pen** called on voters to give the party an absolute majority in Round 2.

Sunday's vote determines which party controls the National Assembly and who will be prime minister. If no party wins an absolute majority, forming a government comes only after extensive negotiations.

The first round on June 30 saw the largest gains ever for the anti-immigration, nationalist National Rally, led by Marine Le Pen.

A bit over 49 million people are registered to vote in the elections, which will determine which party controls the 577-member National Assembly. France's influential lower house of parliament, and who will be prime minister. If support is further eroded for Macron's weak centrist majority, he will be forced to share power with parties opposed to most of his pro-business, pro-European Union policies.

Voters at a Paris polling station were acutely aware of the far-reaching consequences for France and beyond.

"The individual freedoms, tolerance and respect for others is what at stake today," said **Thomas Bertrand**, a 45-year-old voter who works in advertising.

Racism and antisemitism have marred the electoral campaign, along with Russian cybercampaigns, and more than 50 candidates reported being physically attacked - highly unusual for France. The government is deploying 30,000 police on voting day.



**LONDON:** British Prime Minister **Keir Starmer** is heading off Sunday to the four corners of the U.K. as part of an "immediate reset" with governments in **Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.**

Starmer, who said he has a "mandate to do politics differently" after his party's landslide victory, will meet Scottish First Minister **John Swinney** in Edinburgh in an effort to "turn disagreement into cooperation."

"That begins today with an immediate reset of my government's approach to working with the first and deputy first ministers," he said. "Meaningful co-operation centered on respect will be key to delivering change across our **United Kingdom.**"

While each of the devolved nations in the U.K. elects members to the House of Commons in London, they also have their own regional parliaments.

Starmer's Labour Party trounced Swinney's Scottish National Party for seats in Parliament. But the SNP, which has pushed for Scottish independence, still holds a majority at Holyrood, the Scottish parliament.

The trip to build better working relations across the U.K. is part of Starmer's broader mission to work toward serving people as he tackles of mountain of problems.

The Labour government inherited a wobbly economy that left Britons struggling to pay bills after global economic woes and fiscal missteps. It also faces a public that is disenchanted after 14 years of chaotic Conservative rule and fiscal austerity that hollowed out public services, including the revered National Health Service, which Starmer declared broken.

Starmer said he wants to transfer power from the bureaucratic halls of government in London to leaders who know what's best for their communities.

After his brief tour, he'll return to **England**, where he plans to meet with regional mayors, saying in his first news conference Saturday that he would engage with politicians regardless of their party.



Democratic vice presidential candidate Sen Kamala Harris of California, speaks during the third day of the Democratic National Convention, at the Chase Center in Wilmington, Delaware, on Aug 19, 2020. Harris has been the White House's first line of defense after President Joe Biden's faltering performance in last week's debate with Donald Trump. (AP)

## Politics

## Trump claims to be unaware of it

## US President Biden assails Project 2025

MIAMI, July 7. (AP): Donald Trump has distanced himself from Project 2025, a massive proposed overhaul of the federal government drafted by longtime allies and former officials in his administration, days after the head of the think tank responsible for the program suggested there would be a second American Revolution.

"I know nothing about Project 2025," Trump posted on his social media website. "I have no idea who is behind it. I disagree with some of the things they're saying and some of the things they're saying are absolutely ridiculous and absurd. Anything they do, I wish them luck, but I have nothing to do with them."

The 922-page plan outlines a dramatic expansion of presidential power and a plan to fire as many as 50,000 government workers to replace them with Trump loyalists. President Joe Biden's reelection campaign has worked to draw more attention to the agenda, particularly as Biden tries to keep fellow Democrats on board after his disastrous debate.

"He's trying to hide his connections to his allies' extreme Project 2025 agenda," Biden said of Trump in a statement released by his campaign Saturday. "The only problem? It was written for him, by those closest to him. Project 2025 should scare every single American."

## Outlined

Trump has outlined his own plans to remake the government if he wins a second term, including staging the largest deportation operation in US history and imposing tariffs on potentially all imports. His campaign has previously warned outside allies not to presume to speak for the former president and suggested their transition-in-waiting efforts were unhelpful.

Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts said on Steve Bannon's "War Room" podcast Tuesday that Republicans are "in the process of taking this country back." Former U.S. Rep. Dave Brat of Virginia hosted the show for Bannon, who is serving a four-month prison term.

"We are in the process of the sec-

ond American Revolution, which will remain bloodless if the left allows it to be," Roberts said.

Those comments were widely circulated online and assailed by Biden's campaign, which accused Trump and his allies of "dreaming of a violent revolution to destroy the very idea of America."

Some of the people involved in Project 2025 are former senior administration officials. The project's director is Paul Dans, who served as chief of staff at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management under Trump. Trump's campaign spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt was featured in one of Project 2025's videos.

## Integrate

John McEntee, a former director of the White House Presidential Personnel Office in the Trump administration, is a senior adviser. McEntee told the conservative news site The Daily Wire earlier this year that Project 2025's team would integrate a lot of its work with the campaign after the summer when Trump would announce his transition team.

Trump's comments on Project 2025 come before the Republican Party's meetings this coming week to begin to draft its party platform.

Project 2025 has been preparing its own 180-day agenda for the next administration that it plans to share privately, rather than as part of its public-facing book of priorities for a Republican president. A key Trump ally, Russ Vought, who contributed to Project 2025 and is drafting this final pillar, is also on the Republican National Committee's platform writing committee.

Project 2025 said in a statement it noted tied to a specific candidate or campaign.

"We are a coalition of more than 110 conservative groups advocating policy and personnel recommendations for the next conservative president," it said. "But it is ultimately up to that president, who we believe will be President Trump, to decide which recommendations to implement."

A Biden campaign spokesperson said Project 2025 staff members are

also leading the Republican policy platform. "Project 2025 is the extreme policy and personnel playbook for Trump's second term that should scare the hell out of the American people," said Ammar Moussa.

## Also:

**NEW ORLEANS:** As President **Joe Biden** tries to revive his embattled reelection bid, Vice President **Kamala Harris** led a parade of Black Democrats who warned Saturday that the threat of another **Donald Trump** presidency remains the most important calculation ahead of November.

Yet in more than 20 minutes on stage at the Essence Festival of Culture, Harris did not acknowledge Biden's dismal debate performance or calls for the 81-year-old president to end his reelection bid. In fact, she barely mentioned Biden at all - a stark contrast to the Congressional Black Caucus members who forcefully and repeatedly defended the president by name.

"This is probably the most significant election of our lifetime," Harris said, before riffing on Trump musing about being a dictator, pushing the Supreme Court rightward and promising retribution on political enemies. "In 122 days, we each have the power to decide what kind of country we want to live in."

Harris's appearance at the nation's largest annual celebration of Black culture underscores what a difficult task it is for the White House and campaign to navigate questions about the president's aptitude. The dynamics are especially fraught for Harris, the first Black woman and person of south Asian descent to be elected vice president, and for the Black Democrats who were so instrumental in electing Biden and her in 2020.

On one hand, Harris fills the traditional role of loyal lieutenant, a job she did enthusiastically - and on the fly - in television appearances immediately after Biden's lackluster debate ended. Yet should Biden ultimately decide to step aside as presumptive nominee, she would be among the favorites, if not the favorite, to carry the Democratic banner against Trump.



People ride on the new roller coaster during the launching event at Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) Playland in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on July 5. The new ride, called 'ThunderVolt', launched on Friday at Vancouver's PNE Playland. (Xinhua)



Adams



Mallery

## America

**Beryl bears down on Texas:** Beryl was hurtling across the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico on a collision course with Texas, forecast to pick up strength and regain hurricane status before nearing the coast Sunday and making landfall the following day with heavy rains, howling winds and dangerous storm surge.

A hurricane warning was declared for a large stretch of the coast from Baffin Bay, south of Corpus Christi, to Sargent, south of Houston, and storm surge warnings were also in effect. Other parts were under tropical storm warnings.

"We're expecting the storm to make landfall somewhere on the Texas coast sometime Monday, if the current forecast is correct," said Jack Beven, a senior hurricane specialist at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. "Should that happen, it'll most likely be a Category 1 hurricane." (AP)



**Human remains found in NYC:** Decomposing human remains have been found wrapped in a sleeping bag and left out on the sidewalk for trash collection in Manhattan, New York City police said Saturday.

The grisly discovery happened around 5 pm on Friday after police received reports of a suspicious package with a foul smell outside of a building in the Kips Bay neighborhood.

Responding officers found the remains in a sleeping bag left alongside other garbage bags set out on the curb for garbage pickup, according to police. **Eric Adams** is the Mayor of New York City.

Video and photos shared on social media show what appears to be a full-sized body covered in a dark sleeping bag that was further wrapped in black trash bags.

The department has not released any details about the possible victim, including their age or gender. The medical examiner's office is conducting an autopsy to determine the cause of death and whether foul play is suspected, police said. (AP)



**Torrid heat bakes millions:** Roughly 130 million people were under threat over the weekend and into next week from a long-running heat wave that broke or tied records with dangerously high temperatures and is expected to shatter more from East Coast to West Coast, forecasters said.

Ukiah, north of San Francisco, hit 117 degrees Fahrenheit (47 degrees Celsius) on

Saturday, breaking the city's record for the date and tying its all-time high. Livermore, east of San Francisco, hit 111 F (43.8 C), breaking the daily maximum temperature

record of 109 F (42.7 C) set more than a century ago in 1905.

Las Vegas tied the record of 115 F (46 C), last reached in 2007, and Phoenix topped

out at 114 F (45.5 C), just shy of the record of 116 F (46.7 C) dating to 1942.

The National Weather Service said it was extending the excessive heat warning for much of the Southwest through Friday. "A dangerous and historic heatwave is just getting started across the area, with temperatures expected to peak during the Sunday-Wednesday timeframe," the National Weather Service in Las Vegas said in an updated forecast. (AP)



**Kentucky shooting kills 4:** Four people were killed and three others were wounded in an early Saturday shooting during a party at a home in northern Kentucky, police said.

The shooting suspect later died after fleeing the home and leading police on a vehicle pursuit that ended with the suspect's car falling into a ditch, police said.

Police heard shots being fired when they arrived at a home in Florence at about 2:50 am, said **Jeff Mallery**, the city's police chief. Police found seven shooting victims at the home, Mallery told media during a news conference.

Four people were found dead, police said. Three people were taken to a hospital in Cincinnati in critical condition. They were expected to recover, Mallery said.

The suspect, identified by police as Chase Garvey, 21, led officers on a chase that ended after his vehicle went off a road and fell into a ditch. Garvey had a self-inflicted gunshot wound and died at a hospital, police said. (AP)



French President Emmanuel Macron, right, signs after voting for the second round of the legislative elections in Le Touquet-Paris-Plage, northern France on July 7. Voting has begun in mainland France on Sunday in pivotal runoff elections that could hand a historic victory to Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally and its inward-looking, anti-immigrant vision - or produce a hung parliament and political deadlock. (AP)



## Lat/Am

## Price gougers warned

## 'Freedom!' chants at rallies in Venezuela

BARINAS, Venezuela, July 7, (AP): The chant is concise, but it could not be more meaningful for millions of Venezuelans in 2024: "Freedom!"

Members of the country's political opposition shout it with tears in their eyes, or red angry faces, or with hopeful ear-to-ear smiles. They shout it with Venezuelan flags in their hands or holding their children. They shout it sporting a soccer jersey or wearing a political party's T-shirt.

The calls for "libertad" have been a staple of the opposition's events ahead of the highly anticipated July 28 presidential election. With the official start of campaigns this week, they were deafening during a massive rally Saturday in the western Venezuelan state of Barinas, the home state of the late fiery President Hugo Chávez.



Maduro

Students, state employees, retirees, agriculture workers and business owners were among the thousands gathered in support of Edmundo González Urrutia, the only candidate with a real chance of ending President Nicolás Maduro's quest for a third term. Their chants, collectively, represent long-sought freedom from the 25-year rule of self-described socialist governments. Individually, people are seeking wide-ranging freedoms, including the freedom to post government criticisms on social media without fearing repercussions.

"I want economic freedom, freedom of purchasing power, freedom of a living wage," Virginia Linares, 41, said with teary eyes. "We feel locked in, we feel like something is being taken away from us because a salary that is not decent is a salary that overshadows us as people, we do not achieve the things we want, our dreams."

Public employees these days earn a monthly minimum wage of about \$3.60 plus \$130 in bonuses, while private-sector workers make on average \$210 a month. Neither monthly pay is enough for a family to buy a basic basket of goods, which costs about \$380.

## Crisis

Linares lost her beauty supply store in 2017 as a result of the social, economic and political crisis that has marked the entirety of Maduro's 11-year presidency. Her business is now online only, and her concerns over the country's economic conditions have increased now that her 17-year-old son has finished high school and is thinking about his future.

The July 28 election is shaping up to be the biggest challenge that Venezuela's ruling party has faced since Chávez became president in 1999. The party wants to maintain its absolute control for six more years, but its base, including in Barinas, is divided and disenchanted over the crisis.

The state had long been a bastion of the late president's movement, Chavismo. His brothers, Argenis Chávez and Adán Chávez, and father, Hugo de los Reyes Chávez, all served stints as governor from 1998 to 2021. The opposition ended the Chávezes reign and has since used that victory as motivation for its base.

Chávez, elected in 1998, promised to improve the lives of Venezuela's poorest using the country's oil. He expanded social services, including housing and education thanks to the country's oil bonanza, which generated revenues estimated at some \$981 billion between 1999 and 2011 as oil prices soared.

But corruption, a decline in oil production and economic policies led to a crisis that became evident in 2012. Before Chávez's death of cancer in 2013, he picked Maduro as his successor.

Maduro and his United Socialist Party of Venezuela have fended off challenges by barring rivals from elections and painting them as out-of-touch elitists in league with foreign powers. This time, their government control led to a court ruling blocking the candidacy of opposition powerhouse María Corina Machado, who won the October primary of the Unitary Platform coalition with more than 90% of support.

She has thrown her support behind González, a former ambassador who's never held public office.

## Also:

**SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador:** Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele, famous for his heavy-handed crackdown on street gangs, threatened to use similar tactics against price gougers.

Since 2022, Bukele has rounded up tens of thousands of suspected street gang members - often on little evidence - and filmed them being frog-marched in their underwear through vast new prisons.

In a speech late Friday, he threatened to use the same tactics on wholesalers and distributors who he blamed for a recent steep rise in the prices for food items and other basic goods.

"I am going to issue a call, like we did to the gangs at the start of 2019," Bukele said, referring to the year he was first elected. "We told them either stop killing people, or don't complain about what happens afterward." "Well, I'm going to issue a message to the importers, distributors and food wholesalers: stop abusing the people of El Salvador, or don't complain about what happens afterward."

He said "we are not playing around" and his threats were not a smokescreen. "I expect the prices to come down by tomorrow or there are going to be problems," he said.

Recently re-elected with 85% of the vote, Bukele controls Congress and has been granted special emergency powers to fight gangs for more than two years.

While his emergency powers probably wouldn't allow Bukele to lock people up for charging too much, he claimed there was evidence that wholesalers or importers had allegedly engaged in tax evasion, bribery and contraband importation, criminal charges that could warrant jail time.

The Salvadoran government has said inspectors have found some products had tripled in price, and while fines are a possibility, that probably isn't enough. The government has also announced plans to set up 20 sales points to distribute food "at fair prices."

It's all very much in character for Bukele, who once described himself as the "world's coolest dictator." Bukele is also riding a wave of popularity for his frontal attack on powerful gangs that once basically ruled many neighborhoods, extorting protection money from businesses and residents. The crackdown has converted what was once the world's murder capital into one of Latin America's safest countries.

The state of emergency originally declared in 2022 and still in effect has been used to round up 78,175 suspected gang members in sweeps that rights groups say are often arbitrary, based on a person's appearance or where they live.



Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, (left), and presidential candidate Edmundo Gonzalez, parade on a truck transporting them through a crowd of supporters during a campaign rally in Barinas, Venezuela on July 6. (AP)

## Asia

## Tokyo Gov Koike projected to win 3rd term

## Japan announces project with Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, July 7, (AP): Japan's foreign minister on Saturday announced a joint project with Cambodia to share knowledge and technology on land mine removal with countries around the world, including Ukraine.

Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa made comments during a visit to the Cambodian Mine Action Center, which was formed in the 1990s at the end of the Southeast Asian nation's decades of civil war. It seeks to deal with an estimated 4 million to 6 million land mines and other unexploded munitions left strewn around the countryside.

## Advanced

"Cambodia, which has steadily advanced mine removal within its own country, is now a leader in mine action around the world," she noted, adding that Japan has consistently cooperated in Cambodia's mine removal since the civil war.

Cambodian deminers are among the world's most experienced, and several thousand have been sent in the past decade under UN auspices to work in Africa and the Middle East. Cambodia in 2022 began training deminers from Ukraine, which also suffers from a high density of land mines and other unexploded munitions as the two-year Russian invasion drags on.

"As a concrete cooperation under the Japan Cambodia Landmine Initiative, Japan will provide full-scale assistance to humanitarian mine action in Ukraine," she said. "Next week, we will provide Ukraine with a large demining machine, and next month, here in Cambodia, we will train Ukrainian personnel on how to operate the machine."

The NGO Landmine Monitor in its 2022 report listed both Cambodia and Ukraine among nine countries with "massive" mine contamination, meaning they had more than 100 square kilometers (38.6 square miles) of uncleared fields.

Since the end of the fighting in Cambodia, nearly 20,000 people have been killed and about 45,000 have been injured by leftover war explosives, although the average annual death toll has dropped from several thousand to less than 100.

Despite a very active demining program, many dangerous munitions remain in place, posing a hazard to villagers.

Cambodia's training of Ukrainian

## Tornadoes kill 5, injure 83 in China's Shandong province

BEIJING, July 7, (Agencies): Five people were confirmed dead after tornadoes struck a city in the eastern Chinese province of Shandong, according to local media reports Saturday.

Tornadoes struck parts of the city of Heze on Friday afternoon, including the counties of Dongming and Juancheng, injuring 88 people. That includes five who were later confirmed dead, according to the state-owned Xinhua news agency.

Authorities said that 2,820 houses, 48 power supply lines and over 4,000 hectares of crops were damaged. Communication, power and water supplies have since been restored, state media said.

Tornadoes are usually seen in China's southern and coastal provinces such as Guangdong and Jiangsu, according to China Weather News, run by the China Meteorological Administration.

## Also:

**SYDNEY:** A man threatened police officers with a knife in a police station was shot dead by police on Saturday night in Australia's state of Queensland.

A Queensland police report issued on Sunday morning said that a 46-year-old man allegedly entered a police station in Kirwan,

a suburb in Queensland's City of Townsville, just after 10 p.m. local time Saturday, and threatened officers with a knife.

Police shot the man and immediately rendered first aid.

The man died a short time later, said the report.

**SYDNEY:** Papua New Guinea's Minister for Petroleum Jimmy Maladina was arrested in Australia's Sydney and charged with an alleged domestic assault offense, local media reported on Sunday.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) website reported that the ABC understands the minister was charged with domestic assault on Saturday morning after being arrested in Bondi, a suburb of eastern Sydney.

It said that police were called to an address in Bondi at about 10 a.m. local time Saturday after receiving reports of a domestic dispute. Officers spoke to a 31-year-old woman with facial injuries, allegedly as a result of an altercation with a 58-year-old man known to her.

The man was arrested, and taken to the police station where he was charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

deminers, in Poland as well as Cambodia, came after former Prime Minister Hun Sen - in an unusual move for a nation that usually aligns itself with Russia and China - condemned Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, saying "Cambodia is always against any country that invades another country."

## Also:

**TOKYO:** Tokyo's incumbent governor, Yuriko Koike, is projected to win her reelection as head of Japan's influential political party, a record 55 candidates challenged Koike, and one of the top contenders was also a woman - a liberal-leaning former lawmaker who uses only her first name, Renho, and was backed by opposition parties.

Minutes after the exit poll projecting her victory, Koike showed up at her campaign headquarters in Tokyo and celebrated by thanking the voters who chose her.

"I believe the voters gave me a mandate for my accomplishment in the past eight years," Koike said. She pledged to push for more reforms and support for Tokyo residents.



In this photo released by Agence Kampuchea Press (AKP), Cambodian Senate President Hun Sen, (right), poses for photographs with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa during a meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on July 6. (AP)



Traore



Khamula

## Africa

**Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger sign pact:** Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger have announced the creation of the Confederation of the Alliance of Sahel States during the institution's first summit held here on Saturday, marking a significant step toward establishing an economic-military bloc and moving away from regional and Western countries following a series of coups.

In a joint statement, the leaders -- Ibrahim Traore of Burkina Faso, Assimi Goita of Mali and Abdourahmane Tchiani of Niger -- praised the successful synergy between the three states in combating terrorism within the alliance area and emphasized their commitment to deeper integration among member states. "Considering our shared goal of an effective fight against terrorism in the Sahel, particularly in the Liptako-Gourma region, we have decided to take a significant step toward greater unity," the statement said.

Located at the borders of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, the Liptako-Gourma region is the epicenter of the security crisis in the broader Sahel region, which began in 2012. On Sept 16, 2023, the three countries signed the Liptako-Gourma Charter, establishing the Alliance of Sahel States (AES).

The three leaders on Saturday commended the establishment of a unified Sahel states force during a chiefs of staff meeting in Niamey, the capital of Niger, in March. The force's mission is to implement a permanent trilateral plan to combat armed terrorist groups, transnational organized crime and other threats faced by these states.

Moreover, the leaders resolved to equip the confederation with "independent instruments for financing our economic and social policies" and to create a mechanism facilitating the free movement of people, goods and services within the AES space. They announced the creation of an investment bank within the AES and decided to establish a stabilization fund.

Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger previously announced their withdrawal from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) following the creation of the AES. The leaders of the three countries reaffirmed their "commitment to the principles and objectives enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations" and reiterated their dedication to the ideals, principles and objectives of the African Union and Pan-Africanism. (Xinhua)

**'4.2m Malawians face hunger':** Up to 4.2 million people in Malawi are expected to experience high levels of acute food insecurity between June and September, said

a report released by Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee, a government-led multi-agency body.

The landlocked country, bordering Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania, experienced El Nino weather early in the year that caused

drought and floods in 23 out of 28 districts, leading to a 17-percent output drop in agricultural production, according to the report.

In 2023, Malawi produced 3.5 million metric tonnes of maize, the country's staple food, but the output dropped to 2.9 million

metric tonnes in the 2024 harvest season.

The report indicated that the situation is bound to worsen by October when the food-insecure population is estimated to increase to 5.7 million, 28 percent of the population, as the country reaches the seasonal lean period.

The report further calls for immediate distribution of over 261,500 metric tonnes of maize to vulnerable households in the affected districts across Malawi.

The country's Department of Disaster Management Affairs Spokesperson Chipiliro Khamula told the local media Wednesday that the department is working on a response plan and the mobilization of resources.

Meanwhile, the World Food Program (WFP) is targeting 2.5 million people of the affected population with food assistance, said Simon Denhere, the organization's deputy country director.

The WFP country chief told local media that the response program requires 80 million US dollars but the organization had only raised 20 million dollars in anticipation of the food situation.

"We're still engaging with our partners to mobilize the remaining funds and the response, so far, is positive," Denhere, told the local media.

The World Bank estimates that about 72 percent of Malawians will face poverty this year following the weather shocks as inflation is expected to average 27 percent. (Xinhua)



Rescuers strengthen a waterproof cover at an embankment in Huarong County, central China's Hunan Province on July 7. Rescuers are racing against time to strengthen an embankment after a dike breach at China's second-largest freshwater lake in Hunan Province on July 5. (Xinhua)



## gold prices surge 2.5% to \$2,390 per ounce

Gold prices rose 2.5 percent, closing at USD 2,390 per ounce at the end of last week's trading, driven by discouraging US economic data. A specialized report by the Kuwaiti Dar Al-Sabayek Company on Sunday highlighted that the US labor market showed weak employment figures for June, with only 200,000 jobs added compared to 218,000 in May.

The report also noted a slight increase in the unemployment rate,

which rose to 4.1 percent in June from 4 percent in May. This shift led investors to move their investments towards precious metals markets, away from the US market.

Gold prices experienced a strong recovery amid expectations of a 25 basis point cut in US interest rates by September. Additionally, the comprehensive changes following the British elections, with the Labor Party's victory paving the way for a potential cut in the British interest

rate, further boosted gold prices.

This week is set to be significant for gold prices, with the release of key economic data such as the Consumer Price Index and the Producer Price Index for June in the United States.

Furthermore, the semi-annual testimony of US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell on monetary policy before the Senate Banking Committee will also influence gold market movements. (KUNA)

## Bitcoin hits record high amidst recovery

The amount of cryptocurrency stolen globally via heists more than doubled in the first half of 2024, according to blockchain researchers at TRM Labs, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This surge was driven by soaring cryptocurrency prices and a small number of large attacks. According to data released Friday, \$1.38 billion worth of cryptocurrencies were stolen through June 24,

compared to \$657 million during the same period in 2023. The average theft was also one and a half times higher than during the same period a year ago.

"While we have not seen any fundamental changes in the security of cryptocurrencies, we have found significant increases in the value of many currencies, from Bitcoin to Solana, when compared

to last year," the researchers noted. TRM Labs researchers believe that crypto criminals now have a greater incentive to attack crypto services and can steal more.

Cryptocurrencies in general have recovered from the lows recorded at the end of 2022 after the collapse of Sam Bankman-Fried's FTX company, with Bitcoin reaching an all-time high of \$73,804 in March.

## Market Movements 07-07-2024

|       |          | Change  | Closing pts |  | Change | Closing pts |
|-------|----------|---------|-------------|--|--------|-------------|
| SAUDI | - TASI   | +29.95  | 11,688.61   |  |        |             |
| EGYPT | - EGX 30 | +237.35 | 28,602.14   |  |        |             |

# Business

## Bank signs partnership agreement with SAG to integrate applications, data across its international locations

# National Bank of Kuwait to implement Super iPaaS solution in region

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) signed a strategic partnership agreement with Software AG technology solutions company that will allow NBK to use the company's solution as a unified platform to integrate applications and data, across its international locations of KSA, UAE, Bahrain, Egypt, London and France.

The five-year agreement was signed by Mr. Mohammed Al Kharafi, COO - Head of Group Operations and Information Technology at NBK, and Mr. Rami Kichli - Senior Vice President - ME and Turkey at SAG, in the presence of Mark Diamond - Chief Technology Transformation Officer at NBK, and Mr. Yaser Nasif - Country Manager - Kuwait Jordan and Qatar at SAG, and Mr. Feras Juma - Pre Sales and Solution Lead - ME and Turkey at SAG.

Speaking on this, Mr. Mohammed Al Kharafi, COO - Head of Group Operations and Information Technology at National Bank of Kuwait, stated: "We are happy to sign this partnership with SAG, which will provide us with integration suite that serves as a unified platform, seamlessly integrating applications, data, API management for our operations. This standardization will enable



digital integration with beyond our Kuwait Head Office and across our international locations."

"Under this agreement, NBK will obtain the cutting-edge Super iPaaS solution, which will enable integration of applications, data and API management across our international locations, thus enhancing execution efficiencies for our Consumer and Corporate offerings. This comes as we develop further our digital propositions

into our international markets, marking a pivotal transformation towards increasing our operational efficiency" added Al-Kharafi.

"Group Operations and Information Technology play a fundamental role in serving NBK's strategy by providing cutting-edge digital banking solutions. We are always seeking to embrace innovation across all of the bank's operations and business models to keep pace with the fast-



Photos from the event.

paced technological advancement in the banking industry," he remarked.

On his part, Mr. Rami Kichli - Senior Vice President - ME and Turkey at SAG stated: "This signing with National Bank of Kuwait is significant for two reasons. First, it extends our robust and successful strategic partnership with Kuwait's leading bank, which began in 2017, to modernize and refine its digital backbone to also include its interna-

tional subsidiaries."

"Second, it marks Software AG's first Super iPaaS implementation in Middle East and Turkey, a milestone that underscores our commitment to innovation. The project highlights the critical role of integration in digital transformation, paving the way for innovative and unified services that support long-term goals and foster a more connected digital future," he added.

It is worth mentioning that NBK

is committed to making digital and technology investments across its network, which comprises 140 branches, subsidiaries, and representative offices in 13 countries on four continents. These locations encompass major financial hubs like London, New York, Paris, Geneva, and Singapore, as well as Shanghai in China, with regional coverage extending to Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, and Lebanon.

# Kuwait's economic indicators surge in oil and stock markets, reports Al-Shall

## Budget deficit forecast amid high expenditures

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Al-Shall's weekly report for June 2024 highlighted significant developments in Kuwait's economic indicators, particularly in the oil sector and the stock market, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The average price of Kuwaiti oil per barrel in June 2024 was approximately \$84.9, surpassing the budgeted estimate of \$70 per barrel by about \$14.9 or 21.3%. This marks a slight increase of 0.6% from the average price of \$84.4 per barrel in the previous fiscal year 2023-2024.

Kuwait's expected oil revenues for June 2024 are around 1.6 billion dinars. If production levels and prices remain stable, total oil revenues for the fiscal year 2024-2025, after deducting production costs, are projected to reach approximately 20.01 billion dinars. This exceeds the budgeted estimate by 3.78 billion dinars due to higher-than-expected oil prices.

With non-oil revenues estimated at about 2.42

billion dinars, total budget revenues for the fiscal year 2024-2025 are anticipated to reach approximately 22.44 billion dinars.

However, budget expenditures are expected to amount to 24.55 billion dinars, potentially resulting in a deficit of 2.11 billion dinars for the fiscal year. The outcome heavily hinges on developments in oil revenues moving forward.

The Kuwait Stock Exchange experienced a less active period in June compared to May, with all indices reporting negative performance. The Premier Market Index declined by approximately -1.8%, the Main Market Index by about -0.8%, and the General Market Index by -1.6%. Similarly, the Main Market 50 Index decreased by -0.5%.

Total liquidity in the stock exchange for June was 838.5 million dinars, a decrease of 34.9% from May's liquidity of 1.28 billion dinars. The average daily trading value for June was 46.6 million dinars, down by 20.4% from May's average of 58.5 million dinars.

Overall liquidity in the first half of 2024 amounted to approximately 6.63 billion dinars, with an

average daily trading value of 55.8 million dinars. This represents a significant increase of 31.7% compared to the same period in 2023, indicating robust activity despite market fluctuations.

The Premier Market dominated the stock exchange, accounting for 78.7% of liquidity, with high concentration among a few key companies. Notably, two companies, KFH and Gulf Bank, captured 36.9% of the first market's liquidity.

Meanwhile, the main market secured 21.3% of liquidity, with a similar trend of concentration among a smaller group of companies.

Comparing liquidity distribution between the first and main markets, there has been a notable increase in the main market's share, positioning it favorably compared to its distribution throughout 2023.

These insights from Al-Shall's report underscore the dynamic economic landscape in Kuwait, influenced significantly by oil revenues and stock market performance, amid ongoing fiscal challenges and market volatility.

## Investors' orders exceed \$1.8 billion

# Warba Bank issues green sukuk worth \$500 million

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Warba Bank announced the success of issuing sukuk worth USD 500 million, assuring its sustainability practices and significantly strengthens its financial position. This strategic decision reflects the strength of the Bank's credit position and confirms its commitment to achieving remunerative and sustainable returns for investors. The issuance received an exceptional turnout, as Investors' orders amounted to USD 1.8 billion, equivalent to almost four times the issue size.

In this regard, Mr. Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanem, CEO of Warba Bank, said: "Issuing these sukuk represents an important strategic step in strengthening our financial framework. It is in line with our strategic initiatives to enhance financial flexibility and supports our ongoing efforts to improve the liquidity structure and enhance our ability to confront financial challenges. This issuance also reflects the great confidence placed by investors in our ability to fulfill our financial obligations, which enhances the strength of our financial position and confirms our leadership in good governance practices. This is the first sustainable sukuk to be issued in Kuwait."

Al-Ghanem added: "We are proud that this issuance is consistent with the foundations of sustainability, which reflects our deep commitment to our banking responsibility and our integrated strategy applying sustainability standards in our banking operations." He stressed that "This approach not only attracts a broader base of investors; it also sets a standard for future financial instruments in the region, and drives innovation in financial markets."

Al-Ghanem continued, saying: "The issuance of these sukuk represents an important stage in Warba Bank's journey in the field of sustainability, as it is one of the leading banks compatible with the provisions of Islamic Sharia in Kuwait."

Al-Ghanem stated that the Bank has always adopted sustainability as a fundamental strategic pillar, in addition to providing best distinguished banking experiences and solutions for clients. This also contributes to the efforts made by Warba Bank in the field of sustainability. Pointing out that this issuance proves our commitment to providing customized and innovative financial solutions



Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanem

**Al-Ghanem:**  
■ This strategic decision reflects the strength of the Bank's credit position.  
■ Investors orders quadruple the issue size.  
■ This is the first sustainable sukuk issued in Kuwait.

## Elder fraud epidemic sweeps US

# Financial industry faces growing fraud threats

WASHINGTON, July 7, (AP): The scammers are winning. Sophisticated overseas criminals are stealing tens of billions of dollars from Americans every year, a crime wave projected to get worse as the U.S. population ages and technology like AI makes it easier than ever to perpetrate fraud and get away with it.

Internet and telephone scams have grown "exponentially," overwhelming police and prosecutors who catch and convict relatively few of the perpetrators, said Kathy Stokes, director of fraud prevention at AARP's Fraud Watch Network.

Victims rarely get their money back, including older people who have lost life savings to romance scams, grandparent scams, technical support fraud and other common grifts.

"We are at a crisis level in fraud in society," Stokes said. "So many people have joined the fray because it is pretty easy to be a criminal. They don't have to follow any rules. And you can make a lot of money, and then there's very little chance that you're going to get caught."

A recent case from Ohio, in which an 81-year-old man was targeted by a scammer and allegedly responded with violence, illustrates the law enforcement challenge.

Police say the man fatally shot an Uber driver after wrongly assuming she was in on a plot to extract \$12,000 in supposed bond money for a relative. The driver fell victim to the same scammer, dispatched to the home midway between Dayton and Columbus to pick up a package for delivery, according to authorities.

Homeowner William Brock was charged with murder in the fatal March 25 shooting of Lo-Letha Hall, but the scammer who threatened Brock over the phone and set the tragic chain of events in motion remains on the loose more than three months later.

Brock pleaded not guilty, saying he was in fear

for his life.

Online and telephone rackets have become so commonplace that law enforcement agencies and adult protective services don't have the resources to keep up.

"It's a little bit like drinking from a fire hose," said Brady Finta, a former FBI agent who supervised elder fraud investigations. "There's just so much of it, logistically and reasonably, it's almost impossible to overcome right now."

Grifts also can be difficult to investigate, particularly ones that originate overseas, with stolen funds quickly converted into hard-to-track cryptocurrency or siphoned into foreign bank accounts.

Some police departments don't take financial scams as seriously as other crime and victims wind up discouraged and demoralized, according to Paul Greenwood, who spent 22 years prosecuting elder financial abuse cases in San Diego.

"There's a lot of law enforcement who think that because a victim sends money voluntarily through gift cards or through wire transfers, or for buying crypto, that they're actually engaging in a consensual transaction," said Greenwood, who travels the country teaching police how to spot fraud. "And that is a big mistake because it's not. It's not consensual. They've been defrauded."

Federal prosecutors typically don't get involved unless the fraud reaches a certain dollar amount, Greenwood said.

The U.S. Justice Department says it does not impose a blanket monetary threshold for federal prosecution of elder financial abuse. But it confirmed that some of the 93 U.S. attorneys' offices nationwide may set their own thresholds, giving priority to cases in which there are more victims or greater financial impact. Federal prosecutors file hundreds of elder fraud and abuse cases annually.

The Federal Trade Commission says the "vast majority" of frauds go unreported. Often, victims

are reluctant to come forward.

A 74-year-old woman recently charged with robbing a credit union north of Cincinnati was the victim of an online scam, according to her family. Authorities say they believe the woman was preyed on by a scammer, yet there is no record she made a formal police report.

"These people are very good at what they do, and they're very good at deceiving people and prying money out of them," said Fairview Township, Ohio, police Sgt. Brandon McCroskey, who investigated the robbery. "I've seen people almost want to fist fight the police and bank tellers because they... believe in their mind that they need to get this money out."

Elder people hold more wealth as a group and present a ripe target for scammers. The impact can be devastating since many of these victims are past their working years and don't have much time to recoup losses.

Elder fraud complaints to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center rose by 14% last year, with losses increasing by 11% to \$3.4 billion, according to a recent FBI report.

Other estimates put the annual loss much higher. A 2023 AARP study calculated that Americans over 60 lose \$28.3 billion each year to fraud. The Federal Trade Commission, seeking to account for unreported losses, estimated fraudsters stole a staggering \$137 billion in 2022, including \$48 billion from older adults. The authors of that study acknowledged a "considerable degree of uncertainty."

In San Diego, 80-year-old William Bortz said criminals stole his family's nest egg of almost \$700,000 in an elaborate scheme involving a nonexistent Amazon order, a fake "refund processing center" in Hong Kong, doctored bank statements and an instruction that Bortz needed to "synchronize bank accounts" in order to get his money back.

related to environmental and social governance that will lead the global transformation towards a sustainable economy. Through this issuance the Bank also aims to become one of the leading banks in Kuwait in the field of sustainable finance.

The funds raised through this issuance will be allocated to finance or refinance projects that are consistent with Warba Bank's sustainability framework, which includes initiatives focused on renewable energy, sustainable water management, and community development projects that meet standards supporting environmental, social and institutional governance.

This issuance also supports Basel liquidity requirements, which enhances the Bank's liquidity flexibility, makes it stronger and more efficient in meeting the needs of our clients and enhancing our ability to grow sustainably.

Warba Bank is one of the banks that has achieved great successes in a short period, as it occupied a leadership position in the field of Islamic digital banking services for individuals, and it is one of the largest local banks in the number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent components that make the Bank close to all members of society.



### Zimbabwe calls for more investment in irrigation dev

Zimbabwean President Emerson Mnangagwa on Friday underscored the need for investments in irrigation development to de-risk the country from the side effects of climate change. Speaking at an irrigation investment conference in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, Mnangagwa said with further investments in irrigation development, agricultural modernization, and mechanization, Zimbabwe can realize

win-win benefits that guarantee food security at both household and national levels. "We welcome investments and partnerships for the development of additional land for irrigation purposes around new dams for cereal production, high-value crops and pastures," Mnangagwa said. "Prospects exist for sustainable partnerships as we march forward towards the country's irrigation potential of 2 million hectares."

Zimbabwe is reeling under the effects of the El Nino-induced drought this year, which has left 60 percent of the country's population food insecure and in need of food aid. Mnangagwa said scaling up irrigation development around the many high-impact dams dotted across the country has the potential to realize multipronged benefits in terms of total area of irrigable land, food security, and agro-based industries. (Xinhua)

### Algeria signs agricultural deal with Italian company

Algeria on Saturday signed a framework agreement with the Italian company Bonifiche Ferraresi to develop an integrated project for grain, legume, and pasta production in the Algerian southern province of Timimoun, Algeria's official APS news agency reported. In his remarks at the signing ceremony, Algerian Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Youcef Chorfia said the project, worth 420 million euros (455

million U.S. dollars), aligns with Algeria's policy to enhance food security as part of the national plan to develop strategic sectors such as grains, legumes, sugar and oil plants, seeds, and milk. According to Chorfia, this project would be the second major agricultural and industrial venture realized in Algeria recently, following a similar agreement signed in April with Qatar's Baladna company to establish a dairy farm and pow-

dered milk production facility in the southern province of Adrar. He added that these projects demonstrated the government's growing interest in opening agricultural investment to both public and private Algerian investors, in partnership with foreign partners. Federico Vecchioni, CEO of Bonifiche Ferraresi, described the project as highly significant and strategic, given its international dimensions. (Xinhua)

### Beijing eyes 30% boost by 2025

# China beefs up computing power as new economic catalyst

BEIJING, July 7, (Xinhua): Amid the global race to build artificial general intelligence, the development of stronger computing power has become a major focal point of China's strategic initiatives, driven by the needs of a booming digital economy and innovations in large language models.

Data revealed at the Global Digital Economy Conference 2024, which closed on Friday in Beijing, showed that by the end of last year, the total number of standard racks in use at data centers nationwide had exceeded 8.1 million in China, with a total computing power of 230 EFLOPS. EFLOPS is a measurement unit used to determine a computer's speed. A 1 EFLOPS computing system can complete 1 quintillion floating-point operations per second.

In the era of interconnected devices and data surges, computing power, as the "new energy" of the digital economy, is reshaping global economic landscapes at an unprecedented pace, said Wang Xiaoli, who is with the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, at the conference.

Looking ahead, China aims to boost the country's aggregate computing power by more than 30 percent by 2025, according to a plan released by six government departments in October 2023. The plan also sets a target for China's total computing power to reach 300 EFLOPS by 2025.

During this process, computing systems and data centers require substantial electricity to operate and cool hardware, making energy efficiency a critical consideration in the development of computing power.

In order to meet increasing energy demands, China's related sectors have undertaken extensive efforts to integrate the development of green energy with computing power. At the just-concluded conference, Yan Gang, technical

director of Yovole Network, a Shanghai-based cloud computing data center service provider, outlined their strategy for efficient energy storage using advanced energy management technologies.

"Our intelligent computing center employs combined cooling, heating, and power systems using hydrogen energy, photovoltaic storage, indirect evaporative cooling and liquid cooling technologies. In April, we also partnered with Tesla to apply their Megapack energy storage technology at our intelligent computing center," Yan said.

Meanwhile, due to the strong demand for computing power, eastern regions of China have shared development opportunities in the digital era with the rest of the country.

Expansive and resource-rich western provincial-level regions in China leverage significant advantages in terms of green energy and favorable geographical conditions. These factors enable them to provide high-quality computing resources and have led them to seize the opportunity to establish massive data centers that support the country's intelligent industries.

In December 2023, the city of Ulanqab in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region signed a strategic cooperation memorandum with the Beijing Municipal Commission of Economy and Information Technology to promote the influx of green computing power into Beijing.

According to Chai Yue, vice mayor of Ulanqab, the city plans to provide Beijing with over 10,000 PFLOPS of green general-purpose computing power annually by 2025. One PFLOP, or petaFLOP, equals one quadrillion floating-point operations per second.

Additionally, the region's computing power resources have transformed it from a traditional hub of the livestock industry into an attraction for AI-related sectors. According to the Big Data Management Bureau of Hohhot, the regional capital, half of the 70 large models registered in Beijing are undergoing training in Inner Mongolia.

In addition to establishing infrastructure such as data centers, computing service providers across various industries are exploring ways to integrate computing power directly into enterprises, households and business districts.

This promising sector is exploring the "computing power plus" model, forging deep collaborations with sectors including finance, education, healthcare, and transportation.

In 2020, Beijing launched an autonomous driving demonstration area in Yizhuang, located in a southern suburb of the capital. The intelligent road system utilizes holographic smart devices to monitor traffic conditions, supported by multifunctional poles along the road that transmit computational data to vehicles and real-time cloud systems. This vehicle-road collaboration technology, powered by abundant computing resources, optimizes driving solutions for cars, thereby enhancing traffic safety and efficiency.

"Computing power is widely applied across various sectors, including government, industry, transportation, and healthcare, continually driving the emergence of new technologies, models, and business forms. This infusion of innovation is providing significant momentum for high-quality economic development," said Jin Zhuanglong, minister of industry and information technology.

### Farms devastated

## Kenya's flooding sweeps away a central part of the economy

MACHAKOS, Kenya, July 7, (AP): With dismay, Martha Waema and her husband surveyed their farm that was submerged by weeks of relentless rainfall across Kenya. Water levels would rise to shoulder height after only a night of heavy downpour.

The couple had expected a return of 200,000 shillings (\$1,500) from their three acres after investing 80,000 shillings (\$613) in maize, peas, cabbages, tomatoes and kale. But their hopes have been uprooted and destroyed.

"I have been farming for 38 years, but I have never encountered losses of this magnitude," said the 62-year-old mother of 10.

Their financial security and optimism have been shaken by what Kenya's government has called "a clear manifestation of the erratic weather patterns caused by climate change."

The rains that started in mid-March have posed immediate dangers and left others to come. They have killed nearly 300 people, left dams at historically high levels and led the government to order residents to evacuate flood-prone areas - and bulldoze the homes of those who don't.

Now a food security crisis lies ahead, along with even higher prices in a country whose president had sought to make agriculture an even greater engine of the economy.

Kenya's government says the flooding has destroyed crops on more than 168,000 acres (67,987 hectares) of land, or less than 1% of Kenya's agricultural land.

As farmers count their losses - a total yet unknown - the deluge has exposed what opposition politicians call Kenya's ill preparedness for climate change and related disasters and the need for sustainable land management and better weather forecasting.

Waema now digs trenches in an effort to protect what's left of the

farm on a plain in the farthest outskirts of the capital, Nairobi, in Machakos County.

Not everyone is grieving, including farmers who prepared for climate shocks.

About 200 kilometers (125 miles) west of Waema's farm, 65-year-old farmer James Tobiko Tipis and his 16-acre farm have escaped the flooding in Olokirikirai. He said he had been proactive in the area that's prone to landslides by terracing crops.

"We used to lose topsoil and whatever we were planting," he said.

Experts said more Kenyan farmers must protect their farms against soil erosion that likely will be worsened by further climate shocks.

Jane Kirui, an agricultural officer in Narok County, emphasized the importance of terracing and other measures such as cover crops that will allow water to be absorbed.

In Kenya's rural areas, experts say efforts to conserve water resources remain inadequate despite the current plentiful rainfall.

At Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, professor John Gathenya recommended practices such as diversifying crops and emphasizing the soil's natural water retention capacity.

"The soil remains the biggest reservoir for water," he said, asserting that using it wisely requires much less of an investment than large infrastructure projects such as dams. But soil needs to be protected with practices that include limiting the deforestation that has exposed parts of Kenyan land to severe runoff.

"We are opening land in new fragile environments where we need to be even more careful the way we farm," Gathenya said. "In our pursuit for more and more food, we are pressing into the more fragile areas but not with the same intensity of soil conservation that we had 50 years back."

## Tesla emerges as new participant in Chinese 'government' procurement

SHANGHAI, July 7, (Xinhua): Several state-owned enterprises in the Shanghai pilot free trade zone have recently procured a batch of Tesla Model Y vehicles for corporate use, marking Tesla's entry into China's government procurement arena, local authorities said.

According to the administration of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone Lingang New Area, the move has demonstrated Lingang's commitment to treating domestic and foreign enterprises equally in government procurement activities.

It also highlights Lingang's ongoing efforts to enhance the business environment and expand openness, said an official with the administration.

Last month, announcements on the government procurement website of the neighboring Jiangsu Province, a major economic powerhouse, confirmed Tesla's entry into the province's new energy vehicle procurement catalog.

According to an official report in April on automotive data security compliance, Tesla was the sole foreign automaker among six companies that had met the specified cri-

teria. "Tesla's inclusion in multiple government procurement catalogs shows China's equal treatment of domestic and foreign enterprises. An open Chinese market will create more opportunities for international businesses," said Sun Yuanxin, an expert with the Collaborative Innovation Center of China Pilot Free Trade Zone at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics.

In May, Vice Commerce Minister Ling Ji emphasized China's openness to foreign-invested companies participating in government procurement during a roundtable discussion.

The Chinese government is committed to promoting high-standard opening up, expanding institutional opening up and practicing the principle of fair competition, Ling said.

Also in May, Tesla broke ground on a mega factory in Shanghai to manufacture its energy-storage batteries, known as Megapacks. It is the first factory of its kind to be built by Tesla outside the United States and is the company's second plant in Shanghai, following the inauguration of its gigafactory in 2019.

## World food prices remained stable in June, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported on Friday. The FAO also forecasted that global cereal output would reach an all-time high in 2024.

The broad FAO Food Price Index averaged 120.6 points last month, virtually unchanged from May. This marks the fourth consecutive month without a decline, following a steady decrease over nearly two years.

Compared to June 2023, however, the index was 2.1 percent lower. It also remained significantly lower, at 24.8 percent below its all-time high in March 2022, which occurred amid global price spikes following the onset of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

The prices of grains and cereals, the largest component in the index, fell by 3 percent compared to May, due to robust wheat harvests and favorable growing conditions in the Northern Hemisphere, according to the FAO. During the same period, rice and corn prices edged lower due to decreased demand.

Prices for vegetable oils increased by 3.1 percent compared to May due to higher demand for palm oil. Increased demand from the biofuel sector also contributed to pressure on soy and sunflower oil prices.

Dairy prices rose in June, up 1.2 percent compared to May and 6.6 percent higher than their level from a year earlier. Butter prices reached their highest level in two years due to growing global demand. However, production declines in Western Europe and low inventories in Oceania contributed to the upward pressure on prices.

Sugar prices rose by 1.9 percent from the previous month, rebounding after three consecutive months of declines. The increase is primarily driven by concerns over the harvest in Brazil, the world's leading sugar producer.

The FAO revised its forecast for global cereal production in 2024 to a record high of 2,854 million tonnes, according to its "Cereal Supply and Demand Brief" released on Friday.



This photo taken on April 19, 2024, shows a scene at the signing event for an agreement between Spain's auto company Ebro-EV Motors and China's Chery Automobile in Barcelona, Spain. (Xinhua)

## New vehicle terminal at Barcelona port to facilitate China car imports

BARCELONA, Spain, July 7, (Xinhua): A new vehicle terminal built at Spain's north-eastern Port of Barcelona will facilitate the import of Chinese-made electric vehicles (EVs) into the European market, a logistics manager from car manufacturer Omoda told Xinhua on Thursday.

Following a surge in demand for China-made EVs on the European market, permission was granted for the construction of a third terminal at the major Spanish port, a move which has been praised by players in the Chinese and Spanish automotive and logistics sectors.

Last week, the board of directors of the Barcelona Port Authority gave the green light to issue a call for tenders until 2027 for the contract to build the new terminal on the port's Prince of Spain pier.

Emilio Gomez, logistics manager of Omoda Spain, part of China's Chery auto group, welcomed the news, noting that Barcelona is the ideal place to

import cars made in China.

"Here in the Port of Barcelona we have a rail link with Central Europe, we have port connections with the rest of Europe: Italy, Greece, Turkey, France, etc., and here in Barcelona we are close to the French border, with access to the central European markets, including Poland, Austria, Hungary, etc.," said Gomez.

Last year, the Port of Barcelona imported a record number of 246,615 cars, 54 percent more than in 2022, of which a third were electric and mostly from China. Popular Chinese brands include Omoda and MG and the port will also serve to import cars made in China for Western automakers like Volvo and BMW.

The Omoda logistics manager told Xinhua that his company has imported over 2,500 Omoda 5 models since January, and that they are now increasing their operation in Barcelona to begin imports of the Jaecoo 7 model.

"We have told our partners here in the port what our critical points are, they know them, they respect them and they help us achieve our objectives day by day. So for us in logistics it's a delight to be able to work here in the Port of Barcelona," added Gomez.

The Barcelona port authorities say that the new 104,938 square-meter vehicle terminal will be finished in 2027 and will have direct access to the port's railway terminal.

One condition laid down by the Port of Barcelona is that the new terminal must be environmentally sustainable, and the future concession holder will have to use zero-emission vehicles in the facilities, encourage the use of electric trucks, and install solar panels.

"The development of this terminal reinforces our commitment to sustainability and intermodality, and to the future of the port and the automotive sector in Barcelona," a spokesperson for the Port de Barcelona said in a statement.

### Payra power plant has provided approximately 8,400 jobs

## BRI contributes to Bangladeshi power sector development

DHAKA, July 7, (Xinhua): Driving towards Payra Port, Bangladesh's third-largest port, a 220-meter high cooling tower can be seen standing tall within the plant area from a distance. This plant area is home to Bangladesh's largest power station, a 1,320 MW ultra-supercritical coal-fired power plant.

Previously, Bangladesh faced a power supply gap due to a lack of mineral resources such as coal, inadequate power infrastructure, and rapidly growing electricity demand driven by fast economic growth. Power outages are common.

Against this background, in 2016, this key project jointly developed, invested, constructed and operated by China National Machinery Import & Export Corp., and Bangladesh's North-

West Power Generation Company Limited began construction.

In addition to overcoming global challenges such as poor geological conditions, significant variations in coal quality, and extremely high wind speeds, the Payra project also introduced ultra-supercritical technology to make Bangladesh the 13th country in the world to possess such technology.

In 2022, the power station was finally completed. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said at the inauguration ceremony, "This is the biggest thing that we've been able to do for every people."

"The Payra Power Plant is equivalent to the 'ballast stone' of Bangladesh's power supply," said Wang Xiangzhi, the Chinese technical manager on-site at the Bangladesh-China

Power Company Limited, adding that the plant can provide Bangladesh with 8.58 billion kWh of stable and reliable electricity annually, accounting for about 10 percent of the country's total electricity demand and 25 percent of the southwestern grid's demand.

Furthermore, to improve resource utilization efficiency, the project uses the by-products generated from the plant's operation as industrial materials. Currently, the ash and gypsum produced by the plant are used in industries such as brick-making, cement production, and road paving, effectively shutting down about 50 brick factories.

"While providing high-quality electricity, the Payra Power Plant also takes environmental friendliness into account, injecting green vitality

into Bangladesh's long-term development," said Wang.

"As a Chinese old saying goes, 'Teaching people to fish.' The Payra power plant has provided approximately 8,400 jobs and nearly 6,300 vocational skills training opportunities to local residents, becoming a well-deserved talent cultivation base in the area."

"From zero to now, we have learned a lot all from our Chinese colleagues over four years," said Bangladeshi engineer Injamam U Haque, who has been working on the project, adding that many graduates of related majors could not find corresponding jobs in their own country, but this power plant provided them with the opportunity to find corresponding jobs in their own country.





Engineer Aldharrab with Maryam Al-Enezi honoring the top-performing students.

## Event highlights stc's corporate social responsibility in education

# stc recognizes high achieving high school students for their academic excellence

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers enabling digital transformation in Kuwait, announced the honoring of the top performing high school students who achieved academic excellence. The event was held in line with the Company's extensive corporate social responsibility (CSR) framework, under the educational 'upgrade' umbrella, which aims to support the local education sector and initiatives initiated by various entities within the government and private sectors.

The recognition ceremony was held at stc's headquarters in Olympia Tower, and was attended by Maryam Al-Enezi, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development & Activities Sector at the Ministry of Education, and stc executives including Eng. Muataz Aldharrab, CEO of stc, as well as others. Family members of the high achiever students also attended the recognition ceremony to witness the proud moment. In addition, stc employees' children who excelled in their academic excellence were honored in appreciation of their efforts and to motivate them to continue their hard work in order to pursue their dreams.

During his short speech at the ceremony, Eng. Aldharrab highlighted that the students being recognized for their academic excellence serve as role models to their peers, showcasing their abilities to take on challenging tasks and achieve successful results. Their focus on channeling their thoughts and behaviors towards achieving their objectives is a skill that will serve them well throughout their academic years and beyond. Upon concluding his speech, Aldharrab expressed stc's pride in participating in the well-deserved recognition of these top-performing students and wished them a bright and prosperous future.



Engineer Aldharrab during his speech honoring the top-performing students.

### Aldharrab:

■ Our CSR approach stems from our strong belief in empowering the younger generation and driving them to excel in their chosen paths as they are the future leaders of our beloved country  
 ■ The honored students will have priority in joining the annual summer internship program throughout their university studies

Aldharrab stated, "Our approach stems from our strong belief in empowering the younger generation and driving them to excel in their chosen

paths as they are the future leaders of our beloved country. stc has been and will continue to be a pioneer in supporting initiatives and activities that aim to empower the younger generation across various aspects, while encouraging them to pursue their dreams and aspirations. Aldharrab also indicated that today's honored and outstanding students will have priority in joining the annual summer internship program within the Company throughout their university studies to enable and develop their capabilities."

Maryam Al-Enezi, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development & Activities Sector at the Ministry of Education expressed her thanks and appreciation to Kuwait Telecommunications Company stc for its continuous contribution and support to the educational initiatives through meaningful activities and events to empower future leaders. She pointed out that collaboration between the private and government sectors contributes strategically to highlighting the importance of promoting and developing education and focusing on sustainable education to create a lasting and positive impact on society.

In a statement, stc expressed that the Company has been a long-time supporter of students and graduates, having participated in numerous events. These initiatives align with the Company's strategy to empower and attract ambitious Kuwaiti talents who fit stc's dynamic culture. Additionally, the Company has participated in and sponsored various initiatives that aimed to support and contribute to the local education arena, especially under the umbrella of its educational 'upgrade' initiative. The Company highlighted that it will continue to explore opportunities of strategic collaborations within the education sector, stressing on the importance of knowledge and education to further develop the economy.



Group photo of participants in the summer camp.

## Summer program fosters artistic skills & heritage awareness

# KFH organizes summer program in collaboration with Sadu House

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has organized a summer program in partnership with Sadu House for "Baiti" account customers. The summer program includes "Fun with Weaving" workshops, introducing and training children in the art of handicrafts with a focus on weaving. This initiative demonstrates KFH's dedication to connecting the younger generation with traditional culture and national heritage, fostering intergenerational unity through its strategic partnership with Sadu House.

The program, which was hosted at Sadu House for a week, targets "Baiti" account customers aged 8 to 13. It includes workshops and interactive lectures conducted by supervisors and experts from Sadu House. The program aims to teach children handicrafts and new skills related to weaving, and introduce them to the unique textile heritage, particularly AlSadu. This initiative is designed to develop children's artistic abilities, connect them with their heritage, and foster teamwork through collaboration

with other young participants. Ultimately, the program seeks to nurture creativity and innovation by encouraging the exchange of knowledge and enhancing their critical thinking skills.

Additionally, the collaboration between KFH and Sadu House emphasizes the environmental factor, aligning with the concept of sustainability, a key component of the bank's strategy, vision, and mission. Additionally, the program aligns with KFH's (Keep it Green) environmental campaign through the use of recycled materials to convey to the children the significance of recycling and environment protection.

It is worth mentioning that KFH offers a "Baiti" account for children from birth until the age of 14. The account contributes to instilling the concept of saving among children. It also provides numerous advantages and helps children understand the importance of saving as a banking behavior that contributes to building their future.

## 'Focus on benefits and retirement planning'

# Financial tips for recent college graduates

NEW YORK, July 7, (AP): With graduation season over, many college grads are embarking on summer internships or their first full-time jobs. Navigating your finances when you start adult life can be challenging, from understanding your health insurance and benefits to managing a budget.

Finding a job is often the first hurdle, so if you've accomplished that, take a moment to be proud of yourself.

"Once you do get that first job, pat yourself on the back," said Nick Holeman, director of financial planning for Betterment, a financial advisory company.

Then it's time to think about your financial future. With credit card delinquencies growing and interest rates still high, it's more important than ever for recent graduates to start their adult lives on the right financial track.

Here are recommendations from experts about how to do that:

Getting your first job is exciting, but the onboarding process can feel overwhelming. When you start a new job, most companies offer guidance about benefits such as your 401(k) and health insurance. It's a lot of information, but it's important not to ignore it, Holeman said.

One key thing to focus on is your employer-sponsored retirement plan. While many companies automatically enroll you, Holeman recommends you save more than the typical 2% to 3%. Automatic enrollment allows your employer to take a set amount from your paycheck to allocate to a retirement investment account. You can choose to opt out or increase the amount you contribute.

"Because you're automatically enrolled doesn't mean you can't go in and increase how much you're contributing," he said. "And that's a great way to build those automatic savings habits that around going to take you throughout the rest of your career."

Some recent grads might stay on their parents' health insurance while others might enroll in an employers' health insurance plan. But if your job doesn't offer health insurance, experts recommend you enroll in the Affordable Care Act.

"You shouldn't go uninsured if you are going to be working for an employer that doesn't offer health insurance," said Louise Norris, health policy analyst for healthinsurance.org.

## Aqari App revolutionizes real estate market

# KIB presented 'Best Real Estate Solutions Provider MENA 2024'

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) has announced its win of the 'Best Real Estate Solutions Provider MENA 2024' award from Capital Finance International (CFI.co) magazine. This prestigious recognition is a testament to the Bank's longstanding and exceptional expertise in the field of real estate, honed over the past 50 years. It also underscores KIB's unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and customer satisfaction by delivering the highest quality real estate solutions.

KIB secured this esteemed award through the consensus of an independent judging panel and the evaluation team at CFI.co, who selected the Bank from a broad array of nominated banking and financial institutions, highlighting how it "has distinguished itself through its unmatched achievements and expertise in the real estate sector." KIB stood out in various criteria set by the committee, including excelling in real estate appraisals, financing, property management, advisory services, and other digital services; its unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and superior customer service; and its strategic approach and customer-centric philosophy. The panel praised KIB's pioneering initiatives, on top of which comes the launch of KIB Aqari. As the first one-stop-shop real estate mobile application in the Kuwaiti market, KIB Aqari "has revolutionized real estate services by providing comprehensive solutions to customers, streamlining processes, and enhancing user experience," according to the award panel.

Commenting on the award, General Manager of the Real Estate Department Jassim Al-Abdulhadi, said: "Since its establishment, KIB has been at the forefront of institutions specializing in providing real estate solutions and digital services to all customer segments. The Bank has spared no effort throughout its journey to develop its capabilities and solidify its advanced position lo-



Jassim Al-Abdulhadi

cally, especially in offering property appraisal and property management services, supported by a specialized team, innovative tools, and a consistent approach."

Al-Abdulhadi added: "Today, we are proud to reap the benefits of our diligent efforts and focus on adhering to the latest standards governing property appraisal services, financing, property management, and real estate consultancy. This prestigious award is a clear reflection of our continuous commitment to meeting the growing needs of our customers. We also consistently contribute to defining sustainable paths and visions that align with the ongoing developments in the real estate solutions sector, ensuring comfort for all our customer segments."

KIB continually strives to enhance its specialized real estate services and products to maintain its leading position and essential role in development and growth efforts. Al-Abdulhadi pointed out that the KIB Aqari platform is a one-stop destination for all real estate needs. Customers can enjoy a wide range of real estate services and solutions, especially real estate appraisal that is digitally available for the first time in Kuwait. The



CFI.co awards KIB for outstanding real estate expertise.

service enables users to follow up on real estate appraisal requests and validate assessments using QR codes. In addition, KIB Aqari offers a variety of features for property management, including automatic rent collection and late rent payment tracking, designed to allow customers to enjoy a smooth experience while saving time and effort.

Al-Abdulhadi concluded his remarks saying: "We extend our thanks to all regulatory bodies, especially the Central Bank of Kuwait, for their supportive role and wise policies in the banking sector. Our gratitude also goes to the Chairman and members of the KIB Board of Directors and the Executive Management for their continuous support in achieving the Bank's goals. Additionally, we thank all the Bank's employees for their dedication and cooperation in developing KIB and meeting the aspirations of our customers and shareholders."

It is worth mentioning that London-based CFI.co is recognized as a leading media platform focusing on business, economics, and finance news. Its awards program is among the world's largest forums for recognizing and honoring individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to upholding exceptional standards of innovation and excellence in the global economic and financial sector.



### Obituary

LOS ANGELES, July 7, (AP) — Jon Landau, an Oscar-winning producer who worked closely with director James Cameron on three of the biggest blockbusters of all time, “Titanic” and two “Avatar” films, has died. He was 63.

Landau’s family announced his death Saturday. No cause of death was given.

Landau’s partnership with Cameron led to three Oscar nominations and a best picture win for 1997’s “Titanic.” Together the pair account for some of the biggest blockbusters in movie history, including “Avatar” and its sequel, “Avatar: The Way of Water.”

Cameron, in a statement, remembered “a dear friend, and my closest collaborator of 31 years.” “A part of myself has been torn away,” said Cameron.

“His zany humor, personal magnetism, great generosity of spirit and fierce will have held the center of our Avatar universe for almost two decades,” said Cameron. “His legacy is not just the films he produced, but the personal example he set — indomitable, caring, inclusive, tireless, insightful and utterly unique.”

Landau’s career began in the 1980s as a production manager, and he gradually rose through the ranks, serving as a co-producer on “Honey I Shrunk the Kids” and “Dick Tracy.”

He took on the producer role on “Titanic,” Cameron’s expensive

epic about the infamous 1912 maritime disaster. The bet paid off: “Titanic” became the first movie to cross \$1 billion in global box-office earnings and went on to win 11 Oscars, including best picture.

“I can’t act and I can’t compose and I can’t do visual effects, so I guess that’s why I’m producing,” Landau said while accepting the award with Cameron.

Their partnership continued, with Landau becoming a top executive at Cameron’s Lightstorm Entertainment. In 2009 the pair watched as “Avatar,” a sci-fi epic filmed and shown in theaters with groundbreaking 3D technology, surpassed the box-office success of “Titanic.” It remains the top-grossing film of all time.

Its sequel, “Avatar: The Way of Water,” is third on the list.

### Legacy

“Your wisdom and support shaped so many of us in ways we will always be grateful for,” Zoe Saldana, one of the stars of the “Avatar” franchise, said in an emotional tribute on Instagram. “Your legacy will continue to inspire us and guide us in our journey.”

Landau has been a key player in the “Avatar” franchise, which saw frequent delays of the release of “The Way of Water.” Landau defended the sequel’s progress and Cameron’s ambitious plans to film multiple sequels at once to keep the franchise going.

“A lot has changed but a lot hasn’t,” Landau told The Associated Press in 2022, a few months ahead of the sequel’s release. “One of the things that has not changed is: Why do people turn to entertainment today? Just like they did when the first ‘Avatar’ was released, they do

it to escape, to escape the world in which we live.”

“Jon was a visionary whose extraordinary talent and passion brought some of the most unforgettable stories to life on the big screen. His remarkable contributions to the film industry have left an indelible mark, and he will be profoundly missed. He was an iconic and successful producer yet an even better person and a true force of nature who inspired all around him,” Alan Bergman, Disney Entertainment co-chairman, said in a statement.

Landau was named an executive vice president of feature movies at 20th Century Fox when he was 29, which led him to oversee major hits including “Home Alone” and its sequel, as well as “Mrs. Doubtfire” and “True Lies,” where he first started working closely with Cameron.

Landau was also influential in bringing the manga adaptation “Alita: Battle Angel” to the big screen in 2019. Cameron supported the project, but his “Avatar” commitments kept him from directing it. Instead, Landau worked with director Robert Rodriguez to get the film completed.

Born in New York on July 23, 1960, Landau was the son of film producers Ely and Edie Landau. The family moved to Los Angeles in the 1970s, and Landau went on to graduate from the University of Southern California’s film school.

Ely Landau died in 1993. Edie Landau, the Oscar-nominated producer of films like “Long Day’s Journey Into Night,” “Hopscootch” and “The Deadly Game,” died in 2022.

Jon Landau is survived by his wife of nearly 40 years, Julie; their sons, Jamie and Jodie; and two sisters and a brother.



Landau

### Variety



This image released by Sony Pictures Classics shows Dakota Johnson in a scene from ‘Daddio.’ (AP)

### Film

Johnson and Penn navigate life’s conversations

## A soul-stirring taxi chat in ‘Daddio’

By Lindsey Bahr

It’s late at night when Dakota Johnson hops into a yellow taxicab at Kennedy airport in the new film “Daddio.” She’s just going home to Manhattan, 44th Street, between 9th and 10th avenues. And her cab driver (Sean Penn) decides to strike up a conversation that will last the duration of this nearly 100-minute ride. There is no “quiet” setting cab.

This is not a horror movie, though for some a chatty driver on an unexpectedly long trip might be close. It’s not the beginning of a wild “Collateral”-style night either.

No, these two people from different generations, different life experiences and different classes just talk about everything — life, mistakes, technology, human nature, what makes a New Yorker, absentee fathers, affairs, human nature and love.

“Daddio” was written and directed by Christy Hall, a playwright. Though we are also technically stuck in a cab with Girlie (Johnson) and Clark (Penn), Hall makes it feel rather cinematic, whether her camera is in close up on her actors, a rear-view mirror, a phone screen or letting us breathe for a moment with a shot outside of the cab, on the New York skyline. Claustrophobic it is not.

That’s not to say that some of the conversations won’t have you squirming in your skin a bit. The vast majority of those come from Clark, a Boomer with a heart of gold and some ideas about life that haven’t aged particularly well.

Taboo subjects and ideas that might get a person “cancelled” on social media are of course part of the point of this journey, in which two people who wouldn’t ever find themselves in an extended, soul-bearing conversation with each other under normal circumstances do.

Clark is one of those self-proclaimed truth-tellers who believes in his ability to read a person immediately, well-honed after 20 years of driving taxis in New York.

He lures his passenger in with flattery about her New York savvy (giving cross streets instead of an address and not worrying about the meter) and shocks her when he’s able to immediately discern

that the person she’s dating, and texting, is married.

Her guard up a bit at the beginning with short, impersonal responses to Clark, who would ungenerously be described as a chronic mansplainer, but pretty soon they’re both in a therapy session (though mostly for her).

It’s an interesting and captivating pairing of actors, borne out of Johnson’s friendship with Penn (they’re neighbors in Malibu). He’s believable as this working class guy with no filter and she is as a woman with a lot on her mind. Movies like this and “AM I OK?,” are a nice reminder how Johnson thrives with material she connects with.

“Daddio,” in theaters, is ultimately a fascinating and imperfect experiment in rich lineage of modest two-handers that take on an epic scope. There are dull moments and off-putting tangents that seem to exist only to provoke, but the message at its core is a nice one about connection and empathy and occasionally uncomfortable intergenerational conversations that don’t end with someone being silenced. It might just have you thinking about starting a random chat with a stranger, too.

“Daddio,” a Sony Pictures Classics released in theaters Friday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for “language throughout, sexual material and brief graphic nudity.”

Running time: 101 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

### Also:

**LONDON:** Brad Pitt’s movie about Formula 1 coming to cinemas next year will simply be called “F1,” the racing series said Friday.

Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton is a co-producer of the project, which collected footage at F1 circuits around the world this year and last.

Footage was taken at Silverstone — home of the British Grand Prix — and at the Hungaroring near Budapest; as well as the historic Spa Francorchamps in Belgium; Japan’s popular Suzuka track; and Abu Dhabi’s Yas Marina circuit.

Pitt was at Silverstone on Friday and walked through the paddock area.

In the film, the 60-year-old American plays a

former driver who returns to F1 alongside a rookie teammate, who is played by London-born actor Damson Idris. Their fictional team is called APXGP.

The film is directed by Joseph Kosinski of “Top Gun: Maverick” fame.

The film will be released next June, F1 said in a statement.



**LONDON:** A documentary retracing the ancient journey of Marco Polo premiered recently.

Titled “In the Footsteps of Marco Polo,” the film was produced by One Tribe TV and stars Stanley Johnson and Max Johnson. The father and son duo followed Marco Polo’s 13th-century route through China, starting from the land port on the China-Pakistan border, traversing the highlands of Inner Mongolia, and ending in Beijing.

Stanley Johnson, former British politician and father of former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, told Xinhua that he initially began the journey with his friends in 1961 from Venice but stopped at the border between Afghanistan and China.

“We took this chance as a way to build bridges between East and West,” said Stanley Johnson. “It’s important nowadays because we are confronting global issues like climate change, and we have to work together.”

Chinese Ambassador to Britain Zheng Zeguang said in his opening address that the movie is not only about pursuing dreams but also about China-Britain collaboration.

This movie will inspire more people in Britain to make similar travels, meet the people, learn the culture, and appreciate the landscapes and accomplishments in China, said Zheng, inviting the British people to visit China.

“It’s exciting to follow the journey of Marco Polo, and as the son, I have to follow in my father’s footsteps. It’s a very beautiful moment for me,” said Max Johnson, the youngest son of Stanley Johnson, who has lived and studied in China.

“A lot of people say things about China, but they haven’t even been there. It’s important to go to China and see it for yourself,” Max Johnson said. (Agencies)

**NEW DELHI:** In March, Asia’s richest man Mukesh Ambani threw a three-day pre-wedding bash for his son that included a 1,200-person guest list, including former world leaders, tech tycoons and Bollywood’s megastars, and a performance by renowned singer Rihanna.

It was only the start of their months-long lavish pre-wedding celebrations which have grabbed headlines and set off a social media frenzy.

In May, the family took guests on a 3-day pre-wedding cruise from Italy to France, which included a DJ set from David Guetta, Katy Perry belting out her hit song “Firework” and a performance by Pitbull to cap it off, according to media reports.

Finally, the wedding is set for next week, with Anant Ambani, 29, marrying his longtime girlfriend, Radhika Merchant, in what many have dubbed the wedding of the year.

Here’s what we know: The father of the groom is Mukesh Ambani, 66, currently the world’s 9th richest man with a net worth of \$116 billion, according to Forbes. He is also the richest person in Asia.

His Reliance Industries is a massive conglomerate, reporting over \$100 billion in annual revenue, with interests ranging from petrochemicals, and oil and gas to telecoms and retail.

The Ambani family owns, among other assets, a 27-story private apartment building, named Antila, worth \$1 billion in Mumbai. It has three helipads, a 160-car garage, a private movie theater, a swimming pool, and a fitness center.

Anant has a bachelor’s degree from Brown University, according to Reliance Industries’ website, and oversees the conglomerate’s renewable and green energy expansion.

He also runs a 3,000-acre (nearly 1,200-hectare) animal rescue center called Vantara in Gujarat state’s Jamnagar, the family’s hometown where guests in March spent days celebrating in the extravagant pre-wedding party.

The bride, Radhika Merchant, 29, is the daughter of pharmaceutical tycoon Viren Merchant and is the marketing director for his company, Encore Healthcare, according to Vogue.

She told the magazine that the two were introduced through mutual friends in 2017. “That first meeting just sparked something special between us, and it wasn’t

long before we started dating,” she said.

The main wedding ceremony is set for July 12, followed by a grand reception on July 14, according to local media. Celebrations are expected to be split between the Ambani’s Jio World Convention Center in Mumbai city and their family home.



Rihanna



Ambani

The dates were reportedly chosen based on the couple’s birth charts, as is typical in Hindu custom, and deemed auspicious. Also keeping with tradition, the wedding will be preceded by days of traditional wedding events and rituals.

On Friday, Indian social media was abuzz with videos

from the couple’s sangeet, a ceremony where the bride and groom’s families perform dances for the guests. It also included performances by Bollywood stars like Alia Bhatt, Ranveer Singh and Salman Khan as well as Justin Bieber, who flew to Mumbai for the event, according to local media.

The family also organized a mass wedding for more than 50 underprivileged couples last week, as part of the pre-wedding celebrations.

Extravagant parties are the Ambanis’ specialty and next week’s events are expected to draw more celebrities, billionaires and world leaders. (AP)



## People &amp; Places

## People

## Here are key facts

## Baldwin faces trial on 'Rust' set death

LOS ANGELES, July 7, (AP): Nearly three years after cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was shot and killed on the New Mexico set of the film "Rust," Alec Baldwin is going on trial over her death. Here are the essential things to know.

The actor is about to enter a New Mexico courtroom for the first time since the Oct. 21, 2021 shooting. He is charged with felony involuntary manslaughter. If a jury unanimously convicts him, he could get 18 months in prison.

Baldwin, the star and co-producer of the Western, was pointing a revolver at Hutchins during a rehearsal in a small church on the movie set at Bonanza Creek Ranch when the gun went off, killing her and wounding director Joel Souza. Baldwin has said he pulled back the hammer - but not the trigger - and the gun fired.

Two major themes will predominate, one large, one small: the chaotic atmosphere of the movie set, and the details of the Italian-made classic revolver that Baldwin pointed at Hutchins.

It has never been officially determined who brought the live rounds that killed Hutchins on to the set. Prosecutors at the previous trial of "Rust" armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed alleged that she was responsible. She was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to the same 18 months in prison Baldwin faces.

Prosecutors have two alternative standards for proving the charge. One is based on the negligent use of a firearm. The other is proving beyond a reasonable doubt that Baldwin acted with total disregard or indifference for the safety of others.

Despite the legal and technical complexities of the case, the 12 citizens of Santa Fe County that will make up the jury will have to reach just one verdict - guilty or not guilty - on a single count.

## Selection

The trial at the First Judicial District Court of New Mexico - about 20 miles northeast of the movie set and the shooting - is projected to last nine days, and Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer insists that she'll keep the lawyers in line and on schedule. Jury selection begins Tuesday, with opening statements expected Wednesday, and the projected end the following Friday. Once the jurors get the case, however, they can deliberate as long as needed.

Baldwin, 66, emerged as a major movie star in the late 1980s and early '90s through films like "Beetlejuice" and "The Hunt for Red October," and has remained a household name ever since. He would move on to memorable supporting roles in films including 2003's "The Cooler," which got him an Oscar nomination. Comedy dominated his later career as he won two Emmys for playing network executive Jack Donaghy on six seasons of "30 Rock," and won a third for playing Donald Trump on "Saturday Night Live."

Baldwin will bring with him an elite legal team of mostly New York-based attorneys, many of them Harvard Law graduates, from the firm of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan. Alex Spiro, a 41-year-old defense attorney who has represented Elon Musk, Megan Thee Stallion and other prominent figures and has become among the most sought-after lawyers in the country, will give aggressive cross-examination to the state's witnesses.

The defense will try to show that it is not the job of an actor to make sure real rounds are not in his gun, a position strongly supported by Baldwin's union, the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

His lawyers will also attack the gun evidence, and the serious damage done to the revolver during an FBI test they say amounted to the destruction of evidence and left the defense no chance to examine it.

Firearms experts for the prosecution who testified at the Gutierrez-Reed trial are returning to the witness stand, over objections by Baldwin, to testify about his handling of the revolver and whether the gun was functioning properly.

And they may press witnesses over whether Hutchins received proper medical treatment between the shooting and the declaration of her death at a hospital.

Santa Fe County District Attorney Mary Carmack-Altvies appointed Kari Morrissey as a special prosecutor in the Baldwin case in early 2023 after her predecessor stepped down because of conflicts of interest. Morrissey promptly had the indictment against Baldwin dismissed, but revived it in January of this year by grand jury. Both moves came from further examination of the evidence, she said.

## Defense

Morrissey graduated from the University of New Mexico and its law school, and practiced law in Albuquerque for more than 20 years. New Mexico criminal defense attorney Erlinda Johnson joined Morrissey's team in April. The trial could bring a culture clash between the team of attorneys, as fiery hearings and filings have already shown.

The prosecutors will try to convince jurors that as a producer and the most important person on the set, Baldwin brought a recklessness to the production, and that as an actor he was negligent in handling his gun.

The crew members inside the small church building who became eye-witnesses to Hutchins' killing will provide the trial's most essential testimony. They include director Joel Souza, who was himself shot and wounded by the bullet from Baldwin's gun, and assistant director David Halls, the film's assistant director, who some said was responsible for the shooting but pleaded no contest to negligent handling of a firearm.

Zac Snesby, a crew member who was holding a boom microphone during the rehearsal, will testify that he saw Baldwin pull the trigger of the revolver, prosecutors said in court filings, making him potentially the most important witness of all.

Prosecutors also may call Gutierrez-Reed to the stand, but Marlowe Sommer rejected an immunity deal they wanted to give her.

Jurors will hear testimony from firearms experts who allege the revolver was working properly could not have fired without pulling the trigger.

And Baldwin himself can take the stand in his defense, but he doesn't have to. His attorneys have not said which he will do.

The proceedings could make for an unusual scene. Scores of members of the national media will compete for seats in the Santa Fe courtroom and an overflow room, and cameras will surround the courthouse for arrivals and departures.

And the public can watch. The trial will be streamed and broadcast by several outlets including Court TV.



Baldwin



Beck performs at the 57th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on Feb. 8, 2015. Beck will perform at The Hollywood Bowl this Saturday as part of his summer orchestral tour. (AP)

## Music

## Orchestral grand finale marks 30 years of 'Loser'

## Beck calls classical music 'spiritual'

LOS ANGELES, July 7, (AP): It's been 30 years since Beck released his breakout lo-fi anthem "Loser."

In the time since the song and its hit album "Mellow Gold," Beck has sought to shed the slacker image inadvertently linked with him. The versatile, genre-bending musician will perhaps complete that pendulum shift this summer as he celebrates his love for the refined skill and precision that goes into performing classical music with an orchestral tour.

The 53-year-old has always appreciated the unique, "spiritual" potential of the genre, thanks in part to his composer father, David Campbell, who helped Beck with the arrangements for the tour, which makes its grand finale at Carnegie Hall.

Ahead of his performance at The Hollywood Bowl on Saturday, Beck reflected on why weekly trips to the LA Philharmonic were at one time a regular "pilgrimage," his upcoming duet with Orville Peck and the artistic potential of artificial intelligence. The interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: What has it been like preparing for this orchestral tour. You can't really rehearse, right?

Beck: Well, we get like a two-hour run through on the day of, but it's the first time we're playing together. It's the first time they're playing the songs. But the music is all written out and they play it perfectly. It's a bit miraculous because you're used to rehearsing for many weeks or months and then you go out on a tour and then it works. But this is sort of an instantaneous kind of magical human experiment, where you just bring dozens and dozens of people together, and then it somehow works. It's still a bit of a novelty to me.

AP: How does doing a tour like this change how you think about the performance?

Beck: It's completely different. For me, it's more focused on the singing. And typically, when we're doing a tour, there's much more production happening. The energy is really different. It's more of a rock show energy, which means that we're all running around, and there's a kind of kinetic thing happening with everybody reacting in a more physical, visceral way. This is just kind of more purely about

the songs and the music. You're taken in by the sound of the orchestra.

AP: I read that at one point you would go to the LA Phil like every week. Why was it important for that to be such a regular part of your routine?

Beck: For a lot of years, I was so busy, and I was touring and working nonstop. And I'd say about six or seven years ago, I just started making space for it. Maybe it was a kind of personal pilgrimage or a meditative rite. It felt like something that would add this kind of rich layer to my life and felt very personal. There is something about that sound that is spiritual. I don't know. I can't quite put my finger on it. But I would walk out of there feeling a bit different, like somebody washed my brain. I don't know how else to describe it, but it felt like something that I needed. And I noticed that a lot of the people at the concert had tended to be more in their 70s and 80s. So maybe it has a kind of healing aspect that feels necessary when you're getting older. I don't know.

AP: It's cool that you're getting to work with your dad again. Do you guys feel like you have a pretty seamless working relationship at this point?

Beck: Yeah, it's fairly automatic. It kind of always was. Like anybody you're related to, you sort of speak an unspoken language, where you already know or understand before you have to really explain it.

AP: I know you're featured on the upcoming Orville Peck duets album. How did that collaboration come about?

Beck: We're friends. We just hang out. We would, for years, always say, "We got to get together and make a song." So he reached out to me a couple of years ago and then I didn't get around to it. And then I reached out to him. I said, "Hey I think I have something." Because he had said, "I want to do something like Elvis in Vegas." And I said, "You know what? I completely understand." Elvis in Vegas is, you know, Vegas by way of Memphis. It's a totally different thing from Sinatra Vegas. So yeah, we did the song, and it came together very quickly. We did it about a year ago. And then we just did a video for it.

AP: I was thinking about your AI project with NASA in 2020. Even in

the few years since then, we have such different connotations with artificial intelligence. I wondered, given your willingness to experiment as a musician, how you feel about using AI to make music or art.

Beck: I'm not somebody who has really used it or thought about it. But I think, you know, something that John Cage factored into his work and embraced was this idea of chance. And other artists have embraced that idea of chance. Bowie is probably the most famous. And for me, that's always something I've looked for in the studio. I'm looking for those random accidents, and sometimes it's a random accident of technology. Like a piece of equipment malfunctioned or the computer glitched and was repeating the same two seconds of music by accident and we'll say, "That's great, let's use that." And I've been doing that for decades.

So, in a way, I get that those are sort of collaborative moments with the computer. But if it's able to provide something that is unexpected that can be incorporated into something, that's where it would be interesting to me. But I don't think that's the way people are looking at it. I think they're looking at it as something that's more predictable that they can depend on. Whereas yeah, like I'm saying an artist would be looking at it from more of a standpoint of what accidents could happen that would lead to somewhere new or interesting.

AP: Can we expect new music soon?

Beck: I'm making music all the time. You know, it's just all about getting the time to finish it and get it out there. So, yeah, I have all kinds of projects I'm working on.

AP: Will you turn this tour into a live album?

Beck: You know I haven't even talked to anybody about recording it. I feel like it should be. I hope we're recording it or filming it at some point. It's pretty special and rarified to get to do something like this, and it's not lost on me. And also, being able to dig into some of the deeper cuts on my records. There's a lot of orchestral work over the last, you know, seven or eight albums that we don't get to play live. So, this is a chance to let some of those songs have their moment.



Keith Richards, (front left), and Mick Jagger, of The Rolling Stones, perform in Vancouver, on Friday, July 5. (AP)



Hall



Richard

## Variety

NEW ORLEANS: Seven years ago, New Orleans band Tank and the Bangas squeezed into the corner of a classroom and recorded themselves performing their song "Quick," for National Public Radio's Tiny Desk contest, the nonprofit's annual search for the "next great undiscovered artist."

Their video - a lively mix of funk, soul, hip-hop and spoken word - wowed NPR's judges and won them an appearance on NPR's popular, stripped-down Tiny Desk series, helping grow their loyal fanbase. A 2020 Grammy nomination for "Best New Artist," followed, as did 2023 and 2024 Grammy nominations for "Best Progressive R&B Album" and "Best Global Music Performance," respectively.

On Sunday, Tank and the Bangas will return to their home city for one of their biggest performances yet: the main stage of the Essence Festival of Culture, the world's largest celebration of Black women, culture and communities.

The group has performed at Essence before, but those were miniconcerts in "super lounges," created inside the Superdome's massive corridors, not the mammoth stage on the Superdome's floor.

The fact that the group will get to play on the main stage this year is "scary" and "exciting," lead singer Tarriona "Tank" Ball told The Associated Press.

The set also will infuse flavor from other artists with ties to New Orleans, including Teedra Moses, Dawn Richard and HaSizzle.

"It's going to be beautiful," Ball said of the performance. "Soulful. Poetic. We're tailoring it for that. We've got HaSizzle, Teedra Moses, Dawn Richard. We're bringing all these aspects to the stage all of whom have helped bring the city back to musical life."

Ball describes their sound as "when Disney meets the ghetto."

"We're flavorful," she said. "We can go anywhere. Our influences are from go-go music to the old-school vibes of Stevie Wonder. I like to say we're genre-fluid. We flow between genres," she said.

Ball hopes the experience will draw new fans into their world.

Norman Spence, the band's musical director, said the group is grateful for the opportunity to participate in the long-running festival experience but notes they're not entirely new to such a space. (AP)

HARBIN: Tourists visiting Harbin, China's "Ice City" in its northernmost Heilongjiang Province, now have a new attraction to explore, namely an indoor ice and snow theme park that opened on Saturday.

With a construction area of 23,800 square meters, the park has clinched the

Guinness World Record as the world's largest indoor ice and snow theme park.

According to the park manager, the facility features nine themed areas showcasing lifelike ice sculptures illuminated by

colorful lighting. The theme park maintains a constant temperature to accommodate visitors throughout the year.

The park will complement Harbin Ice-Snow World, a landmark outdoor ice and



Nick Jonas, (left), Joe Jonas, and Kevin Jonas of The Jonas Brothers perform during Festival d'été de Québec on Saturday, July 6, in Québec City. (AP)

snow theme park covering 810,000 square meters, thereby transforming Harbin into an all-season resort destination. (Xinhua)

BUCHAREST: The Chinese classical dance show "Beauty Beyond Words" captivated audiences on Thursday evening at Bucharest's National Theater.

The event, performed by the Beijing Dance Academy, was part of a series of celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties and the 20th anniversary of the comprehensive friendly and cooperative partnership between China and Romania.

Following successful performances at the Sibiu International Theater Festival and in Brasov, the Beijing Dance Academy once again received high praise from Romanian audiences.

Around 900 people attended the performance, including ambassadors and representatives from over 20 countries, Romanian ministerial-level officials, former politicians and local residents.

The performers showcased the unique charm of Chinese dance. From the elegant beauty of the solo dances "Cloud Fairy" and "Flying Apsaras" to the lingering love of the duets "Butterfly Lovers" and "Farewell at the Pavilion," the dance works are based on Chinese traditional culture, blending gentleness and strength. (Xinhua)



## Skills children should learn to prevent drowning

## Guide to water safety precautions for beach, pool visits

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., July 7, (AP): With school out for the summer and temperatures rising across the country, many families will visit the beach, lake or local swimming pool. Now is the time to review safety tips to keep children safe around water.

Drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 4 and the second leading cause of unintentional death for children in the 5 to 14 age group, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In the United States, 973 children under the age of 19 drowned in 2021, and another 6,500 were treated in emergency rooms following near drowning incidents, according to Gary Kartson of Safe Kids Worldwide, a nonprofit organization working to prevent childhood injury.

In fact, more drownings occur in the summer, and specifically in July, than any other time of the year, according to the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Palm Beach County Ocean Rescue lifeguard Daniel Barnickel said there always should be an adult monitoring the water.

"As a whole, never swim alone," he said.

## Procedures

Taking the time to go over safety procedures and rules before heading to the pool or beach can benefit children and their parents.

The most important safety feature of a backyard swimming pool is a barrier, such as a safety fence, to prevent unsupervised access to the water.

Many children who drowned at home did so during times they were not expected to be in the water, according to the American Red Cross. In some cases, children were out of sight for less than five minutes and in the care of one or both parents when they slipped into the pool and drowned, the agency said.

That said, it is vital to make sure children learn to swim. There are many programs that teach children to swim, including Red Cross swimming courses across the U.S.

If a child goes missing, remember that seconds count. Check the water first, safety experts advise. It's also important to have appropriate equipment available at home. This includes something to throw into the water for a child to grab onto, a cell phone to call for help, life jackets and a first aid kit.

All children should learn to step or jump into water that's above their head and safely return to the surface and also be able to float or tread water, according to Safe Kids Worldwide.

They should also be able to quickly turn around in the water and find a safe place, combine breathing with moving forward in the water and get out of the water.

If several adults are at the pool, beach or lake with a group of children, choose a water

watcher who can have eyes on the children at all times. It's a great idea to rotate the water watcher among the adults for brief amounts of time, such as 15-minute intervals, experts at Safe Kids Worldwide recommend.

While at the pool or around water, it's advisable to avoid distractions. Put away phones, books and magazines, because drowning is often silent and can happen in less than five minutes.

When you're finished swimming, make sure to remove all floats and pool toys so young children won't be enticed to reach for them.

Teach children to stay away from pool drains or suction devices, which can entrap swimmers' hair or limbs.

Since 2014, all public pools and spas in the US have been required to comply with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act, which was named after a 7-year-old girl who died after being caught by the strong suction of a hot tub drain in 2002. Her mother lobbied Congress to require drain covers and other pool safety features.

But even with those safety elements, experts say it's a good practice to check the drains and devices before children get into a pool.

More water safety tips  
Always swim with a buddy, or in an area supervised by a lifeguard.

"Make sure that you don't overestimate your abilities," Barnickel said. "Know your limits."

Have young or inexperienced children wear US Coast Guard-approved life jackets. The size of the life jacket should be based on the child's height and weight. Never substitute arm floats or inflatable swimming rings for life jackets.

## Practice

The best practice is to keep children within an arm's reach of an adult at all times when in the water and teach them to always ask permission to go near the water.

Enforce safety rules, including no running or pushing on the pool deck and no dunking people in the water. It's also a good idea to keep them from chewing gum or eating while swimming or jumping in the water.

Experts also recommend making sure children know the depth of the water so they don't dive into the shallow end and get injured.

Open water, such as the ocean or a lake, is much different than a backyard swimming pool.

Children need to understand there can be limited visibility and uneven surfaces in the ocean and lakes. They also need to be taught about currents and undertow, which can pull them under water and away from the shore.

When at a beach or lake, it's important to use designated swimming or recreational areas. Watch for signs posted about water hazards, as well as the times that lifeguards will be present.

## West Nile fever hits West Bank

## Dengue crisis in India: Over 7 deaths &amp; 7,000 infections

NEW DELHI, July 7, (Xinhua): Dengue has gripped several parts of India's southern state of Karnataka, even as nearly seven persons were suspected to have died due to the viral disease and over 7,000 cases registered, confirmed a state health department official.

Over 1,000 cases were registered in the state capital Bengaluru alone. Among the districts severely affected by dengue were Hassan, Chikmagalur, Bengaluru and Mysore.

Considering the rising number of dengue cases, federal lawmaker from the Bengaluru Rural constituency and noted cardiologist C.N. Manjunath urged the state government to declare dengue as a "state medical emergency."

He warned that if the breeding of mosquitoes was not contained, it could also lead to Chikungunya, Zika, and other harmful diseases.

Media reports quoted the lawmaker as saying, "The cases are soaring close to 7,000 in the state with about six to seven deaths. Hassan, Chikmagalur, Bengaluru, and Mysore, among other districts, are seeing a steep rise in dengue cases. The government has to declare a state medical emergency to control the infection."

**West Nile fever:** The first case of West Nile fever

in the West Bank was recorded in the governorate of Jenin, the Palestinian Health Ministry said on Saturday. Doctors identified symptoms consistent with the disease, and subsequent tests confirmed the infection, the ministry stated.

The disease is transmitted through mosquitoes and its symptoms are very similar to those of the flu, including a high fever, the statement mentioned, noting that symptoms appear three days after the mosquito bite, with the elderly being the most vulnerable age group.

Primary healthcare and environmental health teams, along with the Jenin authorities, have been conducting a mosquito control campaign in the city and its camp since Saturday, the statement said, noting that the ministry's specialized teams will extend these efforts to all governorates.

The operations by the Israeli army, which targeted infrastructure, especially water and sewage networks in Palestinian cities and areas, have significantly increased the spread of mosquitoes, particularly in the city and camp of Jenin, according to the statement.

The ministry called on Palestinians to protect themselves from infection by wearing long-sleeved clothes and pants when outside during mosquito activity at night, using mosquito nets while sleeping, and applying mosquito repellent creams on the skin.

## Mission highlights living sustainably

## NASA Mars simulation crew emerges after yearlong trial

NEW YORK, July 7, (AP): The crew of a NASA mission to Mars emerged from their craft after a yearlong voyage that never left Earth.

The four volunteer crew members spent more than 12 months inside NASA's first simulated Mars environment at Johnson Space Center in Houston, coming out of the artificial alien environment Saturday around 5 p.m.

Kelly Haston, Anca Selariu, Ross Brockwell and Nathan Jones entered the 3D-printed habitat on June 25, 2023, as the maiden crew of the space agency's Crew Health and Performance Exploration Analog project.

Haston, the mission commander, began with a simple, "Hello."

"It's actually just so wonderful to be able to say 'hello' to you all," she said.

Jones, a physician and the mission medical officer, said their 378 days in confinement "went by quickly."

## Conditions

The quartet lived and worked inside the space of 17,000 square feet (1,579 square meters) to simulate a mission to the red planet, the fourth from the sun and a frequent focus of discussion among scientists and sci-fi fans alike concerning a possible voyage taking humans beyond our moon.

The first CHAPEA crew focused on establishing possible conditions for future Mars operations through simulated spacewalks, dubbed "Marswalks," as well as growing and harvesting vegetables to supplement their provisions and maintaining the habitat and their equipment.

They also worked through challenges a real Mars crew would be expected to experience including limited resources, isolation and delays in communication of up to 22 minutes with their home planet on the other side of the habitat's walls, NASA said.

Two additional CHAPEA missions are planned and crews will continue conducting simulated spacewalks and gathering data on factors related to physical and behavioral health and performance, NASA said.

Steve Koerner, deputy director of Johnson Space Center, said most of the first crew's experimentation focused on nutrition and how that affected their performance. The work was "crucial science as we prepare to send people on to the red planet," he said.

"They've been separated from their families, placed on a carefully prescribed meal plan and undergone a lot of observation," Koerner said.

"Mars is our goal," he said, calling the project an important step in America's intent to be a leader in the global space exploration effort.

Emerging after a knock on the habitat's door by Kjell Lindgren, an astronaut and the deputy director of flight operations, the four volunteers spoke of the gratitude they had for each other and those who waited patiently outside, as well as lessons learned about a prospective manned mission to Mars and life on Earth.

Brockwell, the crew's flight engineer, said the mission showed him the importance of living sustainably for the benefit of everyone on Earth.

"I'm very grateful to have had this incredible opportunity to live for a year within the spirit of planetary adventure towards an exciting future, and I'm grateful for the chance to live the idea that we must utilize resources no faster than they can be replenished and produce waste no faster than they can be processed back into resources," Brockwell said.

"We cannot live, dream, create or explore on any significant timeframe if we don't live these principles, but if we do, we can achieve and sustain amazing and inspiring things like exploring other worlds," he said.

Science officer Anca Selariu said she had been asked many times why there is a fixation on Mars.



In this image made from video provided by NASA, Kelly Haston, the crew members of the first CHAPEA mission, speaks in front of other members, (from left to right) Ross Brockwell, Nathan Jones, and Anca Selariu, Saturday, July 6, at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. (AP)

## Paving way for colonization

## Moss holds promise to turn Red Planet into green: study

BEIJING, July 7, (Xinhua): A futuristic study conducted by Chinese scientists has shed light on the potential of using moss to transform Mars's barren red landscape into a lush green environment.

Scientists have recently found that *Syntrichia caninervis*, a desert moss that thrives in various extreme environments on Earth, is a promising pioneer plant for colonizing extraterrestrial environments.

The study, conducted by researchers from the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (XIEG), the National Space Science Center, and the Institute of Botany under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), was recently published in the journal *The Innovation*.

*Syntrichia caninervis* is a globally distributed moss species that flourishes in harsh deserts, mountainous regions and circumpolar regions. It forms part of the biological soil crust.

## Samples

Using samples from the Gurbantunggut Desert in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, one of the most concentrated distributions of *Syntrichia caninervis*, the researchers evaluated the moss's extraordinary resilience under extreme desiccation, ultra-low temperatures and intense radiation, as well as in a simulated Martian environment combining several of these stress factors.

They found that the moss has remarkable desiccation tolerance. Even after losing over 98 percent of its cellular water content, it can recover photosynthetic and physiological activities within seconds after rehydration.

"We subjected this moss to an air-drying regimen in the laboratory. The plants appeared green when saturated with water, turned dark green and then black as the water was gradually lost, and turned green again only two seconds after rehydration," Li Xiaoshuang, a researcher at XIEG, said.

According to Li, the plant has the special power of "drying without dying" and "freezing without dying."

"We exposed intact plants to minus 80 degrees Celsius in an ultra-low-temperature freezer for five years and to minus 196 degrees

Celsius in a liquid nitrogen storage tank for 30 days. The plants survived and regenerated new branches after these low-temperature treatments," said Li.

Moreover, the researcher found that the moss can survive super-intense gamma radiation exposure that would kill most plants and can maintain vitality in simulated Mars conditions.

"Using the CAS' Planetary Atmospheres Simulation Facility, we simulated Mars conditions, which included air composed of 95 percent of carbon dioxide, temperatures that fluctuated from minus 60 degrees Celsius to 20 degrees Celsius, high levels of UV radiation, and low atmospheric pressure," added Zhang Daoyuan, a researcher at XIEG.

Mars is considered to be the planet most likely to be colonized by humans in the future. However, no life forms have been detected on Mars to date. Therefore, introducing organisms from Earth might be required to produce Earth-like conditions suitable for human life on Mars, a process scientists call terraforming.

"Terraforming will require the selection of suitable organisms from Earth or the engineering of novel organisms that can thrive in challenging extraterrestrial conditions," Zhang said.

To date, only a few studies have focused on testing the ability of organisms to withstand the extreme environments of outer space or Mars. Those studies have primarily focused on microorganisms, algae and lichens.

"Our study shows that *Syntrichia caninervis* is one of the toughest organisms on Earth," said Li.

"This work provides fundamental insights into the multi-stress tolerance of the desert moss *Syntrichia caninervis*, laying the foundation for building biologically sustainable human habitats beyond Earth," Li added.

According to Li, research is still ongoing. This includes extending the treatment period to further explore the moss's stress tolerance limits, revealing the "undead" mechanisms, and testing its performance in simulated Martian soil.

"In the future, we plan to conduct space flight experiments involving exposure to space conditions," Zhang added. "We eagerly anticipate witnessing what a terraformed Mars might look like."

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Visitors break stalemate just before half-time

# New-look France trounce Argentina in first test

MENDOZA, Argentina, July 7, (AP): A France team which debuted eight players beat Argentina 28-13 in the first test to usher in a new generation for French rugby.

Center Antoine Frisch and winger Theo Attissogbe scored tries on debut for France while scrumhalf and captain Baptiste Serin scored their first try in his first test start in four years.

France has taken a squad of 42 players to Argentina including 22 new caps, and Saturday's test gave the rugby world the first sight of the new guard which will take France on from last year's disappointing home Rugby World Cup performance.

Among those who made their debuts, Samoa-born Posolo Tuilagi came off the bench in the second half. The 149-kilogram (328-pound) lock is the sixth member of the Tuilagi family to play international rugby.

France extended its winning run against Argentina to five matches and has won 29 of 33 tests in the last three years.

"Everything went well. We started the game well and respected the game-plan," said Frisch, who has committed to France after playing for Emerging Ireland. "We've been preparing for the last two weeks."

"It's a dream come true to play my first game for my country."

## RUGBY

The match broke a run of success for new head coaches in the July internationals. Scott Robertson guided New Zealand to a one-point win over England and Joe Schmidt's Wallabies beat Wales 25-16. But Felipe Contepomi wasn't able to repeat the feat in his first test in charge of the Pumas.

The first half opened as a kicking contest, a struggle for field position which France mostly won through the probing kicks of halves Antoine Hastoy and Serin. Otherwise, the packs wrestled in the middle of the field as they tried to provide front-foot ball for the backs.

Argentina was first to take the ball wide, sweeping around the outside corner through right winger Bautista Delguy in the 18th minute.

But France put first points on the board, a penalty to Hastoy in the 21st, answered three minutes later by a penalty to Argentina flyhalf Santiago Carreras.

Argentina came close to scoring in the 28th when Delguy went over in the left corner after running onto a chipped kick from fullback Martin Bogado, but Delguy was held up by Frisch.

Delguy and Jeronimo de la Fuente again found space on the right side but that attack ended when Thomas Gallo knocked on.

France broke the stalemate just before halftime with a brilliant solo try to Serin, who broke through the middle of a line and showed outstanding football skills to control the ball. He was tackled without the ball by Pablo Matera on the tryline but the ball rolled back into his grasp and he was able to ground it.

Giant prop Georges-Henri Colombe

went close to adding to France's 10-3 halftime lead in the new half, carrying two defenders as he stretched for the line but grounding the ball just short.

France had the Argentina scrum under constant pressure, winning two scrum penalties in the first half and using its scrum as the platform for its second try in the 45th.

The French won a penalty advantage at a scrum, and when play continued Frisch ran off a short pass from hooker Gaetan Barlot to score.

France extended its lead to 20-3 with another Hastoy penalty.

Argentina struck back four minutes later with a try to captain Julian Montoya, sweeping around the front of an attacking lineout. Matera passed to Montoya, who hurdled the last defender.

Attissogbe had a solid debut which was capped by a try in the 66th. He chopped infield off a pass from Hastoy and barged through three tacklers to score.

Melvyn Jaminet kicked a long-range penalty to make France's lead 20



France's Antoine Frisch is tackled by Argentina's Los Pumas Joaquin Oviedo during a rugby test match in Mendoza, Argentina. (AP)

points at 28-8. But Argentina scored its second try through replacement Matias Orlando when Jaminet failed to con-

tain a kick through. They play a second test in Velez next weekend.

# Acosta, Kubo lead Cincinnati to 6-1 romp over Inter Miami

Crew hand Toronto sixth straight defeat

CINCINNATI, July 7, (AP): Luciano Acosta had the go-ahead score in a four-goal first half and added three assists, Yuya Kubo scored twice and FC Cincinnati cooled off Inter Miami with a 6-1 romp on Saturday night in a battle between the league's top two teams to this point.

Acosta became the first Cincinnati player to score 50 career goals in helping his club move to the top spot in the Eastern Conference.

## SOCCER

Inter Miami, which had won four 2-1 matches in a row despite playing without Lionel Messi and Luis Suárez, saw a club-record eight-match unbeaten streak on the road come to an end. Messi is suiting up for Argentina and Suárez is playing for Uruguay in the Copa America.

Cincinnati (15-4-3) jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the 10th minute when Kubo took a pass from Luca Orellano and sent a right-footed shot from the center of the box into the net.

Inter Miami (14-4-5) answered with the equalizer in the 21st minute when defender Sergii Kryvtsov used Julian Gressel's 10th assist to score his first goal this season and the second of his two-year career.

Acosta gave Cincinnati the lead for good in the 36th minute with an assist from Obinna Nwobodo. It was the 10th goal this season for Acosta and the second assist for Nwobodo.

Diego Rossi had a goal and two assists, Juan "Cucho" Hernández had one of each and the Columbus Crew breezed to a 4-0 victory over Toronto FC.

The defending-champion Crew (11-3-6) have won four in a row by outscoring their opponents 15-1. Toronto (7-13-3), which has yet to use the same starters in back-to-back matches this season, has lost six straight.

Patrick Schulte finished with two saves to earn his seventh clean sheet of the season, third most in the league.

Columbus scored the only goal it would need when Cucho took a pass from Rossi in the 15th minute and scored his 11th goal this season.

Cucho picked up his seventh assist in the 52nd minute on a netter by Christian Ramirez - his fifth - for a 2-0 advantage.

Rossi set up defender Mohamed Farsi in the 81st minute for a three-goal lead. It was the third score this season for Farsi and the 10th assist for Rossi.

Rossi completed the scoring with his seventh goal, unassisted in the 85th minute.

Sean Johnson saved two shots in



CF Montreal's Ariel Lassiter (11) gets by Vancouver Whitecaps' Javain Brown (23) during the first half of a MLS soccer game in Montreal, Saturday, July 6, 2024. (AP)

## What to expect from Brazil at Paris 2024

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 7, (Xinhua): Brazil might be absent from the men's football tournament, but that doesn't mean the South American nation won't have other medal contenders at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

It is true that Brazil, often dubbed the country of football, had been targeting a third consecutive Olympic football gold medal before being eliminated by old rival Argentina in a February qualifier.

That disappointment, however, has long dissipated as Brazil pursues medals in a host of other events, including some in which the country has had little prior success at the Olympics.

goal for Toronto.

Facundo Torres and Iván Angulo both had a goal and an assist to power Orlando City to a 5-0 victory over D.C. United.

Orlando City (7-9-6) extends the winless streak of DC United (4-11-8) to 11.

Orlando City took a 1-0 lead in the 19th minute and never looked back when Martin Ojeda used Dagur Thorhallsson's third assist of the season to score his third goal.

Robin Jansson's first goal of the season gave Orlando City a two-goal lead in the 23rd minute. Wilder Cartagena notched his first assist of the season and the third of his career while Torres col-

"Our delegation will be made up of a mix of established names, Olympic or world champions and young athletes with great potential," said Rogério Sampaio, Brazil's chef de mission, in an interview with Xinhua.

## OLYMPICS

Brazil's delegation will include some 56 Olympic or world championship medalists.

They include Olympic gold medalists Ana Marcela Cunha (marathon swimming), Izaquias Queiroz (sprint canoeing), Rebeca Andrade (artistic

gymnastics), Martine Graef and Kahena Kunze (sailing) and Rafaela Silva (judo).

In addition, Brazil boasts world champions in beach volleyball (Duda Lisboa and Ana Patricia), athletics (Alison dos Santos), skateboarding (Rayssa Leal), boxing (Beatriz Ferreira), slalom canoeing (Ana Satila), surfing (Gabriel Medina and Filipe Toledo), fencing (Nathalie Moellhausen) and judo (Mayra Aguiar).

Among the events in which Brazil is hoping for podium finishes from lesser-known athletes are fencing, trampoline gymnastics, rowing, table tennis, archery and taekwondo.

lected his fourth this season on the score. Orlando City took a 3-0 lead into halftime when Angulo scored for a third time this season, unassisted in the 42nd minute.

Christian "Chicho" Arango scored his MLS-leading 17th goal of the season. Diego Luna added a goal and three assists and Real Salt Lake beat Atlanta United 5-2.

Chicho's header off a corner kick was blocked by defender Derrick Williams but Braian Ojeda was there for the putback, spinning as he whipped a volley into the net to give Real Salt Lake a 2-1 lead in the 59th minute.

Chicho scored on a header, off a perfectly-placed free kick by Luna, in the 68th and Alexandros Katrinas played a one-touch shot off a corner kick by Luna that found the net in the 78th minute and made it 4-1.

Daniel Ríos answered moments later, heading home a cross by Brooks Lennon from the right side to the back post in the 80th before Luna capped the scoring in the 84th minute, when he scored from the center of the area.

Atlanta (6-10-6), which had a four-game unbeaten streak snapped by a 2-1 to the New England Revolution last time out, has lost back-to-back games.

## Sudanese backstroker Saleem looks to leave his mark on Paris Olympics

BERKELEY, July 7, (AP): As a boy in Milwaukee, Ziyad Saleem would walk through the house pretending to swim backstroke - arm circling backward along the right ear and over his shoulder, then the other arm doing the same on the left side.

Some days he would also propel both arms forward as if doing butterfly. His father saw some real potential then, even out of the water.

"I was always, 'Hey, what are you doing?'" Mohamed Saleem recalled. "It was range of motion or trying to master how he pulls under water. I knew he was attached to it."

## OLYMPICS

The swimming bug had hit hard, and Saleem began dreaming big.

Little did Dad know this might actually lead to something that would mean so much to the family: The University of California swimmer is headed to the Paris Olympics to compete for Sudan, his parents' home country and a place most of his relatives have now fled because of war and a massive humanitarian crisis.

"It's hard to describe the feeling," Mohamed Saleem said of his son representing Sudan.

Not many think about swimming and Sudan in the same breath - but it is athletes such as Saleem who are helping put the sport on the map for the country in northern Africa that has a long coastline on the Red Sea.

When Saleem won a medal five years ago in Tunisia for one of his country's big successes in an international meet, he received royal treatment afterward.

So imagine the triumph in May when Saleem captured Sudan's first swimming gold medal at an African Championships with victory in the 200-meter backstroke. Saleem treasured his moment atop the podium as the national anthem played - then he got to do it again after winning the 100 back.

"It's super cool being one of the first ones to medal and really be at the top of the sport in Sudan," Saleem said. "For me, it's more about teaching the stuff I've learned in the U.S. and all the training and high-level swimming I'm able to do here and kind of take it back to Sudan. I try helping out coaches at these world championships, giving them some of the tips I learned here in the U.S., and I think that's just the biggest thing, extending what I've learned in the U.S. over to Sudan and hopefully those kids can learn and become better swimmers."

A world away from Sudan's turmoil, Saleem relishes his new life in the diverse Bay Area swimming next to decorated U.S. Olympian Ryan Murphy in the Cal pool day after day, hour after hour, set after set.

Once in a while, Saleem can surprise Murphy and beat him during their backstroke warmups. And that's always fun to give the gold medalist a run for his money, even if it's just in practice and not under competition pressure.

"Sometimes, when he's going easy in warmups, he'll wait for the new set and really destroy me," Saleem said with a smile.

It's hard for Saleem to believe he's in the water alongside a former world-record holder like Murphy. This isn't



Ziyad Saleem poses in Berkeley, Calif., Tuesday, May 28, 2024. Saleem, a University of California swimmer, is headed to the Paris Olympics to swim for Sudan, his parents' home country and one almost all of his relatives have now fled because of war and a massive humanitarian crisis. (AP)

how it was supposed to go for Saleem. He committed to Iowa only to have the Hawkeyes program get cut because of COVID-19, suddenly leaving his college career path uncertain.

"So I was left without anything, nowhere to go," he recalled.

But when Saleem started dropping a couple of seconds in each of his events early on as a high school senior, Cal took notice. He committed without a visit or even talking to anybody on the team.

The program's reputation and coaching told him all he needed to know. Not to mention the chance to share a pool with Murphy and so many other international greats.

"I knew it would be a place I'd really enjoy just having the world-class athletes here, a person like Murph," Saleem said. "I learn from him so much in and out of the water, what to do, his pointers. He's a great person to have help you. When I first got here it was really surreal just seeing him in the water. But now since I've grown a relationship with him it's not faded but I still admire him a lot. He's a big reason why I chose to come to Cal just to have a world-record holder to train with every day."

Murphy loves swimming with Saleem, too.

"Ziyad is awesome, one of the nicest guys I've trained with at Cal," Murphy said. "He's a happy person and hard worker."

Saleem was born in Milwaukee but holds dual citizenship, allowing him to compete for his parents' homeland in the Olympics. Mohamed Saleem cherishes every chance to see his son compete for Sudan.

"We have a decent community here in Milwaukee. They're very proud of him, so multiply that by 50,000 times being the father," Mohamed Saleem said. "When you say you don't think of Sudan when it comes to swimming, they didn't think of it either, that's why it was a big surprise when he actually went the first time and won medals for the country. ... It brought a lot of attention to swimming and the potential."

Saleem will be a first-time Olympian, having gained experience on the big stage at multiple world championships.

Sustainable racing to be introduced by 2028

## A green flag for clean power: NASCAR unveils its first electric racecar

CHICAGO, July 7, (AP): Part of the experience of a NASCAR race is hearing the engine roar, the rumble of each car's approach and the zip when it whizzes past at more than 150 mph.

NASCAR unveiled its first electric racecar Saturday in downtown Chicago, but it doesn't thunder when the grand marshal says "drivers, start your engines."

It hums. The top motorsports series in North America partnered with Chevrolet, Ford, Toyota and electrification company ABB to demonstrate a high-performance electric vehicle and gauge fan interest in electric racing.

They want to represent electric vehicles, and more broadly electrification, in

racing as cool, fun and accessible, said Riley Nelson, NASCAR's head of sustainability.

The Associated Press got a first look at the \$1.5 million prototype. The only person who has driven it so far is semi-retired NASCAR driver David Ragan. The plan is to put the car on the Chicago street course for some fast laps on Sunday morning.

Ragan said the sound and smell were unlike anything he has experienced since first hitting the racetrack at age 11. He could hear squealing tires. He could smell the brakes. In gasoline-powered cars, the engine's sound and smell and heat from the exhaust overpower everything else. But

after hundreds of laps, this time Ragan's ears weren't ringing. It was really wild, he said.

Unlike typical sports coupes, the new car is actually a crossover utility vehicle. A huge wing on the back makes it aerodynamic enough to be a racecar.

## CAR RACING

It accelerates almost twice as fast as top gas-powered racecars and can stop almost immediately. But its lap time at Martinsville Speedway in Virginia was two-tenths of a second slower because it takes the corners slower due to being heavier. Ragan said it may go even faster; he wasn't pushing the one-of-a-kind ve-

hicle to its limits. Risk-taking is for racing, not testing, he said.

Eric Warren, who heads global motorsports competition for General Motors, said market research showed more than half of avid NASCAR fans surveyed would be more interested in purchasing an electric vehicle if they were exposed to it through racing. A main message is taking care with energy and optimizing it, he said.

"We're committed to electric vehicles," Warren said. "Racing gives a great platform to discuss a lot of those concepts and educate fans. It's a laboratory for us to try some new technologies and learn as we educate."

Burning gas pollutes the

air and produces carbon dioxide, which warms the atmosphere and leads to more extreme weather. Burning one gallon produces about 19 pounds of carbon dioxide, according to the U.S. Energy Information Ad-

ministration. Racing events consume thousands of gallons in a weekend.

The event would certainly be quieter with more electric cars, though many fans love the roar of engines when the green flag drops.

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## Al-Arabi welcome Al-Enezi back to training

## Al-Salmiya sign Tunisian striker Luwati

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Al-Salmiya has officially signed Tunisian professional Imad Luwati, finalizing its foreign player roster for the upcoming season. The team already includes Moroccan Younes Al-Najjari, Brazilian Alex Lima, Libyan Senussi Al-Hadi, and Guinean Sang-Pierre.

Born in 1993, Luwati plays as a striker and joins from Iraqi club Dohuk. He has had multiple professional stints outside Tunisia, including playing for Zig Yang Greentown Gyeongnam in China, Dalkurd in Sweden, and Vejle Boldklub in Denmark. In Tunisia, he has been part of CS Sfaxien and Ettoile du Sahel.

In addition to Louati, Al-Salmiya has bolstered its ranks with several local players: former Al-Arabi and

Al-Qadisiya player Saif Al-Hashan, former Khaitan Club goalkeeper Ali Fadel, former Kazma Club goalkeeper Youssef Al-Kandari, former Al-Arabi Club player Issa Walid, former Al-Shabab Club player Ahmed Abu Maryoum, and former Al-Jahra Club player Muhammad Al-Mahamid.

The team is currently conducting morning and evening training sessions at its external camp in Bosnia.

## SOCCER

Meanwhile, Al-Arabi has resolved its financial dispute with player Sultan Al-Enezi, who has rejoined training. The issue was settled after the club addressed his delayed payments, signaling that Al-Enezi has received his dues.

Last week, Al-Enezi filed a complaint with the Football Association,



The signing of the contract in progress.

demanding the third installment of his contract, worth 20,000 dinars, which

was due before June 30 last year. A source from Al-Arabi Club stated that the remaining amount owed to the player does not exceed 6,000 dinars, which will be deposited into his account soon.

Al-Enezi joined Al-Arabi two seasons ago from their traditional rivals Al-Qadisiya and his contract was renewed for three seasons in February 2023.

Additionally, new Algerian professional Ahmed Khalidi had his first training session with Al-Arabi, coming from the youth ranks of Constantine. The team welcomed Khalidi warmly to boost his morale at the start of his tenure with them.

Training sessions are ongoing at the sub-field of Sabah Al-Salem Stadium, with plans to head to Bosnia for a training camp on July 18 in preparation for the new season.

## Kuwaiti Marine Sports Club welcomes Sheikh Mubarak as honorary president

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: The Kuwaiti Marine Sports Club will celebrate Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak's appointment as honorary president at 7:30 pm tomorrow at the club's board of director's office.

This appointment fulfills the kind wish of the club's previous honorary president, Dr. Souad Al-Sabah, who has been a significant supporter since her presidency began in April 1995. The club's board of directors warmly welcomed this transition.

Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah expressed his pride in assuming the honorary presidency, praising the club members' achievements and their efforts to elevate Kuwait's name in various tournaments. He emphasized his commitment to



Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak

continuing his mother's legacy, describing her as a guiding beacon for all.

## Knicks assistant Bryant joining Cavs

## Hawks complete deal to send Dejounte Murray to Pelicans

ATLANTA, July 7, (AP): The Atlanta Hawks completed a trade Saturday that sends high-scoring guard Dejounte Murray to the New Orleans Pelicans for a package of two first-round draft picks and three veterans.

The trade announced by the Hawks sends guard Dyson Daniels, forward-center Larry Nance Jr. and center Cody Zeller to Atlanta. The Hawks will receive a 2025 first-round pick and a conditional 2027 first-rounder. The 2027 pick will be a top-four protected selection that will be the least favorable of picks attached to the Pelicans and Milwaukee.

Atlanta did not have a first-round pick next year before making the trade, which was finalized more than a week after the framework of the Murray deal was first reported.

The Hawks made swing player Zacharie Risacher of France the No. 1 overall pick in the NBA draft last month before trading AJ Griffin to Houston to obtain a second-round pick used to obtain rights to guard/forward Nikola Djuricic of Serbia.

## BASKETBALL

The Murray trade comes after the Hawks were unable to win a playoff series in his two seasons joining Trae Young as the team's high-scoring backcourt.

"Our goal is to build a contending team that can compete deep into the playoffs," general manager Landry Fields said in a statement released by the team.

"It became evident after further analysis and evaluation this offseason that we needed to reshape our roster and regain assets that would allow us to further build out our team. It is certainly difficult to trade a player like DJ but we knew it was best for our organization to move forward this way. We wish he and his family only the best."

The Hawks finished 10th in the Eastern Conference at 36-46 this season and haven't won a playoff series since advancing to the Eastern Conference finals in 2021.

Murray, 27, averaged a career-high 22.5 points with 6.4 assists this season. He has averaged 15.4 points in seven seasons, including five with San Antonio.

"Dejounte is among the best two-way guards in the NBA and adds another dimension to our team, and we could not be more excited to welcome him and his family to New Orleans," Pelicans basketball operations chief David Griffin said in a statement released by the team.

The 6-foot-7 Daniels averaged 5.8 points, 3.9 rebounds and 2.7 assists in 61 games, including 16 starts, with New Orleans last season. He provides

a defensive boost, addressing a weakness for the Hawks, after ranking 10th in the NBA with 1.4 steals per game.

New York Knicks assistant Johnnie Bryant is joining new Cleveland coach Kenny Atkinson's staff, a person familiar with the hiring told The Associated Press on Saturday.

Bryant, who interviewed for the Cavaliers' opening before Atkinson was hired, will be an associate head coach, said the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because the team has not announced the addition.

Bryant will be reunited in Cleveland with Cavs All-Star guard Donovan Mitchell. They spent several years working together in Utah, and Mitchell has often credited the 29-year-old Bryant with making him a better player.

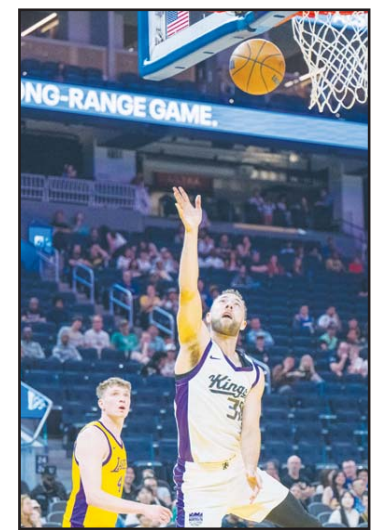
Mitchell agreed this week to a three-year, \$150.3 million contract extension with the Cavs. His commitment came just days after Cleveland hired Atkinson, the former Brooklyn coach who spent the past three seasons as an assistant with Golden State.

Bryant spent six seasons with the Jazz. He went to New York in 2020, when it appeared Mitchell might be headed to the Knicks in a trade before the Cavs pulled off a blockbuster deal to acquire the 27-year-old.

Atkinson is still completing his staff, but has already added former Lakers assistant Jordan Ott and former NBA player DeMarre Carroll. Ott is coaching Cleveland's Summer League team in Las Vegas.

ESPN previously reported Bryant's hiring by the Cavs.

Cleveland fired coach J.B. Bickerstaff after being eliminated in the playoffs.



Los Angeles Lakers guard Dalton Knecht (4) watches Sacramento Kings forward Yves Pons (35) scores during the first half of an NBA summer league basketball game in San Francisco. (AP)

## Uruguay stun Brazil on penalties to 'reach' Copa America last four

Colombia dominate Panama



Uruguay's goalkeeper Sergio Rochet blocks a shot by Brazil's Eder Militao in a penalty shootout during a Copa America quarterfinal soccer match in Las Vegas. (AP)

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, July 7, (Xinhua): Uruguay advanced to the Copa America semifinals by overcoming Brazil on penalties 4-2 (0-0) on Saturday.

Both teams began cautiously, while Uruguay looked more dangerous in attack with Darwin Nunez twice heading over the bar.

Brazil's teenage forward, Endrick Moreira, making his first start in this tournament, received some rough treatment from Mathias Olivera and Nahitan Nandez of Uruguay but kept his cool impressively. The 17-year-old, who will join Real Madrid later this month from Palmeiras, provided a spark for Brazil.

Raphael Dias had Brazil's best chance in the first half, forcing a smart save from Sergio Rochet after a dashing run and powerful shot on the counterattack.

Tempers frayed in the second half with a series of bruising tackles by both sides. The stop-start nature of the game made it difficult for either team to gain rhythm and momentum.

## SOCCER

Uruguay were reduced to 10 men in the 74th minute after Nandez's initial yellow card was upgraded to red following a review by the video assistant referee of his studs-up challenge on Rodrygo Silva.

Brazil's numerical advantage didn't translate into dominance on the pitch as Uruguay defended resolutely with 10 men behind the ball, and they finished the 90 minutes 0-0.

With no extra time, the match went straight to penalties and Uruguay goalkeeper Rochet gave his side the perfect start by saving Eder Militao's opening attempt.

Douglas Luiz then missed Brazil's third spot kick before goalkeeper Alisson Becker gave his side a glimmer of hope by palming away Jose Gimenez's fourth shot for Uruguay, but Manuel Ugarte held his nerve by calmly firing into the top-right corner as Uruguay prevailed 4-2 in the shootout.

## Al-Erian heads Kuwait Tennis Association's transitional committee

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: In an extraordinary meeting, the General Assembly of the Kuwait Tennis Association approved the formation of a five-member transitional committee, headed by Abdul Samad Al-Erian. This committee will manage the association's affairs and organize the election of a new board of directors within 90 days, as stipulated by the association's statute.

Seven out of ten clubs representing the General Assembly attended the meeting, while three clubs were absent. The meeting was chaired by Abdullah Al-Deen, a member of the Kuwait Club's Board of Directors and Assistant Secretary, due to his seniority. The General Assembly approved the following appointments:



Abdul Samad Al-Erian

Abdul Samad Al-Erian as President, Saad Al-Kandari as Vice-President, Ahmed Al-Qallaf as Secretary, Nayef Al-Otaibi as Assistant Secretary, and Talal Al-Muhaini as Treasurer.

Abdul Samad Al-Erian confirmed that the committee will operate in accordance with the federation's rules and regulations. During the transi-

## TENNIS

tional period, the committee will ensure that the Kuwaiti national team's participation in international competitions across various age levels remains unaffected, and that preparation and development programs continue as planned by the technical bodies.

Colombia to take the lead. Rodriguez's in-swinging corner found Jhon Cordoba, whose header beat goalkeeper Orlando Mosquera at his far post.

Referee Maurizio Mariani pointed to the penalty spot later when Mosquera tripped Jhon Arias as the winger dove into the box. Rodriguez gave Mosquera no chance by thumping the resultant spot-kick into the top-right corner.

Panama almost reduced the deficit in the 18th minute through Roderick

Miller, whose header following Eric Davis' set piece rebounded off the post.

The Cafeteros made it 3-0 just before halftime through Luis Diaz. The Liverpool forward latched onto Rodriguez's perfectly weighted free kick from behind the halfway line and, with his first touch, deftly lifted a shot over Mosquera.

Panama sat further back after half-time as Colombia found it more difficult to create scoring opportunities.

Richard Rios of Colombia further extended the lead in the 70th minute with a low drive from outside the box, while his teammate Miguel Borja, a 79th-minute substitute for Cordoba, sealed the 5-0 win.

The Cafeteros are unbeaten in their past 27 outings dating back almost two and a half years. All but three of those games have been under the command of Argentine manager Nestor Lorenzo, who replaced Reinaldo Rueda in June 2022.

Colombia will face either Brazil or Uruguay in Charlotte on July 10, with a place in the final at stake.

"We scored early and that helped us control the game," Rodriguez, who has five assists in this tournament so far, said after the match. "I wanted to have a good Copa America and help the team try to reach the final. Now, we are a step closer to achieve that."



Colombia's Luis Diaz, (left), and Panama's Jose Fajardo fall during a Copa America quarterfinal soccer match in Glendale, Ariz. (AP)

## Best of the Rest

## Clark rallies Fever past Liberty:

Caitlin Clark posted the first triple-double by a rookie in WNBA history to help rally Indiana to an 83-78 victory over New York on Saturday at Gainbridge Fieldhouse, snapping the Fever's nine-game losing streak to the Liberty.

Clark finished with 19 points, 13 assists and 12 rebounds for Indiana (9-13). The No. 1 pick in the WNBA draft was one rebound shy of a triple-double two games ago in an 88-82 road victory over the Phoenix Mercury.

"Obviously, it's really cool," Clark said. "My teammates have been finishing the ball really, really at a high rate. My assist numbers, that's because of them."

Indiana coach Christie Sides was impressed by Clark and the fact that the Fever outscored the Liberty by 12 in the final period.

Clark had 11 points in the first quarter, making 3 of 4 from 3-point range. She topped double figures in assists in the third quarter and passed the 10-rebound mark in the fourth. (AP)

**Vergeer awarded:** Dutch wheelchair tennis standout Esther Vergeer has been awarded this year's ITF Philippe Chatrier Award for her contributions to the sport.

The International Tennis Federation said the award will be presented Sunday at a ceremony at London's Natural History Museum.

The Philippe Chatrier Award is named after the ITF's former presi-

dent and has been given out since 1996 as the governing body's highest award for services to tennis.

Vergeer has won a total of seven Paralympic gold medals and 21 Grand Slam wheelchair singles titles.

Tennis has given me so much and I will always work hard to make sure that everyone - regardless of age, gender, or disability - can enjoy its many benefits for years to come," Vergeer said in a statement.

"The ITF has made a significant contribution to the continued growth of wheelchair tennis, so it is very special for me to receive this recognition from them."

Previous winners of the ITF Philippe Chatrier Award include Justine Henin, Evonne Goolagong Cawley, Rod Laver and Martina Navratilova. (AP)

## Berenger signs new contract:

Spanish Copa del Rey winners Athletic Bilbao on Sunday announced Alex Berenger has signed a new contract that will keep him at the club until June 2027.

The announcement comes three months after Berenger scored the decisive penalty in the shoot-out that saw Athletic beat Mallorca in the final, and one day before the club returns to pre-season training to begin preparations for the 2024-25 campaign.

Berenger joined the Basque club from Torino in 2020 and has scored 28 goals in 169 first-team appearances. (Xinhua)





Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain celebrates after winning the British Formula One Grand Prix race at the Silverstone racetrack, Silverstone, England. (AP)

# Sports

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## Swiatek and Keys ousted

# Alcaraz holds off Humbert in 4 sets to reach Wimbledon quarterfinals

LONDON, July 7, (Agencies): Defending Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz came up with the big shots when it mattered most to hold off Ugo Humbert and reach the quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 7-5 win on Centre Court on Sunday.

The match had seemed all but over when Alcaraz clinched the second set by chasing down several seemingly out-of-reach shots on set point, even falling over after hitting one forehand and quickly getting back up to get to the next ball.

### TENNIS

Asked to describe his play on that point, Alcaraz just said: "Unbelievable, I guess."

But Humbert nearly staged a surprising comeback and threatened to take the match into a fifth set when he held three straight break points for a 5-3 lead in the fourth.

Alcaraz came back to win that game with the help of a couple of aces, then broke for a 6-5 lead by hitting a deep forehand winner.

He set up match point with one of his delicate forehand drop shots and converted it with a service winner.



Jasmine Paolini of Italy reacts during her fourth round match against Madison Keys of the United States at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London. (AP)

"I felt great playing today, I think I played at a really high level," said Alcaraz, who will next play the winner between No. 12 Tommy Paul and Roberto Bautista Agut.

Earlier, French Open runner-up Jasmine Paolini reached her first Wimbledon quarterfinal when Madison Keys

had to retire with a leg injury at 5-5 in the third set of their fourth-round match.

Keys had served for the match at 5-2 in the last set but then started limping more and more and needed a medical timeout to get her left leg worked on after Paolini made it 5-4. She had her left thigh taped as she served for the match for a second time but was broken again - double-faulting on break point - and was in tears by the end of that game, with her movement clearly restricted.

Keys tried to play on but the American finally went to the net to tell the chair umpire on No. 1 Court that she was retiring after Paolini hit an ace for 15-15 in the final game.

The Italian had won the first set 6-3, before Keys won the second 7-6 (6).

Keys had been two points from the win when the score was deuce at 5-2 in the third.

"I'm so sorry for her. To end the match like this, it's bad," Paolini said in her on-court interview. "What can I say? We played a really good match. It was really tough. A lot of ups and downs. I'm feeling a little bit happy, but also sad for her. It's not easy to win like that."

Paolini is the fifth Italian woman to

reach the Wimbledon quarterfinals in the professional era, and will try to become the first to make the semifinals. She will face the winner between No. 2 Coco Gauff and 19th-seeded Emma Navarro, who played later on Centre Court.

Keys, the 2017 U.S. Open runner-up, was trying to reach the last eight for the second year in a row at the All England Club, and third time overall.

She women's singles world No. 1 Iga Swiatek still needs to find a way to conquer the grass court as she was ousted from the third round of the Wimbledon Championships by Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan here on Saturday.

Swiatek with five Grand Slam trophies in hand hasn't passed the round of quarterfinals at the All England Club. She looked promising to reach the last 16 this year as she took the first set against Putintseva 6-3, but faded away in frustration by losing the following two sets 6-1 and 6-2.

"I lost in the third round. I felt like I underachieved a little bit, but it's tennis, so you have to move on. I'll have many more chances this year to show my game. I'll just focus on that," said the 23-year-old Pole who claimed her third French Open title in a row last month.



The technical team gives instructions to the players before they start training.

## Kuwait volleyball team embarks on Cairo camp ahead of Asian U-20 Championship

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Kuwait youth volleyball team will depart at dawn for Cairo to participate in a 12-day training camp. This camp is in preparation for the 22nd edition of the Asian U-20 Volleyball Championship, set to take place in Indonesia from July 23 to 31.

The delegation is led by Jassem Al-Failakawi, a member of the Board of Directors of the Volleyball Federation. The team includes Hammoud Al-Bathali as the administrator, Abdulaziz Al-Failakawi as the team manager, national coach Jassem Al-Tarawa, his Egyptian assistant Osama Madkour, and physical therapist Moataz Ezz El-Din. The 14 players attending are Fawaz Al-Mishaal, Ali Dashti, Barak Al-Nasser, Faisal Al-Sarraj, Hammoud Al-Masoud, Ahmed Al-Hamdan, Abdulaziz Al-Anzi,

Khaled Bouaraki, Abdulaziz Al-Hashimi, Ahmed Al-Mutairi, Rashid Abdulkarim, Rashid Al-Nuaimi, Mahdi Hassan, and Ahmed Shaker.

Coach Jassim Al-Tarawa confirmed that the players have undergone an intensive training program focusing on physical, technical, and tactical aspects.

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He noted a significant improvement in the players' performance, which is expected to benefit them greatly during the external camp. Al-Tarawa mentioned that the team will play several trial matches during the Cairo camp, aiming to enhance player cohesion and improve overall performance through competitive practice.

# Dutch 'eliminate' Turkey, face England in semifinal



Turkey's Arda Guler (right) and Netherlands' Nathan Ake battle for the ball during a quarterfinal match between the Netherlands and Turkey at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Berlin, Germany. (AP)

## Three Lions beat Switzerland on penalties

BERLIN, July 7, (Xinhua): Samet Akaydin's first-half opener wasn't enough for the Turks as the Dutchmen bounced back with two goals in seven minutes in Berlin to seal the semifinal clash with England at the Euro 2024.

Both teams started highly motivated into the encounter and traded attacks as Xavi Simons and Salih Ozcan unleashed efforts from the distance in the opening stages.

Turkey turned up and gained momentum as Arda Guler's strike missed the target just wide in the 32nd minute before his in-swinging cross allowed Akaydin to nod home the opener at the far post three minutes later.

After the interval, Ronald Koeman brought Wout Weghorst from the bench, and his introduction made an impact as his lay-up fed unmarked Memphis Depay, who couldn't beat Turkey goalkeeper Mert Gunok from very close range in the 51st minute.

Weghorst kept Turkey busy as the striker unleashed an effort into the arms of Gunok six minutes later.

The Turks remained dangerous though and had chances to extend the advantage as Guler rattled the wood-

work, while Kenan Yildiz tested Dutch goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen.

However, the Netherlands' pressure paid off in the 70th minute when De-

### SOCCER

pay's pinpoint corner found Stefan de Vrij, who headed home the equalizer.

The Netherlands remained on the front foot and turned the tides as Cody



Switzerland's Granit Xhaka (right) jumps for the ball with England's Harry Kane during a quarterfinal match between England and Switzerland at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Dusseldorf, Germany. (AP)

Gakpo pressured defender Mert Muldur, whose clearance attempt ended up in his own goal and made it 2-1, following a square pass from Denzel Dumfries.

Turkey pressed frenetically for the leveler, but the Netherlands protected their narrow lead to the final whistle.

"It was a battle. The Turks have a big heart and gave us a tough time. We came back though and clinched a deserved victory," De Vrij said after the game.

England's 5-3 (1-1) victory over Switzerland on penalties helped the Three Lions to advance into the semifinals of the Euro 2024 on Saturday in Dusseldorf.

England took the reins from the starting whistle but lacked in penetration and ideas against Switzerland's well-positioned defense.

Goal scoring opportunities remained a rare occurrence as the last presentable chance of the first half fell to Kobbie Mainoo, whose shot got neutralized by midfielder Granit Xhaka just before the break. Switzerland showed signs of life after the restart as Brael Embolo forced England's goalkeeper Jordan Pickford into action for the first time with a turn shot.

The Swiss gained the upper hand and kept Pickford busy as Embolo unleashed a dangerous shot following Ricardo Rodriguez's pinpoint cross into the box. Switzerland got rewarded for

their efforts in the 75th minute when Embolo latched onto Dan Ndoye's deflected low cross at the far post to flabbergast the Three Lions.

However, Switzerland's narrow lead didn't last long as England was back level five minutes later after Bukayo Saka cut in from the right wing before drilling the ball past Yann Sommer to make it 1-1.

## Hamilton wins thrilling British Grand Prix

SILVERSTONE, England, July 7, (AP): Lewis Hamilton held off Max Verstappen's late charge to win a thrilling British Grand Prix on Sunday and secure his first victory since the penultimate race of the 2021 season.

Hamilton became the first F1 driver to win on

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any track nine times and also extended his F1 record to 104 wins. His last came at the Saudi Arabian GP in December 2021 - the year he lost the title to Red Bull driver Verstappen.

The seven-time F1 champion beat defending champion Verstappen by 1.5 seconds, with Lando

Norris finishing third for McLaren.

"Love you guys," a tearful-sounding Hamilton told his team over radio.

There were high hopes for a home win at Silverstone, with Hamilton's Mercedes teammate George Russell on pole position ahead of Hamilton and with Norris going from third and Verstappen fourth.

Russell's hopes of a second straight F1 win ended on Lap 34 of 52 with a suspected water system issue on his car. A few laps later, McLaren botched Norris' tire change.

Verstappen overtook Norris with four laps left but could not catch Hamilton, to the delight of most of the 164,000 fans attending the race.



Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr Al-Sabah

experience is expected to benefit future continental and Olympic championships.

He expressed confidence in Dashti and Zubaid, commending their efforts to represent Kuwait honorably. Sheikh Khaled emphasized that they are key assets to water sports in Kuwait, a result of the association's excellent technical and administrative support, along with their natural talent.

### OLYMPICS

## Preparations in full swing for Kuwaiti swimmers 'competing' in Oly Games

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: The President of the Kuwait Aquatics Association, Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr Al-Sabah, announced the nomination of swimmer Muhammad Zubaid and swimmer Lara Dashti to participate in the Olympic Games in France. This nomination is part of a strategic plan by the Federation's Board of Directors to promote and ad-

vance the sport.

Sheikh Khaled highlighted that preparations for both Lara Dashti and Muhammad Zubaid are progressing well in Turkey, under the guidance of a skilled technical and administrative team. All obstacles have been addressed to ensure their readiness for the Paris Olympics.

In a press statement, Sheikh Khaled stated that Kuwait aims to gain valuable experience and engage with the world's top swimmers through the participation of Dashti and Zubaid. This