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Reforms draw Kuwaiti firms home



PM Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's weekly meeting at Bayan Palace on Tuesday

Cabinet reviews '23 GPF report

KUWAIT CITY, July 10, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Cabinet convened its weekly meeting at Bayan Palace on Tuesday under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Saud Al-Sabah briefed the meeting on the outcomes of the visit to Kuwait by Iraqi Minister of Interior Lt.-Gen. Staff Abdul-Amir Al-Shemmeri and his entourage on Sunday.

The visit aimed to strengthen the security relations between Kuwait and Iraq, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Abdullah Al-Mousharji said following the meeting.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf apprised the meeting of the contents of the meetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister with the Iraqi minister, Al-Mousharji told reporters.

The meeting focused on the 2023 report of the Government Performance Follow-up Agency (GPF) and received a presentation from GPF Chairman Sheikh Ahmad Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on the results of overseeing the implementation of the ministerial decrees over the last year.

Implementation

He elaborated on the progress of the rehabilitation of educational facilities and the efforts to meet the needs of students in the new academic year.

The meeting approved the minutes of the supreme committee on verification of Kuwaiti citizenship, which, pursuant to Act 15 (1959) and the subsequent amendments, included cases of withdrawing the citizenship from persons who got it in fraudulent ways.

Google Cloud unveils new offices in Kuwait Details Page 5

No 'warning' on apartment **obstructions:** Municipality

'Thousands' of expats benefit from amnesty

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Ministry of In-terior said between 65,000 and 70,000 violators of the residence law have benefitted from the amnesty which was issued by the government last March for those wished to leave the country without paying fines for their illegal stay in the country over the years or legalize their stay. The deadline ended on June 30, 2024, fol-

lowing which the security authorities have launched campaigns across all governorates to arrest and deport those who have failed to benefit from the amnesty.

According to Al-Seyassah daily hundreds of people have been arrested and deported or are awaiting deportation.

Bahrain King's envoy in **Kuwait for condolences**

KUWAIT CITY, July 10, (KUNA): Envoy of Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, Royal advisor Sheikh Ali bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa and the accompanying delegation arrived in Kuwait, Wednesday, to offer condolences over the late Sheikh Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah received Sheikh Ali Al-Khalifa who also represents Bahrain's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa and who is also his advisor.

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Kuwait Municipality has denied issuing any kind of 'warning clarifying that "what notice,' was published by social media channels is baseless," reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The supposed notice warned against placing items such as cabinets, children's toys, shoes, or other objects in front of apartments or on residential building stairs. This applied to both rental apartments and commercial properties. Building watchmen were tasked with removing any such obstructions to prevent fines of 500 dinars for the owners of the rental units. Additionally, landlords and building watchmen may face legal consequences for violating safety regulations pertaining to individuals, property, and public facilities.

The Municipality emphasized the need for accuracy in publishing and obtaining information from official sources.

In response, Al-Seyassah newspaper promptly published the Municipality's clarification and confirmed that the news on the newspaper's X platform was not malicious. The report was based on a document that the editor believed to be valid and issued by an official body, which the newspaper holds in high regard for its efforts and those of other official bodies in monitoring violations and taking legal

Economic resurgence ahead

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Political reforms appear to be yielding swift results in the local market and this became evident when the economic sources informed Al-Seyassah that numerous Kuwaiti real estate, investment, and oil companies that had been investing abroad are now prepar-

ing to return to the Ku-

This shift follows the sus-

pension of the National As-

sembly's work, which had

been a major impediment to

The sources emphasized that

the stagnation in the country's

economic situation and the loss

of numerous investment op-

portunities for the private sector

were partly due to priorities being

given to favored and influential

individuals who had 'connec-

tions' to some National Assembly

The Ministry of Finance is

now actively working to attract

Kuwaiti companies back by of-

waiti market.

their return.

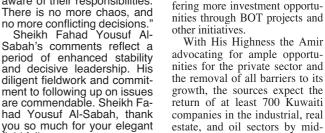


DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Al-Sabah aptly captured the current political climate when he remarked during his visit to several Huseiniyas, "We live in the era of HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, where everything is on the correct course. The time of chaos and multiple decisionmaking powers is over. We enjoy stability and strong governance, with ministers fully aware of their responsibilities.

no more conflicting decisions." Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Al-Sabah's comments reflect a period of enhanced stability and decisive leadership. His diligent fieldwork and commitment to following up on issues are commendable. Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Al-Sabah, thank you so much for your elegant field follow up.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



2025.

members.

This is amid a significant economic boom and efforts to clamp down on corruption and money laundering, which had previously driven capital away from

Kuwait. Currently, over 5,000 Kuwaiti companies operate abroad, having migrated to the GCC, other Arab nations, and foreign countries in search of more favorable investment conditions.

The local market's complex policies and economic stagnation over the past two decades had contributed to this exodus. The government is urged to provide more industrial and investment lands to attract these companies back, particularly from the industrial sector.

measures accordingly.

The ministers also reviewed the implementation of government projects and the results of opinion polls, conducted by the GPF regarding government services.

They discussed the observations contained in the report of the State Audit Bureau regarding the implementation of the FY 2022-2023 budget.

The Cabinet praised the efforts made by the GPF chairman and leaders to improve the performance of the government agencies.

At the end of the meeting, the cabinet decided to instruct all government bodies to implement the recommendations and observations of the GPF and report to the agency on a quarterly basis.

The cabinet asked the GPF to prepare a presentation on its activities and the efforts of the government bodies to address any shortcomings in their respective performances on a quarterly basis.

Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Adel Mohammad Al-Adwan briefed the meeting on the preparations of the Ministry of Education for the 2024-2025 academic





PM Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister receives the representatives of boards of directors of Kuwaiti banks and the Secretary-General of the Kuwait Banking Association.

Kuwait PM hosts banking sector leaders to boost economic plans

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Wednesday at Bayan Palace heads and representatives of the Kuwaiti banks' boards and Secretary General of the Kuwait Banking Association. Talks during the meeting dealt with mechanisms and plans for enabling the banking sector to push the economic sector forward and contributing to the development plans.

The audience was attended by the head of the prime minister's diwan, Abdulaziz Dekheel Al-Dekheel. (KUNA)

Israeli strikes kill 20 Palestinians as mediators make new push on cease-fire deal

KRCS field hospital in Gaza active despite operational hurdles

GAZA, July 10, (Agencies): Kuwait Red Crescent Society

(KRCS) field hospital in Gaza

received a number of injured and

critical cases although it has not

been declared as open and operat-

ing, due to the state of emergency

amid threats by the Israeli occupa-

tion army targeting neighboring

hospital Dr. Anwar Al-Gharra said

in a press statement to KUNA,

on Wednesday, that the hospital,

which had been kept shut after es-

tablishment, received a number of

such cases in response to distress

Medical Director of KRCS field

hospitals.



Kuwait outlines foreign policy goals at meeting

LONDON, July 10, (KUNA): Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Sheikha Jawaher Ibrahim al-Duaij Al-Sabah has presented broad lines of the State of Kuwait's external policy at the annual meeting of the Gulf Research Center in Cambridge.

Sheikha Jawaher said in a statement to KUNA her presentation focused on the major objectives of Kuwait's foreign policy, designed to promote friendship

Continued on Page 5

duction Institution (GCCJPPI).

proved this decision.

1976

adding that the GCC ministries also ap-

Institution is an official Gulf regional in-

stitution based in Kuwait, established in

The GCC Joint Program Production

Photos by Samer Shiker Top: A temperature gauge shows 48 degrees Celsius at 2:20 pm on Wednesday. Above: A man braves heat under blazing midday sun. Meteorology Department forecast highs near 49°C, with lows at 31°C on Wednesday.



KUNA photo Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director-General of the GCC Joint Program Production Institution.

calls from several nearby hospitals in Al-Mawasi area, west of Khan Younis.

Al-Gharra added that the Israeli occupation forces targeted a number of hospitals in Gaza and its health system as most hospitals went out of service.

He expressed hope that the field hospital's services would contribute to alleviating the suffering of the people of Gaza Strip in the difficult conditions they are facing, including a severe shortage of materials, medicines, medical and health supplies.

He also extended his sincere

thanks and appreciation to Kuwait, His Highness the Amir, government and people for their role in Palestinian Red Crescent Society.

ment.

helping to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinians in Gaza, praising the role of KRCS for providing humanitarian aid and its distinguished cooperation with the For his part, Director of Health

Programs at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society Dr. Bashar Mu-rad said that KRCS hospital is considered the best field hospital in Gaza Strip in terms of equip-

Al-Budaiwi rum of the Gulf Research Center Cambridge (GRCC), GCC Secretary General Jassim Al-Budaiwi hailed the level of cooperation





KUNA photo

KRCS field hospital team in Gaza receives critical cases although it has not declared open and operating, due to the state of emergency amid threats by the Israeli occupation army targeting neighboring hospitals.



King's Foundation, Kuwait ink accord

LONDON, July 10, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait and the UK King's Foundation have signed an agreement on multi-sectoral cooperation in the framework of the 125th anniversary of Kuwait-UK partnership.

The document was inked at the Kuwait Embassy in London on Tuesday by Kuwait Ambas-sador to the United Kingdom Bader Al-Awadhi and Executive Director of the Foundation Colin Mackenzie-Blackman in the presence of Kuwait's Assistant Newswatch

VIENNA: OPEC expects a sharp rise in global demand for oil by some 1.8 million barrels

per day (bpd) in 2025, while the figure for this year should

remain within the range of 2.2

million bpd, it said in a report

on Wednesday. As part of the robust increase in global demand, the OPEC

forecast predicted a rise in de-

mand within member states of

the Paris-based Organization for

Economic Cooperation and De-

velopment (OECD) worth some

100,000 bpd, while the figure for

demand outside the bloc should

LONDON: The GCC states have

reached a prominent regional and

international status as a result of

their con-

tinuous cooperation and

efforts on

all levels.

state -

KUNA on

Wednes-

day, on the

sidelines of

the annual

fo-

14th

between the Gulf states in poli-

tics, economy and the energy field. (KUNA)

In a

ment to

be 1.7 million bpd. (KUNA)

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Expected weather for next 24 hrs: By Day: Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-32 km/h. By Night: Hot to rather hot with

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
speeds	of 08-28 km/h.	
wind to	light variable	wind, with
light to	moderate no	orthwesterly

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Weather

Kuwait Airport	49
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BIOMETRIC/FINGERPRINT APPOINTMENT: https://meta.e.gov.kw/En/

Minister participates in 75th 'versary celebrations

Kuwait affirms commitment to strengthening ties with NATO

By Ahmad Al-Mazyad

WASHINGTON, July 10, (KUNA): Kuwait Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya emphasized on Wednesday the State of Kuwait's commitment to strengthening cooperation with NATO countries in all fields, especially in security.

This came in a statement to KUNA before Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya's

participation in the celebration of the anniversary 75th of NATO, held on the sidelines of the NATO summit hosted by Washington over three days.

Al-Yahya stated that Kuwait's presence was a testament to Kuwait's keen-Al-Yahya ness to participate

in the celebration of NATO's founding, in response to an invitation from the US President, Joe Biden.

He also praised the relations between Kuwait and NATO since Kuwait became the first member of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) in June 2004, and the bilateral cooperation in security and information exchange through Kuwait hosting the NATO-ICI Regional Center.

Al-Yahya said that Kuwait continues to enhance cooperation with NATO through the exchange of information, expertise and joint training between NATO representatives and Kuwait security institutions.

The minister added that a celebration would be held during the visit of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to New York next September, to mark the 29th anniversary of Kuwait acquiring the status of strategic ally outside NATO, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

The relations between Kuwait and NATO have witnessed continuous development and cooperation. In 2006, Kuwait hosted the NATO meeting under the title "NATO and Gulf Countries: Facing Common Challenges Through the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative" as the first non-member country to do so.

In 2012, Kuwait proposed hosting and operating ICI Regional Center in Kuwait during the NATO council meeting in Brussels, which was welcomed by the NATO summit in Chicago, US

In 2014, Kuwait joined the individual partnership and cooperation program and subsequently hosted a meeting of NA-TO's political Advisory Group in 2015 and 2018, and NATO Council meeting for the 15th anniversary of the ICI in December 2019.

In 2016, Kuwait and NATO signed the Military Transit Agreement, and in January 2017, the NATO-ICI Regional Center was inaugurated in Kuwait.

Municipal Council agenda loaded

PAAAFR, Municipality must join hands to shift agriculture waste

By Inaas Awad

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Capital Governorate Committee in the Municipal Council, headed by council member Dr. Hassan Kamal, approved the following during its third meeting for the third term:

Darwazat Al-Abdulrazzak Tunnel Development Project, after the committee reviewed a visual presentation on the new amendments to the project by the Construction Department at the Projects Sector in Kuwait Municipality.

- Request of Salhia Real Estate Company to develop their property described as Plot 72 of Cadastral Plan No. M/39544 -- JW Marriott Hotel (formerly the Meridian) -located in Kuwait City, Al-Qibla District, Block 13.

Meanwhile, the committee kept the following items on its agenda:

Moreover, the committee recommended coordination between the Municipality and the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) to remove agricultural waste and stimulate its exploitation and recycling.

It referred to the executive branch the letter of some residents in Adailiya regarding the commercial exploitation of the headquarters of public benefit associations in the region to prepare a study on it.

It deferred talks on the letter of an engineering consulting firm about enhancing and reviving the spirit and historical heritage of Kuwait City (the capital), while highlighting the identity of Kuwait City (Old Town) and strengthening its national spirit (the capital embraces everyone) in Kuwait City; not just the Mubarakiya market.

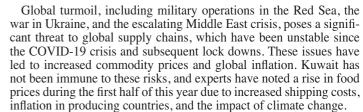
This is in addition to the letter of the Ministry of Interior regarding the invitation to

'Shipping costs spike prices'

Kuwait City

'Increased food rates at eateries take toll on common man

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Mishaal Al-Manea, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Consumer Protection Society, highlighted that increased operating costs have forced restaurants to either raise meal prices or reduce portion sizes. He noted that price increases for basic commodities vary by product and market, with some rising by at least 10 percent. Fahd Al-Arbash added that a decline in global production has caused the price of imported frozen chicken to rise from 600 to 900 fils, while the price of local chicken has reached 1,250 dinars. Restaurant owners are struggling with global price increases and strict regulatory control, reports Al-Rai daily.



In an interview with Al-Rai, experts emphasized the direct impact of these increases on citizens and consumers, underscoring the need for measures to alleviate the burden. Such measures include implementing policies to curb price increases, supporting farmers to boost local production, and improving shipping and transportation infrastructure to reduce costs. Additionally, they stressed the importance of directing support to families with limited incomes.

Al-Manea pointed out the difficulty in accurately determining the number of food commodities whose prices have increased but noted a general rise in prices due to global factors

such as increased shipping costs, political crises, and energy price fluctuations. He also mentioned that local macroeconomic policies and currency fluctuations could have indirect effects. The increase in commodity prices ranges from 10 to 30 percent depending on the product, supplier, and production costs.

The rise in prices has increased operating costs for restaurants, leading them to raise meal prices or reduce portion sizes. Al-Manea suggested encouraging citizens to seek less expensive local alternatives and supporting cooperatives and initiatives to provide goods at reasonable prices. He emphasized the need for the government to regulate support distribution, limit it to low-income families, curb prices, support local farmers, and improve transportation infrastructure to reduce costs.

Fahad Al-Arbash, head of the Union of Restaurants, Cafes, and Food Equipment, reported significant increases in food prices in Kuwait during the first half of this year, with some goods seeing a 30 percent rise. He attributed this to global

KUNA photo

inflation, increased shipping costs, and export reduction de-cisions by some countries. Specific commodities, like frozen chicken, have seen notable increases due to decreased global production, while rice prices have risen due to climate change and cocoa bean prices have surged due to disease and climate change in West Africa and complexities in the futures market.

These price increases have burdened restaurant owners, who face strict regulatory control by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which prevents them from raising meal prices without approval. Al-Arbash highlighted that some meal prices have not changed since the 1980s, affecting product quality, and argued that Kuwait's restaurant prices are the lowest in the Gulf. He suggested that liberalizing meal prices could combat potential fraud in restaurants.

The envoy of the King of Bahrain and the accompanying delegation arrived in Ku-wait to offer condolences on the death of Sheikh Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah



Al-Arbash



Kamal's proposal on the design and construction of longitudinal parking lots for Dasma Cooperative Society branch, Block 5, with an invitation for the Sanitary Engineering Sector at the Ministry of Public Works and the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) to discuss it in subsequent sessions.

Contract for the proposal of council member Abdullah Al-Hathal to construct a pedestrian bridge in Gharnata, Block 2 with an invitation for Al-Hathal and PART to deliberate on it later.

Letter of Mansouriya Mayor Abdul Wahab Al-Naqi about uprooting trees which deface the area, compromising its safety and security, and exploiting sidewalks to park cars for the purpose of buying and selling.

the 11th meeting of the committee for the second round.

Meanwhile, the Municipal Council's Committee for People with Disabilities, during its second meeting of the third term yesterday headed by member Farah Al-Roumi, agreed to cancel item No. 15 regarding the requirements and specifications for facilitating the movement of people with special needs inside and outside all buildings in all areas of Kuwait annexed to ministerial Resolution No. 2026/2009 concerning the organization of construction works and the attached items.

The canceled item has been replaced with the Kuwait Accessibility Code according to the general design approved by the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs, in accordance with the limited use of the building.

AIU School of Architecture & Design wins CMI accreditation for programs

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: American International University (AIU) proudly announces that its School of Architecture and Design has been accredited by the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) for its Interior Design and Graphic Design programs. This prestigious accreditation highlights AIU's commitment to providing students with industry-relevant qualifications that enhance their career prospects.

CMI accreditation ensures that AIU's graduates receive a CMI certificate, recognized globally for its standards in management and leadership education. This accreditation underscores AIU's dedication to delivering excellence in education and preparing students to thrive in their chosen fields.

"Receiving CMI accreditation for our Interior Design and Graphic Design programs is a significant achievement for AIU," said Alia Al Azzeh, Assistant Dean of AIU's School of Architecture and Design. "It reflects our continuous efforts to provide our students with the highest quality education and equip them with the skills and qualifications that meet international standards.'

The CMI accreditation means that AIU graduates will not only possess technical expertise but also managerial and leadership skills essential for success in today's competitive job market. This recognition further solidifies AIU's position as a leading institution for architecture and design education in Kuwait.

Prospective students interested in pursuing a career in Interior Design or Graphic Design can find more information about AIU's CMI accredited programs and the application process for Fall 2024 enrollment at aiu.edu.kw.

Measures to Control Prices:

Implement policies to curb price increases. ■ Support farmers to enhance local production. ■ Improve infrastructure to reduce transportation costs. Regulate support distribution to those in need.

Buildings checked

Judge frees Kuwaiti, 7 others in 'inferno' case

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: A judge has ordered the release of eight defendants in the Mangaf fire case on bail of KD300 each. These defendants include a Kuwaiti, three Indians and four Egyptians

The Public Prosecution had earlier charged the defendants with manslaughter, accidental injury and negligence; but they denied all the charges. The defense team appeared before the renewal judge and demanded that the defendants be released on any guarantee the court deems appropriate, since there were no justifications for pretrial detention.

It is worth noting that the prosecution initiated investigation procedures into the Mangaf building fire incident, which led to the death of 49 people and the injury of several others.

It formed a team consisting of Ahmadi and Mubarak Al-Kabeer prosecutors who took the initiative to inspect the fire incident location, as well as the hospitals to interview the relatives and colleagues of the deceased and the injured.

The Forensic Evidence and Forensic Medicine General Department was also delegated to take the necessary measures.

Fire brigades were able to put out the Mangaf building fire, which claimed the lives of a number of the building's residents and injured others. An investigation was opened to determine the circumstances leading to the fire, which concluded that the cause was an electrical fault.

Check on area buildings: The Public Relations Department of Kuwait Municipality says inspection teams affiliated to the Department of Engineering Audit and Follow Up launched campaigns in investment and commercial areas to make sure buildings under construction are meeting the requirements, reports Al-Shahed daily.

It stated that the campaigns were held in all governorates of Kuwait, and they resulted in the issuance of five citations and three warnings for various violations such as the use of basements for irrelevant purposes.



Fire brigade units during the rescue operation at the ill-fated Mangaf apartment building.



Turkish Sea Bass

Jumbo Iranian shrimp

Low turnout at fish market due to scarcity, high temps & travel

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The fish market is experiencing a significant decline in demand from both citizens and residents. This downturn is attributed to several factors, including the travel season, summer vaca-tions, and many individuals being outside Kuwait. The scorching temperatures have also deterred visits to the fish market, further compounded by the limited availability of local fish, with a preference for imported varieties, reports Al-Anba daily.

A source from the fish market informed Al-Anba about the notable shortage of Mead fish since early July, despite it being the start of the permitted fishing season for this species. Those fortunate enough to catch Mead fish are now compelled to sell it at elevated prices, reaching up to 6 dinars.

Several sellers and fishermen have called upon the relevant authorities to facilitate

the fishing of local products, particularly Maid fish. They urge for measures that would provide more affordable options for consumers and support the development of the local fishing sector. Meeting the demand for Mead fish, which has been permitted for fishing since the beginning of July, remains a priority for both residents and fishermen.

Fish prices per kilogram in the market:

Iranian Zubaidi: 10 dinars Iranian Hamour: 5 dinars Kuwaiti Balool: 9 dinars Kuwaiti Shoum: 5.5 to 7 dinars Male Grouper: 2.5 dinars Female Grouper: 4 dinars Medium Iranian Shrimp: 3.5 dinars Jumbo Iranian Shrimp: 6.5 dinars Medium Iranian Shrimp: 5 dinars Turkish Sea Bass: 3.5 to 5 dinars Turkish Sea Bream: 3.5 to 4 dinars

CAN training doctors and dentists

Early detection cuts pain, cure time

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Cancer Awareness National Campaign (CAN) recently launched a training program on early cancer diagnosis for primary care doctors and dentists, which will continue until December, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), reports Al-Rai daily.

In a press statement, Chairman of the Board of Directors of CAN Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh disclosed the training program is for 900 medical practitioners; including 400 dentists, to hone their skills in determining the initial signs of oral cancers; and to learn about the latest scientific discoveries and studies in this field. This is in addition to 500 primary health care doctors who will be trained on identifying the initial signs of breast, colorectal, head, neck, thyroid and prostate tumors, he said.

He explained that identifying the initial

signs is vital in early diagnosis by trained doctors, as they will quickly refer cases to specialists. This means faster provision of various stages of treatment, less suffering for the cancer patient, and achieving the ultimate goal of raising the rates of recovery from cancerous diseases, he affirmed.

He stated that the program includes improving the skills of participants in communicating with patients and their families; especially the cancer patients, in order to enhance the health culture among service providers in the country to guarantee high quality services --both technical and human.

He revealed that a total of 1,475 dentists and 1,533 primary care doctors were trained until the month of July as part of the CAN initiative. He stressed that this is the priority task for implementation, considering the positive results in reducing late arrival rates and it is one of the sustainable health development programs.

The American International University.

LOCAL



A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Sponsors responsible for high number of illegals in country'

"THE Ministry of Interior recently began taking firm measures against residency law violators, for which it is to be commended. First, it gave violators a grace period to adjust their status, either by leaving or adjusting their legal residency status," columnist Asrar Johar Hayat wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"After the deadline for amending the situation ended, the ministry began its campaign to arrest violators of the residency law, and it was shocking to see on the first day about 720 people were arrested accord-

ing to what was reported by the newspapers, meaning that we are facing a real disaster with the presence of hun-dreds, and perhaps thousands. of violators of residency the law. meaning

that they are in



Asrar J.Hayat

Kuwait without any legal reference for their presence! 'These large numbers of residency

law violators make it imperative that security agencies continue to arrest them, as these are people who live among us and may enter our homes, as many of them are technical workers.

"However, in this regard, we must not overlook several important points, perhaps the most prominent and important of which is that these workers did not come to Kuwait of their own accord. There are visa traders, but rather human traffickers, who brought them after sucking money from them, to obtain a work visa, then left them to their fate, to find work other than the one they came to work for.

"Consequently, they are forced to work in order to compensate for the money they paid to the trader, who did not only trade with them, but with the security and stability of his country and the labor market as a whole

"The first thing, before holding these illegal workers accountable, is to reach their sponsors who brought them to Kuwait and left them violating their residency, and hold them accountable and close their company to ensure this does not happen again but it appears as if we are going around in a vicious circle. "The second important point is that

despite the importance and seriousness of the security campaign, it has undoubtedly affected the presence of workers in the country, which has raised the wages and daily wages of workers for the Kuwaiti citizen. One of my relatives tells me that the daily wage of an ordinary worker has exceeded 50 dinars!

"This matter needs to be addressed, especially since we need technical and manual labor, especially in construcand sewing), to qualify them for the future labor market.

"She also indicated that the psychological and social support department has been prepared, which includes a team of specialists to provide psychological counseling sessions for the youth, to help them overcome the negative feelings they are experiencing.

"With this comprehensive presentation of the distinguished achievements, the Minister confirmed the provision of all means of care and support for the residents of social care homes, which we had previously requested, which would give them security and safety and build their self-confidence, so that they would be good citizens in society.

"I appeal to the Minister to add to the home classrooms with modern curricula for the residents to complete their studies at the various educational levels, with the help of competent and experienced Kuwaiti teachers, and there are many of them!"

"Blessed is the one who is free from worry. You rarely find a person who does not have enough worries and pains. People today are not like people of the past, except for those who are touched by divine mercy. Some offer empathy and support in times of suffering, while others remain indifferent," columnist Mishal Al-Saeed wrote for Al-Anba daily

"People also vary in their nature. Some recognize the world as a place of trials and hardships, and without any fairness, and so they believe in God's will and destiny, are patient and surrender to their Creator. One the other hand, others are despondent and constantly complaining. They are unwilling to accept their circumstances or what God has ordained for them.

"When a person suffers from the difficulties of life, he may find someone who stands by him, but only for a specific time. After that, everyone goes on their own path, as each person is distracted by their own worries. The feeling of anxiety is not the same as the feeling of being careless. The one whose hand is in fire is not the same as the one whose hand is in water. Your pain is felt by no one but you. The one with a wound must bear what is inflicted upon him and surrender his situation to God Almighty. Perhaps harm is beneficial and we do not know, as this knowledge about that is with the Creator of creation.

"No matter how much we forget in our crises, do not forget to remember God Almighty, as it relieves worries. Indeed, in the remembrance of God do hearts find peace - Al-Ra'ad: 28.

"Let us show empathy towards others. If you see someone else's misfortune, your misfortune will be easy for you. Let us stay away from everything that brings us worry and distress. Let the world not be greater than our concern. It is important to do a lot of good deeds, be optimistic and adhere to the ropes of patience. "Al-Hasan Al-Basri said: Patience is one of the treasures of Paradise that God only gives to a servant who is gen-erous to Him. May you always be safe."

Children of a lesser God ... Jleeb rots in agony, breathing its 'last'

Prostitution rife as drug dealers, bootleggers rule area

By Najeh Bilal Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Despite municipal claims that the recent viral video depicting scattered garbage in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh was outdated, a recent tour by Al-Seyassah revealed ongoing issues. Residents confirmed that the area remains overwhelmed by prostitution, waste, and drugs, with alcohol also being sold openly on the streets in the absence of proper oversight.

During an investigation by Al-Seyassah newspaper, residents highlighted the severe accumulation of garbage, creating hills of waste. They emphasized that garbage collection is sporadic, leading to prolonged exposure to filth and resulting in numerous residents suffering from respiratory diseases. The overflowing sewage and unpleasant odors further exacerbate the living conditions, prompting urgent calls for intervention. Mahrez Fattoun, a resident described the area as being en-

gulfed by dirt and scrap, noting that his roommate developed a respiratory illness due to the unsanitary conditions. Muham-mad Bilal added that the problem extends beyond garbage, citing rampant street chaos and numerous brothel apartments, which have become havens for domestic workers fleeing their employers. Entry fees for these apartments range from 3 to 5 dinars for half an hour, and Viagra pills are sold for 3 dinars each, leading to frequent shortages in local pharmacies. Abdul Momen Muhammad downplayed concerns about

garbage, stressing that the overflowing sewage is a constant is-sue. He lamented that authorities often ignore repair requests, resulting in worsening conditions. The area is littered with broken wood, abandoned beds, and various scrap items, making Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh synonymous with filth.

Sewage swamps

Real estate office owner Bu Hamad confirmed that Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh is plagued by sewage swamps and massive garbage piles. He questioned how over a quarter of a million people could live in such inhumane conditions, criticizing the Ministry of Public Works and the municipality for their lack of action. Despite media coverage of the area's dire state, chaos and neglect persist.

Mohammad Salah pointed out the high density of single workers in the area, many of whom are in violation of residency laws. The sale of alcohol and drugs is rampant, and some apartments are used for abortions amidst the growing prostitution. Despite security campaigns and raids, workers continue to find new ways to operate illicit businesses. Real estate guards are often bribed to overlook these activities, and garbage removal remains inconsistent, with cleaning workers prioritizing salvageable items over proper waste disposal.

Zidane Sayed described Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh as a refuge for criminals, including drug dealers, liquor manufacturers, and residency violators. Stray dogs and loitering single workers add to the area's troubles. He urged officials to witness the environmental disasters firsthand, emphasizing the urgent need for intervention.

Ibrahim Awad, a long-time resident, reported a rise in epidemics and filth-related diseases, calling for regulatory action to prevent deadly illnesses. A Ministry of Health consultant, preferring anonymity, underscored the health risks posed by constant exposure to filth, which fosters the spread of hepatitis, pneumonia, and chronic diarrhea. Overflowing garbage and sewage contribute to bacterial growth, increasing the preva-

lence of viruses and food poisoning. A source informed Al-Seyassah that the Municipal Council plans to form a committee to address cleanliness and street repairs. Minister of Municipality Noura Al-Mashaan has recommended reforms across Kuwait, with a particular focus on Ileeb Al-Shuvoukh The area's population has decreased nificantly, from 324,878 in mid-2019 to 268,601 by the end of 2023, reflecting the deteriorating living conditions.



Sewage water and garbage on the street.



Puppies with their mom find refuge under a dilapidated staircase.



A wooden plank covers a gaping hole at the entrance of a residential building



Photos by Mohammad Morsi Rubbish is strewn all over the town in Jleeb.

Indian falls dead in Abdally

Detention extended for 'radical'

tion projects and others. "Although this need does not justify the presence of residence violators, I hope that the advisory body of the Ministry of Interior and the Public Authority for Manpower will come up with solutions, perhaps before deporting these workers, to correct their legal status, provided that they are among the workers we need in the labor market, not marginal workers, so that the citizen is not ultimately harmed by the shortage of workers in the labor market."

Also:

"During an inspection tour of the new Juvenile Complex building in Sulaibiya, the Minister of Social Affairs, Labor. Childhood and Family Affairs. and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, brought back old memories of when I was the Head of the Science Department at the College of Basic Education at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training," columnist Prof. Dr. Bahija Behbehani wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"I and some faculty members in the department created a cultural season in social care homes, which included several lectures for residents in the fields of: the miracle of the Creator in creating the universe and creatures, the role of man in developing the earth, the effect of alcohol and drugs on the body's performance of its vital functions, methods of infection and prevention of infectious diseases, etc, in a simplified scientific manner, with the aim of improving their outlook on life and its problems, and reintegrating them into society in a positive way.

"When it was time for them to ask and answer questions, their questions poured in with fear and anxiety, as they wanted to know what would happen to them after leaving the care home, and whether they would be able to work and get married?

"At that time, I wrote an article in Al-Qabas that caught everyone's attention -- that the halls where we were present to give the lectures were old, and did not have modern technical devices to help us explain the content of the lectures. The old location of the social care home also lacked a library equipped with the latest books and technologies to develop the skills of the residents and provide them with the necessary expertise.

"The lack of playgrounds and sports halls at that time was strange, as the youth stage requires such places to occupy the free time of the youth.

'The Minister also stated that the new building has a modern library equipped with modern technologies, in addition to the vocational education and training department, which includes specialized workshops that aim to teach the youth various vocational skills (such as carpentry, blacksmithing

"Greed is a bad characteristic in an individual. It means an intense desire to possess something. Greed, avarice, and evil are brothers of the same father and mother. According to Al-Raghib Al-Isfahani, greed is the soul's inclination or lust toward a thing. Someone once said, "It is the attachment of the mind to a thing without any specific reason." There is praiseworthy greed and blameworthy greed. Among the praiseworthy is the greed for forgiveness of sins, and for entry into Paradise (and by Him I hope that He will forgive me my sins on the Day of Judgment) [Al-Shu'ara': 82]," columnist **Mishal Al-Saeed** wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"There is a relationship between greed and selfishness, for greed is never satisfied or satiated. Rather, it wants to seize what others have without justification, and nothing will satisfy or convince it.

"There is no trait more corrupting to a person's religion than greed. The wise once said, "Greed is a permanent poverty

"The Prophet (PBUH) used to seek refuge with an insatiable soul. If anyone's heart is dominated by greed, his companion is humiliation. Extreme greed decreases a person's destiny and does not increase his livelihood.

"Omar ibn al-Khattab (May Allah be pleased with him) said, "Nothing is more devastating to the minds of men than greed."

"Ali Ibn Abi Talib (May Allah be pleased with him) said, "Most men struggle under the lightning of ambition, for greed does not produce good results and has no liability. The characteristic of greed brings about evil."

"When Ka'b bin Ubai and Abdullah bin Salam met, Ka'b said, "O Ibn Salam, who are the masters of knowledge?" Bin Salam replied, "Those who practice it."

"Ka'b asked, "Why did knowledge leave the hearts of scholars after they taught it?", and bin Salam said, "Because of greed, self-indulgence, and seeking needs from people.

"In order to uproot greed from ourselves, we must refine ourselves, think about the consequences that result from greed, take into consideration God's many blessings and thank Him for them, be pious and submit to God's will and destiny, be content, struggle with the soul that is inclined to do evil, and so on."

> — Compiled by PFX Fernandes/ **Mahmoud Attive**

- **Proposed Solutions:**
- Consistent Garbage and Waste Removal
- Street Cleaning and Repair
 Crackdown on Brothels and Drug Trafficking
- Sewage System Repairs

Immediate action is essential to restore livability and ensure the health and safety of Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh's residents.

Senior, junior brawl

Elderly lady acquitted in 'yalla, yalla' lawsuit

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Court of Appeals acquitted a woman who had been charged with verbally abusing her son's wife via WhatsApp, citing that the daughter-in-law provoked her by portraying herself as the victim. The Public Prosecution had charged the defendant with

insulting her son's wife, as stated in the documents, without prior provocation, and that she deliberately misused a smartphone to commit the aforementioned offense.

Upon reviewing the evidence contained within the storage



unit, the court concluded in its ruling that the victim had paid the defendant to provoke her in order to portray herself as the victim. Initially, the victim compiled a list of

prohibitions and sent it to the accused. who is in her sixties and was teaching her how to prepare milk for her grandson.

She proceeded to record a video clip of the call, knowing that the words she used while speaking to her husband's

Al-Qattan

mother were not appropriate for a woman who was the wife of her son, without

taking into account her age, her relationship with her son, or even her husband.

In that conversation, she provocatively said to her, "Yalla, Yalla" as if addressing a young girl rather than an elderly woman.

Instead, in the recorded clip, she appears indifferent, asserting her authority despite being more than a quarter of a century younger than the suspect, indicating that she alone decides whether to continue the conversation or not.

Considering these provocations, the court decided not to hold the defendant accountable for sending the phrase "you are impolite" or for uttering the phrase "you animal" to the victim who provoked her into saying those phrases.

The defendant was represented by Lawyer Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan, who highlighted the maliciousness behind the accusation, and the delay in reporting.

He explained that during questioning about the incident, the complainant had to clarify inconsistencies in her report. When asked about when the incident occurred, she stated it was on February 16, 2024, despite filing the complaint herself on March 18, 2024.

Lawyer Al-Qattan said, "If we assume, for the sake of argument, that it is a controversial assumption, we firmly reject the notion that the complainant was subjected to what she claims without any provocation on her part. So then what is the reason for her not reporting the incident immediately after it happened in the first place, if she was truthful in her false claims? Why did she wait more than thirty days to report the fabricated incident on her part?

By Jaber Al-Hamoud/Munaif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The detention renewal judge ordered the extension of the detention of a Kuwaiti citizen for 14 days pending investigation on charges of joining a banned group.

The citizen was charged with calling for joining the banned group by publishing information about it on the Internet, undertaking activities that would harm the country's national interests, and publishing recordings on a social networking site for promoting the ideology of that group, as well as meeting with its followers who planned terrorist acts.

The Public Prosecution interrogated the accused and confronted him with the allegations leveled against him. Investigation

found dead near a cooperative society in Abdally. According to a security source, the Operations Unit at the Ministry of Interior received a report about a person lying on the ground close to a cooperative in Abdally. Security and medical emergency personnel rushed to the location. Upon their arrival, they found out that the person was of Indian nationality. His remains were referred to the Forensic Medicine Department and preliminary investigations indicate that he died

Indian falls dead: An Indian man was

procedures are ongoing.

of natural causes. A case was registered and investigations are continuing to establish the circumstances that led to the Indian's death.



LOCAL

IRU intervenes to safeguard policyholder claims

Judge OKs insurance firm bankruptcy proceedings

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: In confirmation of the soundness of the procedures taken by the Insurance Regulatory Unit to protect the rights of policyholders and claimants, the bankruptcy judge recently issued a decision on the request submitted by the Unit (No. 23/2024 Bankruptcy Month) to accept the request to open bankruptcy procedures for Ghazal Insurance Company, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Insurance Regulatory Unit stated in a press release that it had taken several legal measures against the company, including filing a bankruptcy petition due to numerous violations, a large number of complaints, failure to pay compensation to policyholders

KUWAIT CITY, July 10:

Fahd Al-Otaibi, the Secre-

tary of the Kuwait Society

of Engineers, emphasized

the Society's commitment

to collaborating with the

private sector to create

more job opportunities for

Kuwaiti engineers, par-

ticularly those who have

recently graduated, reports

He highlighted that restructur-

ing the employment center and

engaging young engineers in their

professional roles represent new

initiatives aimed at achieving this

objective and encouraging Kuwaiti

engineers to pursue careers in the

during the signing of a memorandum

of understanding between the Soci-

ety's Engineering Employment Center

and Saud Al-Musaibih, Director of

Financial Management and Personnel

Affairs at One Facilities Management

Al-Otaibi's comments were made

Al-Jarida daily.

private sector.

and claimants, financial difficulties, and an inability to continue business operations.

The IRU emphasized that its suspension of Ghazal Insurance Company's activities and other legal measures prevented an increase in compensation claims and preserved the rights of policyholders and claimants

The bankruptcy judge's decision ruled to cancel all valid insurance policies issued by Ghazal, requiring all policyholders to secure new civil liability insurance policies from licensed companies to avoid legal responsibilities from the policy cancellations.

KSE partners with private sector to bolster

career opportunities for Kuwaiti engineers

MoU signals strategic alliance to promote local talent

The IRU urged those with claims and debts against

Ghazal Insurance Company to contact the trustee appointed by the bankruptcy judge.

The trustee is responsible for listing the company's assets and properties, preparing a modern financial position, and a list of debts and creditors' claims.

The IRU published the trustee's information and contact methods on its website and official accounts. Emphasizing the protection of policyholders' rights, the Unit confirmed it would take all necessary legal measures against entities under its supervision that threaten policyholders' rights, as per the authority granted by Law No. 125 of 2019 regarding insurance regulation and its executive regulations and amendments.



IICO's small projects providing professional skills to continue and develop beneficiaries.

2,977 beneficiaries benefited

IICO initiates productive fund to empower orphans and families

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) has announced its efforts to support economic empowerment programs through the Productive Families Fund projects for orphans and their families, reports Al-Jarida daily.

These initiatives aim to reduce poverty and unemployment, improve living conditions, and achieve self-sufficiency.

Ibrahim Al-Badr, the Deputy Director General for Corporate Communications at the Authority, stated that the Productive Families Fund aligns with its strategic objectives of economically empowering those in need.

The program aims to create a stable and sustainable source of income for orphans once their sponsorship ends at the age of 18. It targets orphans aged 16 to 23, which is considered an appropriate age for training and undertaking projects.

Al-Badr added that the Productive Families Fund program was launched three years ago, and the Authority has successfully supported and implemented 497 projects, with an average cost of 500 dinars per project. A total of 2,977 beneficiaries have benefited from these projects



KUNA photo The late Kuwaiti poet Yaqoub Al-Subaie.

NCCAL mourns

Cultural icon Al-Subaie passes away at age 79

KUWAIT CITY, July 10, (KUNA): The General Secretariat of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) mourned the passing of Kuwaiti poet Yaqoub Al-Subaie, who passed away on Tuesday at the age of 79.

The General Secretariat conveyed in a statement the condolences of Minister of Information and Culture and Chairman of the NCCAL Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, as well as the council's leaders and employees, to the family and loved ones of the deceased, asking Allah Almighty to inspire them with patience and solace and to have mercy on the deceased.

'My Guide' campaign launched

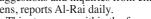
Students on scholarships serve as envoys for their nation: Al-Mulhim

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Lamia Al-Mulhim, has highlighted the Ministry's commitment to following the directives of the political leadership on the importance of investing in human capital and "enhancing the efficiency of our human resources by sending our children to world renowned universities to benefit from modern specializations,' reports Al-Jarida daily.

Addressing an informational meeting or

Capital Governorate joins Tawasel service

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Capital Governorate has joined the 'Tawasel' via the Sahel government application to receive complaints, suggestions and inquiries from citizens, reports Al-Rai daily.



Company

The signing ceremony, attended by several male and female engineers, underscored Al-Musaibih's commitment to ensuring the success of this cooperation and providing opportunities for Kuwaiti talents to work in various fields and specializations within the company.

The memorandum outlines mutual cooperation to contribute Kuwaiti national expertise to the labor market and enhance it with the skills of recent graduates

Photo taken during the signing of MoU

Both parties agreed on a strategic artnership and planned joint introductory workshops to familiarize engineers with the activities and goals of The Society will fully sponsor and

One Facilities Management in employment and facilities management fields. support these initiatives. Additionally, the memorandum allows the Society's employment center and the company to advertise job openings through the Society's website and other agreedupon communication channels



Weekdays (Saturo	day - Wednesday)
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 60.984 net	BHD 136.198 net
Weekends (Thu	rsday & Friday)
Queen Cabana	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast
(2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	per night.
	per night.

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351 Email: reservation@albander.com www.albander.com 🛛 🖬 🖸 @albanderhotelandresort

ganized by the Ministry of Higher Education as part of the "My Guide" campaign, she emphasized that "students are ambassadors of their country in scholarship countries.

The campaign, organized under the patronage of the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Adel Al-Adwani, for students accepted into the annual scholarship plan for the year 2024/2025 held at the Al-Shaddadiya University of Kuwait, saw a large turnout of students who have been accepted for scholarships and their parents.

Nusaybah Al-Nisf, the supervisor of missions from foreign countries, emphasized that scholarships are not just a stage for academic achievement but also provide students with practical experiences they cannot gain elsewhere. She expressed hope that students will represent their country well in their scholarship destinations.

Al-Nisf explained the admission process, which includes students and guardians signing a pledge, completing post-accept-

This step came within the frame work of the efforts made by the Capital Governorate and under the directives of the Governor, Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, to interact with citizens.

ance documents, and obtaining visas. She stressed that the IELTS score should be at least 5, or its equivalent in TOEFL, for applicants from Kuwait.

She also described the online steps for withdrawing from the annual scholarship plan, the conditions for changing majors or scholarship locations, the purpose of the financial guarantee, the language year, guardian accompaniment, academic advisors, approved admission tests, and securing admission to distinguished universities.

The Ministry of Higher Education allocated booths and a hall for students to ask questions and provide feedback regarding scholarships, with specialized staff available to answer all inquiries.



Students who have been accepted for scholarship.

Service facilitated through 18 access points

Mubarakiya gold market introduces high-speed Wi-Fi for digital upgrade

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: As part of its digital transformation initiative aimed at enhancing customer experience, the Public Facilities Management Company has announced the deployment of high-speed Wi-Fi service across the central gold market in Mubarakiya, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This service is facilitated through 18 Access Points strategically placed throughout the market. This step is part of a comprehensive development plan guided by management's vision to elevate service standards across all company facilities. The initiative underscores the company's commitment to innovation and continual improvement in service delivery, aimed at serving customers and tenants more effectively.

By providing high-speed Internet, the company aligns with its digital transformation strategy, adopting cutting-edge communication technologies in Kuwait's facilities as part of its support for Vision 2035, which aims for a more advanced Kuwait.

The Public Facilities Management Company has managed the Kuwait Central Market for Gold and Jewelry since 1984, renowned as one of Kuwait's oldest and most esteemed markets.

Located centrally in the capital and distinguished by its historic and architectural significance, the market holds a prominent position as a cultural landmark in the region.

LOCAL

Collaboration to enhance government services and economic development

Google Cloud opens new offices in Kuwait to accelerate digital transformation

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Today, Google Cloud announced the opening of its new offices in Kuwait licensed by Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) at an event attended by His Excellency Mr. Omar Saud Al-Omar, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Communication Affairs. This expansion further signifies Google Cloud's commitment to supporting Kuwait's national digital transformation journey, including the modernization of government services and the advancement of economic development. The Google Cloud offices in Kuwait will serve as a hub for collaboration and innovation, bringing together experts from across Google Cloud to work closely with their customers and partners.

'Under the visionary leadership of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, and the guidance of His Highness the Prime Minister, Kuwait has made great strides towards realizing its National Vision 2035," stated His Excellency Mr. Omar Saud Al-Omar, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Communication Affairs, at the inaugura-tion of Google Cloud's Kuwait headquarters. "This progress includes driving digital transformation, accelerating our smart

economy, and developing crucial infrastructure." His Excellency continued, "The significance of cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and digital technologies in general, cannot be overstated. They are fundamental to economic growth and national development. By leveraging these technologies in government services, we can significantly improve the quality of life for our citizens and residents, foster sustainability, and drive innovation. Our partnership with Google Cloud has already yielded numerous successes, which we are confident will enrich Kuwait's economy and create promising employment opportunities for our youth



Group photo during Google Cloud opening of its new offices in Kuwait.

In January 2023, Google Cloud announced a national alliance framework agreement with the Kuwaiti government to develop a roadmap for a comprehensive digital transformation program across government entities and key state-owned enterprises. The partnership will bring Google Cloud's cuttingedge technology, data expertise, and AI capabilities to government agencies and key state-owned entities, enhancing their operations and cybersecurity.

Abdul Rahman Al Thehaiban, Managing Director of Google Cloud in the Middle East, Turkey and Africa said at the event: "Opening Google Cloud offices in Kuwait is yet another step to meet the demand for our services and expertise in Kuwait to support the New Kuwait Vision 2035 vision which aims to transform the country into a digital society and diversify its economy. We are working with the government of Kuwait towards digitizing citizen services and increasing the productivity of government employees, in addition to participating in the implementation of several digital transformation initiatives in healthcare, education, disaster recovery, and smart living.'

Shaymaa Alterkait, Country Manager of Google Cloud in Kuwait said: "At Google Cloud we believe that technology, when combined with the coordinated efforts of governments, the private sector, and civil society, can drive economic growth and stability for all communities. Our expansion in Kuwait reinforces our dedication to this vision."

Google Cloud is working within the framework of the strategic alliance with the government in cooperation with the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), and the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT). Since establishing a presence in Kuwait, Google Cloud has been collaborating with CAIT through a national skilling program to upskill government employees, entrepreneurs, and recent graduates in digital technologies with Google Cloud's cuttingedge advanced data analytics, machine learning, artificial intelligence and information security solutions.

According to a Google-commissioned study by Access Partnership, digital technologies enabled by cloud computing could create a potential opportunity for up to \$3.4 trillion per year of economic impact in the major and emerging economies in the Middle East and Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Europe, by 2030.

In Kuwait, research conducted by Access Partnership identified that in a scenario where all entities in respective sectors were to fully adopt Cloud technologies, the combined annual economic impact they could bring to Kuwait could reach up to USD29.8 billion by 2030.



The research team participating in the annual conference of the American Diabetes Association.

DDI showcases research at event in US

A team from Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), representing Kuwait, participated in the American Diabetes Association's 84th Scientific Sessions held recently in Orlando

Acting Director General of the Institute, Dr. Faisal Al-Rifai, said in a press statement on Wednesday that Kuwait's participation in the event is the largest of its kind in the Arab World, with four scientific lectures and 13 research posters presented.

Al-Rifai noted that several research projects were

discussed in meetings held on the sidelines of the sessions by DDI and prestigious entities such as Yale University and the University of Texas San Antonio.

This participation aligns with the institute's plans to expand its research cooperation with leading universities and research centers worldwide in the field of dia-betes and its complications. The goal is to contribute to combating the disease through advanced programs, projects, and research studies, Al-Rifai concluded. (KUNA)

Early preparations pay off

Ministry's Hajj, Umrah Department reflects on '1445 AH' achievements

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami

in Kuwait. Around 45,000 people reg- registration procedures in the depart-

Technical Committee gathers to strategize Corniche project

New mosque proposed in Ali Sabah Al-Salem

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Technical Committee of the Municipal Council, during its meeting yesterday headed by member Munira Al-Amir, decided to maintain its agenda on the Jahra Waterfront Project titled "Corniche". The committee has invited the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Interior's General Traffic Department, the Ministry of Communication's Transportation Sector, the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART), and the Project Development Department in Kuwait Municipality. This is to discuss the entrances and exits, and the access mechanism for the project, its impact on neighboring areas, and the possibility of implementing mass public transportation

systems. The committee referred to the executive body a letter sent by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Real Estate Union regarding the proposal of the Real Estate Union for holding a workshop on improving the investment environment in the real estate sector.



Farwaniya Governor with Ambassador of Spain.

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi receives Spain, Indonesia envoys

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi received the Ambassador of Spain to Kuwait Miguel Moro Aguilar in the headquarters of Farwani-ya Governorate, reports Al-Shahed dailv

During the meeting, they dis-cussed ways to enhance the cooperation and the strong bonds between the two friendly countries in all fields culture.

Ambassador Aguilera expressed his gratitude for the excellent reception he received.

He praised the distinguished ties between Kuwait and Spain in both official and popular levels. The governor also received the

Ambassador of Indonesia to Kuwait Lena Maryana. Both sides discussed issues of mutual concern, and affirmed the strong rebetween Kuwait and nesia.

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Hajj and Umrah Department at the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs has reviewed its achievements during the Hajj season in 1445 AH.

In a press statement, Director of the department Sattam Al-Muzaini explained that preparations for the last Hajj were early compared to some previous seasons; as they began im-mediately after the 1444 AH season. "This initiative had a positive impact on the performance of the department, its implementation of its activities and programs, the receipt of locations and housing for Hajj pilgrims, and the signing of contracts in the 1445/2024 Hajj season," he added.

He disclosed: We opened the registration platform for Hajj last October, which was early enough. It was a new initiative in the registration of pilgrims

istered for Hajj; out of whom we accepted 8,000 pilgrims according to the quota given to the State.

" The Kuwaiti Hajj delegation left at the end of May, in which a number of State agencies participated aside from the Ministry of Endowments; such as the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health, Youth and Sports, as well as the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) and Kuwait Fire Force (KFF). They provided all services to the pilgrims in the Holy House of Allah. Those who flocked to the Holy Land on June 10 testified as to how they passed through the season with complete comfort; including the circumambulation of the Kaaba, tours and overnight stays in all the holy places," he concluded.

Meanwhile, Superintendent of the Supreme Committee for Hajj and Umrah Affairs Mohammad Al-Saeedi stated that "we completed the central

ment, which were implemented two years ago to guarantee the quality of service and appropriate prices for pilgrims, as per our assessment of the pilgrims' comments. This approach will continue in the coming years."

Superintendent of the department Abdullah Al-Baijans stressed that the department is actively seeking to organize all Hajj and Umrah matters, and conduct consultations and assess expenditures with the authorities in charge of Hajj and Umrah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Head of the Studies and Follow-up Unit at the department Khalaf Al Jasmi revealed the unit evaluates the work of caravans during the season by conducting field tours, during which they ask for the opinion of pilgrims and then monitor the positive and negative aspects of the caravans, as well as that of the caravan owners regarding the procedures they completed.

On a related note, Municipal Council member Fahad Al-Khanin submitted yesterday a proposal to establish a mosque in Ali Sabah Al-Salem, Block 9, Street 6 in Ahmadi Governorate.

In the preamble to his proposal, he clarified that he submitted the proposal at the request of the residents of the area for the allocation of a site to establish a mosque that would serve the residents and visitors of the area.

In addition to the above, the Capital Committee of the Municipal Council will hold its third meeting of the third term today, which will be headed by Dr. Hassan Kamal, to discuss a number of items on its agenda. These items

لولو للمبيرفة LuLu Exchange

are 1. The contract for the proposal submitted by Municipal Council member Abdullah Al-Hathal regarding the pedestrian bridge proposed to be constructed in Granada Block 2.

2. The letter submitted by some of the residents of Adailiva regarding the commercial exploitation of the headquarters of public benefit associations in the region

3. The request submitted by Salhia Real Estate Company regarding approval to develop their property described as Plot 72 of the cadastral Plan No. M/39544 described as the JW Marriott Hotel (formerly Le Meridien) located in Kuwait City, Al-Qibla area, Plot No. 13.

4. The letter submitted by the mayor of Mansouriya Abdul Wahab Al-Naqi for the removal of trees that mar the area's safety and security, and the cessation of using sidewalks for parking cars on sale.

5. The project to develop the Darwazat Al-Abdul Razzaq tunnel.

6. The proposal submitted by its Chairman Dr. Hassan Kamal regarding the design and construction of longitudinal parking lots for Dasma Cooperative branch in Block 5.

7. The letter submitted by an engineering consulting house for enhancing and reviving the spirit and historical legacy of Kuwait City (the Capital), highlighting the identity of Kuwait City (old town), and strengthening the national spirit "The capital embraces everyone" and that Kuwait City is not only Souk Mubarakiya.

LuLu Money

Reforms draw

Continued from Page 1

Oil sources disclosed to Al-Seyassah that a private Kuwaiti oil company involved in overseas exploration plans to return to Kuwait this year. This company, which competes with the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company in various markets, has decided to sell some of its foreign projects due to sustained losses abroad and to capitalize on new opportunities in the Kuwaiti oil market.

The private oil company's board of directors supports this return, recognizing significant opportunities in oil projects offered by companies under the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

With extensive experience in oil and gas exploration and notable achievements in Egypt, Iraq, China, and Europe, the company's return is expected to bolster the Kuwaiti economy and create employment for Kuwaiti youth.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry has also started providing more incentives to encourage local private companies operating abroad to return.

Last week, Al-Seyassah published an extensive investigation where economic experts called for the repatriation of Kuwaiti capital to take advantage of the current political and economic resurgence.

Kuwait outlines

Continued from Page 1

and peace and maintain cordial ties with sisterly and friendly states as well as abstaining from intervention in other states' local affairs.

Part of the external policy dimen-

sions address development diplomacy, she said, noting that the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has steadily offered aid and loans to fund projects in nations in need.

Another axis of the State of Kuwait's external policy is humanitarian diplomacy which mirrors the innate traits of the people of Kuwait who advocate aiding afflicted peoples, she added.

Ambassador Jawaher shed light in her presentation on the role of women in Kuwait and the other GCC countries, playing a prominent role in the diplomatic, judicial and oil sectors.

She indicated Kuwait's membership in the UN Human Rights Council adding that the 2023 Global Peace Index classified Kuwait as a stable and secure country, ranking 25th internationally and the first among the Arab countries.

KRCS field

Continued from Page 1

KRCS field hospital is located on an area of 750 square meters, equipped with the latest medical devices and equipment, including operating and intensive care rooms, in addition to incubators for newborns, a radiology unit, a pharmacy, and a medical analysis laboratory that contains the necessary equipment to conduct various types of medical examinations.

Meanwhile, Israeli airstrikes early Wednesday killed 20 Palestinians in central Gaza, including six children and three women, some of them inside a purported "safe zone" declared by the Israeli military, hospital authorities said.

This second straight night of deadly strikes in the central town of Deir alBalah and nearby refugee camps came as U.S., Egyptian and Qatari mediators as well as Israeli officials came together in the Qatari capital, Doha, for talks trying to push through a long-elusive deal for a cease-fire and hostage release

Israel and Hamas had appeared to narrow the gaps in recent days, but obstacles remain

Strikes early Wednesday hit three houses in the Nuseirat refugee camp, killing 12 people including five children, said authorities at al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where the casualties were taken. An Associated Press reporter counted the bodies.

King's Foundation,

Continued from Page 1

Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Sadeq Marafi, UK Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis and Chairperson of AlSadu Society Sheikha Bibi Al-Du'aij Al-Sabah.

Under the deal, both sides will cooperate in producing Tartan - a traditional Scottish woolen cloth, and initiating two horticultural installations for the Highgrove House - the private residence of King Charles III and Queen Camilla near Tetbury in Gloucestershire.

The two installations aim to educate visitors of the gardens of the Highgrove, which are open for the public between March and October, on horticultural cooperation between both countries.

The deal provides for experience sharing between both sides in horticulture, agriculture and food security for three years, Ambassador Al-Awadhi told KUNA following the signing ceremony. CAPT approves 'railway' project detailed design KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Director General of Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) Khalid Al-Osaimi disclosed that Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) approved the technical offers for the detailed design of the railway project, reports Aljarida daily. He stressed that the ap-

proval of CAPT is the first step towards the launch of the execution of the project as scheduled.

Al-Osaimi praised the efforts exerted by CAPT, headed by Essam Al-Marzouq, for the quick response in approving the submitted offers for the project, which will contribute to developing land transportation and providing a positive economic effect.

He highlighted that the railway project is a leading project to be established by Kuwait in coordination with other GCC countries. Al-Osaimi said the next

step is to check the financial bids to be submitted by contracting companies to execute the project.

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INTERNATIONAL

World News Roundup

Europe

Modi discusses Ukraine war with Austria: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed the war in Ukraine on Wednesday with the leader of Austria, an ally of Kyiv that has a policy of military neutrality, emphasizing the need for diplomacy a day after he met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow. Modi met Chancellor Karl Nehammer on what he said was the

first visit to Austria by an Indian prime minister in 41 years. Nehammer told reporters it was important to understand India's position on Ukraine and convey Europe's concerns. He said it was



an "important and significant signal" that India took part in a summit in Switzerland last month and added that Austria could act as a "bridge-builder" in helping move forward peace efforts. Modi's visit to Moscow, a longtime

partner for New Delhi, was his first since the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine

While in Moscow, Modi reiterated India's neutral stance on the invasion. He also alluded to an attack on Monday when Russian missiles struck across Ukraine, damaging the largest children's hospital in Kyiv and killing at least 42 people na-

Modi

tionwide, including some children. "Be it war, a struggle or a terrorist attack, every person who believes in humanity, when there is loss of life, he is pained," Modi said Tuesday. "When innocent children are killed, when we see innocent children dying, then the heart pains. And that pain is very horrible." (AP)

'Decisive action must be taken to repel Putin': Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday that decisive action must be taken before the US presidential election in November to repel Russia's offensive against his country, using an address on the sidelines of the NATO summit to press for greater support during a pivotal but tumultuous stretch in America's political calendar.

"It's time to step out of the shadows to make strong decisions to act and not wait for November or any other months to descend. We must be strong and uncompromising all together," Zelenskyy said.

Speaking in Washington four months before an election beset by new uncertainty following President Joe Biden's shaky debate performance, he aimed his message at Republicans, whose NA-TO-adverse leader looks to be in an improving position to win back the presidency. The president of the United States, Zelenskyy added, must

be "uncompromising in defending democracy, uncompromising against (Russian President Vladimir) Putin and his coterie." (AP)

Ukraine opens DC weapons office: NATO countries are moving to shore up their weapons production capabilities as a hedge against the November presidential vote, signing a nearly \$700 million contract for more Stinger missiles and making pledges to boost their own defense production.

Ukraine, a partner that relies on military aid from the NATO members, is opening a small office in Washington to strengthen its ties to the US defense industry. Regardless of whether President Joe Biden or former president Donald Trump wins the US election, the alliance and Ukraine want to be in a better position to provide more of their own defense needs.

The announcements came Tuesday at the start of the NATO summit in Washington, where leaders were focused on the need both to support Ukraine and to make sure the alliance is prepared for any future threats.

Biden spotlights support for NATO: US President Joe Biden welcomed NATO leaders to Washington on Tuesday by celebrating their unity against Russia's Ukraine aggression and underscoring America's ironclad commitment to the alliance un-der his watch - a message that seemed aimed at bucking up his own wobbly Democratic supporters as much as allies confronting the prospect of a return to the White House of NATO skeptic Donald Trump. Biden on Tuesday announced major steps the U.S. and other NATO countries are taking to beef up Ukraine's overwhelmed air defenses. The US, Germany, and Romania are donating additional Patriot batteries, while the Netherlands and other allies will donate additional components to operate a Patriot battery. (AP)



US President Joe Biden delivers remarks on the 75th anniversary of NATO at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium on July 9 in Washington. (AP)

Politics

'Biden saw neurologist at WH for Jan 17 exam'

Trump revels in Democratic turmoil

MIAMI, July 10, (AP): Former US president Donald Trump reveled in the mounting turmoil surrounding President Joe Biden 's campaign in the wake of their debate and teased the expected announcement of his Republican running mate with one of the top contenders, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, in attendance.

After days spent lying low, golfing and letting Democratic infighting play out in public, Trump used his return to the campaign trail in Florida to ratchet up his attacks on both Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, indulging speculation that she could replace the president as the Democratic nominee this year and alleging, without evidence, that his son Hunter Biden is "running our government" and first lady Jill Biden "is helping." Biden has repeatedly insisted he won't with-

draw from the race. Trump rallied his supporters at one of

Singer also said, "Joe Biden doesn't have time for Donald Trump's weird antics - he's busy leading America and defending the free world.

Trump laced into Harris with more specifics than usual. She has become a focus of the former president and his allies as speculation has mounted that she would replace Biden as the Democratic nominee. Trump called her "Laughing Kamala," and referred to the "Biden-Harris administration," rather than just pinning actions on Biden as he had for months, and blamed Harris for the White House's immigration policies.

"Despite all the Democrat panic this week, the truth is, it doesn't matter who they nominate because we are going to beat any one of them in thundering landslides and this November's going to be amazing," he said.

Also:

necticut Sen. Richard Blumenthal, who would not say if Biden is the best person to do that.

Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, who reached out to colleagues last week in hopes of meeting to discuss Biden's future, would only say the caucus lunch was a "constructive conversation." He declined to elaborate.

Senators have been sharing their anxieties about the election in private for almost two weeks since the debate, but are reluctant about the ramifications of speaking out - especially if Biden stays on the ticket.

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden saw a neurologist at the White House on Jan 17 for a neurological exam, the results of which were later reported as part of his annual physical more than a month later, the White



Help of Southern Nevada outreach workers check out homeless encamp-ments in Las Vegas, on July 9. Help of Southern Nevada travels the streets with flyers about heat, water and vehicles to transport people to cooling centers. (AP)

Hundreds of new UK lawmakers sworn in: Hundreds of newly elected lawmakers trooped excitedly into Parliament on Tuesday after the UK's transformative election brought a Labour government to power.

The halls of the labyrinthine building echoed with excited chatter of the 650 members of the House of Commons - 335 of them arriving for the first time. That compares to 140 new lawmakers after the last election in 2019.

The seat of British democracy took on a back-to-school feel. from the rows of lockers temporarily installed in wood-paneled corridors to the staff holding "Ask Me" signs ready to help bewildered newcomers.

The new House of Commons includes the largest number of women ever elected - 263, some 40% of the total - and the most lawmakers of color, at 90.

The youngest new lawmaker is Labour's Sam Carling, 22. (AP)

UK police searching for armed man: British police were hunting for a man believed to be armed with a crossbow on Wednesday after three women were killed in a house near London.

Hertfordshire Police said Kyle Clifford, 26, was being sought over the suspected triple murder.

Police said the three women, who were related, were found seriously injured in a house in Bushey, northwest of London, on Tuesday evening. Police and ambulance crews tried to save them, but they were pronounced dead at the scene.

Police did not say whether Clifford, who is from London, was connected to the women. (AP)

Leftist coalition demands right to form govt: The leftist coalition that won the most seats in France's National Assembly in surprise results demanded on Tuesday the immediate right to form a government, even though no grouping won a majority of seats.

It is unprecedented in France's modern history to have a fractured parliament. Sunday's vote raised the risk of paralysis for the European Union's second-largest economy. The legislature is split between the New Popular Front leftist coalition, President Emmanuel Macron's centrist allies and the far-right National Rally.

Macron on Monday asked his prime minister, Gabriel Attal, to continue handling day-to-day affairs, despite Attal's offer of resignation, less than three weeks before the start of the Paris Olympics. Macron leaves Wednesday for a NATO summit in Washington. (AP)

Ex-French first lady Bruni-Sarkozy charged: Former supermodel and French first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy was given preliminary charges Tuesday for involvement in alleged efforts to pressure a witness who accused ex-President Nicolas Sarkozy of receiving illegal campaign financing from Libya.

Bruni-Sarkozy was placed under judicial supervision on Tuesday, which included a ban on contact with all those involved in the proceedings with the exception of her husband, according to a judicial official not authorized to be publicly named when speaking about an ongoing investigation.

Preliminary charges against Bruni-Sarkozy include witness tampering and participation in a criminal association with an attempt to commit fraud in efforts to deceive magistrates investigating her husband on suspicion of receiving illegal funds during his 2007 presidential election campaign, the official said. (AP)

Court orders arrest of Navalny widow: A court in Russia ordered the arrest of the widow of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny during a hearing Tuesday that was conducted in absentia as part of a sweeping Kremlin crackdown on the opposition.

Yulia Navalnaya, who lives abroad, would face arrest if and when she returns to Russia.

Moscow's Basmanny District Court ruled to arrest Navalnaya on charges of alleged involvement in an extremist group. Navalny, the fiercest political foe of Russian President Vladimir

Putin, died in February in an Arctic penal colony while serving a 19-year sentence on extremism charges that he had condemned as politically motivated. (AP)



Austin

America

Virginia mall shooting injures 2: Two people were injured in a shooting outside a northern Virginia shopping mall Tuesday but were expected to survive, authorities said

Police in Prince William County said the shooting occurred in a parking lot at the Manassas Mall around 2 pm.

Two groups had an altercation and shots were fired, police said in a statement. Bystanders ran inside and alerted shoppers, causing what was described as an "initial panic.

One victim, a 23-year-old man, was taken to the hospital with a lower body wound, Another, identified by police as a 51-yearold man who was an uninvolved bystander, was found at the scene with an upper body wound and taken to the hospital for treatment.

Police said they stopped a car nearby and detained some people but were still sorting out who was involved. They said the shooting did not appear to be random and there was no ongoing threat. (AP)

Navy sailor disciplined: A Navy sailor tried to access President Joe Biden's medical records early this year, but the Pentagon

said no information was compromised. According to the Navy, a sailor assigned to Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command searched for the name "Joseph Biden" in the military's health care system, called Genesis. The Navy said the sailor searched "out of curiosity.

A co-worker reported the breach of the Health Insurance Portability and Account-ability Act, or HIPAA. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service investigated and concluded that the record the sailor accessed was "not the electronic record of the President of the United States.'

Air Force Maj Gen Pat Ryder, Pentagon press secretary, said that Defense Secretary Lovd Austin was informed in February of the incident and so was the White House. (AP)

Man indicted for murder: A Missouri man accused of keeping a woman hidden in his basement while repeatedly sexually assaulting her was indicted Tuesday for allegedly murdering another woman.

Clav County Prosecuting Attorney Zachary Thompson said Timothy M. Haslett was charged with murder in connection with

his Miami-area golf courses as the presumptive Republican nominee nears a deadline to announce his running mate. But he appears in no rush, as much of the political world's attention is still centered on questions about Biden's ability to govern for another four-year term. Some Democrats have started calling for Biden to step down as their presumptive nominee following his dismal debate performance last month.

Trump, speaking from the 10th hole of his course, challenged Biden to another debate or even a "golf-off" reviving an offbeat argument from their debate. But mostly, he rubbed in how their meetup left Biden's campaign facing a grim prognosis.

Race

"Our victory was so absolute that Joe's own party now wants him to throw in the towel and surrender the presidency after a single 90-minute performance," Trump said Tuesday night. "They want 'Crooked Joe' out of the race. It's a shame the way they're treating him. But don't feel sorry for him. He's a very bad guy.'

James Singer, a spokesperson for Biden's campaign, responded to Trump with a series of challenges, saying in a statement: "We'd challenge Donald Trump to create jobs, but he lost 3 million. We'd challenge Donald Trump to stand up to Putin, but he bent the knee to him. We'd challenge Donald Trump to follow the law, but he breaks it."

that she was killed "by an act of homicidal violence." He said her remains showed impact wounds consistent with a gunshot.

WASHINGTON: After meeting for around two hours Tuesday to discuss whether President Joe Biden should remain at the top of their presidential ticket, Senate Democrats seemed to agree on one thing - it's best not to talk about it publicly.

Behind closed doors, several Democrats expressed deep concerns about whether Biden can win. But no Democratic senators publicly called for him to drop his reelection bid, underscoring the deep bind facing the party at a crucial juncture in the campaign. Democratic lawmakers are reeling from Biden's calamitous performance at the debate two weeks ago, yet the president has made clear, repeatedly and forcefully, that he has no plans to step aside.

Emerging from their meeting Tuesday, senators ducked into elevators, evaded questions, joked, and stated the obvious - that they all want to defeat former Republican Donald Trump, the presumptive GOP nominee. But very few of them would comment on Biden's future, whether they think he should remain the Democratic candidate, or what the Senate could potentially do about it. Some of them appeared resigned.

"People are all focused on winning right now," said Michigan Sen. Gary Peters, who is in charge of Senate Democrats' campaign arm.

Can you win with Biden? "He's our nominee," Peters said.

There is "absolute unanimity" that we have to defeat Trump, said Con-

Haslett, of Excelsior Springs, previously was indicted on one count of rape, four counts of sodomy, two counts of second-degree assault and one count each of kidnap-



Britain's Prince William, Prince of Wales gets an introduction to a RAF Short Tucano trainer aircraft during an official visit at RAF Valley, in Holyhead, Wales on July 9. (AP)

House said on Tuesday.

The confirmation came after the White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre inaccurately said during the daily briefing with reporters that the Jan 17 meeting was not related to care for the president in response to a question from the Associated Press.

The AP had asked whether a meeting, which was reported through the White House visitors' logs, between renowned neurological expert Dr Kevin Cannard and Dr. Kevin O'Connor, Biden's personal doctor, was about the president himself. It was the only meeting between those two men, according to the logs, that had been reported between July 2023 and this past March - a period that has come under scrutiny because Cannard had visited the White House eight times in that time frame.

"Because the date was not mentioned in the question, I want to be clear that the Jan. 17 meeting between Dr. O'Connor and Dr. Cannard was for the President's physical," Jean-Pierre said in a statement to the AP on Tuesday. "It was one of the three times the President has seen Dr. Cannard, each time for his physical. The findings from each exam have been released to the public."

That statement is not the first time in the days following Biden's debate debacle - which triggered a new round of concerns about the 81-year-old president's fitness to serve - that the White House has had to later clarify answers to questions about the president's health.

ping and endangering the welfare of a child. He is being held in the Clay County Detention Center on \$5 million bond. Haslett's public defender, Tiffany Leuty, did not immediately return an Associated Press call and email seeking comment Tuesday. (AP)

Man charged in stabbing: A man who prosecutors say stabbed five people, two fatally, in a July 4 attack on a California beach town has been charged with murder, authorities said Tuesday.

Logan Christopher Kelley, 26, was also charged with attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, and battery on a police officer, the district attorney's office announced in a news release. He was charged under a provision known as "special circumstance of multiple murders," which makes him eligible for the death penalty or life without parole.

The attack took place just after 11 p.m. after Kelley approached a group of people watching fireworks in Huntington Beach, a community southeast of Los Angeles. He had been drinking and took hallucinogenic drugs, prosecutors said, and started stabbing people with a knife.

Eric Hodges, 42; and William Collins, 47, were killed. Two 35-year-old men and one of their fathers, age 68, were injured in the stabbing but were expected to survive, prosecutors said. (AP)

36-year-old Jaynie Crosdale's death, adding

INTERNATIONAL

Africa

Soldier killed in DRC S.Sudan talks face 'collapse' over law

JUBA, South Sudan, July 10, (AP): South Sudan peace talks that almost reached completion faced a stumbling block with opposition groups demanding a newly passed bill allowing the detention of people without an arrest warrant scratched out in order to sign a proposed agreement.

Kenya has been hosting the high-level meetings since May between government representatives and rebel opposition groups who were not part of a 2018 agreement that ended a five-year civil war, leaving about 400,000 people dead and millions displaced. Despite the agreement, violence often erupted in the

country of 9 million.



Pagan Amum Okiech, negotiating on behalf of the South Sudan Opposition Movement Alliance, told the Associated Press Tuesday night that it would be "meaningless to sign any agreement if the draconian National Security Act is signed into law by the president." Last week, parliament voted

in favor of the 2015 bill and President Salva Kiir will have to approve it within 30 days for

it to become a law. This comes ahead of the country's first-ever election on Dec 22. "This law violates the fundamental rights and free-

doms of South Sudanese citizens, it eliminates civic and political space," Amum said. "There can be no peace or democracy under such a law.'

Attending the peace talks is the executive director of the Community Empowerment for Progress Organ-ization, a non-profit that engages university students and fresh graduates. Edmund Yakani criticized the security bill and said it "created a negative spirit for the negotiations.

Human Rights Watch has also called on Kiir to reject the controversial bill saying that it will further undermine human rights and strengthen national security agencies that have a history of longstanding rights abuses. The talks - dubbed Tumaini, Swahili for hope - have

resulted in a draft agreement proposing to extend the country's transitional period and postpone the coming election to allow finishing up the country's constitution and electoral laws, as well as set up constituency borders and a unified security force as proposed in the 2018 peace talks.

Some Western envoys also recommend delaying the poll "to guarantee a free and fair election."

Kiir has been adamant about having the election in December and called out the envoys.

Soldier killed in DRC: A South African soldier was killed Monday in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) when a hand grenade exploded near their sleeping quarters in their base in Beni, a city in north-eastern DRC, said the South African National Defense Force (SANDF) Tuesday.

"It is not clear what caused the hand grenade to ex-plode, however, a SANDF board of inquiry including the United Nations officials will be convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident,' said the SANDF in a statement.

The SANDF said they are in the process of bringing s of the soldier to S



Wang Huning, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), meets with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Beijing, capital of China on July 9. (Xinhua)



Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille, (center), is surrounded by security as he arrives to the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on July 9. (AP)



Rameau

US envoy to Taiwan pledges to help island

China and Bangladesh reaffirm ties

BEIJING, July 10, (Agencies): China and Bangladesh are reaffirming their ties during a visit by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Beijing on Tuesday as tensions rise in the region over territorial disputes and resources.

Asia

China's official Xinhua News Agency quoted Wang Huning, a member of China's Politburo Standing Committee who met with Hasina, as saying that "China and Bangladesh have respected and treated each other with equality, setting a good example of friendly coexistence and mutually beneficial cooperation between countries.'

Strategic

Bangladesh occupies a strategic position between Myanmar, a longtime Chinese ally now wracked by internal conflict, and India, the rising Asian gi-ant with which China has a longstanding border conflict.

Hasina met with her Chinese counterpart, Li Qiang, on Tuesday and oversaw the signing of 28 agreements between the countries covering mostly trade and investment.

Double-decker bus collides with truck in India; 18 dead

LUCKNOW, India, July 10, (AP): A double-decker passenger bus collided with a milk truck in northern India on Wednesday, killing at least 18 people and injuring many others, officials said.

The collision occurred on an ex-pressway in Uttar Pradesh state, and 19 injured people were rushed to the hospital by villagers in the area, said police officer Arvind Kumar, adding that their condition was reported to be stable. The bus was traveling from the northern state of Bihar to the capital New Delhi. "Authorities are in the process of

identifying the victims, and a probe has been launched to determine the exact cause of the accident,' Kumar added.

Gaurang Rathi, a government official, said that according to a preliminary investigation the bus may have been speeding when it struck the milk truck from behind, which led both vehicles to overturn. The collision was severe enough that one side of the bus was torn off, causing passengers to be ejected from the vehicle. Images on tel-

evision showed bodies scattered across the road.

India has some of the highest road death rates in the world, with undreds of thousands of people killed and injured annually. Most crashes are blamed on reckless driving, poorly maintained roads and aging vehicles.

In May, a bus carrying Hindu pilgrims skidded and rolled into a deep gorge on a mountainous highway in Indian-controlled Kashmir, killing at least 21 people.

Also:

ISLAMABAD: Thirteen people were killed in a road accident in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir located in the northeast of the country on Wednesday, the rescue organization Rescue 1122 said. The incident happened in the **Neelum** district where a passenger van fell into a ravine, Rescue 1122 said in a statement. The accident happened when the driver tried to negotiate a sharp turn in the hilly terrain of the district, the statement added.

Amca

South African Minister of Defense and Military Veterans Angie Motshekga sent condolence messages to the bereaved family.

South African soldiers are part of the Southern African Development Community contingent which was deployed in the DRC to maintain peace and security in the country.

Cameroon extends mandate: Cameroon's National Assembly, or the Lower House of parliament, on Tuesday approved a bill extending the mandate for its current lawmakers for a year from its expiry date of March 10, 2025 to to March 30, 2026.

While presiding over a plenary session to approve the bill, House Speaker Cavaye Yeguie Djibril said that the extension was imperative to "decongest" the electoral calendar next year which will see presidential, parliamentary, municipal and regional council elections in the Central African country.

Last week, the government said that the extension will "spread the elections over the years 2025 and 2026, so as to ensure better organization."

Kenyan prez announces forum: Kenyan President William Ruto on Tuesday announced that a national multisectoral forum will be held on July 15 to address issues raised by the country's youth that sparked three weeks of protests across the country.

Ruto said the proposed six-day forum will deliberate on issues including employment, tax policies, national debt, representation and accountability, and anti-corruption measures.

"We have had consultations and agreed that, to bring the priority, we will move ahead with the multisectoral forum," he said in Nairobi, the country's capital, during a meeting that gathered opposition leaders including former Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

The president's remarks followed a recent threeweek anti-government protests across the country, sparked by the contentious Finance Bill 2024 which was later withdrawn from the parliament. The protests, which were led by mostly young demonstrators, have so far left at least 41 people dead and more than 360 others injured, according to the state-funded Kenya National Commission on Human Rights.

The protesters had expressed outrage over provisions of the bill that would raise taxes on goods and services that many people depend on, such as bread, and mobile money transfers, to meet the government's revenue targets.

Ruto said the forum will include 150 members, 50 of whom will be youth, while 100 people will be drawn from religious institutions, civil society, professional organizations and political parties, among other stakeholders.

He also welcomed political parties and all other stakeholders to work with the government to forge a new path for the country. "As a way of charting the future from the current situation, I welcome all leaders and other stakeholders to work together to address the current economic situation through a broad-based political arrangement and to rally the country forward," he added.

Odinga, who is also the leader of the opposition, said leaders have agreed that dialogue is the way forward out of the current situation the country is in. "We have agreed to give the people an opportunity to be heard and to articulate the grievances that are ailing our country so that a lasting solution can be found."

Lat/Am

Haiti PM tours hospital: Haiti's newly selected Prime Minister Garry Conille and Haiti's police chief visited the country's largest hospital on Tuesday, after authorities said they took control of the medical institution over the weekend from armed gangs

Haitian Police Chief Normil Rameau told a news conference Monday that police took control of the Hospital of the State University of Haiti, known as the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince, on Sunday night after months of escalating attacks from armed groups.

Haitians will "wake up one morning and find the operation done, the bandits stopped, and neutralized," Normil said at the briefing, but did not take questions from the media. He was accompanied by Kenyan officer Godfrey Otunge, who said that the UN-backed contingent of Kenyan police intends to work closely with Haitian authorities as well as local and international partners dedicated to rebuilding Haiti.

The green and white-colored hospital was left ravaged by gangs, with beds stripped of their cots and ceiling fans on the floor. The building's interior was left with debris and lighting fixtures among the hospital's cubicles. Hospital walls and nearby buildings were

riddled with bullet holes, signaling fights between police and gangs in the neighborhood. The hospital is just across the street from the national palace, which was the scene of several battles in the last five months.

Conille said the building looked like "a war zone.

Council member Louis Gérald Gilles was also present on Tuesday's visit, and an-nounced the hospital should be in full service by February 2026. (AP)

Mexican fisheries leader killed: A Mexican fisheries industry leader who complained of drug cartel extortion and illegal fishing was shot to death in the northern border state of Baja California, authorities

said Tuesday. Unidentified gunmen killed Minerva Pérez, the head of the state's fishing industry chamber, in what state prosecutor Maria Elena Andrade described as a direct assassination attack that riddled the victim with several gunshot wounds.

The killing Monday in the port city of Ensenada came just hours after Pérez complained of widespread competition from illegal fishing.

But in the previous months Pérez had also complained that drug cartels are extorting protection payments from fishing boats, distributors, truck drivers and even restaurants.

Andrade said, "We are investigating all of the issues related to whether this was linked to conflicts involving fishing."

Pérez had complained at a news conference that "illegally fished seafood goes

While Bangladesh maintains development partnerships with the United States and India, it is also drawing closer to China, which is heavily engaged in the country's major infrastructure projects.

Hasina is eager to strengthen relations to encourage Chinese investment in her country's economy, which faces challenges over a heavy debt burden. China also provides Bangladesh with tanks, missile launchers and other weapons and is building seaports, railway tracks, power plants and bridges. The U.S. remains Bangladesh's largest source of foreign direct investment.

Hasina's visit to China is taking place a few weeks after she visited India, demonstrating her plans for a partnership with both neighbors in the face of growing interest by the U.S. in the Indo-Pacific region.

While the U.S. and European countries pressured Hasina's administration to hold free and fair elections in January, China openly sided with Hasina. China has also showed a willingness to help Bangladesh's economy as it faces dwindling foreign currency reserves.

Media reports in Bangladesh say it will seek \$20 billion in new loans from China during Hasina's visit.

Concerns have risen over China's border tensions with India, the Chinese military's expansion into the South China Sea and Indian Ocean, fighting in neighboring Myanmar and China's

to the same markets as legal seafood, but without the production costs," or the environmental standards that limit net sizes to protect endangered or protected species,

like sea turtles.

For example, Pérez talked about "fishing



A roadside assistance worker tows away the mangled remains of a doubledecker passenger bus that collided with a milk truck, near Unnao, in northern India state of Uttar Pradesh on July 10. Officials said the collision killed 18 and injured multiple people. (AP)

control of water resources in the Himalayas that affects agriculture in Bangladesh and neighboring countries.

Also:

TAIPEI, Taiwan: The United States' new top envoy to Taiwan promised Wednesday that Washington will help the self-ruled island defend itself as China ramps up its military threats.

Raymond Greene, who assumed his new role as director of the American Institute in Taiwan on Monday, met with Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te.

"First of all, and the most important thing, the US will strongly support Taiwan's self-defense capabilities,' Greene said. "We both have common and long-term interests in peace and stability over the Taiwan Strait."

Lai said Taiwan will strive to maintain the status quo with Beijing, which claims the island democracy of 23 million people as its own territory, to be reclaimed by force if necessary.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry also said Wednesday it detected 36 Chi-

nets whose mesh isn't the right size." Nets with mesh that is too small or tight may nese military jets, including J-16 fighters and H-6 bombers, flying south and southeast of the island and headed into the Western Pacific to carry out drills with China's Shandong aircraft carrier.

TOKYO: South Korean President Yoon Suk yeol vowed to bolster South Korea's combined defense readiness with the US to deter North Korea's growing threats, Yonhap News Agency reported Wednesday.

Yoon made the remark during his meeting in Hawaii with Adm. Samuel Paparo, commander of Indo-Pacific Command, and Gen Paul LaCamera, commander of US Forces Korea, and other US military leaders.

"North Korea's evolving nuclear and missile capabilities and continued provocations are threatening security on the Korean Peninsula and in the region. A steadfast combined defense readiness is more critical than ever," Yoon said, emphasizing the command's role in regional security.

sweep up juveniles or species that aren't the target. (ÅP)

Climber's body found in Peru: Twenty two years ago, an avalanche buried American climber Bill Stampfl as he made his way up one of the highest peaks in the Andes mountains.

His family knew there was little hope of finding him alive, or even of retrieving his corpse from the thick fields of snow and the freezing ice sheets that cover the 6,700-meter (22,000-foot) tall Huascaran peak.

But in June, Stampfl's son got a call from a stranger, who said he had come across the climber's frozen, and mostly intact body, as he made his own ascent up Huascaran.

"It was so out of left field. We talk about my dad, we think about him all the time,' Joseph Stampfl said. "You just never think you are going to get that call.'

He then shared the news with his family. "It's been a shock" said Jennifer Stampfl, the climber's daughter. "When you get that phone call that he's been found your heart just sinks. You don't know how exactly to feel at first.'

On Tuesday, police in Peru said they had recovered Stampfl's body from the mountain where he was buried by the avalanche in 2002, when the 58-year-old was climbing with two friends who were also killed. (AP)

oil plunges

The price of Kuwait oil inched down by 55 cents to settle at USD 87.53 per barrel on Tuesday as opposed to USD 88.08 pb on Monday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Wednesday. In global markets, futures of

In global markets, tutures of the Brent crude oil moved down by USD 1.09 to reach USD 84.66 pb, while those of the West Texas Intermediate crude fell by 92 cents, settling at 81.41 a barrel. (KUNA)

KOC advances digital transformation

Khaled Al-Mulla, Deputy CEO of Exploration and Drilling at Kuwait Oil Company, affirmed the company's participation in Halliburton's innovative forum and exhibition which is being held in Athens, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This participation is integral to Kuwait Oil Company's commitment to advancing digital transformation within its operations.

During the forum, discussions highlighted Kuwait Oil Company's efforts towards sustainable development goals in energy transformation within Kuwait. Emphasis was placed on the company's contributions to digital transformation aimed at reducing energy costs. Al-Mulla underscored Kuwait Oil Company's pledge to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, outlining a specific action plan for the energy sector aimed at achieving zero carbon emissions by 2050.

This plan includes five key initiatives designed to support this ambitious goal. Over the past decade, the KOC has laid a strong foundation to realize these initiatives.

GCC embraces green hydrogen for energy revolution

Green hydrogen is poised to significantly impact the energy sector in GCC countries, gaining momentum as a key element in decarbonizing economies across various sectors, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations are actively developing national strategies to foster their hydrogen markets and position themselves as potential exporters in the future.

The region benefits from several competitive advantages that position it as a leader in

green hydrogen production. These include abundant renewable resources such as solar and wind energy, enhanced by the region's high solar brightness and consistent wind conditions, which are ideal for reliable renewable electricity generation. Geographically, the GCC's strategic loca-

Geographically, the GCC's strategic location along major global trade routes, coupled with advanced port and pipeline infrastructure, facilitates access to key markets in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Despite the ongoing efforts to reduce costs associated with electrolyzers and renewable energy projects, substantial capital investments remain crucial for establishing a sustainable and carbon-neutral energy ecosystem.

Market Movements 10-07-2024 Change Closing pts Change Closing pts Business SAUDI - TAS +4.26 11,784.09 PHILIPPINES - PSEi -67.31 6,489.35 - DFMGI DUBAI +1.93 EGYPT EGX 30 -178.26 28,287,98 4.080.22 -Nikkei 225 41,831.99 KSE 100 JAPAN +251.82 PAKISTAN --888.55 79,895.00

First of its kind in banking sector

KFH inks MoU with Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC), a center affiliated to Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS). The center is dedicated to facilitating the integration of creativity, technology and innovation in the community. This MoU is the first of its kind in the banking sector, demonstrating KFH's commitment to supporting social development through innovation and creativity.

During the signing event, KFH Deputy General Manager Public Relations and Media, Yousef Abdulla Al-Ruwaieh stated that the MoU reinforces the extended ties with SACGC."This partnership is part of KFH's leading role in supporting creativity initiatives among the youth, benefiting society and achieving its development goals in various fields" added Al-Ruwaieh.

He indicated the MoU reflects KFH's continuous endeavors to take part in supporting scientific activities and highlighting the efforts of young national creators and innovators to reach the pinnacle of development and growth.

Al-Ruwaich expressed his confidence in the successful initiative and its contribution to developing the innovators' capabilities.

He indicated that KFH will work closely with SACGC in supporting various programs for different age groups, including kids, high school students as well as university students and graduates in line with KFH's CSR and inno-



Yousef Al-Ruwaieh standing between Tareq Al-Ajeel and Neda Al-Daihani.

vation strategy.

KFH Deputy General Manager Digital Transformation, Tareq Al-Ajeel said that this MoU is in line with KFH's digital transformation and innovation efforts, thanks to SACGC's unique services in enhancing and accelerating digital transformation.

Al-Ajeel added: "KFH has always been keen on participating in similar partnerships that would improve employees' talents at KFH. This participation reflects the Bank's leadership in digital transformation and keeping abreast of the latest technology in the Islamic banking and Digital Economy worldwide, while empowering a new generation of employees for creativity and scientific innovation in the banking field."

Meanwhile, SACGC General Manager, Neda Al-Daihani said: "We are pleased to sign this MoU with KFH, one of the largest banks in Kuwait and the region. The MoU is a strategic partnership that will contribute positively to the development of the innovation industry and the values of creativity."

He pointed out that SACGC aims to nurture and disseminate a culture based on creativity and modern technology in the Kuwaiti community. The Center's departments offer science and technolo-



A group photo after signing the partnership.

gy-based training programs and competitions to encourage the youth segment to hone their technological and creative skills. The Center also focuses on providing hands-on and scientific training courses for different age groups to equip the human capital with the necessary skills under the supervision of dedicated

and competent teams.

It is worth noting that KFH focuses on supporting and fostering an innovative approach within the Bank through its Group's Innovation Competition. The annual competition affirms the significant role of creativity in boosting customer service quality through innovative services and solutions.

Additionally, KFH has a track record of initiatives that focus on innovation and the youth segment, including its extended partnership with CODED Academy, the launch of (You are our pride) platform in addition to the many innovative services and strategic partnerships.



GCC project awards drop 19.7% in Q2-'24 to \$51.7b

Kuwait Ambassador to Jordan Hamad Al-Marri.

Investments in Jordan exceed \$20 bln

Kuwaiti investments play significant role in Jordan

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Kuwaiti investments play a significant role in Jordan, which amount to over \$20 billion and span various sectors, including banking, industry, mining, and communications, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During a meeting organized by the Kuwaiti Embassy in Jordan, Jordanian Minister of Investment Kholoud Al-Saqqaf emphasized the importance of these investments and the Jordanian government's commitment to facilitating and expanding Kuwaiti business activities in the country.

The meeting, attended by notable figures such as the Speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives Ahmad Al-Safadi and the Minister of Digital Economy Ahmad Al-Hanandeh, underscored the mutual benefits of Kuwaiti investments for both nations.

Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan, Ha-

mad Al-Marri, highlighted the necessity of such meetings to enhance the cooperation between Kuwaiti investors and Jordanian counterparts.

He also stressed the favorable investment climate in Jordan, marked by security and stability, which encourages further investment and development. This meeting aims to create more opportunities, drive economic growth, and foster economic cooperation between Kuwait and Jordan.

Fahad Al-Jassem, CEO of Zain Jordan, and Sharif Kamal, CEO of the Jordanian National Real Estate Company, both emphasized the significance of such gatherings in maintaining and enhancing Kuwaiti investments in Jordan.

They noted the importance of these meetings in fostering effective partnerships and economic cooperation, reflecting the directives of the leaderships of both countries.

\$94.9 million raised in June

Arab region startups raise \$736.7 million in H1 2024

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: In the first half of 2024, startups in the Arab region secured a total of \$736.7 million in funding, according to data from the Digital Digest platform, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

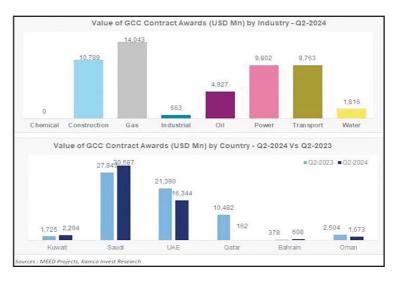
The UAE and Saudi Arabia dominated this funding landscape, accounting for 45.3% and 38.1% of the investment value, respectively, while the Egyptian startups followed with 11.6%, collectively representing 95% of the total funding during this period. Comparing with the first half of 2023, the number of deals and funding increased significantly. Emirati startups led in both categories, comprising 37.9% of the total number of funded companies, while Saudi companies made up 31.9% and Egyptian companies 12.5%.

By the end of June 2024 alone, startups in the region had raised \$94.9 million through 26 deals, indicating sustained investor interest and continued growth in the startup ecosystem across the Arab countries. Energy sector to drive future growth with \$3.3 bln KOC project

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Total project awards in the GCC witnessed a drop during Q2-2024 mainly due to the unprecedented slump of project awards in Qatar coupled with steep fall in awards in the UAE. Aggregate GCC project awards declined by 19.7% to USD 51.7 Bn during Q2-204 as compared to USD 64.3 Bn during Q2-2023. GCC contract awards was evenly distributed during Q2-2024 as three out of the six countries in the GCC registered y-o-y growth in their project awards while the remaining three markets witnessed y-o-y declines during the quarter.

Despite continuing lower oil output, contracts awarded by Saudi Arabia during Q2-2024 recorded 9.9% increase to reach USD 30.6 Bn as compared to USD 27.8 Bn during Q2-2023. One of the main drivers of project activity growth in the Kingdom during the quarter is the acceleration of Neom projects as the Kingdom maintains its focus on delivering the 2030 Vision program on time. In its latest Regional Economic Outlook, the IMF has revised down real GDP growth of all the six GCC member states citing regional insecurity and continuing oil production cuts. On the back of this economic environment, it is understandable that GCC contracts awarded in the region retreated y-o-y during the quarter.

Total contracts awarded in the UAE declined by 23.6% y-o-y during Q2-2024 to reach USD 16.3 Bn as compared to USD 21.4 Bn during Q2-2023. On the other hand, aggregate projects awarded in Qatar dropped 98.5% y-o-y during Q2-2024 to reach USD 162 Mn as compared to USD 10.5 Bn in Q2-2023. This steep fall of Qatari contracts awarded has dragged down the aggregate growth of GCC contracts awarded during Q2-2024. It is noteworthy to underline that Qatar has had one of its best years in 2023 in



terms of value of contracts awarded as a result of the USD 10 Bn LNG project awarded to develop the North Field South. Aggregate projects awarded in Kuwait jumped 33% y-o-y to reach USD 2.3 Bn up from USD 1.7 Bn in Q2-2023.

In terms of sectors, Q2-2024 witnessed a jump in the value of projects awarded in the Gas, Power and Transport sectors. Total GCC Gas Sector contracts awarded during the quarter jumped 17.3% to reach USD 14.0 Bn as compared to USD 12 Bn during Q2-2023. Moreover, the total value of contracts awarded in the GCC Power and GCC Transport sectors reached USD 9.8 Bn each recording a growth of 9.7% and 27.3% respectively

Kuwait

Contract awards in Kuwait was underwhelming during the previous two quarters but saw growth in Q2-2024 with 33% y-o-y increase to reach USD 2.3 Bn during Q2-2024, its second highest quarterly mark since 2020. Moreover, it is only the third time in over 4 years that the total quarterly contracts awarded in Kuwait have surpassed the USD 2 Bn. Growth in project awards in Kuwait is expected to continue for the near term mainly supported by contracts in the energy sector with Kuwait Oil Company prepares to tender USD 3.3 Bn upstream project driven by Kuwait's goal to produce 3.2 million barrels of oil per day as compared to the current production capacity that stands 2.9 million barrels per day.

Kuwait's robust growth in contract awards was primarily driven by a jump in project awards in its Construction and Transport sectors. Total value of project awards in the Construction Sector jumped nearly eight times y-o-y to reach USD 951 Mn in Q2-2024 as compared to USD 123 Mn in Q2-2023. The Construction Sector, which represented 39.2% of the total contracts awarded in the country during the quarter has benefited from a significant increase in governmental infrastructure building impetus.

One of the main contracts that have been awarded in the Construction Sector during the quarter has been the USD 343 Mn Kuwait Medical City infrastructure project awarded to the local Kuwaiti contractor Combined Group Contracting. The contract which includes the development and construction of access roads, pavements and installation of streetlights is being undertaking by Wafra Real Estate Company through the Kuwait Medical Company and is expected to take two years to complete. Kuwait's Construction Sector is expected to grow 6.6% in 2024 according to a report by GlobalData supported by government investment in infrastructure and the energy sector. Growth in the sector is expected to continue benefiting from the upcoming investment in the New Kuwait 2035 National Plan in which the government plans to invest over USD 1.1 Bn in the development and construction of several sports projects across Kuwait. The aggregate value of contracts awarded in the Transport Sector during Q2-2024 jumped 235% y-o-y to reach USD 902 Mn up from USD 269 Mn in the corresponding period of 2023. The

largest Transport contract awarded during Q2-2024 was the USD 714 Mn Shuwaikh Port Expansion project. The project to expand Kuwait's main commercial port includes the construction of rehabilitation and supportive services buildings as well as the development of smart main entrances and livestock barns among other things.

GCC Projects Market Outlook

According to MEED Projects, the total value of projects that are planned or in pipeline in the GCC stood at USD 3.5 Trillion as of 2-July-2024 . Saudi Arabia comprised the lion's share of ongoing or upcoming GCC projects (54.0% or USD 1.87 trillion) followed by the UAE which has USD 856.9 Bn and Oman with estimated ongoing or upcoming projects at USD 245.5 Bn. However, the picture was different in terms of only upcoming projects in the region excluding ongoing contracts. Total GCC projects in the pipeline (upcoming projects) reached USD 1.43 trillion as of 2-July-2024. Expectedly, Saudi Arabia also dominated the MENA region's projects in the pipeline representing 51.6% (USD 737.2 Mn) followed by the UAE which comprised 20.4% (USD 291.4 Mn).

Total value for upcoming projects for Kuwait reached USD 112.4 Mn during July-2024 comprising 7.9% of the total GCC upcoming projects. In terms of sector representation, the Construction Sector comprised the largest sector, 29.8% or USD 426.4 Bn, of upcoming projects in the GCC followed by the Transport Sector which comprised 20.8% or USD 297.9 Bn of upcoming projects in the region.

Future oil and gas projects are expected to play a significant role in the GCC and MENA regions' future contract awards. According to MEED Projects, currently there are over USD 408 Bn worth of planned and an awarded oil and gas projects in the MENA region of which Saudi Arabia comprises nearly 19% (USD 77 Bn) followed by the UAE at 16.5% (USD 67.4 Bn) and Qatar at 8.7% (USD 35.3 Bn). Two of the top ten largest by value of upcoming oil and gas projects in the MENA region were in the UAE; namely the Upper Zakum full field development project valued at USD 16 Bn and the Upper Zakum full field development : UZ1000 expansion project valued at USD 6.6 Bn.

BUSINESS

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Kenya's president warns of huge consequences

The ballooning debt in East Africa's economic hub of Kenya is expected to grow even more after deadly protests forced the rejection of a finance bill that President William Ruto said was needed to raise revenue. He now warns "it will have huge consequences."

Facing public calls to resign, Ruto has said the government will turn to slashing a \$2.7 billion budget deficit by half and borrowing the rest, without saying from where.

After anger over bloated bureaucracy and luxurious lives of senior officials helped to fuel the protests, Ruto also has promised funding cuts in his own office and said funding would stop for the offices of the first lady, the "second lady" - the wife of the vice president - and the wife of the prime Cabinet secretary. Almost four dozen state enterprises with

overlapping roles will be closed. Ruto has become deeply unpopular in his two years in office over his quest to introduce taxes meant to enable Kenya to repay its \$80 billion public debt to lenders including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and China.

The public debt makes up about 70% of Kenya's gross domestic product, the highest in 20 years. (AP)

Utility giant Thames Water will seek fresh funding

Thames Water, Britain's largest water company, said Tuesday it's hunting for fresh funding to keep the business afloat, even as the heavily indebted company warned it would run out of money by the end of May.

by the end of May. The company, which is burdened by some 15 billion pounds (\$19 billion) in debt, has been locked in a dispute with regulator Ofwat regarding how high bills can be increased by 2030 to pay for critical repairs to infrastructure. Its financial update Tuesday comes only days before Ofwat offers a draft verdict on its five-year spending plans.

Thames Water provides water and sewage services to some 16 million customers in London and the Thames Valley region. It has spent the past year fighting to avoid being taken over by the

government. "Thames Water is keeping afloat, but its emergency life buoy is deflating as efforts to raise funds from shareholders proves elusive," said Susannah Streeter, head of money and markets at Hargreaves Lansdown.

at Hargreaves Lansdown. "It can still tap funding of around 1.8 billion pounds, until spring next year, but it's a reservoir that's been shrinking. At the same time, its debt pile is an even bigger millstone and risks pulling the business under." Streeter said. (AP)

Namaa Fund earns second place in list of equity funds

NBK-Egypt Mutual Funds ranked Top Performing in Egypt by end of 1H '24

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: NBK Egypt Financial Investments Company, the manager of NBK - Egypt Mutual Funds succeeded to achieve excellence for three of its managed funds, as they topped the ranking of mutual funds in Egypt by the end of 1H 2024. Al-Mizan Fund topped the list of balanced funds, whereas Al-Hayah Fund topped the list of Islamic funds by the end of 1H 2024, and Namaa Fund earned the second place in the list of equity funds.

Commenting on this, Mr. Yasser El-Tayeb, NBK - Egypt Vice Chairman, Managing Director and CEO, and Chairman of NBK Egypt Financial Investments Company said: "The top rankings achieved by our 'Namaa', 'Al-Hayah', and 'Al-Mizan' Funds among mutual funds in Egypt demonstrate their superior performance and the unwavering adherence of NBK – Egypt Financial ■ Yasser El-Tayeb: The top rankings achieved by 'Namaa', 'Al-Hayah', and 'Al-Mizan' Funds among mutual funds in demonstrate their superior performance ■ Funds' solid performance reflects the unwavering adherence of NBK – Egypt Financial Investments to the highest standards of excellence

Investments to the highest standards of excellence. The company currently manages four mutual funds in Egypt: Ishraq Liquidity Fund, Al-Mizan Balanced Fund, Namaa Equity Fund, and Al-Hayah Islamic Fund, in addition to managing the portfolios of individuals, companies, and insurance companies in fixed income instruments and equity."



Yasser El Tayeb

On his part, Dr. Ahmed Mokhtar, Vice Chairman, Managing Director of NBK Egypt Financial Investments Company said: "The signifi-



Dr. Ahmed-Mokhtar

cant increase in funds' returns is the result of extensive, in-depth study of the Egyptian market, seizing available investment opportunities, and ■ Dr. Ahmed Mokhtar: The significant increase in funds'returns is the result of in-depth study of the Egyptian market, and diversification of equity portfolio across different sectors to maximize returns for investors

diversification of the equity portfolio across different sectors to maximize returns for investors."

"Namaa Fund aims to maximize capital gains through diversifying its investments in the stocks listed on the Egyptian Stock Exchange, and Al-Hayah Fund aims to maximize capital gains through diversifying its investments in the Sharia-compliant stocks listed on the Egyptian Stock Exchange, whereas Al-Mizan Fund seeks capital appreciation through investing in equities as well as fixed and variable income debt instruments," he explained.

"These three funds offer the convenience of weekly subscription and redemption through NBK – Egypt branches spanning key governorates and cities in Egypt, without subscription or redemption fees," he noted.

"The company also manages a fourth fund, 'Ishraq', which is a lowrisk fund that provides daily cash flow by calculating a cumulative daily return on the invested funds. The Fund allows daily subscription and redemption in its investment documents, providing a cash management tool by offering high daily cumulative return on investments with no restrictions on daily deposits or withdrawals, and no subscription or redemption fees until 2 pm," he added.

CPI up 0.2% year-on-year Beijing sees stable price growth as economic recovery continues

BEIJING, July 10, (Xinhua): China reported stable consumer price growth and a significantly narrowed decline in producer prices in June as warming consumer sentiment continued to drive domestic demand.

The consumer price index (CPI), a main gauge of inflation, was up 0.2 percent year on year last month, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said Wednesday. Although it was slightly lower than the 0.3 percent increase in May, the price level has maintained the rising trajectory for five consecutive months.

The core CPI, deducting food and energy prices, went up 0.6 percent, flat with that in May, the official data showed

official data showed. The supply at the consumer 75 cos file for protection

US bankruptcies in June hit record high since '20

NEW YORK, July 10, (Xinhua): The number of U.S. corporate bankruptcy filings in June hit the highest level in a single month since early 2020, according to estimates from S&P Global Intelligence.

At least 75 companies applied for bankruptcy protection in June, bringing this year's total number to 546, S&P said in a report released on Monday. This has also surpassed half-year figures seen in the past 13 years. The pace of U.S. corporate bankruptcy accelerated from the first months of this year. In April, bankruptcies started spiking to stand-out levels, the ratings agency reported. This is rivaled by only the busiest months in 2020, when pandemic chaos drove a number of firms out of business.

filing by its parent company Fisker Inc.

The company paused production of its flagship Ocean SUV in March as it sought funding and a potential transaction with a larger automaker.

Last month, Chicken Soup for the Soul Entertainment, which operates Redbox DVD rental kiosks and streaming website Crackle, also filed for bankruptcy.

Fed's chair highlights a slowing job market



market was sufficient and the prices maintained moderate growth, NBS statistician Dong Lijuan said when commenting on the figures.

A breakdown shows, non-food prices rose 0.8 percent year on year in June due to a 3.1 percent energy price uptick and a 3.7 percent increase in tourism-related prices.

Food prices declined 2.1 percent year on year in June as the abundant supply of fresh vegetables, eggs, beef, and mutton, among others, dragged down the overall price level. Bucking the trend, p... prices surged 18.1 percent.

The industrial price level in June also sent a signal of recovering domestic demand.

The producer price index, which measures costs for goods at the factory gate, went down 0.8 percent year on year last month, marking a significant narrowing from a 1.4 percent drop in May and a 2.5 percent decrease in April.

Analysts said the latest data showed a robust domestic market with consumers more willing to spend and factories speeding up production.

Driven by the holiday economy, the service sector and consumption have witnessed rapid recovery this year and the industrial sector also achieved fast expansion with steady transformation and upgrades, said Wang Jinbin, deputy dean of School of Electric-vehicle maker Fisker Group Inc. entered bankruptcy proceedings on June 17, joined in the

Economics, Renmin University of China.

From the Spring Festival to May Day and the Dragon Boat Festival, this year's holidays have seen a rapid recovery in cultural and tourism consumption vitality.

As the bustling summer vacation season has kicked off, the country is gearing up for a substantial surge in travel and tourism. About 860 million railway passenger trips are expected in July and August, showing strong travel demand driven by summer vacationers, tourists and family visitors.

The authorities have strengthened policy support to unleash the potential of domestic demand.

China initiated a new round of consumer goods trade-ins in March. With more subsidies and incentives, the program has led S&P said high interest rates, supply chain issues and slowing consumer spending have fueled the surge in closures of companies.

Among the companies seeking bankruptcy, the consumer discretionary sector continued to lead others, with 55 total bankruptcy filings this year, and 16 new filings registered in June, according to S&P.

Healthcare and industrials recorded the second-highest bankruptcy totals in 2024, respectively, with 40 filings each.

to rising sales of products such as cars, home appliances and furniture.

The sales of new energy passenger vehicles by unit soared 38.5 percent year on year in May. The sales value of home appliances and furniture climbed 12.9 percent and 4.8 percent, respectively.

Looking forward, analysts believe the domestic demand will continue to improve in the second half of this year amid the steady economic recovery and strengthening supportive policies, which will result in a mild consumer inflation and a further narrowing of the producer prices.

The consumption will keep improving in the rest of the year and remain the primary driving force of the economy, said Lian Ping, head of the Guangkai Chief Industry Research Institute.

Federal Reserve Board Chair Jerome Powell speaks at a news conference at the Federal Reserve in Washington, June 12, 2024. Powell testified to the Senate Banking Committee on Tuesday, July 9, 2024. (AP)

Sign that rate cuts may be nearing

WASHINGTON, July 10, (AP): The Federal Reserve faces a cooling job market as well as persistently high prices, Chair Jerome Powell said in testimony Tuesday to Congress, a shift in emphasis away from the Fed's singleminded fight against inflation of the past two years that suggests it is moving closer to cutting interest rates.

The Fed has made "considerable progress" toward its goal of defeating the worst inflation spike in four decades, Powell told the Senate Banking Committee.

"Inflation has eased notably" in the past two years, he added, though it still remains above the central bank's 2% target.

Powell pointedly noted that "elevated inflation is not the only risk we face." Cutting interest rates "too late or too little could unduly weaken economic activity and employment," he said.

The Fed chair addressed the Senate panel on the first of two days of semi-annual testimony to Congress. On Wednesday, he will testify to the House Financial Services Committee.

From March 2022 to July 2023, the Fed raised its benchmark interest rate 11 times to a two-decade high of

5.3% to fight inflation, which peaked at 9.1% two years ago. Those hikes increased the cost of consumer borrowing by raising rates for mortgages, auto loans and credit cards, among other forms of borrowing. The goal was to slow borrowing and spending and cool the economy.

On Tuesday, Powell noted that inflation reports covering the first three months of this year did not boost Fed officials' confidence that inflation was coming under control.

"The most recent inflation readings, though, have shown some modest further progress," Powell told the Senate committee, "and more good data would strengthen our confidence that inflation is moving sustainably toward 2%."

Gregory Daco, chief economist at the consulting firm EY, said he thought Powell's "greater focus on the two-sided risks to the outlook is welcome, albeit a little late." Daco added that he thinks the Fed ought to cut its benchmark rate at its July meeting. Otherwise, he suggested, businesses might soon step up layoffs as the economy slows.

In the past, Powell and other Fed policymakers have repeatedly stressed that the economy's strength and low unemployment rate meant they could be patient about cutting rates and wait to ensure that inflation was truly in check.

But on Tuesday, Powell said the job market has "cooled considerably." And he added that the economy's growth has moderated after a strong expansion in the second half of last year. Last week, the government reported that hiring remained solid in June, though the unemployment rate rose for a third straight month to 4.1%.

The job market "is not a source of broad inflationary pressures for the economy," the Fed chair said under questioning.

Powell did not provide what Wall Street investors are watching for most closely: Any clear indication of the timing for when the Fed might make its first rate cut. But his testimony will likely harden investors' and economists' expectations that the first reduction will come at the central bank's September meeting.

"It doesn't seem likely that the next policy move would be a rate increase," Powell said in response to a question from Sen. Jack Reed, a Rhode Island Democrat. "As we make more progress on inflation ... we begin to loosen policy at the right moment."

Powell also told the senators that the Fed and other financial regulators will revamp a proposal from last year that would have significantly increased the amount of capital that banks would be required to hold to offset potential losses. The largest U.S. banks strenuously objected to the proposal. They argued that the stricter capital requirements would have forced them to reduce lending to consumers and businesses.

Franchisees are responding by cutting hours

California fast food workers now earn twenty dollars per hour

LOS ANGELES, July 10, (AP): Lawrence Cheng, whose family owns seven Wendy's locations south of Los Angeles, took orders at the register on a recent day and emptied steaming hot baskets of French fries and chicken nuggets, salting them with a flourish.

Cheng used to have nearly a dozen employees on the afternoon shift at his Fountain Valley location in Orange County. Now he only schedules seven for each shift as he scrambles to absorb a dramatic jump in labor costs after a new California law boosted the hourly wage for fast food workers on April 1 from \$16 to \$20 an hour.

"We kind of just cut where we can," he said. "I schedule one less person, and then I come in for that time that I didn't schedule and I work that hour."

Cheng hopes the summer when business is traditionally brisk with students out of school and families traveling or spending more time eating out will bring a better profit that can cover the added costs.

Experts say it's still too early to tell the long-term impact of the wage hike on fast food restaurants and whether there will be widespread layoffs and closures. Past wage increases have not necessarily led to job losses. When California and New York nearly doubled their minimum wage previously to \$15 compared to the federal level of \$7.25 per hour, job growth continued, according to a University of California, Berkeley study.

So far, the industry has continued to show job growth. In the first two months after the law passed April 1, the industry gained 8,000 jobs, compared to the same period in 2023, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. No figures were available yet for June. Joseph Bryant, executive vice president of the Service Employees International Union, which pushed for the raise, said the industry has not only added jobs under the new law but "multiple franchisees have also noted that the higher wage is already attracting better job candidates, thus reducing turnover."

But many major fast food chain operators say they are cutting hours and raising prices to stay in business.

"I've been in the business for 25 years and two different brands and I never had to increase the amount of pricing that I did this past time in April," Juancarlos Chacon, an owner of nine Jersey Mike's in Los Angeles, said.

A turkey sub for under \$10? It's now \$11.15. While customers are still coming in, he's seeing them cut back - no drinks, no chips, no dessert.

Since their core business is lunch, Chacon has been reducing staffing in the mornings and evenings. He's also cut a few part-time employees, going from 165 total to about 145.

It wasn't only entry-level workers that got a pay raise. Shift leaders, assistant managers, and everyone else up the ladder had to get raises too, and labor represents about 35% of his costs.

"I'm very nervous," Chacon said. Aaron Allen, founder and CEO of a global restaurant consulting firm, said he's gotten panicked calls from California restaurant operators and suppliers that are still recovering from the CO-VID-19 lockdown.

He predicts a growing divide between corporations like McDonalds that have money to invest in automation and reduce costs through "menu reconfiguration, versus smaller, more regional chains that might go under or face a major reduction in stores."

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What's On



Photos during the event.

Celebrating Argentina's independence day in Kuwait

Argentina Ambassador praises Kuwait's support and cooperation

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Assistant Minister for Consular Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Aziz Al-Daihani says, "We are proud of our historic relations with Argentina that dates back to 1966. The people of Kuwait can never forget the stances of our friends with the Kuwaiti right during the brutal Iraqi invasion.' In a statement issued to reporters on the sidelines of the celebration held by the

Argentinian Embassy on the occasion of the Independence Day of Argentina, Al-Daihani said, "There are many bilateral agreements, as well as an investment movement between the two countries and the activity of the Kuwait fund.'

Meanwhile, the Argentinian Ambassador to Kuwait Claudia Zampieri said in her speech, "About 208 years ago, specifically on July 9, 1816, a group of visionary leaders met in Tucuman to declare Argentina's independence from Spanish colonial rule. This pivotal moment marked the beginning of a new chapter in our nation's history. It is characterized by self-determination, freedom and the pursuit of a brighter future for all.' She then said, "I would like to take this opportunity to bid you farewell. As my

term as the Ambassador of Argentina to Kuwait ends after more than five unforgettable years, I am overwhelmed by a deep feeling of gratitude that words alone cannot fully convey

Ambassador Zampieri expressed her appreciation for the continued support throughout her time in Kuwait, adding, "I thank the Kuwaiti authorities and the people of Kuwait for your hospitality, cooperation and open communication. Your cooperation and acceptance paved the way for a meaningful dialogue that strengthened the ties between our two countries, making my diplomatic mission possible. It has also been extremely rewarding, and to my exceptional team, I am endlessly grateful."

She went on to say, "We have achieved our common goals with hard work, professionalism and cooperation. The commitment of both parties to excellence, creativity, and teamwork was the cornerstone of our success, and I am proud of everything we accomplished together.

As I bid farewell to this chapter of my life, I leave with a heart full of gratitude, a suitcase full of memories and with deep appreciation for the honor of serving as Ambassador of Argentina to Kuwait.'

Secure banking practices highlighted by bank

Plastic-free July theme at Avenues Mall

Gulf Bank offers 10 travel tips for stc sponsors 2nd bloom market customers during & after their trip for sustainable living in Kuwait maintain security

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Gulf Bank continues to support the "Diraya



■ Verify OTP Messages: Before us- KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Kuwait

Telecommunications Company – stc,

not only reinforces its role as a leading digital pioneer but also as a responsible corporate citizen committed to sustainable development in Kuwait. stc's sponsorship role also aligns with the various initiatives in several fields that the Company organizes, participates throughout its annual CSR framework In line with our social responsibility at stc, we are always looking forward to actively contributing with our strategic partners to empower the community and we are keen to promote the concepts and culture of sustainable development through our various community activities in several key areas. By supporting initiatives like Bloom, we aim to spread awareness and inspire action towards a more sustainable future. In a statement, stc indicated thatby incorporating sustainability into the core of its operations and community activities, the Company aims to demonstrate its belief in the power of small, sustainable moves to make a significant impact. This initiative will serve as a platform forstc to further promote environmental awareness, contributing positively to Kuwait's society.

awareness campaign, aiming to enhance financial literacy across various sectors of society. The bank achieves this goal by sharing informative and educational content through social media platforms, its website, and other media channels.

Gulf Bank has provided a set of travel tips for those planning vacations abroad. The aim is to ensure that customers can use their banking cards securely and easily access the bank's various services. These tips include:

Report Lost or Stolen Cards Immediately: If your card is lost or stolen, promptly block it using the mobile banking app or by contacting customer service.

Address Card Issues Immediately: For any card-related issues, contact the customer service center without delay.

■ Use Local Currency: Always pay in the local currency of the country you are visiting for optimal exchange rates and security.

■ Protect Your PIN: When using ATMs, shield your hand while entering

Diraya campaign.

your PIN to prevent theft.

Avoid Seeking Help from Strangers: If you encounter issues with the ATM during withdrawal, do not seek help from strangers to avoid potential scams

■ Verify Payment Amounts: When making any payment, always check the amount before entering your PIN to avoid errors.

Monitor Your Expenses: Keep a close watch on your expenses and card usage during your travels by using the mobile banking app.

Keep Your PIN and OTP Confidential: Never share your PIN or OTP (One-Time Password) with anyone to

Bank promotes financial inclusion

ing the OIP for payment, read the mes sage content carefully, including the store name and the amount to be paid.

■ Post-Travel Security Measures: Change your PIN after returning from your trip and review all your card statements. Report any discrepancies to the bank immediately.

It is important to note that the Central Bank of Kuwait, in collaboration with the Kuwait Banking Association, launched the "Diraya" banking aware-ness campaign in 2021. This campaign aims to educate bank customers about essential banking services, improve their ability to conduct secure transactions, and ensure the safety of financial activities. Additionally, the campaign promotes financial inclusion, monetary stability, and economic stability. It achieves these goals by raising awareness of customers' rights and responsibilities, highlighting the advantages of electronic financial transactions, and providing strategies to avoid associated risks and ensure cybersecurity.

a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced its sponsorship of the 2ndBloom Market, the first of its kind sustainable lifestyle and entertainment boutique market in Kuwait. The sponsorship aligns with stc's 2024 sustainability program, "Small Move, Big Impact", highlighting the Company's commitment to environmental preservation and the adoption of long-term sustainable practices.

The Bloom Market will be held at the Avenues Mall from July 11th-13th, with the theme focusing on a plasticfree July. In alignment with the concept, vendors at the market will all be plastic-free, with participants ranging from recycled furniture stores to ecofriendly daily consumables and fashionwear. The market will also include numerous activities and awareness workshops aimed at increasing understanding of the importance of preserving the environment and reducing plastic usage. Visitors can participate in recycling workshops and listen to



stc logo

environmental experts discuss the impact of plastic on our planet and how we can all contribute to change.

stc's sponsorship of the market, for the second time, follows the strategic partnership formed in collaboration with SEEDs Co. under the "weyak" umbrella, which focuses on supporting local SMEs and start-ups as well as youth initiatives.

The partnership between stc and SEEDs Co. serves as a significant step towards achieving stc's sustainability goals outlined in its 2024 program titled "small move, Big Impact", to create a positive lasting impact in the community. By investing in community-centric initiatives like Bloom, stc

KIB announces winners of Al Dirwaza account's draw

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the winners of the weekly draw held under the Al Dirwaza account's 2024 campaign, which is distinguished by the highest number of winners throughout the year. The second weekly draw, based on customers' June deposits, recently took place in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from the Bank. The KD 1,000 prize was awarded to Fatemah Abdulredha Ramadan Boshehri, Mansour Mahmoud Haji Abdullah, Shaker Mahmoud Abdulrahman Albastaki, Mariam Hussain Murad Alkandari, and Abdulaziz Abdullah Motlaq Almuteri, whilst the KD 500 prize was awarded to Mohammed Ali Hussain Alkandari, Amal Meteib Salem Alshammari, Mohammad Abdullah Mohammad Alhammadi, Ahmad Emad Mohammed Almusaed, Maasoumah Ali Khalaf Albannay, Saad Saqer Saad Althuwaini, and Shaymaa Mohammad Qasem Dashti.

It serves to note that AlDirwaza account is a savings account for individual customers, based on the Wakala investment principle, launched by KIB as one of its banking products for in-



Al Dirwaza account.

dividuals. The account is currently the best of its kind in the sector, with annual expected profits of up to 2% disbursed on a monthly basis, where the customer gets an expected profit of 2% for the first 3 months from the account opening date and up to 1% expected rate onward. The expected profits are automatically deposited into the customer's account within the first day of the beginning of each month.

Al Dirwaza account holders are eligible to enter the weekly, monthly and annual draws on the condition of maintaining at least KD 100 in their account. For the weekly and monthly

draws, each KD 1 that has completed a full month's cycle in the account will count for one chance, and chances are calculated based on the lowest monthly balance preceding the draw. As for the mega draw, chances are calculated for each KD 1 that completes a two-month cycle in the account - based on the lowest two monthly balances prior to the draw.

Al Dirwaza account is also in compliance with the provisions of Islamic Sharia and approved by the KIB's Sharia Supervisory Board. Furthermore, the account comes with a wide range of benefits, including the ease of opening the account, which does not require a salary transfer, and the customer's ability to open it remotely without visiting a branch through KIB Online on the Bank's website or KIB Mobile application on smartphones.

Additionally, Al Dirwaza account automatically grants customers instant issuance of an ATM card, with a KD 2,000 ATM daily withdrawal limit, as well as the ability to issue credit cards against the cash collateral in the account. To open the account and participate in its draws, a minimum of KD 100 is required and can only be withdrawn upon account closure.



Photo during the internship program.

DDI summer internship program kicks off

Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), founded by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences recently launched its yearly Summer Internship Program for students and recent graduates who are eager to dive into the world of research. The goal of this program at DDI is to provide interns with the skills and experiences needed for a successful career in the future, where thirty-five students with relevant majors and interests have been enrolled.

Through the program, interns get the chance to work in diabetes research projects and initiatives, ranging from type 1 and 2 diabetes and their complications. such as childhood and adolescent obesity, and more. Interns attend seminars, lectures, and journal club meetings. In addition, hands-on-experience in learning core research principles and practicing them is one of the key objectives of this program among many others such as writing skills and science communication.

This program highlights the Institute's outreach efforts through such initiative, with an emphasis on benefiting the Kuwaiti community in alignment with KFAS and DDI's strategy and vision.

Grammy Museum to launch first full-floor K-pop exhibit

Music

LOS ANGELES, July 10, (AP): The Grammy Museum will soon launch its first full-floor K-pop exhibit as part of its ongoing initiative to explore the music, culture, technology, fandom and business behind Korean pop music.

The museum partnered with Hybe, the South Korean entertainment company behind K-pop sensation BTS and countless other international acts, and its archivists, to provide attendees with an indepth look at the company's roster and the ways in which they've evolved the K-pop landscape.

"Hybe: We Believe in Music, A Grammy Museum Exhibit" runs from Aug. 2 to Sept. 15 at the museum in downtown Los Angeles.

The artifacts in the 4,000-square-foot exhibit have never been displayed before in a museum - with the exception of a few BTS wardrobe and costume items. The pieces represent 78 K-pop stars, known as idols, and include outfits worn in well-known concept photos and music videos like BTS's "Yet to Come (The Most Beautiful Moment)," SEVENTEEN's "Maestro," TOMORROW X TOGETHER's "Sugar Rush Ride" and the Gen Z K-pop girl group LE SSERAFIM's "Easy.'

Hybe's junior groups, known as rookie teams, will also be represented: BOYNEXTDOOR, TWS, &TEAM, ILLIT and more.

Three books from Big Hit Entertainment founder Hitman Bang's personal collection are included: Korean-language copies of Hermann Hesse's "Demian: The Story of Boyhood," which inspired BTS' 2016 album, "Wings"; Erich Fromm's "The Art of Loving," which informed their "Love Yourself" series; and "Jung's Map of the Soul" by Murray Stein, which lead to their "Map of the Soul" series. Big Hit Entertainment became Hybe in 2021.

"This is going to be one of the largest exhibits the museum's ever curated," Grammy Museum President and CEO Michael Sticka told The Associated Press. "They'll take over the entire third floor of the museum."

Impact

He says the exhibit celebrates the major music company's role in K-pop. "Hybe in particular, their impact on really the world of music is indisputable," he says.

"The goal from the beginning was to shine a light on the innovation of the company, like in the technology arena, in the music business beyond the world of K-pop," Grammy Museum curator Kelsey Goelz says.

Beyond the artifacts, the exhibit promises interactive experiences, such as a "random dance play" in the museum's rotunda, where attendees can sing and dance to music from Hybe acts, and a Photoism booth, where they can pose for photos alongside their favorite acts. "We're even going to have a little fan area where fans can express what K-pop means to them, how they came about it and, like, leave their mark on the exhibit," Goelz says. "This is the biggest and most in-depth K-pop exhibit we have ever done."

There is also a permanent "Mono to Immersive" interactive, where Grammy performances are remixed to demonstrate the evolution of recording technology, says Sticka. This time around, they've incorporated BTS's 2022 Grammys performance of their hit "Butter," which will allow attendees to watch the performance and experience what it would sound like to listen to it using 1920s technology and so on, up to the modern day.

Hybe COO Tae-Ho Kim says he hopes the exhibit will appeal to K-pop and Hybe superfans, those who are curious about the music and excited to learn more. He says his company aims to introduce Hybe to visitors, as well as showcase "the journey that we have taken in the global music industry and the global market."

"I hope this exhibit will be a great chance for our rookie teams - the new teams, new artists - to be introduced to the American music fans," he added. "This can be a very good momentum for their entrance into the American music market.'



Film

LOS ANGELES: Joe Bonsall,

Grammy award winner and celebrated tenor of the country and gospel group the Oak Ridge Boys, died Tuesday. He was 76. Bonsall died from complica-

tions of the neuromuscular disorder Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, according to a statement from representatives of his family.

"Joe loved to sing. He loved to read. He loved to write," the statement read. "He loved to play banjo. He loved working on the farm. And he loved the Philadelphia Phillies. But Jesus and his family always came first - and we will see him again on the Promised Day."

HURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024

RAB

A Philadelphia native and resident of Hendersonville, Tennessee, Bonsall left his gospel group the Keystones in 1973 to ioin the Oak Ridge Boys, which originally formed in the 1940s. He saw the band through its golden period in the '80s and beyond, which included its signature 1981 song, "Elvira," its 1982 hit "Bobbie Sue" and 1983's "American Made." "Elvira" marked a massive crossover moment for the group, reaching No. 1 on the country chart and No. 5 on Billboard's allgenre Hot 100.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, is a disease that damages nerve cells and connections that are necessary to control muscles for movements such as walking. talking and breathing. Most patients die within three to five years of a diagnosis. The illness became known as Lou Gehrig's disease after the star baseball player was diagnosed in 1939.

In September 2023, the Oak Ridge Boys embarked on a farewell tour that was scheduled to last into 2024. But in January, Bonsall announced his retirement from touring, saying it was too difficult for him physically after a fouryear battle with ALS. Ben James, who has performed with **Doyle** Lawson and Dailey & Vincent, was announced as his replacement.

"I am now at a point where walking is impossible, so I have basically retired from the road. It has just gotten too difficult,' Bonsall said at the time of his retirement. "It has been a great 50 years, and I am thankful to all the Oak Ridge Boys, band, crew, and staff for the constant love and support shown to me through it all. 'Fly Me to the Moon' charming rom-com

Johansson shines in space race saga

By Lindsey Bahr

• Fly Me to the Moon' is better than it looks. This is not a slam against the marketing campaign for the space race rom-com about a straight-laced NASA man and the Madison Avenue marketing savant brought in to sell the mission to the moon. It's more about the state of theatrical moviegoing

A film like this, with legitimate movie stars in Scarlett Johansson and Channing Tatum, a slick, glossy look, an original concept, and a sparkling title, is not a commonly occurring phenomenon at the local cineplex. We've been conditioned to see something like this and assume one of two things: It's the product of a high-spending streamer, or it's fake, like one of those movies-within-a-movie that's mostly there for laughs but also at least somewhat plausible.

Both assumptions are on point, but the former is essentially true: This is an Apple production that like "Napoleon" and "Killers of the Flower Moon" is going to theaters first, on Friday, through a traditional studio (Sony's Columbia Pictures). It's not just a gesture to theaters either - it's streaming date has yet to even be announced.

The director is television veteran Greg Berlanti, whose films include "Love, Simon" and "Life as We Know It." Here he seems to have taken a stylistic and tonal page from Peyton Reed's "Down with Love," that 1960s via 2003 Rock Hudson/Doris Day pastiche starring Renée Zellweger and Ewan McGregor. The script, by Rose Gilroy and story, by Bill Kirstein and Keenan Flynn, is lighthearted and breezy with a pleasing screwball energy, giving Johansson the opportunity to use the full wattage of her movie star power as the shrewd, selfmade Kelly Jones. She's a kind of female Don Draper minus the melancholy and dalliances, but with some secret baggage and the ability to charm and persuade just about anyone.

If you make it past the opening montage, a cringey history lesson that has all the depth and nuance of a half-page, single-space elementary school report on the space race, you're in for a mostly pleasant, if meandering, ride compliments of Johansson, who produced, Tatum and a talented roster of supporting actors (Woody Harrelson, Ray Romano, Jim Rash). Tatum might be a little miscast as the NASA launch director (and Korean War vet) Cole Davis, Though he is a good match for Johansson and the bevy of knit sweaters he sports throughout, his portrayal makes Cole too instantly likeable for there to be any sort of dramatic stakes or tension. Whether this was a miscalculation on the script level, the direction or the casting is hard to say. But there is no willthey-won't-they, only when-will-they, which is not compelling storytelling when your runtime stretches over two hours.

This is a movie that is in no rush to get anywhere fast. In fact, the main selling point of the trailer, that Kelly has been hired to stage a fake moon landing in case anything goes wrong with Apollo 11, isn't even introduced until deep into the film. It's not the point of the story at all, just an aspect of it, which is a little disorienting during a first-time viewing.

Reference

Rash, as a diva director-for-hire for this top-secret film project, makes these scenes very funny (although the recurring Kubrick jokes fall flat). Most attempts to reference the era beyond the great costuming and production design are also quite superficial - it's a kind of rose-colored-glasses version of the late 1960s in which racism and homophobia are practically nonexistent. Misogyny and former President Richard Nixon are punchlines and tolerable nuisances.

Another blunder was spending too much time with the Apollo 11 astronauts, down to the obligatory launch - a sequence that we've seen so many times and so much more effectively that there is little to be gained in clumsily shoehorning it in this kind of film. It's just an expensive distraction, grasping at grandeur that it didn't really need.

"Fly Me to the Moon" is best when it's not taking itself too seriously. And the most worthwhile concept it sold is the idea of Johansson and Tatum (which, by the way, is a great reminder to rewatch "Hail, Caesar!") as a modern Day and Hudson. They have the charm. They just need material that does it justice.

"Fly Me to the Moon," an Apple Original Films/ Columbia Pictures release in theaters Friday, is rated PG-13 for "some strong language, smoking." Running time: 132 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Underestimate the popularity of the "Descendants" films at your own peril. Since the 2015 original debuted on the Disney Channel, the subsequent trilogy of movies have proved a huge hit with kids. When the trailer for the upcoming fourth movie, "Descendants: The Rise of Red," debuted earlier this year, it generated 86 million views within 10 days. This time, the new "Descendants" movie is launching first on Disney+, on Friday, before arriving on the Disney Channel next month. "The Rise of Red" centers on Red (Kylie Cantrall), the rebellious daughter of the Queen of Hearts, and Chloe (Malia Baker), kin to Cinderella.

Laurent Bouzereau's "Faye" (streaming beginning 8 p.m. Saturday on Max) is an authorized but candid portrait of the singular screen legend Faye Dunaway. In it, the 83-year-old Dunaway, frankly discusses her bipolar disorder diagnosis and her history of alcoholism, along with her long string of classic films includ-ing "Bonnie and Clyde," "Chinatown" and "Network."

BEIJING: Crime thriller "A Place Called Silence," continued to lead the Chinese mainland box office tally on Tuesday, according to the China Movie Data Information Network.

On the seventh day of screening, the film generated a daily box office revenue of 63.5 million yuan (8.9 million US dollars), amounting its total box office to more than 500 million yuan.

Disney's "Inside Out 2" and the domestic drama "Moments We Shared" remained in the second and third spots with daily earnings of 7.53 million yuan and 6.22 million yuan, respectively, on Tuesday.

The total box office revenue of the Chinese mainland on Tuesday stood at 93.42 million yuan. (Agencies)

I will never forget, and for those of you who have been constantly holding me up in prayer, I thank you and ask for you to keep on praying." In June 2022, Bonsall shared on X, formerly Twitter, that he "could

have easily died" after suffering pulmonary embolisms. (AP)



NEW YORK: Blackpink rapper Lisa will join the Global Citizen Festival lineup in New York's Central Park for her first solo performance at a festival, the anti-poverty nonprofit announced Tuesday. Lisa joins headliners **Post**

Malone, Doja Cat, Jelly Roll and Raouw Alejandro for the Sept. 28 event, adding to organizers' plans

to attract younger fans and a more international audience

Global Citizen has long partnered with major artists - from Beyonce and Jay-Z to Queen - to encourage its audience to lobby political, corporate and philanthropic leaders to support the nonprofit's initiatives. CEO Hugh Evans said this year's festival

-- which will focus on addressing poverty and other pressing international issues - needs support from all generations now more than ever. He estimates that about 10% of the world's population now lives in extreme poverty and the United Nations expects 575 million people will be at that level in 2030. (AP)

NEWS/FEATURES

People & Places

People

Baldwin faces jury

Opening statements to 'set' trial's course

SANTA FE, N.M., July 10, (AP): A jury is set to hear opening statements Wednesday at the involuntary manslaughter trial of **Alec Baldwin** in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer, a trial that will delve into the confluence of gun safety, high-wattage celebrity and a low-budget Western movie on a remote ranch set.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys selected 16 jurors - 11 women and five men - on Tuesday, seating a jury from a region with strong currents of gun ownership and safety informed by backcountry hunting. Four of the jurors will be deemed alternates while the other 12 deliberate once they get the case.

The shooting death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins, a 42-year-old rising star in her craft,



nearly three years ago sent shock waves through the film industry and led to one felony charge against Baldwin that could result in up to 18 months in prison.

Baldwin has pleaded not guilty as he returns to the desert Southwest for the trial at a downtown courthouse in Santa Fe, a short drive from the movie-ranch setting of scenes from "Rust."

Baldwin

Baldwin has claimed the

gun fired accidentally after he followed instructions to point it toward Hutchins, who was behind the camera. Unaware that it was loaded with a live round, he said he pulled back the hammer - not the trigger - and it fired.

Prosecutors say they'll present evidence that Baldwin went "off script" and failed to follow basic industry standards for firearms safety when he pointed the firearm at Hutchins on Oct. 21, 2021.

"At the end of the day, the prosecutor's main theory is that this was a gun involved, and Baldwin had a gun in his hand, and it doesn't matter if it's a film set or hunting safety class, you're responsible for what comes out of the end of the barrel," said John Day, a Santa Fe-based defense attorney and former prosecutor.

Opinions

Baldwin attorney Alex Spiro probed prospective jurors on Tuesday for strong opinions about gun safety and asked whether a person must entirely take responsibility for whether a gun is loaded or may "rely on experts, does anybody have a problem with that?"

Most who answered said they always treat a gun as if it were loaded.

Baldwin, the star of "Beetlejuice," "Glengarry Glen Ross" and "30 Rock" who has been a household name as an actor and public personality for more than three decades, also served as co-producer on "Rust," which had an initial budget of roughly \$7.5 million - a low figure by labor union standards. Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer ruled shortly before trial that his producer status is not relevant to the case.

Workplace safety investigators and prior court testimony confirmed two gun misfires on set before the fatal shooting, while six crew members walked off set on the eve of Hutchins' death over concerns including hotel accommodations and safety.



British singer Ian Gillan, (right), and British musician Ian Paice of the British rock band Deep Purple perform on the Lake stage during the 58th Montreux Jazz Festival (MJF), in Montreux, Switzerland, Monday, July 8. (AP)

Television



Melissa Etheridge appears at Musi-Cares Person of the Year honoring Jon Bon Jovi in Los Angeles on Feb. 2, 2024. Etheridge stars in the Paramount+ docuseries 'Melissa Etheridge: I'm Not Broken.' (AP)



Singer realizes dreams with 'I'm Not Broken' series

Etheridge connects with inmates

NEW YORK, July 10, (AP): Melissa Etheridge realized two career dreams with her new docuseries "Melissa Etheridge: I'm Not Broken": performing for incarcerated women and recording the concert for a live album.

The singer-songwriter grew up in Leavenworth, Kansas - an area home to a well-known federal penitentiary and other state and military prisons - and when she was starting out, she found a receptive audience in people incarcerated there. Inspired by Johnny Cash's famous prison concerts, the two-time Grammy winner won permission for a live show at the Topeka Correctional Facility, a Kansas women's prison, with a film crew documenting the process.

In the series, which starts streaming on Paramount+ this week, Etheridge meets and corresponds with several people in the prison, learning how they ended up there. Their stories inspired her to write her new song, "A Burning Woman." Many of the women had experienced drug addiction, and Etheridge said she connected with them after her 21-year-old son's 2020 opioid-related death.

Etheridge: When I grew up in the '60s and '70s, live albums were it. I mean, "Frampton Comes Alive!" That's what you do if you can get to a point as a rock 'n' roll artist. I always wanted to and by the time I got there in the '90s, they were like, "No, there's no live albums." So finally! And I love this. It's a really special concert. The setlist was curated for them. It had the few hit songs in it, but it had really deep tracks that re-

and pain. **AP:** You performed the new song at the live concert and it echoes some of the pain you heard in the inmates' stories. How did it feel to see their supportive response?

ally dealt with that longing and guilt

Etheridge: It was even more than I thought it would be. That they jumped right on the call-and-response, and that they've got footage of the women saying "I'm not broken!" means everything. Because just saying "I'm not broken," just saying "I'm worth it," that was the whole intention for it. I hope people love it because it's a rockin'song. It's a Melissa Etheridge song. I really like that. **AP:** In the series, you play the new song for your wife, TV writer-producer Linda Wallem for feedback. Do vou often solicit her opinion on new music? Etheridge: I love living with a creative woman. I love being married to someone whom I really trust their taste, because she doesn't like a lot of things. She's in entertainment - she's been a director, a producer. She's really used to telling people, "Hey, you might be able to do it a little better" - very famous people. So I know she's not pulling any punches for me. And when she likes (the work) it means a lot to me because I don't really have a lot of people that I can trust and be so raw with. I'm blessed to have a partner like that

AP: There were several emotional moments in the concert, including when you sang about your son Beckett, who died from an opioid addiction — how was that experience?

Etheridge: Before we walked on stage, I was with the band, and we all kind of huddled together and I just was like, "You know, this is a real dream come true." And I went (mimics crying) "Oh, no, I'm on the edge here. This is not OK!" So I gathered myself together and I was all good until I started talking about that. To see 500 women who have been through more than I'll ever - they've been through their trials and are not with their children. To see them show such empathy and compassion for me, that blew me

Marlowe Sommer put a summary of those findings off-limits at the request of prosecutors, who describe that investigation as unreliable.

In court filings, defense attorneys have highlighted that the armorer, Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, already has been found responsible for the shooting, along with testimony that the gun had been checked by an assistant director before it was handed to Baldwin - and that the shooting was incomprehensible and shocking to the entire movie crew because of their belief that there was no live ammunition on set.

Gutierrez-Reed is serving an 18-month prison sentence as she appeals her conviction in March on a charge of involuntary manslaughter. Prosecutors cast blame on her for allowing live rounds to make their way onto the film set undetected, in a trial that also highlighted video of Baldwin rushing weapons supervisors to reload his revolver and waving the gun as a pointing stick.

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.

Testimony

Testimony at trial will delve into shortcomings in a final safety check of the gun before Baldwin began rehearsing with it, as well as the mechanics of the weapon and whether it could have fired without a trigger pull. The live bullet that killed Hutchins also wounded director Joel Souza.

Day says that Baldwin's insistence that he never pulled the trigger, first voiced in a December 2021 interview with ABC News, narrows the options for the defense at trial.

"Because he said that to George Stephanopoulos, the defense has got to try to show that, well, the gun will just go off if you look at it funny," Day said. "They've also got to bring in experts on the film business who can say, 'You know, if somebody hands an actor a gun and tells him it's safe, then he should believe them.""

Los Angeles-based civil defense attorney Mark Sedlander said it's unusual for an accidental workplace death to reach criminal trial but that the fatal shooting on "Rust" touches on fundamental safety concerns in the workplace.

"This is a case about a woman who was tragically killed while she was at work, away from her family, doing her job, just like Americans across this country, and she went to work one day and she never came back," said Sedlander of the Mancini Shenk law firm.

Prosecutors initially dismissed an involuntary manslaughter charge against Baldwin in April 2023, saying they were informed the gun might have been modified before the shooting and malfunctioned.

A more recent analysis of the gun commissioned by prosecutors concluded the "trigger had to be pulled or depressed sufficiently to release the fully cocked or retracted hammer."

Defense attorneys contend that destructive testing of the gun by the FBI that broke pieces of the firing mechanism may have destroyed evidence that could possibly exonerate Baldwin. **LONDON:** Social media influencer **Andrew Tate's** taunts over refusing to pay British taxes on millions of pounds in revenue may come back to haunt him and his brother **Tristan Tate.**

An online video of Tate bragging of never paying taxes when he lived in **England** was used as evidence against him in a civil court case that was adjourned on Tuesday for two months. Police are seeking 2.8 million pounds (\$3.6 million) in unpaid income and value added tax from the brothers' online businesses. "Andrew Tate and Tristan Tate are serial

"Andrew Tate and Tristan Tate are serial tax and VAT evaders," attorney **Sarah Clarke** said. "They, in particular Andrew Tate, are brazen about it."

Andrew Tate, 37, a former professional kickboxer and dual British-U.S. citizen, and Tristan, 35, were not at the hearing in Westminster Magistrates' Court in London. They have been barred from leaving the European Union while facing trial in Romania on charges of human trafficking, rape and forming a criminal gang to sexually exploit women.

Last week, a court in Romania ruled that the Tates can leave **Romania** but must remain within the **EU** as they await trial. (AP)

NEW YORK: Manhattan prosecutors said Tuesday that they intend to bring new sexual assault charges against **Harvey Weinstein** as they anticipate a November retrial for the disgraced media mogul.

Assistant District Attorney **Nicole Blumberg** said in court that prosecutors are actively pursuing claims of rape that occurred in Manhattan within the statute of limitations.

She said some potential survivors that were not ready to step forward during Weinstein's first **New York** trial have indicated they are now willing to testify.

But when pressed by the judge, Blumberg said prosecutors have not yet brought their findings to a grand jury. She also said she could not provide the court a timeline for when their investigation will be complete.

"The People are still investigating in a trauma-informed matter," she said. "That is an ongoing process."

Weinstein's lawyer **Arthur Aidala**, with his client sitting next to him in a wheelchair, suggested the investigation was simply a delay tactic from prosecutors, saying something similar happened ahead of the initial rape trial.

"Once again we have the individual and we're looking for a crime," he said. "We've got the '1-800-Get-Harvey' hotline."

Blumberg rejected the notion and said the prosecution's plan is to proceed to trial Etheridge, 63, spoke to The Associated Press recently about her emotional 2023 performance and the new album. Answers have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: How was the experience of meeting the inmates and hearing their stories?

Etheridge: When I went and heard their stories, I was blown away that they were all mothers. That just really broke my heart. And then just how relatable. This could be my sister. This could be my friends. There but for the grace of God go I.

AP: How was realizing your dream of recording a live album?

in the fall.

"There's certainly no delay tactics on our part," she said. "We're proceeding in the most expeditious manner."

When asked by Judge **Curtis Farber** what month she anticipated, Blumberg responded: "November would be a realistic timeframe."

Aidala said his client simply wants to get the trial going as soon as possible, noting he's in his fifth year of incarceration.

"He's suffering tremendously," Aidala said, adding that Weinstein suffers from macular degeneration, fluid in his lungs and heart and diabetes that is "through the roof" because of the poor diet behind bars.

"He's basically getting no treatment for



Vivianne Roy, (left), and Katrine Noël of Les Hay Babies perform during Festival d'ete de Quebec on Tuesday, July 9, in Quebec City. (AP)

any of it," Aidala said. "He's not a young man. He's a sick man."

"These tactics from prosecutors are just delay, delay, delay," he added. Judge Farber set the next pre-trial hearing for July 19.

Weinstein, 72, has maintained that any sexual activity was consensual. He's currently in custody at the city's Rikers Island jail complex but has suffered from medical problems throughout his time behind bars. (AP)

NEW YORK: An upcoming thriller about a female judge in the contemporary, rural South will have two very famous, and very different, authors: Oscar winner **Viola** away.

AP: It's so moving to hear you talk about Beckett. You're so wise and calm about his death in the series how do you separate your grief, and did surviving cancer help you get clarity in that process?

Etheridge: Plant medicine, plus cancer, and kind of a new outlook on life - and that was 20 years ago - it's really worked for me because I'm very healthy and very happy. The idea that you suffer all your life and then at the end you're going to get some sort of (reward) - that's OK for some people, but I just don't believe that. And that my son is in nonphysical (world), that life doesn't end when we end, that there's something in all of us that is eternal - those things comfort me, and so I believe them. It is the way that I walk through this, and I hope to inspire. But also, it helps me when I can speak directly. And every time I do say to someone, "Yes, he would want me to be happy," I believe that and I know it.

Davis and mega-selling novelist James Patterson.

Little, Brown and Company announced Tuesday that Davis and Patterson are collaborating on a novel, currently untitled and scheduled for 2025 or 2026, in which the "dynamic and brilliant" Judge **Mary Stone** faces "a decision with seismic repercussions for her small county, and potentially the whole nation."

It will be the first work of adult fiction for Davis, whose previous books include the memoir "Finding Me" and the picture story "Corduroy Takes a Bow." It's the latest high-profile partnership for Patterson, whose previous co-authors range from **Bill Clinton** to **Dolly Parton**. The novel "Eruption," for which Patterson completed a manuscript left behind by the late **Michael Crichton**, is one of the summer's most popular books.

"'James's ability to weave compelling narratives with depth and suspense is unparalleled, and I am honored to work alongside him," Davis said in a statement. "Writing about a character as compelling as Judge Mary Stone has been an extraordinary experience, and I believe readers will be deeply moved by her journey." Patterson, who came up with the idea

Patterson, who came up with the idea after reading "Finding Me" and contacting Davis, said in a statement that the actor has a "gift for storytelling" and a "generous spirit."

"I could not have asked for a better partner than Viola," Patterson said.

Additional details about the book, including film rights, were not immediately available. Financial terms were not disclosed. The project was handled by Little, Brown; Patterson's representatives, **Robert Barnett** and **Deneen Howell** of Williams & Connolly, and JVL Media, a "full-service media packaging firm and independent publisher" that Davis helped found. (AP)

HEALTH/SCIENCE

Al-Jahra hospital hosts Dr. Awadin for pediatric eye surgeries

Kuwait trains over 3,000 dentists, doctors in early cancer diagnosis

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Na-tional Campaign for Cancer Awareness (CAN), has announced the commencement of a comprehensive training program aimed at enhancing early cancer diagnosis among healthcare providers in Kuwait.

This initiative, scheduled to run from July through December, targets primary care and dental doctors in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, reports the Al-Anba daily.

The program aims to train a total of 400 dentists and 500 primary care doctors during this period. Dr. Al-Saleh emphasized the importance of equipping healthcare professionals with the skills to detect initial signs of various cancers, including oral, breast, colon, rectum, head and neck, thyroid, and prostate cancers.

He highlighted that early screening by trained doctors significantly accelerates the



Dr. Khaled Al Saleh during the training program for doctors.

initiative.

referral process to specialists, thereby expediting necessary treatments and reducing patient suffering. Moreover, it contributes to higher

fully trained 1,475 dentists and 1,533 primary care doctors. Dr. Al-Saleh underscored that these efforts are part of CAN's strategic initiatives aimed at sustainable health development, with a focus on achieving tangible reductions in late-stage cancer diagnoses.

The training program underscores CAN's commitment to advancing healthcare capabilities in Kuwait and underscores its role in fostering early cancer detection practices among medical professionals nationwide.

Dr. Ahood Khalifa, Head of the Ophthal-mology Department at Al-Jahra Hospital, has announced the successful hosting of Dr. Ahmed Reda Awadin, a distinguished Professor of Ophthalmology from Cairo University specializing in pediatric eye diseases and strabismus. This visit is part of the Ministry of Health's initiative to attract renowned medical professionals.

During his visit, Dr. Awadin clinically ex-amined 33 children with various diagnoses, including different types of strabismus, congenital cataracts, thyroid-related eye protrusions, cases of corneal opacity, and a child suffering from retinal detachment with congenital cataracts.

Under Dr. Awadin's guidance, the medical team at the Ophthalmology Department of New Jahra Hospital successfully performed 12 surgeries. Dr. Awadin also delivered scientific lectures to the department, contributing to the exchange of medical knowledge and the training of Kuwaiti Board doctors in Ophthalmology.

Dr. Khalifa expressed gratitude for the support received from Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, Ministry Undersecretary Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, and Dr. Ahmed Al-Foudari, Chairman of the Ophthalmology Departments Council.

Australia ups bird flu watch

Poliovirus detected again in 3 Pakistan sewage samples global astronomical breakthroughs

ISLAMABAD, July 10, (Xinhua): Sewage samples collected from three previously infected districts in Pakistan have tested positive again for wild poliovirus type 1, the Pakistani Health Ministry said Tuesday.

The environmental samples collected between June 11-13 from Karachi South and Karachi Korangi districts in the southern Sindh province and the Dera Bugti district in southwest Balochistan province contained the virus, the ministry said in a statement.

All positive samples are genetically linked to the YB3A genetic cluster of type 1, which has been detected in all positive cases and sewage samples reported this year, it added.

The Pakistan Polio Program conducted a polio campaign last week from July 1-7 in 41 districts during which more than 8.4 million children under the age of five were vaccinated, said the ministry, adding that this was the sixth polio campaign of the year.

Afghan authorities have registered three positive polio cases in the south Afghanistan Kandahar province, bringing the number of the crippling disease among children to nine in the country, provincial government spokesman Mawlawi Mahmoud Ezam said Wednesday.

The trio positive cases of the paralyzing disease have been detected in Kandahar's provincial capital Kanadahar city, Shah Wa-likot and Arghistan districts in 2024, the official said.

According to the official, the remaining six polio cases have been registered in other parts of the war-torn country including the eastern Kunar and Nuristan provinces.

Afghan caretaker government launched a four-day house-to-house anti-polio campaign in 23 out of Afghanistan's 34 provinces on Monday during which some 8 million children under five will receive the immunity vaccines against the crippling disease.

A similar anti-polio drive was launched in Afghanistan on June 3 to eradicate the crippling poliovirus in the war-torn country.

Win also inspected a market and a school in Thaketa Township on Monday and held a meeting with health officials in Yangon Region regarding the diarrhea cases on Tuesday at Yangon General Hospital, it said.

As of Tuesday, all 130 patients who had been hospitalized for diarrhea were discharged from the hospitals, the ministry said.

Avian influenza: The Australian government has announced funding to boost preparations for a possible outbreak of avian influenza.

Murray Watt, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, on Wednesday committed 6.9 Australian dollars (4.6 million U.S. dollars) to combat the threat posed by a potential incursion of H5 High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI).

He said in a statement that Australia is the last continent to remain free of the H5 strain, which has caused significant deaths of poultry, wild birds and wild mammals around the world.

Watt said that Australia's biosecurity system and geographic isolation have kept the country free from H5 HPAI but that authorities must remain on high alert.

The funding package includes 2.2 million Australian dollars (1.4 million U.S. dollars) for the One Health Surveillance Initiative, which identifies and mitigates risks to human, animal and environmental health in Australia, and 1.95 million Australian dollars (1.3 million U.S. dollars) to support the national response capability for an avian influenza outbreak in poultry.

Oncology medicine: Libyan Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah on Monday stressed the need to focus on the supply of oncology medicine in the country.

Dbeibah made the remarks during a meeting with Minister of Health Ramadan Abu-Janah and other senior government officials to follow up on public tender for the of medicine, according to a statement by the Libyan government. "The prime minister stressed the need of setting priorities in contracting and supply of medicines, focusing on the supply of medicines for oncology and other most common diseases, and signing contracts with international manufacturers to ensure quality and speed of implementation," the statement said. Dbeibah also stressed the need to establish a system of drug distribution, and issued instructions to develop an urgent plan to supply the needed oncology medicine, the statement added. Due to years of armed conflict and chaos, Libyan authorities have been struggling to provide basic services for the people, including water supplies, electricity and healthcare.

GUIYANG, China, July 10, (Xinhua): The five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST) located in southwest China's Guizhou Province has yielded significant scientific results and created a new avenue for astronomical collaboration between China and European countries in recent years.

Li Di, a Chinese radio astronomer and chief scientist of FAST, received the Marcel Grossmann Award on Tuesday from the International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics Network (ICRANet), becoming the



Li, a researcher from the National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), was awarded the prize for his groundbreaking contributions to the scientific capabilities of the world's most sensitive radio telescope, including precise measurements of interstellar magnetic fields and advancing the study of fast radio bursts (FRBs) to a high statistical significance, according to the committee of the 17th Marcel Grossmann Meeting underway in Pescara, Italy.

Remo Ruffini, director of ICRANet, said that he has been collaborating with China and admiring the fantastic work Li has been able to create with FAST. He hopes to enhance collaboration in the future.

The FRBs are the brightest millisecondduration astronomical transients in radio bands with yet unknown origins. Less than 5 percent of those ever detected have been seen to repeat, and only a few are persistently active.

Li said that the study of FRBs holds the opportunity for significant breakthroughs in understanding the mechanisms of extreme energy production and transport in the universe.

Currently, FAST has detected the greatest number of bursting events, making epoch-making contributions to the FRB field, he added.

Located in a naturally deep and round karst depression in Guizhou, FAST was completed in 2016 and started formal operations in 2020.

Since its opening, FAST has attracted researchers from many European countries, including Italy. With its high sensitivity, FAST provides astronomers with a powerful tool for studying various cosmic objects, including pulsars in globular clusters, and some of the most ancient celestial bodies in the Milky Way.

Collaborate

Renowned experts Paulo Freire from the Max Planck Institute in Germany, and Ales-sandro Ridolfi from the Cagliari Astronomical Observatory of the Italian National Institute for Astrophysics, have both collaborated with Chinese scientists in exploring globular cluster pulsars using the FAST telescope and have discovered new pulsars with special properties.

Ridolfi led the development and optimization of various pulsar data processing software, including pulsar observation data compression, search, and timing observations, contributing to a series of discoveries in globular clusters.

first Chinese scientist to be awarded this prestigious international award

Chinese radio astronomer Li Di, the chief scientist of China's Five-hundred-meter Aperture

Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST), makes a speech at the 17th Marcel Grossmann Meet-ing in Pescara, Italy, July 9. Li was awarded the Marcel Grossmann Award on Tuesday for his research contributions in the field of fast radio burst (FRBs). (Xinhua)

Quegiao-2 'leads' diverse lunar exploration studies

Europe's Ariane 6 lifts off on maiden flight **China's FAST telescope accelerates**

recovery rates, which is the primary goal of the

As of July 2024, the program has success-

Diarrhea: Myanmar is ramping up responses after a total of 130 people were hospitalized for diarrhea in Myanmar's Yangon since the end of June this year, according to the country's Ministry of Health on Wednesday.

Patients infected with diarrhea were reported in Yangon Region at the beginning of June, which is a normal occurrence during the rainy season, the ministry said.

However, there have been patients with severe diarrhea symptoms in Thaketa Township and some other townships in the eastern district of Yangon Region since the end of June, the ministry added.

The health ministry, in cooperation with the Yangon Region government, has been ramping up responses to contain the spread of diarrhea, the ministry said.

Union Minister for Health Thet Khaing

BEIJING, July 10, (Xinhua): The Queqiao-2 relay satellite, with three scientific payloads installed, will conduct multiple scientific exploration missions in orbit, following its earlier contribution to the Chang'e-6 mission.

Queqiao-2, or Magpie Bridge 2, was launched by a Long March-8 rocket from the Wenchang Space Launch Site in south China's Hainan Province on March 20 this year, with the task of providing Earth-moon communications services.

Its three payloads consist of an extreme ultraviolet camera, a two-dimensional-coded energetic neutral atom-imager and an Earth-moon very long baseline interferometry (VLBI) experiment system, according to the National Space Science Center under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

A scientific payload manager is also installed, which acts as the central control hub for the instruments, and is responsible for their

unified control and data reception management, the center said. As a crucial part of the future Chang'e-7 mission, these payloads will carry out multiple Earth observation and astrometry experiments, with an aim to advance research in space Earth science, space astronomy and deep space exploration technology, thereby creating more original scientific achievements. According to the center, the extreme ultraviolet

camera can simultaneously observe in the 30.4 nm and 83.4 nm spectral bands, capturing a series of unique "photos" of space around Earth.

Scientists can use these "photos" to study how solar activity affects Earth's space environment, understand how Earth's magnetic field protects humans from cosmic rays and the solar wind, and better predict solar activity events to avoid negative impacts on communication systems and spacecraft safety.

Also:

PARIS: Europe's latest rocket Ariane 6 successfully lifted off Tuesday on its maiden flight from Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana.

The 56-meter-tall rocket is carrying four deployers that will release nine satellites away from the Ariane 6 upper stage at 600 km above Earth, the European Space Agency (ESA) said. According to the ESA, Ariane 6 is available

in two versions depending on the performance required: a version with two boosters, called Ariane 62, and Ariane 64 with four boosters.

Ariane 62 can launch payloads of approximately 4.5 tonnes into geostationary transfer orbit or 10.3 tonnes into low Earth orbit, while Ariane 64 can launch payloads of approximately 11.5 tonnes into geostationary transfer orbit and 21.6 tonnes into low Earth orbvit, the ESA said.



Duplantis poised for spotlight in Paris

US eyes lion's share of medals in track and field

BEIJING, July 10, (Xinhua): Boosted by a series of world-leading performances, and even a world record, in their highly competitive national Olympic trials, US track and field athletes are ready to maintain their dominance in the upcoming Paris Olympics.

Noah Lyles is one of the biggest stars in the American team. The 26-year-old sprinter collected men's 100m, 200m and 4x100m gold medals at the World Championships in Budapest last year, making him the first man to manage the feat since Jamaican legend Usain Bolt's retirement.

And Lyles has never hidden his ambition for another triple collection in Paris. During the US trials last month, he also showed that he gets the right form, as well, by breezing to a 9.83s victory to equal with his 100m personal best time and winng the 200m race in a world-leading time of 19.53s.

World champion Sha'Carri Richardson took the women's 100m title with a world-leading of 10.71s to clinch her Olympic spot. It will be the first Olympic Games for the 24-year-old and she will be aiming for the gold medal not only in the 100m event but also in the 4x100m relay.

Women's 400m hurdler Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone will also arrive

in Paris with high spirit. The defending Olympic champion clocked 50.65s to win at the US trials, chopping 0.03s off her own world record. With her 200m PB set two months ago and a 400m world leading time of 48.75 achieved last month, the in-form hurdler might be eyeing more than just the gold medal.

Three years ago, she also set a world record at the national trials ahead of the Tokyo Olympic Games, and went on to further improve it en routing to grabbing the gold on the Olympic track.

OLYMPICS

As the Americans are expecting a big medal haul in Paris, the Americanborn Swedish Armand Duplantis may easily take the spotlight, as long as the pole vault sensation can repeat the competition routine he usually did - securing the victory early and raising the bar to a height that is one centimeter higher than his own world record.

And for now, the height should be 6.25m after he soared to his eighth world record of 6.24m at the season opener in China's Xiamen on April 20. "A new record will be nice in Paris,

but I think the most important thing

Australia confirms 460-athlete roster for Paris Olympics

SYDNEY, July 10, (Xinhua): The Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) confirmed on Wednesday that 460 athletes will represent Australia at the upcoming Paris Olympics, compet-

ing in 33 sports. According to the AOC, the 460-strong Australian team is the third-largest for an Olympic Games held overseas, behind Tokyo 2020 and Athens 2004. Approximately 50 percent of the athletes are expected to make their debut in Paris, compared

is to win and take back home the gold. That's the most important thing when it's a competition like the Olympics. But if I could break the record too, then that would be amazing," said Duplantis in a previous interview with Xinhua.

"I hope that I will be in my best possible shape when I get there, which I think is going be the case," he added.

Like Duplantis, China's Olympic shot put champion Gong Lijiao is also looking to reach her best level in Paris. with 62 percent at Tokyo 2020 and 64 percent at Rio 2016.

The team achieved a milestone with the highest percentage of women in Australia's Olympic history.

The AOC noted that female athletes make up 55.6 percent of the team, marking a stark contrast to Paris 1924 when no women were enrolled in the Australian side.

Equestrian veteran and three-time Olympian Shane Rose is the team's oldest member at the age of 51, while

The 35-year-old will compete in her fifth Olympic Games next month. After collecting a silver, a bronze, and a fourth-place finish in her first three Olympic outings from 2008 to 2016, the Hebei native finally reached the top podium in Tokyo with a careerbest mark of 20.58 meters.

Following the Tokyo Games, Gong experienced fluctuations in her form, finishing second and third in the 2022 and 2023 World Championships, re14-year-old skateboarder Arisa Trew is the youngest.

OLYMPICS

Additionally, Australia will have its first participation in several new disciplines, including the mixed team race walk, while the basketball 3x3 competition will feature Australian women for the first time.

Australian Olympic team Chef de

spectively. This season, she has yet to return to her best shape, with a seasonbest mark of 20.00 meters set at the FBK Games in Hengelo, the Netherlands.

"I think if you want to win the gold medal at the Olympic Games, you need to throw at least around 20.50 meters," said Gong, who has been training with her coach Dieter Kollark in Europe since early June. "Step by step, I need to keep improving my Mission Anna Meares said in a press conference that years of training and preparation have placed these athletes at the start line of their Paris Olympic ambitions.

"Our biggest days look to be July 27 and August 3 when we are likely to be competing in 20 sports on each of those days," Meares said.

The AOC also noted that the composition of the team may change prior to the opening competition on July 24 due to potential athlete withdrawals or late additional quota spots.

mark, and I believe even at my age, I still have the strength to vie for the gold in Paris." Gong's main rivals in Paris include reigning two-time world champion Chase Jackson of the United States, who has a personal best of 20.76 meters, Canada's world silver medalist Sarah Mitton, who achieved a national record of 20.68 meters two months ago, and Jessica Schilder of the Netherlands, who recently set a national record of 20.33 meters in Hengelo.

Tourists take 2-1 lead in series

Gill leads India to 23-run win

over Zimbabwe in third T20

Vingegaard tops Pogacar in sprint to win Tour de France Stage Eleven



HARARE, Zimbabwe, July 10, (AP): India captain Shubman Gill regained his form with a half-century as the tourists beat Zimbabwe by 23 runs Wednesday in the third Twenty20.

Gill scored 66 runs off 49 balls, including seven fours and three sixes, as India notched up 182-4 in 20 overs. Ruturaj Gaikwad also scored 49 off 28 balls.

In reply, Zimbabwe finished with 159-6 as off-spin all-rounder Washington Sundar took 3-15 in four overs. Dion Myers top scored for the hosts with 65 not out off 49 balls, including seven fours and a six.

The win gives India a 2-1 lead in the five-match series. It won the second T20 by 100 runs, after losing the first by 13 runs.

India was bolstered by the inclusion of Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sanju Samson and Shivam Dube, who were part of its T20 World Cup winning campaign.

Opting to bat, Gill and Jaiswal opened the innings with Abhishek Sharma, who scored a maiden century in the previous game, shifting down to No. 3.

Gill and Jaiswal put on 67 off 50 balls for the first wicket. Jaiswal, who didn't feature in the World Cup, returned to India's playing XI with 36 off 27 balls. He hit four fours and two sixes.

0 sixes.

India's Yashasvi Jaiswal bats during the third T20 match between Zimbabwe and India, at the Harare Sports Club, in Harare. (AP)

Ahmed and Avesh Khan shared three wickets.

Khan struck twice in two overs as the hosts were down to 19-3 in 3.1 overs. Khan finished with 2-39 from four overs.

Sundar then broke through twice in the middle order, dismissing Raza (15) and Jonathan Campbell (1) as Zimbabwe was reduced to 39-5 in seven overs.

It made a decent recovery thanks to a 77-run partnership off 57 balls between Myers and Clive Madande.

Sundar again provided the break-

through as the match slipped from

who scored 37 off 26 balls.

Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard, (left), sprints to the finish line to win ahead of Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, during the eleventh stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 211 kilometers (131.1 miles) with start in Evaux-les-Bains and finish in Le Lorian, France. (AP)

Tadej maintains the yellow jersey

LE LIORAN, France, July 10, (AP): Just three months ago, Jonas Vingegaard was lying in a hospital bed with broken ribs and a collapsed lung. On Wednesday, he beat his rival Tadej Pogacar in a two-man sprint after a brutal day in the mountains.

Pogacar, the Tour leader, kept the yellow jersey but it was the two-time defending champion who earned a psychological victory at the end of an epic battle in the Massif Central.

The pair left all their rivals in their wake and Vingegaard, after closing a big gap to Pogacar in a brutal climb, outsprinted his rival to finish half a wheel ahead for the stage win.

"It is of course very emotional for me. Coming back from the crash," Vingegaard said, trying to hold back tears. "It means a lot. All the things I went through in the last three months, it makes you think of that."

Vingegaard was hospitalized for nearly two weeks in April following a high-speed crash in the Tour of the Basque Country.

He only resumed competitive racing at the Tour and there were many question marks about his form. His tremendous ride Wednesday showed he is more than ready to defend his title.

"I'm just happy to be here and it means so much to win a stage, especially to win it for my family. They were there supporting me the whole time," Vingegaard said.

True to his habit of attacking every time he gets the chance, Pogacar tried

to move away alone about 32 kilometers from the finish with a strong attack. After getting dropped, Vingegaard kept his head cool and proved to be the fastest in the next ascent to catch his rival.

Vingegaard said he thought he would not be able to bridge the gap opened by Pogacar, and was also surprised he could beat him in the sprint.

"I would never have thought this three months ago. I was only thinking about doing my own pace and then the sprint."

The pair then stayed together to gain time on Remco Evenepoel and Primoz Roglic, who crashed near the finish. Evenepoel reached the finish 25 seconds behind, with Roglic 55 seconds off the pace, according to provisional results.

Evenepoel trails 1:06 behind Pogacar overall, with Vingegaard in third place, 1:14 back. Roglic is fourth, 2:45 behind the race leader.

Chinese swimmers' contamination case

Independent prosecutor: WADA not biased



1-First floor: (4 Master bedrooms – Living room Store - Nanny room - Driver room)

 2- Ground & Basement: (Separate elevator – 5 Master bedrooms -2 Kitchens "one master & small preparing kitchen"-2 Living rooms "one in ground floor & on in basement" Separate stairs to basement - Nanny room -Driver room-Laundry room - Store)

(Super Deluxe Finishing)

"Al Shaab Residential Area" 97903842

BEIJING, July 10, (Xinhua): The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) did not show "favoritism or deference, or in any way favoured" the 23 Chinese swimmers who tested positive for trimetazidine (TMZ) due to food contamination in 2021, an independent prosecutor report has said.

WADA held an online extraordinary Executive meeting on Tuesday in Montreal discussing the interim report delivered by Independent Prosecutor Eric Cottier, regarding his review of WADA's handling of the China Anti-Doping Agency's (CHINA-DA's) no-fault contamination case involving 23 swimmers from China in 2021.

ing 23 swimmers from China in 2021. In the report, Cottier concluded that WADA had been unbiased and reasonable in handling the case.

"There is nothing in the file - which is complete - to suggest that WADA showed favoritism or deference, or in any way favoured the 23 swimmers who tested positive for trimetazidine (TMZ) between 1 and 3 January 2021, when it proceeded to review CHINADA's decision to close the proceedings against them without further action," the report said.

"The Investigator did not find any evidence to suggest any interference or meddling in WADA's review, as described above, either within the Agency or externally, from any entity or institution, including CHINADA or the Chinese authorities. "The investigation did not reveal any irregularities on the part of WADA in the review of CHINADA's decision; this review was detailed and covered all relevant issues in determining whether or not to appeal the decision," the report concluded.

As for WADA not to appeal CHINADA's decision not to bring forward Anti-Doping Rule Violations against the 23 Chinese swimmers, the report said: "All the elements taken into consideration by WADA, whether they come from the file produced by CHINADA with its decision or from the investigation procedures that it carried out, show the decision not to appeal to be reasonable, both from the point of view of the facts and the applicable rules."

"As the report captures, WADA reviewed this case with a healthy skepticism as it does in all such cases.

"It was very important that we set the record straight in this regard; and, in particular regarding these two fundamental questions in advance of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games," WADA president Witold Banka said.

WADA Senior Director, Science and Medicine, Olivier Rabin, said: "In this case, despite our skepticism, a thorough review of all the verifiable facts of the case revealed no evidence to challenge the contamination scenario. Zimbabwe skipper Sikandar Raza struck twice in quick succession as India first lost Jaiswal and then Sharma for 10.

Gaikwad, batting at four, then put on 72 off 44 balls with Gill for the third wicket. Gill notched up his highest score of the series, scoring 50 off 36 balls as he anchored the Indian innings.

He was out in the 18th over, trying to gain a march as India crossed 150. Gaikwad and Sanju Samson (12 not out) then scored 24 off 11 balls to help propel the score past 180.

Chasing 183, Zimbabwe was rocked at the start as pacers Khaleel

Zimbabwe's hands. Myers and Wellington Masakadza (18 not out) put on 43 off 21 balls to reduce the margin of defeat. "It feels amazing to play again for the country," Sundar said. "It was

the country," Sundar said. "It was definitely a better batting wicket than the previous two games, so we executed our plans well to restrict them. Hopefully we can seal the series on Saturday."

The final two T20s will be played on Saturday and Sunday.

Two-time World Cup winner

Gambhir appointed coach of India men's cricket team

NEW DELHI, July 10, (AP): Twotime World Cup winner Gautam Gambhir has been appointed head coach of the India men's cricket team in all formats, starting later this month with the limited-overs tour of Sri Lanka.

"India is my identity and serving my country has been the greatest privilege of my life. I am honored to be back, albeit wearing a different hat," the former batter said on X. "But my goal is the same as it has always been, to make every Indian proud. The Men in Blue shoulder the dreams of 1.4 billion Indians and I will do everything in my power to make these dreams come true."

BCCI secretary Jay Shah made the announcement on X on Tuesday evening.

CRICKET

As a batter, Gambhir was part of the 2011 Cricket World Cup and 2007 T20 World Cup-winning India teams. The left-hander played a key role in the finals of both tournaments.

Gambhir was ICC's test player of the year in 2009. He also led Kolkata Knight Riders to twin victories in the Indian Premier League in 2012 and 2014. He retired from international cricket in 2016 with 10,324 runs across all three formats. He then retired from all cricket in 2018 playing the final season of IPL for Delhi Capitals (then Delhi Daredevils).

"Modern day cricket has evolved rapidly, and Gautam has witnessed this changing landscape up close," Shah said. "Having endured the grind and excelled in various roles throughout his career, I am confident that Gautam is the ideal person to steer Indian cricket forward."

Sri Lanka will host India for three T20s and three ODIs, beginning July 27, with batting stars Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli expected to be rested for the ODI series.

Gambhir has never officially coached a cricket team. After retiring as a player, he took up mentorship of Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL for the 2022 and 2023 seasons, and then was mentor of Kolkata Knight Riders in 2024, guiding the franchise to a third IPL title.

He takes over from Rahul Dravid, who led India to its T20 World Cup triumph last month.

The new coach will lead India to some key assignments in the next two years, including the five-test tour of Australia in November, the 2025 Champions Trophy (currently scheduled to be hosted in Pakistan) and the 2026 T20 World Cup (co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka).

India is also currently on path to secure qualification for the 2025 World Test Championship final.

Gambhir, along with India's cricket selectors, will help rebuild the Indian team for the 2026 World Cup following the T20 retirements of star players Sharma, Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja.

The BCCI had initially advertised the coaching role for a 3 1/2-year role until December 2027, and as such, Gambhir's tenure is also expected to include the 2027 Cricket World Cup in South Africa.

the peloton stayed together for some 40 kilometers before riders could break away in humid conditions. A group of 10 men rode at the front but split at the foot of the first major climb, the steep Col de Neronne. Pogacar's Team Emirates set a fast termo but they were caucht one by one

tempo but they were caught one by one one as they rode up to the Puy Mary, the hardest climb of the day.

The rollercoaster 211-kilometer

(131-mile) Stage 11 featured four

brutal ascents in its second half and

included more than 4,000 meters of

The race started at a high pace and

climbing.

Pogacar, a two-time Tour champion, attacked 600 meters from that summit to drop everyone else then went all in on the downhill, showcasing his great skills in the technical descent to increase his lead and start the next climb with a lead of 35 seconds. But Vingegaard still had the final word.

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SPORTS

Rybakina wins as Krejcikova eliminates Ostapenko

Djokovic gets to his 13th Wimbledon semifinal via walkover

LONDON, July 10, (AP): Novak Djokovic's smooth trip through the Wimbledon bracket got even easier on Wednesday, when he moved into his record-tying 13th semifinal at the tournament via a walkover because his quarterfinal opponent, Alex de Minaur, pulled out with a hip injury.

Djokovic had knee surgery less than a month before the start of play at the All England Club, raising questions about whether he'd even be able to try to earn his eighth championship at the grass-court major and add to his men's mark of 24 Grand Slam trophies.

But, despite limitations on movement, the 37-year-old Djokovic has dropped only two sets so far, while facing a qualifier in the first round, a wild-card entrant in the second and only one seeded player, No. 15 Holger Rune. Djokovic was supposed to go up against No. 9 de Minaur on Wednesday, but instead will get three full days off before Friday's semifinals

More eventful for Djokovic has been

his interactions with some spectators at Centre Court. After beating Rune in straight sets on Monday, Djokovic told fans that a group of them showed "disrespect" toward him with the way they were cheering.

In the women's quarterfinals Wednesday, 2022 champion Elena

TENNIS

Rybakina grabbed nine of the last 11 games to defeat No. 21 Elina Svitolina 6-3, 6-2, and No. 31 Barbora Krejcikova eliminated No. 13 Jelena Ostapenko 6-4, 7-6 (4) in a matchup between two past champions at the French Open. Rybakina ended her win with her

seventh ace and improved to 19-2 at Wimbledon in four appearances.

"Definitely, I have an aggressive style of game," Rybakina said. "I have a huge serve, so it's a big advantage.' Her match lasted 1 hour, 1 minute

- shorter than the second set alone of Krejcikova against Ostapenko, who at



Barbora Krejcikova of the Czech Republic plays a backhand return to Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia during their quarterfinal match at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London. (AP)

one point ordered her coach to leave the stands.

Kreicikova won her first Grand Slam title on the red clay at Roland Garros in 2021, but never had put together a five-match winning streak on grass until now.

"There have been many doubts from the inside, but also from outside - from the outside world," said Krejcikova, who arrived at the All England Club with a record of just 6-9 in 2024. "But I'm super happy than I never gave up and that I'm standing here right now." The other women's semifinal is No.

7 Jasmine Paolini against unseeded Donna Vekic.

Djokovic's next match will come against No. 13 Taylor Fritz of the United States or No. 25 Lorenzo Musetti of Italy. Fritz and Musetti were scheduled to play their quarterfinal on Wednesday.

No man has made it to as many Grand Slam semifinals as Djokovic's 49. He and Roger Federer are the only men with 13 appearances in the final four at Wimbledon.

De Minaur's exit is the latest to come because of injury in Week 2 of the tournament. Players who stopped

competing in the middle of fourthround matches because they were hurt include No. 10 Grigor Dimitrov in the men's draw, and No. 12 Madison Keys and No. 17 Anna Kalinskaya in the women's

The hip issue for de Minaur, a 25-year-old Australian, arose right near the end of his four-set win against Arthur Fils on Monday. De Minaur said he heard a crack and knew something was wrong. He underwent medical tests Tuesday

that revealed the extent of the problem but tried to practice on Wednesday morning in the hope he would be able to take on Djokovic. This was the first time de Minaur reached the quarterfinals at Wimbledon.

"It's no secret that, at this stage of my career, this was the biggest match of my career. So wanted to do anything I could to play," de Minaur said. "I knew what the results were yesterday, but I still wanted to wake up today and feel some sort of miracle and not feel it while I'm walking."

Argentina close in on historic third 'consecutive' major title



Girona to strengthen for debut

Real to present Mbappe on Tue in Santiago Bernabeu Stadium

MADRID, July 10, (Xinhua): Real Madrid confirmed on Wednesday that French international forward, Kylian Mbappe will be officially presented to the press and supporters at the club's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium on Tues-

day, July 16th. "Real Madrid C. F. is pleased to announce that Kylian Mbappe will be presented at the Santiago Berna-

beu stadium on Tuesday 16 July at noon," explained the club's official website, adding that club President, Florentino Perez would "welcome Kylian Mbappe to Madrid Real City for the for-

mal signing of the contract." 25-year-old Mbappe has signed a five-year contract with Real Madrid after the expiry of his deal with Paris Saint Germain, ending the Span-

Mbappe

ish giant's long pursuit of the forward. Mbappe will wear the number 9 shirt at his new club and around 80,000 fans are expected to attend an event that takes place in the middle of the school holidays.

Girona signed Gabriel Misehouy, 18-year-old Dutch attacking midfielder, on a four-year contract, as the club geared up for their first ever appearance in the Champions League.

Misehouy was Girona's third signing this summer, following the central defender Ladislav Kreici and the forward Abel Ruiz. The 18-year-old once played in the Netherlands and arrived in Spain on a free transfer after refusing a new con-

tract at Ajax due to a lack of first team opportunities. Misehouy is able to operate across the front of midfield and will give the club new options.

This summer, Girona lost key players including Aleix Garcia, Yan Couto, Pablo Torres and Eric Garcia, so the club has to prepare for a demanding season, with top-level European football added to the La Liga and the Copa del Rey.



The Village Super League in Rongjiang County, southwest China's Guizhou Province, offers more than just football matches; it is also a sports meet with rural charm.

Last weekend, the Village Super League hosted a rural sports event featuring football, basketball, and table tennis, as well as activities such as stilt racing and tug-of-war.

In one of the tug-of-war contests, participants lay prone on the ground, crawling and pulling in opposite di-

SOCCER

rections. After multiple rounds, Wei Sicheng emerged victorious, showcasing impressive arm strength. "I guess I can't hide my strength," Wei said confidently.

"The atmosphere was fantastic," Wei Sicheng noted. "The spectators cheered for all participants. I felt warm and uplifted." Yang Xiaomei, who traveled from Guiyang to watch the event, mentioned that traditional ethnic sports are not only competitive but also entertaining. She said these activities are perfect for the public to enjoy.

On the Village Super League pitch



Canada's Cyle Larin and Argentina's Cristian Romero vie for the ball during a Copa America semifinal soccer match in East Rutherford, N.J. (AP)

teams formed by local villagers competed in dry-land dragon boat races. Athletes used their legs as paddles to "ride" inflatable dragon boats.

Messi's 109th goal secures Albiceleste spot in Copa America final

RUTHERFORD. EAST July 10, (AP): Lionel Messi and Argentina moved within one win of joining Spain as the only nations to win three straight major titles.

"It's insane what this team has done, what the Argentina national team is doing," Messi said Tuesday night after his 109th international goal sealed a 2-0 victory over Canada that earned a berth in this weekend's Copa America final. "For those who remain from the old guard, it's beyond impres-

SOCCER

sive that the national team is in another final.

Julián Álvarez put the Albiceleste ahead in the 22nd minute, controlling a long pass from Rodrigo De Paul, taking two touches to get away from Moïse Bombito and slipping the ball through the legs of goalkeeper Max-ime Crépeau for his ninth international goal.

Messi redirected Enzo Fernández's shot following a poor Ismaël Koné clearance in off the face of Crépeau from 4 yards in the 51st for his first goal of the tournament. Messi has 28 goals in his last 25 matches for Argentina and 14 in Copa America play,



Argentina's Lionel Messi reacts after missing a chance to score against Canada during a Copa America semifinal soccer match in East Rutherford, N.J. (AP)

"I wasn't sure if Enzo's ball was going to get in," Messi said. "It was a reflex.

Only Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo with 130 has more international goals than Messi, who turned 37 on June 24. Iran's Ali Daei had 108 or 109 from 1993 to 2006, with a lingering dispute over whether a goal against Ecuador in 2000 occurred in a full international match.

With a victory on its independence day, Argentina extended its unbeaten streak to 10 games.

"We have to enjoy every moment

of what we're are living," Messi said "I'm conscious that these are the last battles.'

Trying to string together Copa America titles around the 2022 World Cup championship, Argentina hopes to match Spain's feat of winning the 2008 and 2012 European Championships along with the 2010 World Cup.

"These are statistics. I'm not really interested about it," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said through a translator. "The most important thing is to win.

Making his 38th Copa America appearance, Messi had missed Argentina's group stage finale with a leg injury and was subdued while playing 90 minutes in the quarterfinal win over Ecuador. He was much more agile and shot just wide in the 12th and 44th minutes. Messi had 45 touches and a 79% pass success rate.

"They make us pay on small details," Crépeau said.

MetLife's temporary grass surface appeared heavy, with water splashing and sand popping up during dribbles. "It's has been a very difficult Copa

América," Messi said, "very competitive, bad surfaces, excessive heat.

Argentina fans gathered in Times Square on the eve of the match and filled the streets on Manhattan before heading to MetLife Stadium. The crowd of 80,102 on a night with an 82-degree temperature and 82% humidity was overwhelmingly pro-Argentina, with only a few sections dominated by red-clad Canadian supporters

Akbar and Bobby win Pro-Advance Men's Doubles title

IBAK organizes Summer Smash 2024

By Paul Francis X. Fernandes Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: To celebrate the World Badminton Day, the Indian Badminton Association Kuwait (IBAK) conducted the Summer Smash Tournament at its Salwa Gym (Saad Al Awzi School)

Despite Kuwait's hot weather, the competition inside the IBAK Salwa stadium was even hotter, with top players battling it out for titles. Over 100 spectators enjoyed

BADMINTON

the thrilling matches.

The tournament featured two categories -- Flight 1 Pro-Advance Men's Doubles and Flight 2 Higher-Lower Intermediate Doubles.

In the fiercely contested Pro-Advance Men's Doubles final, Syed Akbar and Edwin Bobby triumphed over Dhruva Bharadwaj and Mallu Chandhramouli with scores of 23-21, 21-12.

In the Higher-Lower Intermediate Doubles category, Siva Kumar and Vinod Kumar secured a relatively easy victory over Rufus Shibu Samuel and Ayub Alkautsar,



Participants pose for a group photo.

winning 21-13, 21-14.

The IBAK executive committee organized the tournament flawlessly and professionally. Winners, runners-up, and semi-finalists were awarded medals and cash prizes.

Aligned with its vision to promote badminton in Kuwait, IBAK regularly offers coaching for beginners, intermediate, and advanced players, led by reputed overseas coaches.

The upcoming tournaments include Kuwait Badminton League 2024, IBAK SLAM 2024 and IBAK Interschool Tournament. IBAK can be reached on www. ibakwt.org or ibakcommittee@ gmail.com

Pro-Advance Men's Doubles winners -- Syed Akbar abd Edwin Bobby

Runners-up -- Dhruva Bharadwaj and Mallu Chandramouli

Semi-Finalist 1 -- Moo Elkhyat and Surya Kanth

Semi-Finalist 2 -- Shrihari Ganga and Siraj Salavemula

Higher-Lower Intermediate Doubles winners -- Vinod Kumar and Siva Kumar

Runners-up -- Ayub Alkaustar and Rufus Shibu Samuel

Semifinalist 1 -- Lijo Jose and Sodique Hamid

Semifinalist 2 -- Anil Aaditya and Liyanfen Titto



Left to right winners receive their prizes.

INDIAN BADMINTON ASSOCIATION - KUWAIT

three shy of the record. He has scored against 38 different nations.

AN BADMINTON ASSOCIATION - KUWAIT



Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan plays a forehand return to Elina Svitolina of Ukraine during their quarterfinal match at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London Rybakina won 6-3, 6-2. (AP) - See Page 15



Latest sports scores at — http://sports.arabtimesonline.com Kuwait divers make waves at World Free Diving Championship



Kuwaiti divers display the national flag as they celebrate on the podium.

BELGRADE, July 10: The president of the Kuwait Diving and Rescue Association, Eng. Talal Al-Sarhan, announced at the conclusion of the World Free Diving Championship in Belgrade, Serbia, that our team secured two medals: silver and a bronze.

thanks to the efforts of Mai Al-Badr. Additionally, the team set eight new national records through the performances of Mai Al-Badr, Alia Al-Salem, Fi Al-Awadi, Fahd Al-Kandari, and Abdullah Al-Hammad. He noted that the tournament in-

cluded the participation of the Chairman of the Association's Technical Committee, M. Hani bin Hussein, who served as a referee. Al-Sarhan expressed his immense happiness and pride in the delegation's achievements, emphasizing the growing

popularity and acceptance of diving in Kuwaiti society.

Al-Sarhan concluded by stressing the urgent need for the reinstatement of financial support for the club, which has not received any funding for the past two years.

Thompson 'believes' he could be the missing piece for Mavs

DALLAS, July 10, (AP): Klay Thompson remembers telling Luka Doncic he thought the Dallas superstar was on a path to greatness after Golden State beat the Mavericks in the Western Conference finals two years ago.

Now that Thompson has left the only NBA team he has known in 13 years to join Doncic and Kyrie Irving in Texas, he's ready to celebrate with, rather than console, the 25-year-old sensation.

"He was real gracious in defeat," Thompson said of Doncic during his introductory news conference with the Mavs. "I just appreciate someone who is not afraid of the moment and competes till the end. Luka fits that bill. I think we'll be able to bring the best out of each other.'

BASKETBALL

The Warriors went on to win the last of their four championships with Thompson and Stephen Curry in 2022. Two years later, an admittedly difficult season for Thompson ended with his scoreless, 0-for-10 showing in a loss to Sacramento in the play-in tournament.

He suspected that might be the end of his time with the team that drafted him 11th overall in 2011. And Thompson disappointed his dad, Los Angeles Lakers player-turned-broadcaster Mychal Thompson, by picking Doncic and Irving over LeBron James and Anthony Davis in free agency.

Watching the Mays lose to Boston in five games in the NBA Finals had plenty to do with the decision.

"I was watching just as a basketball fan, and I did see, like, 'Man, I could really help this team. They're right there," Thompson said. "Not big adjustments, but just very little adjustments from getting over the top. We're knocking on the door, and that's what

really got me excited to be here." Thompson joined the Mavericks in a sign-and-trade deal involving six

teams and a \$50 million, three-year contract for the 34-year-old, a fivetime All-Star.

Dallas also added free agent forward Naji Marshall on a \$27 million, threeyear deal and acquired Quentin Grimes from Detroit in a trade that sent Tim Hardaway Jr. and three second-round picks to the Pistons.

Marshall and Grimes were already on board when they got news of the Thompson deal.

"I told everybody, 'I'm about to get a ring," said Grimes, who was born and raised in the Houston area. "One of the best shooters of all time, for me as a shooter coming in, I'm going to learn from him every day. We've got a good group of guys, and when we got Klay, I'm like, 'The sky's the limit.'"



Spain's Lamine Yamal celebrates after scoring his side's first goal during a semifinal match between Spain and France at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Munich, Germany. (AP)

Resilient Spain reach Euro 2024 final

MUNICH, July 10, (AP): Spain reached the European Championship final with a 2-1 victory over France with 16-year-old Lamine Yamal becoming the youngest-ever scorer at the tournament.

Yamal becomes youngest-ever scorer at Euros



Kuwait youth athletics team returns 5 with medals from Arab Champ'ship

CAIRO, July 10: The national athletics Kuwait's athletes in the Arab compeed from Egypt concluding a successful campaign at the Arab Youth Athletics Championship (under 23 years old). The team secured a total of 5 medals, with Abdullah Al-Zankawi securing gold in the discus throw with a distance of 53.96 meters on the final day. Yaqoub Al-Azmi claimed bronze in the 200 meters with a time of 21.26 seconds.

France took an early lead when Randal Kolo Muani headed in a cross from Kylian Mbappé, who played without a mask, before Yamal's moment of brilliance in the 21st minute. Dani Olmo scored what was to prove the winner four minutes later.

"We were in a difficult stretch after not expecting to concede so early. I just took the ball and wanted to put it right there. I am very happy," Yamal said.

SOCCER

"I don't try to think about it too much, just enjoy myself and help the team, and if it goes my way, then I am happy (for the goal) and for the win."

We knew they were a great team, and they proved it again tonight," France coach Didier Deschamps said. "Even though we were fortunate to open the scoring, Spain made things difficult for us.

"They were superior in terms of control and technique. The team that gave the best impression was Spain. So they deserve to win tonight."

There was surprise in Munich when Mbappé took to the field without the mask he has been wearing since getting his nose broken in France's opening group game at Euro 2024. Mbappé had been complaining the

mask was impeding him, and ditching it appeared to have an immediate effect as he created the game's opening goal in the ninth minute with a tantalizing cross to the back post that was headed in by Randal Kolo Muani.

That was the first goal France had scored at Euro 2024 that wasn't a penalty or an own-goal. Fortunately for Les Bleus they had also been exceptional at the back, allowing just one goal, a retaken penalty by Poland's Robert Lewandowski in the group stage.

But there was no stopping Yamal's stunning equalizer in the 21st minute as he became the youngest player ever to score at a men's European Championship when he curled the ball past Mike Maignan and in off the left post from 25 yards.

And Spain turned the match around completely four minutes later when Olmo's goalbound-shot was turned into his own net by France defender Jules Koundé. It was originally adjudged by UEFA to have been an own-goal but was later awarded to Olmo.

The heroes of the athletics team pose with officials after the closing ceremony.

Lynx rout Sparks for seventh straight victory in LA

LOS ANGELES, July 10, (AP): Bridget Carleton scored 16 points, Dorka Juhasz added 15 and the short-handed Minnesota Lynx beat the Los Angeles Sparks 82-67.

Minnesota (16-6) has won seven straight games in Los Angeles and 13 of the last 14 meetings with the Sparks overall.

Minnesota took control early by making 11 of its first 16 shots, with points from nine players, while Los Angeles was 3 of 12 from the field. The Lynx led 51-35 at halftime after shooting 54%, including 6 of 11 from 3-point range.

Alissa Pili gave Minnesota a 25-point lead, 70-45, late in the third quarter.

Kayla McBride and Cecilia Zandalasini each scored

11 points for Minnesota. Carleton made all four of her 3-point attempts to help Minnesota go 9 for 18, while Los Angeles was 3 for 20.

Napheesa Collier, the Lynx's leading scorer and rebounder, did not play due to a foot injury.

BASKETBALL

Dearica Hamby led Los Angeles (5-17) with 18 points and eight rebounds. Azura Stevens, who made her season debut on Sunday, finished with nine points. Hamby made a layup midway through the third quar-

ter to reach 3,000 career points.

Hussein Dashti, Secretary General and head of the delegation, commended the exceptional performance of

strated advanced levels, highlighting significant technical improvement. Even those who did not podium man-

ATHLETICS

aged to set personal records, reflecting their commitment to peak performance in a highly competitive field featuring top athletes from 12 Arab nations.

Kuwait youth handball team heads to Asian Championship in Amman

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Kuwait youth handball team departs for Amman, Jordan, to compete in the Asian Youth Championship, also known as the "World Cup Qualifiers," scheduled from the 14th to the 25th of this month.

The team joins Group Two of the Asian tournament, facing China at 5:15 pm next Sunday and Iran at noon the following day.

Recently, the team concluded a productive external training camp in Slovenia to prepare for the tournament. During the camp, the team engaged in eight friendly matches against teams from Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Austria, Croatia, and Montenegro. Coach Saeed Hegazy and his staff focused on refining technical, tactical, and mental aspects ahead of the official Asian competitions.

Abdulaziz Al Zaabi, director of the youth handball team, praised the Slovenian camp for its effectiveness in enhancing player performance. He emphasized, "The coaching staff implemented various strategies in offense and defense, while also enhancing physical conditioning."

HANDBALL

Al Zaabi highlighted the players' cooperation and adherence to the coaching staff's instructions during the camp, aiming for a strong start in the Asian Championship.

He further noted the camp's success in preventing injuries, allowing the coach flexibility in selecting the squad for the upcoming matches.

Al-Zaabi concluded by expressing the Handball Association's aspiration to qualify the team for the 2025 World Cup finals, underscoring the collective ambition of players, coaches, and administrators amid Kuwaiti handball's resurgence.



Aurelien Tchouameni of France, (left), vies for the ball with Spain's Mikel Merino, during a semifinal match between Spain and France at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Munich, Germany. (AP)



Kuwaiti players hold their final training session before departing for the Asian Youth Championship in Jordan.



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