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ELECTRICITY LOAD SURPASSES 17,000 MW AS TEMPERATURES SOAR



Scenes across Kuwait show resilience as temperatures exceed 50 degrees Celsius on Thursday, accompanied by fluctuating northwesterly winds (8-30 km/h).

Photos by Samer Shiker and Mohamad Morsi

Scorching 53°C to grip Kuwait

Power outage hits Sabah Al-Salem as sub-feeders fail

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: Temperatures in Kuwait will exceed 50 degrees in some regions during daytime over the weekend, Kuwait Meteorological Center declared on Thursday.

The country is currently affected with very hot waves of northwesterly winds that trigger dust, on Saturday, dropping visibility, particularly in undeveloped regions, said the center director general Abulaziz Al-Qarawi in a statement to KUNA.

Thursday's weather is very hot and the country is witnessing unsteady northwesterly winds (8-30 km/h), and the tempera-

ture is hitting the 48-52 degrees threshold. However, at night, the temperature will range between 32 and 34 degrees.

It will be quite hot on Friday, amid northwesterly winds (12-45 km/h), with forecast dust outbursts in open areas, with the temperatures soaring further to the 49-53 level, but dropping at night to the 32-34 degrees level, Al-Qarawi said.

The extreme heat would persist on Saturday with the expected record at 48-50 degrees, amid northwesterly dusty winds speeding at 20-60 km/h, and ranges at night between 32 and 34 degrees.

Meanwhile, the electricity load index on Thursday reached a record high of 17,092 megawatts for the first time in the history of Kuwait due to high temperatures that exceeded 50 degrees Celsius in the afternoon; hence, the remarkable increase in electrical energy consumption rates.

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Job opportunities at Ahmadi Hospital for Kuwaitis, expats

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: The Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) is offering job opportunities in the medical field for experienced Kuwaitis and expatriates residing in Kuwait to work at its Al-Ahmadi Hospital.

The positions available include specializations in dentistry, hearing and vision therapy, nutrition, pharmacy, radiology, physiotherapy, laboratory technician roles, oral and dental health technician roles, and many others.

Applications are being accepted and can be forwarded until July 24.

The expatriates, in addition to the necessary qualifications, must have transferable visa.

The Al-Ahmadi Hospital, affiliated with the Kuwait Oil Company, provides a wide range of medical services.

These include treatment for accidents and emergencies, internal medicine, general practice, general surgery, orthopedics, dermatology, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, ophthalmology, ear, nose and throat care, dentistry, preventive medical services, radiology, anesthesia, physiotherapy, and food services.

KU launches career expo

Education, job market link vital in Kuwait 2035 Vision

KUWAIT CITY, July 11, (KUNA): Kuwait's Vision 2035 is an ambitious plan aimed at the overall development of the country.

It is one of the most important aspects the government should pay attention to; creating an alignment between the educational output and the job market needs.

As 30,000 high school graduates are gearing up towards the next stage of their lives, according to Ministry of Education numbers back in September, it is only paramount for the government to realize that the job market must absorb graduates of universities in a few years to come, establishing actual jobs that would contribute to the development vision.

In this regard, the Cabinet had taken a decision in August 2022 to establish a committee that would look into the needs of the job market, coordinating with government entities to make sure that graduates would fit in the slot of newly created jobs.

Authorities, namely the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education, had also expressed a desire to provide students with scholarships in Kuwait and abroad for majors that would add to the development vision of the country once graduates become eligible for a job.

Speaking to KUNA, acting dean of admission and registering at Kuwait University (KU) Dr. Fadhil Aziz said that the mechanism of admission would be explained to eager students in the upcoming period especially the part about the job market's needs and new majors created to cover future careers.

KU launched in July the "Here Begins Your Future" exhibition at the Avenues Mall, as a step to inform students and enable them to take informed decisions.

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) on its part, revealed that in June around

24,000 jobs were announced, while the annual number of grades for petitioners and those resigning reached 6,500.

Since 2023, there are 28,000 awaiting for jobs and if the number does not decrease in the upcoming few years, there would be an issue, especially with the aforementioned 30,000 high school graduates who would probably graduate in four years at minimum inflating the future numbers of job seekers in return.

The CSC also launched a workshop recently focusing on the new mechanisms and job descriptions for engineering and media jobs, connecting that would the available future jobs within the development vision mainframe.

Also contributing to the efforts of the Public Authority for Manpower, which recently issued statistics on the job market and career seekers.

In statistics for those seeking jobs in the public and private sectors annually between 2001 and 2024, the authority revealed that it was at its highest in 2021, when a staggering 32,326 individuals applied, while the lowest was in 2024 with only 4,036.

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KUNA photo

Volunteers from the International Islamic Charitable Organization provide essential meals to the needy, embodying their commitment to humanitarian assistance.

IICO's Gaza aid package \$7mn

KUWAIT CITY, July 11, (KUNA): The International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) has spent around \$7 million to support the humanitarian situation of more than 800,000 beneficiaries in the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the recent aggression.

The charity organization has supported 61 relief projects in areas such as shelter, food, medicine, medical staff support, and assistance for displaced families.

The IICO has continued its efforts to provide relief to Gaza residents since the start of the "brutal aggression" last October, utilizing all possible opportunities to alleviate the suffering of the displaced.

Upcoming relief efforts include the "Gaza Water" campaign, which will provide 16 million liters of water during Dhul-Hijjah, distributing 2 million liters per month to 50,000 families (300,000 beneficiaries).

The IICO is also about to implement the second phase of the "Soup Kitchen" project, which provided meals to 120,000 beneficiaries during Ramadan.

The organization has coordinated humanitarian aid delivery through air, sea, and land bridges, working with Kuwaiti charities, the Egyptian Red Crescent, the Palestinian Red Crescent, the Turkish Red Crescent, and the Hashemite Charity Organization.

The IICO's aid efforts have included allocating financial support to 13 active charitable societies in Gaza, contributing to 52 flights through the Kuwaiti air bridge, and dispatching two ships from Turkey and a convoy of land trucks from Kuwait carrying thousands of tons of humanitarian supplies.

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Kuwait minister, US envoy confer on ties

KUWAIT CITY, July 11, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Dr. Amthul Al-Huwaila, Thursday, discussed bilateral cooperation with US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara.

The meeting discussed social affairs, youth, sports and other topics of common interest, the ministry said in a press statement.

The US embassy's Public Relations Advisor Dr. Farid Mohammad and Economic Advisor Brad Stillwell attended the meeting.



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Dr. Amthul Al-Huwaila with US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara.

Peruvian artistry at Al-Sadu House

KUWAIT CITY, July 11, (KUNA): Peruvian textile experts have brought their weaving and dyeing tools to Al-Sadu House as part of the 16th Cultural Summer festival organized by Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL). This artistic workshop marks the first collaborative event between the Peruvian Embassy and NCCAL under a cultural agreement signed in November 2023.

Carlos Mendiola, the Peruvian Ambassador to Kuwait, highlighted the significance of this workshop in promoting Peruvian culture. He praised the efforts of NCCAL and Al-Sadu House for facilitating the participation of Kuwaiti women, both experienced and beginners, to learn and exchange expertise with two Peruvian weavers.

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KUNA photo

Al-Sadu House showcases Peruvian textile masterpieces in a vibrant exhibit.

News watch

BAGHDAD: Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Iraq Tariq Al-Faraj stressed on Thursday the need to continue dialogue on issues of common interest between the two countries.

Ambassador Al-Faraj told KUNA that this took place during his meeting with Premier Al-Sudani in the capital Baghdad, where they discussed ways to enhance relations and cooperation in the economic and investment fields, along with vital others. (KUNA)

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia on Wednesday announced the approval of the designs of the world's tallest sports tower to be built in Riyadh.

The Global Sports Tower will be a prominent landmark within the Sports Boulevard project, reported the Saudi Press Agency.

According to the report, the tower was designed to stand at 130 meters with an internal area of 84,000 square meters.

It will include more than 30 different sports facilities and a 98-meter-high indoor climbing wall which is expected to be the world's tallest. (Xinhua)

GAZA: Hamas said on Thursday that it has not received any new information from mediators regarding the ceasefire negotiations this week.

"We have not yet been informed by the mediator brothers of anything new regarding the negotiations with the aim of a ceasefire and prisoner exchange," said Hamas in a statement.

The Gaza-ruling faction accused Israel of continuing the policy of procrastination to gain time to thwart this round of negotiations, as it did in previous rounds, adding that "this does not deceive the Palestinian people and their resistance." (Xinhua)

Economic Society proposes 'reform'

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: The Kuwaiti Economic Society has criticized the recent statements made by the Finance Minister regarding budget waste and the deficit, describing them as "useless rhetoric" and "disappointing and modest statements that belittle people's minds and feelings," reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Society noted that the interview was a missed opportunity for specialists and economists to understand the government's upcoming economic direction, as it lacked performance, transparency, abundant information, and economic depth.

In an official statement, the society emphasized that interviews with finance ministers in neighboring countries typically include detailed visions and future plans with specific time frames.

Such interviews are opportunities for ministers to highlight their ministry's work with high transparency and professionalism.

However, the Finance Minister's interview fell short, leading to frustration due to poor preparation and shallow questions, which did not take into account the opinions and advice of specialists in public benefit associations.

The Kuwaiti Economic Society proposed six main points to the country's political leadership as an effective recipe for improving the economic scene and achieving societal welfare:

Fair Distribution of Support -- The Society emphasized the importance of fair distribution of subsidies for fuel, electricity, water, industrial and agricultural lands, and support for national labor.

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| Prayer Timings |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Fajr .....     | 03:22 |
| Sunrise ..     | 04:56 |
| Zohr .....     | 11:53 |
| Asr .....      | 15:28 |
| Maghrib ..     | 18:50 |
| Isha .....     | 20:21 |

# Local

**Expected weather for next 24 hrs:**  
**By Day:** Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-45 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas.  
**By Night:** Hot to rather hot

| Weather        |    | Station     | Max Exp | Min Rec |
|----------------|----|-------------|---------|---------|
| Kuwait Airport | 50 | Kuwait City | 49      | 38      |
| Abdaly         | 50 |             |         |         |
| Jahra          | 52 |             |         |         |
| Salamiyah      | 46 |             |         |         |
| Nuwaissib      | 47 |             |         |         |
| Wafra          | 48 |             |         |         |

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

## Srebrenica genocide remembered; call for action against Gaza murder

2024 marks the twenty-ninth anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, in which at least 8,372 lives were lost, thousands were displaced, and families and communities were devastated. Following a vote on May 23, 2024 in the UN General Assembly, it was decided to designate July 11 as the International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica, to be observed annually.

Türkiye was one of the co-sponsors of the resolution. Aggressors were led by war criminals, who were later convicted by the International Court in The Hague (International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia). They systematically murdered the victims after overrunning the peacekeepers who were supposed to be protecting the UN "safe area" of Srebrenica. The Srebrenica Genocide, described by the International Court of Justice as the largest genocide in Europe since the Second World War, left a dark mark on human history.

On this day of mourning, I extend my deepest condolences to the grieving families of our martyrs and all our Bosniak brothers and sisters. As the Turkish Ambassador in Kuwait, I came to visit for solidarity with the Bosnian Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Cancar on this sad day. We never forget the wisdom and painful truth in the words of the late Aliya Izetbegovic: "Whatever you do, do not forget the genocide, because forgotten genocide will be repeated." To avoid experiencing similar atrocities again, we

will never forget and will not let Srebrenica be forgotten.

In the 1990s, all these atrocities happened before the eyes of the international community and the United Nations. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, over more than three years, tens of thousands of people were brutally killed in southeastern Europe, in front of the world. The international community was ineffective in stopping the inhumane massacres, including the Srebrenica genocide. It is quite sad to see today, as it was before, that the international community is unable to stop Israel's monstrous attacks on the defenseless people of Gaza every single day since October 7. Just as it was in Srebrenica, another shameful genocide is being committed in Gaza. We strongly hope that all perpetrators of genocide will be judged properly and that justice will be served. The names, languages, and identities of those who commit genocide may change, but the victims are always the same: civilians, children, women, elderly people, and all the defenseless.

To prevent the repetition of such suffering, it is essential to establish a culture of peace, tolerance, and reconciliation. We should call on all people and the international community to remember Srebrenica, and to raise their voices and act to stop the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

We will never forget.

**Tuba Nur Sonmez**  
Türkiye Ambassador



The envoy of the King of Bahrain Royal advisor Sheikh Ali bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa and the accompanying delegation offered their condolences on the death of Sheikh Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

KUNA photo

### Kuwait Amiri Diwan thanks mourners

On behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amiri Diwan on Wednesday voiced thanks to all citizens and residents for having offered condolence over the demise of Sheikh Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, praying to Allah Almighty to bestow mercy upon his soul and grant him the highest place in para-

dise.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received at Al-Shaab Palace on Wednesday, Envoy of Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, Royal advisor Sheikh Ali bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa and the accompanying delega-

tion. In the presence of Their Highnesses and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Bahraini official -- also Bahrain's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa's advisor -- offered condolences over the late Sheikh Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

## Plan to expedite rehabilitation of old Ahmadi market, cinema

Need to preserve history of landmarks: Governor

**KUWAIT CITY, July 11 :** Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has emphasized the urgent need to expedite the development of a comprehensive and actionable plan for the rehabilitation and development of significant historical and cultural landmarks in Ahmadi Governorate, particularly the old East Ahmadi Market and Ahmadi Cinema. This call to action was made during a meeting with leaders from the Kuwait Oil Company and the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters, including Secretary-General Dr. Muhammad Al-Jassar and CEO Ahmad Al-Eidan, reports Al-Jarida daily.

During the meeting, which took place on Thursday, July 11, 2024 the Governor, accompanied by a joint team from the three organizations, conducted a field tour of the old East Ahmadi Market and Ahmadi Cinema. The tour included detailed historical explanations of the projects and discussions on the progress of their rehabilitation and development. The Governor underscored the importance of preserving the historical character of these landmarks while also aligning with contemporary development needs.

Key points of discussion included identifying and overcoming obstacles that have hindered the projects in the past. The meeting aimed to establish a collaborative working mechanism among all parties involved to ensure the successful preservation and modernization of these cultural heritage sites.

Dr. Al-Jassar highlighted that there are no barriers to joint coordination between the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters and the Kuwait Oil Company regarding the projects. The attendees deliberated on several proposed solutions and agreed to form a joint working group within two weeks. This group will be responsible for offering their insights and preparing a comprehensive plan, with the objective of commencing the projects as soon as possible.

In conclusion, Governor Sheikh Hamoud expressed his gratitude to the participating parties, commending their efforts thus far. He called for continued dedication to achieve the significant societal, cultural, and heritage goals associated with these projects.

## Disciplinary cases filed against 42 top officials

**By Mohammad Ghanem and Mohammad Al-Musleh**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 11:** As part of the government measures aimed at strengthening oversight and emphasizing the principles of the rule of law, protection of public funds, accountability, and in confirmation of the slogan "No one is above the law", the Audit Bureau revealed -- in its report on "sustainability" for the year 2023 -- that it had filed 17 lawsuits against 42 officials in a number of ministries and government agencies to the Disciplinary Trials Authority from January to December 5, 2023.

The court stated in its report -- a copy of which was obtained by Al-Seyassah -- that the lawsuits were distributed as follows -- one lawsuit for the Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company, and 13 lawsuits for ministries.

The Ministry of Health had the lion's share of them with a total of 5 lawsuits, followed by the Ministry of Social Affairs with four lawsuits, then the Ministry of Public Works (two lawsuits), one for the Ministry of Education and the same for the Ministry of Information.

The report pointed out that the court issued 17 decisions regarding the lawsuits, including 12 acquittal decisions and 5 conviction decisions and explained that the Disciplinary Trials Authority is a disciplinary council stipulated by Law No. (30) of 1964 establishing the Bureau, which is responsible for questioning and prosecuting those accused of committing financial violations in the entities subject to the oversight of the Audit Bureau, and deciding on the validity of the accusations and financial violations directed at them in line with the Central Administration of Statistics, the Public Authority for Combating Corruption (Nazaha).

The Capital Markets Authority obtained the first places in applying governance principles, according to the same report.

The report revealed that the study it conducted included 68 government institutions, including 30 ministries and government departments, 21 public bodies with an independent budget, and 17 public institutions with an independent budget.



The meeting in progress.

Al-Jarida photo



Minister of Information and Culture Abdurahman Al-Mutairi and his team during the inspection tour of the Red Palace.

KUNA photo

### Red Palace work progress inspected

**KUWAIT CITY, July 11, (KUNA):** Minister of Information and Culture Abdurahman Al-Mutairi made an inspection tour of the Red Palace and Museum in Al-Jahra City, some 32 kilometers to the west of Kuwait City, on Wednesday evening to check the refurbishment works of the historical site. He was accompanied by Secretary-General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NCCAL) Dr. Mohammad Al-Jassar and a num-

ber of senior officials of the Council. The Minister was apprised of the progress of the first two stages of the rehabilitation project, including the renovation of the roads, sidewalks, terraces, gardens and parking lots.

Built during the reign of Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah, the Red Palace is one of the historical landmarks of Kuwait that materializes the country's unique architecture and desert nature.

Death rate in citizens plummets

### Birth rate up among Kuwaiti women

**KUWAIT CITY, July 11:** Recent official statistics reveal a notable rise in the number of births in government hospitals among citizens, climbing from 7,133 in 2022 to 7,917 in 2023, reports Al-Rai daily.

However, this increase in government hospital births for Kuwaiti citizens contrasts with a decline in births within the private sector. In 2023, there were 24,396 births in private hospitals, down from 25,723 in 2022.

According to the 2023 annual bulletin of births and deaths, released by the Central Administration of Statistics, the death rate among citizens decreased to 2.56 per thousand of the population, compared to 2.94 in 2022. Despite this improvement, circulatory system diseases (heart-related) remained the leading cause of death over the past two years.

In 2023, the highest death rate among citizens, based on primary causes, was

due to circulatory system diseases, at 94.81 per 100,000 citizens, compared to 55.27 for non-citizens.

Cancer deaths among citizens increased by 16.4%, rising from 628 in 2022 to 731 in 2023. The total number of deaths among citizens and residents rose by 35.47%, from 1,027 in 2022 to 1,394 in 2023.

The fertility rate among female citizens also saw a decline, from 83.91% in 2022 to 80.61% in 2023. Correspondingly, the natural increase rate for citizens dropped to 18.73% in 2023, down from 19.17% in 2022. The live birth rate for citizens also fell to 21.30% in 2023, compared to 22.11% in 2022.

Additionally, the rate of stillbirths among Kuwaiti citizens decreased to 4.18% in 2023, from 5.48% in 2022. Similarly, the infant mortality rate among Kuwaiti citizens dropped to 6.28% in 2023, down from 7.76% in 2022.



Türkiye Ambassador to Kuwait HE Tuba Nur Sonmez visits the Bosnian envoy. Other dignitaries join the remembrance.

### Governors conduct extensive tours

## Police, Fire Dept efforts to maintain Hussainiyas peace, security praised

**KUWAIT CITY, July 11:** The Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali praised the efforts exerted by securitymen, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate and the concerned authorities to facilitate worshippers' visit to Hussainiyas and uphold their safety, reports Al-Jarida daily.

He said this on the sidelines of his field tour to ensure that the ceremonies of the month of Muharam are being carried out without any issues. It was also aimed to hear the citizens' demands and figure out their needs.

The tour was based on directives of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah.

The governor thanked the owners of the Hussainiyas and the organisers of the ceremonies for their commitment to the set measures. He stressed the importance of adhering to the laws.

He also thanked the supporting institutions including the Ministry of Health and Kuwait Municipality to ensure the safety of the individuals participating in the ceremonies.

Meanwhile, Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser visited a number of Hussainiyas and mosques such as Imam Mahdi Mosque in Regaia and Al-Burhani Center in Ardiya, along with the Commander of Farwaniya Security Command Brigadier Saleh Al-Azmi and others senior officials.

The governor stressed the need to adhere to national fabric and cooperation in favor of national stability and security.



Worshippers listen to the sermon at one of the Hussainiyas.

Photo by Mohammad Morsi

### Of managing relationships and behaviors in our personal lives

"THE metaphorical expression, 'When nails grow, we cut them, not our fingers' underscores a broader concept about managing relationships and boundaries in our lives. Here's a breakdown of the metaphor and its implications," columnist Iqbal Al-Ahmad wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"The 'nails' represent behaviors or individuals in our lives who may cause annoyance, trouble, or discomfort. Just as we trim our nails to maintain hygiene and comfort, we should address and correct problematic behaviors or relationships rather than allowing them to persist and potentially harm us.



Iqbal Al-Ahmad

"This highlights the importance of maintaining security and safety in relationships, which involves holding individuals accountable for their actions.

"This accountability prevents behaviors from escalating unchecked, akin to avoiding the need to cut a finger by timely addressing and correcting problematic behaviors ('nails').

"There's a critique of a tendency to avoid conflict or confrontation ('easiness is the best thing to do'), which can lead to prolonged suffering or tolerance of negative behaviors. This can ultimately harm relationships and undermine personal well-being.

"While addressing issues ('cutting nails') is necessary, the article also emphasizes the need for moderation and fairness in how we approach problems.

"It warns against excessive or harsh measures ('harsh cutting that reaches the flesh of the finger') that can cause unnecessary pain or damage.

"On a personal level, the metaphor encourages self-reflection and proactive management of relationships. It advocates for regularly assessing and adjusting relationship dynamics to maintain harmony and personal well-being.

"In essence, the metaphorical advice suggests that addressing smaller issues ('trimming nails') in relationships is preferable to allowing them to escalate into larger problems ('cutting fingers').

"It promotes proactive management of interpersonal dynamics for healthier and more fulfilling interactions."

**Also:**

"Is it possible to strip a child of his childhood memories, depriving him of the experiences, places, and events that shaped him? Doesn't he have the right to cherish and live with those memories? Undoubtedly, only a heartless criminal would inflict such a loss on a child, reveling in the child's torment," columnist Dr Muhammad Al-Maqatei wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"In 1966, at the age of seven, he embarked on a journey with his Kuwaiti family to Al-Aqsa Mosque, the first of the two Qiblahs and the third of the Two Holy Mosques. He explored its courtyard, prayed with the congregation, and immersed himself in the historical events of the Night Journey, its miracle, and the significance of the Prophets.

"As he exited with his family amidst a bustling crowd, he followed a woman in a black abaya carrying an infant, mistaking her for his aunt.

"After trailing her for some time, he ran ahead to see her face and was shocked to realize she was not his aunt. Fear gripped him as he frantically searched for his mother, his aunt, and his family. He realized he was lost and began to cry.

"A policeman from the Temple Guard found him and tried to calm him down, leading him around in hopes that someone would recognize him. Soon, a man in his forties, dressed in Kuwaiti attire, approached, indicating he knew the child's family.

"After a detailed conversation and exchange of information, the man, holding the child's hand with the policeman beside him, walked towards one of the main gates where they met the man's wife.

"The child recognized her and smiled with relief. Within moments, he saw his mother stepping out of a car. He ran towards her, with the policeman, the man, and his wife trying to catch up. Within seconds, the child was in his mother's arms, both of them crying.

"A year after returning to Kuwait with his family, he was devastated by the news that the Zionists had desecrated Jerusalem. He cried, wondering if he would ever see it again. Years passed, and as he began his secondary education, he hoped that

the victories of the October War signaled the liberation of Jerusalem.

"However, his hopes were dashed as the Zionist entity continued to expand. He sighed sadly, realizing there was no hope of regaining and revisiting Jerusalem.

"As he grew older, he witnessed the complexities of Middle Eastern politics, including Sadat's visit to Tel Aviv and the evacuation of Palestinian resistance from Lebanon.

"The normalization policies with the Zionist enemy became widespread, and he eventually became a university professor. He dreamed of returning to his childhood memories in Jerusalem.

"Fate took him to an American university in the 1990s to speak about the Palestinian issue. During the lecture, an attendee asked when the bloodshed between the Arabs and the Zionist entity would end.

"He responded, 'This will not end as long as there is a holder of a deprived right on one side and an occupier on the other. True peace can only come with the expulsion of the occupier from the land. Anyone who believes the bloodshed will end otherwise is mistaken'.

"The 'Al-Aqsa Flood' confirmed his words: there is no peace without the liberation of Palestine, and resistance remains the torch and fuel of that struggle. The memories of his childhood have been passed down to his children, and he or they must visit a liberated Jerusalem to pray there, reclaiming the childhood memories that were stolen from him before the Zionist entity desecrated it."



"The inspection tour of the Minister of Social Affairs, Labor, Childhood, and Family Affairs, and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs at the new juvenile complex in Sulaibiya brought back old memories of my tenure as head of the Science Department at the College of Basic Education in the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training. During that time, I engaged with members of the Authority, initiating an educational initiative at a social welfare homes," columnist Baheejah Behbehani wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"This initiative featured a cultural season comprising lectures on various topics, such as the miracle of the Creator in creating the universe and its creatures, the role of man in populating the earth, the effect of various substances on the body's performance of its vital functions, methods of contracting and preventing infectious diseases, and others, in a simplified scientific manner. The goal was to enhance their perspective on life and its challenges, and facilitate their positive reintegration into society.

"When it was time for them to ask questions, we were bombarded with questions tinged with fear and anxiety, as they wanted to know what would happen to them after they left the social welfare home, and whether they would be able to find work and get married.

"This caught our attention, and I had written an article in Al-Qabas at that time that the halls given to us to present lectures were old, and did not have modern technical devices required for clarifying the content of the lectures.

"The old site of the social welfare home also lacked a library equipped with the latest books and technologies to develop the residents' skills and provide them with the necessary expertise.

"Another strange matter was the lack of playgrounds and gyms at that time, as the young residents required them to spend their free time.

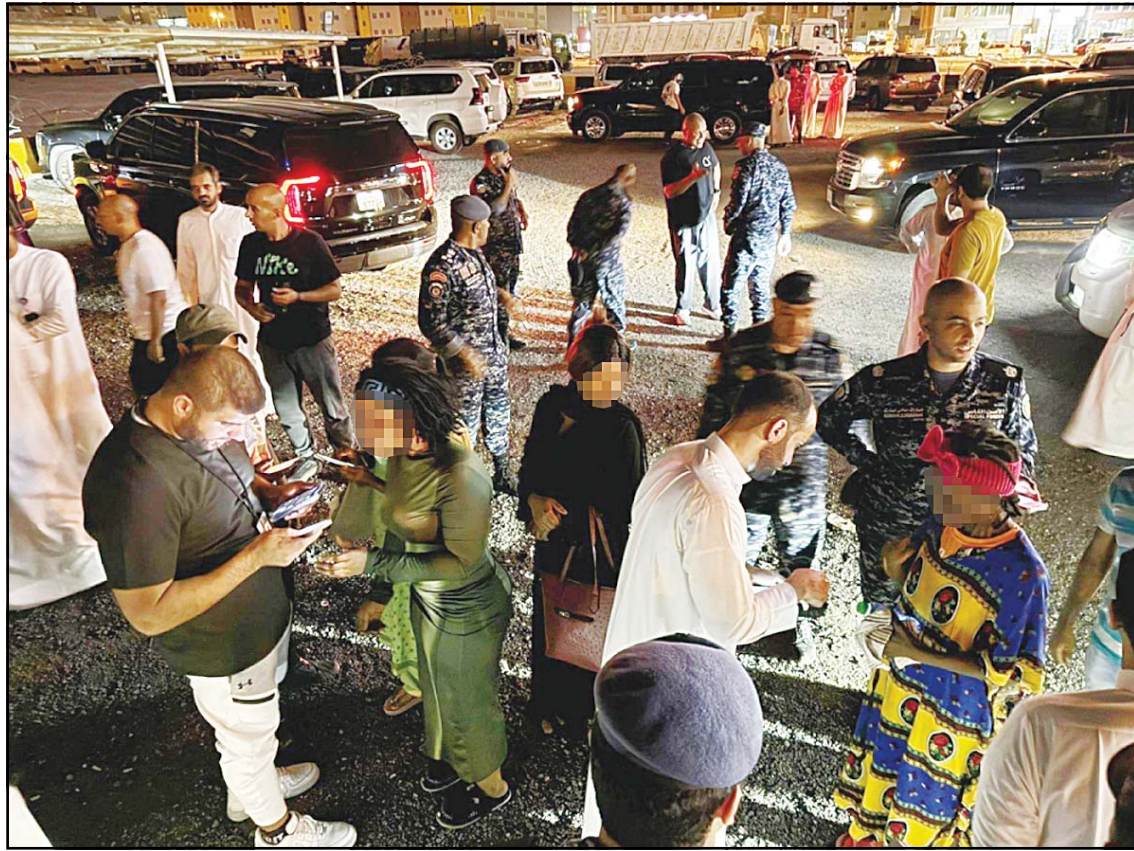
"Following the tour, the minister stated that the new building has a modern library equipped with modern technologies, as well as the Vocational Education and Training Department, which has specialized workshops for teaching young people various professional skills such as carpentry, blacksmithing, and sewing in order to prepare them for the labor market.

"She also revealed that the Psychosocial Support Department, which includes a team of specialists, has been prepared to provide psychological counseling sessions to juveniles to help them overcome the negative feelings they experience.

"With this comprehensive presentation of the distinguished achievements, the minister confirmed the provision of all means of care and support to residents of social welfare homes, which we had previously requested, thus assuring them of security, safety and self-confidence, so that they can be good citizens in society.

"I appeal to the minister to add to the classrooms with modern curricula for the inmates to complete their studies at the various levels of study, with the help of qualified Kuwaiti teachers with experience!"

— **Compiled by PFX Fernandes/Mahmoud Attiye**



Police and CID personnel verify the personal documents of residents in Mahboula.

### 60 caught in Mahboula, Mangaf, Fahaheel raids

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: The General Department of Special Security Forces, in collaboration with the General Department of Residence Investigations, conducted a significant security operation targeting residency violators in Mahboula, Fahaheel, and Mangaf, reports Al-Jarida daily.

According to a security source, the campaign was overseen by Major General Abdullah Safah, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Special Security Forces.

retary of the Ministry of Interior for Special Security Forces Affairs and Head of the Security Force tasked with apprehending residency law violators. The two-hour operation led to the arrest of 60 individuals, including those with expired residencies, absentees, and individuals carrying narcotics.

All violators were transferred to designated centers to begin the legal proceedings.

Al-Jarida photo

### Court acquits 'e-fraudster' in cash swindling lawsuit

Exam cheats detention extended

By **Jaber Al-Hamoud**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 11: The Criminal Court acquitted the individual, dubbed the "electronic fraudster", who allegedly appropriated KD 12,000 from a Kuwaiti woman after accessing the application of the Public Institution of Social Security, and deceiving her with promises of non-existent profits from a fake project, which led her to transfer her salary to him.**

According to the case files, the victim informed the Public Prosecution that she registered for an investment company's advertisement and was contacted by a person whose information she did not know and was told to download an app. After she downloaded it, the person asked her to confirm it with the Social Security program, which she did. She was then surprised when she received a message from the bank stating that an amount of KD 12,000 had been deducted from her account with the bank after that person logged into the Social Security application and stole her salary and six pensions. This confirmed that the person's intention was to steal her money.



Haider

The Public Prosecution charged the suspect with forgery of a bank document, intending to present it as genuine.

The prosecution stated that the suspect used an electronic application to access the victim's bank account and transferred an amount of KD 12,000 to another account without her authorization. The evidence contradicts the prepared document intended to prove otherwise.

He convinced the victim of the necessity of installing an electronic application so that she could invest her money in the company where he worked. He fraudulently, through the information network and using an information technology method, succeeded in seizing the aforementioned amount from the victim's account to the bank account of another citizen, which was followed by making the latter believe that he needed to hand over that amount to him in order to pay the fines owed by her after he made her believe that she was holding the position of an agent in the Central Bank.

During the court session, Lawyer Inaam Haider stated that his arrest was invalid because it occurred in cases other than those permitted by law. She highlighted the invalidity of the procedures and evidence generated against him, the absence of the elements of the crime and the absence of criminal intent.



**Exam cheats ... :** The detention renewal judge has extended for 14 more days the detention of a Kuwaiti woman and an Egyptian employee in the Ministry of Education for investigation. They are being detained in the Central Prison on charges of divulging confidential information and money laundering in cases of leaking high school exams for the current academic year. The judge decided to release on bail a Kuwaiti woman involved in the same cases.

The Public Prosecution interrogated the defendants and confronted them with the charges leveled against them.

The investigation procedures in the case are still being completed, and will be referred to the court when the case file is completed.



**Appeal cases adjourned:** The Constitutional Court, presided over by Judge Fouad Zuwaid, decided to adjourn to September 11 the review of three direct appeals that challenge the constitutionality of law No. 122/2023 concerning the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI).

These appeals were submitted by Mohammad Al-Saqer, Dabbous Al-Dabbous, Hamad Al-Omar and others.

The court also adjourned to September 11 three direct appeals on the constitutionality of ruling that the Competition Protection Law and its executive regulations were unconstitutional. The appeals were directed at the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Competition Protection Authority in his capacity and the Fatwa and Legislation Department.

### Guard mark 'graduation'

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: In the presence of the Undersecretary of the National Guard Lieutenant General Hashim Al-Refai, the National Guard celebrated the graduation of five officers from the King Khalid Military Academy in Saudi Arabia, reports Al-Rai daily.

Lieutenant General Al-Refai conveyed the congratulations of the Chairman of the National Guard Sheikh Salem Al-Ali and Deputy Chairman Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf to the graduated officers.

He expressed his happiness in the new batch of officers joining the National Guard.

Lieutenant General Al-Refai affirmed the keenness of the National Guard to coordinate with friendly and sisterly countries to enhance joint exercise based on an advanced strategy to complete guidelines of 2025 titled "Protection and Support".

He also affirmed its keenness to keep up with the latest military science and training methodologies adopted by the most efficient military institutions.

Lieutenant General Al-Refai called upon the graduates to fulfill the oath they have taken and show interest in seeking the knowledge and experiences from senior colleagues and leaders.

Meanwhile, the Chief of Staff of Kuwait Army Lieutenant General Bandar Al-Mezyan chaired a recent meeting of the Higher Committee for Promotion held in the chief of staff headquarters, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The meeting was held in the presence of the Undersecretary of Ministry of Interior Sheikh Salem Al Nawaf, the Undersecretary of National Guard Lieutenant General Hashim Al-Refai and Secretary of the committee for promotion affairs Brigadier Nawaf Saleh.

**Minor assaulted**

**Medicine thieves nabbed**

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: Two expatriates were detained at Jahra Police Station for stealing medicines from a dispensary affiliated with the Ministry of Health, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, a Jahra patrol officer noticed the suspicious behavior of an expatriate, so he signaled for the latter to stop and then searched his car. This led to the discovery of a large quantity of medicines belonging to the ministry.

During interrogation, the suspect revealed that a compatriot who works at a dispensary stole the medicines and gave them to him to sell or send to his home country.

The dispensary from which the medicines were stolen has been instructed to conduct a thorough investigation and to determine the exact quantity of the stolen medicines.



**Disturbing video:** The Criminal Security Sector and the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation at the Ministry of Interior have taken action in response to a disturbing video circulating on social media, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The security services have identified the individuals involved in the video clip where a group was seen assaulting and beating a minor.

Subsequently, arrests have been made and the individuals will undergo further investigation to understand the circumstances of the assault.

Following the investigation, the authorities will proceed to refer the case to the appropriate legal authority to initiate necessary legal actions against the perpetrators.

The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the ministry in a press release confirmed these actions, emphasizing the seriousness with which such incidents are treated by the security services.

### Ex-MP Qallaf 'imprisoned'

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: The Public Prosecution has ordered the detention of former MP Hussein Al-Qallaf for 21 days and referred him to the Central Prison for insulting the authority of the country and challenging the rights and authority of His Highness the Amir, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an audio recording, Al-Qallaf criticized the Interior Ministry's procedures in organizing the work of Husseiniyats during the month of Muharram.

Sources told the daily that the State Security officers arrested Al-Qallaf after the prosecution issued a warrant to arrest him.

Al-Qallaf denied all the charges against him.



**GTD denies rumors:** On its X account, the General Traffic Department denied the widespread rumors that traffic fines will be deducted directly from the bank accounts of the violators, reports Al-Shahed daily.

According to the rumors, the banks will deduct the traffic fine amounts directly from their clients' bank accounts on behalf of the General Traffic Department.








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## LOCAL

# South Saad Al-Abdullah Housing City's infrastructure to be complete by 2027

## Wafra expansion project achieves full completion

By **Mohammad Al-Musieh**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 11:** The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has announced that the infrastructure and main road networks, and rain tanks in South Saad Al-Abdullah Housing City will be completed by the end of 2027.

In a press statement, Project Engineer Ali Saadiq disclosed that the actual work on the project began in April upon completion of the preparatory stage.

He stated that the South Saad Al-Abdullah Housing City is considered the second largest project of PAHW. He affirmed the project is progressing as planned; indicating the completion rate reached 2.6 percent until the end of last month, with notable progress compared to the contractual program.

On the other hand, the monthly report issued by PAHW for June revealed that the number of outstanding housing grant applications reached 96,592. It added that 614 plots in South Saad Al-Abdullah housing project were distributed over the past month, while the total number of citizens who were granted plots reached 4,307.

It also confirmed that 100 percent of the Wafra Expansion Project has been completed, 19.22 percent for South Sabah Al-Ahmad City and 2.63 percent for South Saad Al-Abdullah City.

In addition, 96 public buildings are under construction in the cities of South Abdullah Al-Mubarak, Al-Mutlaa, Jaber Al-Ahmad, Wafra Expansion, South Khaitan, East Sabah Al-Ahmad and Sabah Al-Ahmad City.

The report confirmed as well the provision of housing services to citizens – a total of 1,074 transactions at the service and reception centers; 24,950 through the Sahel application and 24,950 through the authority's website.



KUNA photo  
Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired on Thursday a consulate and diplomatic corps' meeting, during which items on the agenda were discussed, according to a ministry statement.

## Kamco leads with 4.9% return

# Sixteen Kuwaiti funds show strong performance in local investments

**KUWAIT CITY, July 11:** Sixteen Kuwaiti funds, including both conventional and Islamic, have reported positive returns from the beginning of the year through June, reports Al-Jarida daily.

According to recent data, conventional funds exhibited returns ranging from 9.30% for the Vision Fund to 0.98% for the Wafra Fund.

Meanwhile, Islamic funds saw returns between 4.9% and 2.39%, with the Kamco Islamic Fund leading with a 4.9% return during the same period.

Investment sources anticipate continued robust performance from these funds in the up-

coming months, driven by first-half announcements and anticipated quarterly dividends.

Most of these funds have concentrated their investments in heavyweight and blue-chip stocks, many of which are known for distributing regular quarterly dividends.

The positive performance of Kuwaiti funds underscores investor confidence and strategic investment decisions in the local market, despite global economic uncertainties.

Investors and analysts alike are optimistic about the prospects for these funds as they navigate the evolving market landscape and capitalize on dividend-paying opportunities.

# HH Amir, Crown Prince and PM extend warm wishes to Mongolia on Nat'l Day

**KUWAIT CITY, July 11, (KUNA):** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable on national day on Wednesday to the President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the president a long and healthy life and his country and its people further prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh

Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable on Wednesday to the President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh on the country's national day, wishing the president a long and healthy life.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable on Wednesday to the President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh on the country's national day.

## Other Voices

# 'Red Indians of the Middle East'

By **Ahmad alsarraf**

On November 10, 1975, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution that categorized Zionism as a form of racism. Consequently, Israel can be viewed as a racist state, with its establishment seen as an extension of the European colonial ideology prevalent in the nineteenth century.

This ideology was marked by the "scramble for Africa," "imperial expansion" in Asia, and earlier, the discovery and colonization of the Americas, which involved the brutal "ethnic cleansing" of millions of indigenous people.

Racist Zionism, as elaborated in my previous articles, employed similar methods and racist European thinking to displace or eliminate the Palestinian people in various ways.

After the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, extreme expressions of Zionist racism emerged, exemplified by statements from Israeli officials.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir called for the execution of Palestinian prisoners, advocating shooting them in the head instead of providing more food. He also suggested that instead of sending wheat to Gaza, explosives should be dropped as long as Hamas refuses to release prisoners.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant referred to Palestinians as "human animals" and declared that they would be treated as such.

Israeli army commander Ghasan Alia echoed these sentiments, stating that Hamas "animals" should be treated accordingly, promising to deliver "hell" to them. General Hakray emphasized the importance of destruction over precision in military strikes.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

declared an intention to turn Gaza into a "deserted island." Senior Israeli officials have used dehumanizing language to describe Palestinians, stripping them of their humanity and justifying violent actions through biblical narratives, such as the passage in 1 Samuel 15:3, which calls for the complete destruction of the Amalekites. These statements reflect a genocidal intent, aiming not merely to stop the war but to annihilate the Palestinian population.

Since the bombing campaign began on October 7, Israel has dropped over 25,000 tons of explosives on Gaza, equating to two nuclear bombs, according to the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor. This has led to the deaths of tens of thousands of Palestinians and the widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure.

Despite calls for peace, Israel's actions and rhetoric suggest a refusal to coexist with the Palestinian people, aiming instead for their total elimination, akin to the historical treatment of indigenous populations in the Americas. Advocates for peace have failed to propose a viable solution, often suggesting surrender rather than addressing the root causes of the conflict.

As stated in my previous article, I am a proponent of peace and negotiation, but when faced with an enemy intent on annihilation, the right to self-defense becomes paramount.

Advocates of peace need to provide logical solutions rather than merely condemning defensive actions or ignoring the existential threat faced by the Palestinian people.

Accepting the status quo without addressing these issues would reduce Palestinians to the "Red Indians of the Middle East."

Correction: Yesterday's article incorrectly stated that Ilan Pappé was born in 1954 and served in the Golan in 1967. He was conscripted at 18 and served in the Golan during the 1973 war.

□ □ □

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alsarraf



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Annual meeting of Regional Centers for Environmental and International Agreements.

## Future activities aimed at 12 countries

# Annual meeting focuses on advancing environmental 'research' cooperation

**KUWAIT CITY, July 11:** Dr. Hassan Al-Shammari, representing the Center for Environmental and Life Sciences Research at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), played a pivotal role at the annual meeting of Regional Centers for Environmental and International Agreements, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The meeting, attended by centers under the Stockholm, Minamata, and Basel Conventions, aimed to bolster cooperation in scientific research on persistent organic pollutants.

Al-Shammari presented an overview of environmental center activities worldwide, detailing annual reports and funding sources from the United Nations and other international bodies.

Discussions encompassed organizing workshops and training courses to build scientific capabilities among member states, alongside reviewing new decisions from previous meetings held in Geneva.

Highlighting KISR's role as the designated headquarters for the Stockholm Convention Regional Center for Training and Technology Transfer to West Asian Countries,

Al-Shammari emphasized future activities aimed at 12 countries: Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Jordan, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Palestine. This participation underscores KISR's commitment to sharing scientific studies and enhancing regional collaboration on environmental challenges.

This article outlines Dr. Hassan Al-Shammari's leadership at the annual meeting, focusing on Kuwait's involvement in international environmental agreements and efforts to strengthen regional cooperation in addressing persistent organic pollutants.

## Cairo Street development project nears completion

**KUWAIT CITY, July 11:** Eng. Ahmed Al-Saleh, the official spokesman for the Ministry of Public Works and the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport, announced that the Cairo Street development project has reached a 93 percent completion rate, reports Al-Qabas daily.

This project, aimed at improving road infrastructure in the Capital and Hawalli governorates, features significant enhancements to facilitate smoother traffic flow. The project includes five ground bridges, one overhead loop bridge and three tunnels. Spanning 9 kilometers, the Cairo Street also incorporates seven pedestrian bridges and 23 air-conditioned bus stops.

The development efforts encompassed upgrading essential services such as sewage lines, rainwater networks, and utilities (water and electricity), in collaboration with the Ministry of Electricity and Water. Additionally, the road features decorative landscaping along its shoulders, and improvements were made to the telephone network in coordination with the Ministry of Transport.

Al-Saleh emphasized caution for road users navigating temporary routes, which will be phased out upon the project's full completion.



Aerial view of Cairo Street development project. Inset: Eng. Ahmed Al-Saleh, the official spokesman for the Ministry of Public Works and the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport.



Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood, Abdullah Abu Al-Haus and Lamia Al-Tabtabai in honoring the daughter of employee Nawaf Sultan.



Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan, and Sameh Al-Meligy honoring the son of employee Alia Al-Hamad.



Khaled Yousef AlShamlan honored his son in the presence of Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood



Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood and Zeyad Abdullah AlOmar honoring the employee's son, Fahd Al-Falah

### As part of its annual ceremony

## KFH honors children of employees for their academic excellence

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has honored children of KFH employees for their high school excellence. This annual ceremony, which took place for the fourth year in a row is part of KFH's commitment to supporting its human capital and motivating them to achieve success for themselves and their families.

KFH organizes this event each year to recognize its employees, parents of the top high school students, for their efforts in taking care of their children while also showing an outstanding work performance, contributing to the success and leadership of KFH.

KFH Acting Group Chief Executive Officer, Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood, attended the ceremony which was held at Arraya Ballroom. KFH Kuwait Chief Executive Officer, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan, was also present along with KFH Group Chief Human Resources and Transformation Officer, Zeyad Abdullah AlOmar, in addition to a number of officials, KFH employees and their children.

In his speech, KFH Acting Group Chief Executive Officer, Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood, congratulated the honorees and their parents. He commended the parents' role in supporting their children while performing their jobs at KFH thoroughly and to the highest standards.

Al Rushood said: "At KFH, we believe that the wellbeing of our employees at the personal and family levels is a crucial factor in performing positively at work. Therefore, KFH is keen on celebrating your joyous occasions and personal achievements. Today, we celebrate your children's academic success through this annual ini-



Executive management with the honorees.

tiative that is being held for the fourth consecutive year. With the grace of the Almighty, we will continue supporting the exceptional human talents of KFH, the true assets of its success."

He added: "The success of your children is the fruitful result of your support and care as you set an example and an ideal role for them. You contribute to achieving a bright future for your kids and the community by sup-

porting the excellence of your children and being dedicated in maintaining KFH's leading standing."

Addressing the students, Al Rushood pointed out that graduating from high school with excellence is significant and paves the way for a new chapter that shapes the student's professional journey. He advised them on the importance of selecting the college major that meets the aspirations of the student and the employment market de-

**Al Rushood:** KFH offers full support to its employees and their families.  
**Al Omar:** Recognizing the families of employees influences their engagement and loyalty to the organization.

mands.  
KFH Group Chief Executive Human Resources and Transformation Officer – Zeyad AlOmar:

Meanwhile, KFH Group Chief Executive Human Resources and Transformation Officer, Zeyad AlOmar affirmed KFH's keenness on encouraging its employees in the professional and personal aspects of their life, noting that families of employees influence their engagement and loyalty to the organization.

"This ceremony goes beyond honoring the students' success. It serves as an appreciation gesture for their parents' efforts. It is also part of KFH's strategy of supporting employees and their families," added Al Omar.

Al Omar congratulated the top students and their families and wished them further success as they pursue their academic and professional journey.

Additionally, he stressed the significance of employees as a key element in maintaining the success and leadership of KFH. He noted that the Bank stands out by offering a working environment that fits all employees through academic and professional development opportunities which positively influence the employees performance.

## Kuwait, UNICEF tackle co-op, issues pertaining to childcare

KUWAIT CITY, July 11, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait and UNICEF discussed in a meeting on Thursday ways to enhance cooperation between the two sides especially within childcare.

The meeting -- between the Minister of Social Affairs, Family, Childhood, and Minister of State for Youth Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah and

UNICEF's Representative to the Gulf Area Eltayeb Adamn -- also explored projects carried out by the UN entity especially within early children development and protection, said a ministerial statement.

Also present at the meeting was UNICEF program specialist Nour Al-Huwaidi, it concluded.

The dominance of the public sector, which accounts for two-thirds of GDP, weakens the country's economic performance, leaving the private sector unable to compete regionally and globally.

Public Debt and Spending Plan -- The Society pointed out the ambiguity and inefficiency in the government's inability to move according to a tight program by approving public debt through a spending plan that led to financing the deficit by withdrawing from liquid assets.

### Education, job

**Continued from Page 1**

On the surface, the statistics displayed extreme fluctuations, which should be addressed before it has a negative impact on the development plan.

The Manpower authority also issued a list of top private sector entities employing Kuwaiti citizens, indicating that the banking sector topped the list with 64 percent, followed by telecommunications at 60 percent, finance at 40 percent, and petrochemical at 30 percent.

The Trending Economics -- a website providing users with accurate information for 196 countries including historical data and forecasts for more than 20 million economic indicators, exchange rates, stock market indexes, government bond yields, and commodity prices -- said that Kuwait registered its higher unemployment rate in 2020, reaching around 3.3 percent.

The source, using data from economic indicators based on official sources, added that the unemployment numbers decreased by 2021 to 2.8 percent and continue the trend in 2022 settling at 2.5 percent, rising slightly to 2.65 percent in 2023.

## Kuwait Municipality greenlights Darwaza Abdulrazzaq tunnel development project

### Parking expansion near Dasma Cooperative Society under review

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: The Capital Committee of the Municipal Council approved the project for the development of Darwaza Abdulrazzaq Tunnel, reports Al-Rai daily.

Headed by Dr. Hassan Kamal, the committee referred the letter sent by the residents of Adaliya to request the commercial use of the buildings occupied by public benefit associations, to the executive office of the Kuwait Municipality to conduct a study on the request.

The committee postponed discussions on the request submitted by Dr. Hassan Kamal for the establishment of additional car parking spots near Dasma Cooperative Society in order to invite representatives of the Ministry of Public Works to participate in the discussions.

The committee recommended enhancing coordination between Kuwait Municipality and Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) to remove the farm waste in Mansouriyah, with the suggestion to recycle the waste.

Meanwhile, the Committee for Disabled Affairs in the Municipal Council has approved a proposal to revise Table No. 15, which outlines criteria for public sector constructions. The proposed amendment aims to inventory public sector buildings and undertake necessary measures to rehabilitate them in accordance with disability requirements.

In this regard, Head of the committee Farah Al-Roumi affirmed the keenness of the committee to enhance the services provided to the disabled including their accessibility, and to help them merge in the society.

She indicated that the proposal is still being studied by the concerned department in Kuwait Municipality, adding that it will take three years to execute the proposal after it is approved by Kuwait Municipality.

## Verdicts favor Agility's case

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: Agility Public Warehousing Company announced that it has secured favorable rulings in two lawsuits against Iraq, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ruling allows Agility to resubmit its claims without a maximum claim value before a new arbitration panel under the auspices of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

This panel will address the company's claims regarding Iraq's expropriation of its investments and ensure full security and protection as required by the investment treaty.

Additionally, Agility mentioned that the second favorable ruling pertains to its subsidiary, Alcazar Capital Partners.

## Scorching 53°C

**Continued from Page 1**

The previous electricity load index record of 16,735 megawatts was on Aug 2, 2023.

Sources from the Ministry of Electricity disclosed that the electricity load index reached a record high; but it did not exceed the green zone due to the addition of approximately 1,160 megawatts to the power grid by the end of June. Sources said the concerned station was out of service and the necessary maintenance was carried out in its units; thereby, enhancing its ability to withstand the high consumption pressure during peak hours. They explained that Thursday's record high does not mean excessive consumption of electricity, considering the continuous application of the rationalization methods specified by the ministry; especially maintaining air conditioning temperature at 24 degrees Celsius, as air conditioners drain approximately 70 percent of electrical energy production.

Sources pointed out that power outages are not only due to lack of energy production, but also the increase in consumption pressure on the network during a certain period, which leads to burning of cables, breakdown of secondary and main stations or malfunctioning of feeders.

On the other hand, the ministry has announced that three sub-feeders at the main transmission station in Mina Abdullah were out of service, causing a power outage in some parts of Ali Sabah Al-Salem.

On its official 'X' platform account, the ministry confirmed that emergency teams were immediately dispatched to the site to take the necessary measures and restore electricity as quickly as possible.

## Economic Society

**Continued from Page 1**

It highlighted the unfairness of equating subsidies for individuals with vastly different needs and capacities.

Identifying Causes of Budget Waste -- The Society criticized the Minister of Finance's statements as "nonsensical talk" for failing to address the specific causes, motives, and sources of budget waste.

Activating Public-Private Partnerships -- The Society called for activating partnerships between the public and private sectors to enhance economic performance.

Supporting Local Products and Small Projects -- The Society stressed the necessity of supporting local products and protecting Kuwaiti factories from dumping policies, opening licenses for activities of manufacturing, producing, refining, and converting raw materials, and supporting small projects to establish a diverse and sustainable national economy.

Addressing Economic Reform -- The Society reiterated that economic reform should begin with the fair distribution of subsidies and not burdening citizens with the consequences of slow reform.

## Peruvian artistry

**Continued from Page 1**

The ambassador noted that Al-Sadu House has shown keen interest in Peruvian weaving techniques, which involve raw materials sourced from desert animals such as llamas and alpacas, and natural herb dyes.

The 16th Summer Cultural Festival, inaugurated in early July under the patronage of Minister of Information and Culture Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, promises two months of diverse cultural activities and events across Kuwait.

## IICO's Gaza

**Continued from Page 1**

In summary, the IICO has mobilized significant resources and coordinated with various partners to provide comprehensive humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza during the recent crisis, reaching hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries through diverse relief programs.



Winners pose for a group photo during the 26th Kuwait Quran Memorization and Tajweed Grand Competition.

### Over 4,000 winners honored

## 26th Kuwait 'Quran' Memorization and Tajweed Grand Competition concludes

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: The Minister of Justice and the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi affirmed the keenness of the General Secretariat of Awqaf to devote efforts and overcome difficulties in serving the Quran by organizing a competition for the recitation of Quran for all segments of Kuwaiti society.

During the closing ceremony of the 26th Kuwait Quran Memorization and Tajweed Grand Competition, which was held under the slogan "Maknoon" under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah the day before yesterday at the Ministry of Education Theater, minister Dr. Al-Wasmi highlighted that 26 editions of the competition have been held so far in which 43,686 citizens have participated since its launch, and the total number of winners so far was 4,185.

Dr. Al-Wasmi said, "I am honored to represent His Highness the Amir of the country, the patron of the competition, to celebrate memorizers of the Quran. His high patronage and generous guidance had a profound impact on its success and continuation.

We thank Almighty Allah for His grace and success in making this competition successful and reaching its 26th year.

On behalf of my brothers in the General Secretariat of Awqaf, I extend my appreciation and gratitude to His Highness the Amir for his generous sponsorship of this competition. His Highness was keen to nurture and educate the people of this country on the guidance of the Quran and its approach.

Based on the objectives of the Kuwait Quran Memorization and Tajweed Grand Competition, the General Secretariat of Awqaf has placed among its top priorities the coordination of efforts aimed at caring for the Quran and its sciences and attracting all categories of participants, both male and female.

The United Kingdom and Ireland Committee was established, and a committee was allocated for the elderly. Attention is given to people with special needs and residents of social welfare homes at the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Kuwait Autism Center, as well as those who are blind and deaf. The competition did not ignore the category of residents of correctional institutions.

Efforts will continue to nurture the new generations of the people of this dear country to gather around the table of the Quran, and to encourage competition in memorizing it, mastering its recitation, contemplating it, and learning its meanings, out of gratitude for the value of this book, which is a



Among some of the winners being honored.

Photos by Samer Shiker

# World News Roundup

## Europe

### 'Build broad coalition'

## UK PM offers strong support for Ukraine

WASHINGTON, July 11, (AP) - Newly elected British Prime Minister Keir Starmer made his maiden appearance on the international stage Wednesday with a strong signal of support for Ukraine and a pat on the back from President Joe Biden as they met on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Washington.

After a full day of meetings - interrupted briefly to watch part of the soccer match in which England triumphed over the Netherlands - Starmer met Biden at the White House, where the leaders extolled the US-British special relationship.

Biden said he sees the UK as the "knot tying the transatlantic alliance together." He praised Starmer for "seeking closer ties with Europe," saying it would be good for the entire NATO alliance.

"The special relationship is so important," replied Starmer, who was elected July 4 in a landslide over the Conservative Party, which had been in power since 2010.

Besides the coveted one-on-one with the US president, Starmer jumped into major meetings with congressional leaders, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy - where the two men embraced - before joining other NATO leaders at a dinner at the White House.

But Starmer also found time to watch a portion of European Championship semifinal. England will face Germany in the finals on Sunday.



Starmer

**UK mulls tighter crossbow laws:** A man suspected of killing the wife and daughters of a BBC radio sports commentator with a crossbow was being treated in a hospital Thursday after being found injured in a cemetery some 15 miles (22 kilometers) from the scene of the crimes.

Police had spent almost a day hunting for Kyle Clifford after the attack on Carol Hunt, 61, and her daughters Hannah, 28 and Louise, 25 at their home in Bushey, northwest of London. Police and ambulance crews called to the suburban cul-de-sac on Tuesday evening tried to save them, but they were pronounced dead at the scene.

After a frantic search across a swath of London's northern fringe, Clifford, 26, was found Wednesday in the Enfield area of north London, near his home.

Footage from Sky News showed the suspect being carried on a stretcher out of Lavender Hill Cemetery. Armed police officers, forensic personnel and ambulance staff had massed around the cemetery through the day.

**'Build a broad coalition':** French President Emmanuel Macron said Wednesday he will wait for the country's political parties to build a "Republican" majority at the National Assembly before he can decide on a new prime minister, after no party won a majority in Sunday's legislative elections.

Macron's comment came in a letter published by several French media outlets as political leaders of various parties have been trying to project themselves as the only solution to the current political turmoil after the inconclusive results.

"Nobody has won," said Macron in the letter. "No political force has obtained a sufficient majority on its own and the blocs or coalitions that emerge from these elections are all in the minority," he said.

Macron asked parties who adhere to "republican institutions, the rule of law, parliamentary norms, a (pro-)European orientation and the defense of French independence" to build a compromise.

**Germany's FM doesn't plan to run:** German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said in remarks aired on Wednesday that she doesn't plan another run to try and get the post of Germany's leader in the next national election. She said she wants to concentrate on diplomacy in a time of multiple crises.

Baerbock made her environmentalist Green party's first-ever run for Germany's top job in the 2021 national election. The party finished third behind current Chancellor Olaf Scholz's center-left Social Democrats and the center-right Union bloc, and Baerbock became foreign minister in Scholz's coalition government.

The next national election is expected in the fall of 2025. In an interview with CNN from the NATO summit in Washington broadcast on Wednesday, Baerbock was asked if she considers running for the top job.

**'Moscow Times undesirable':** The Russian prosecutor general's office on Wednesday declared the Moscow Times, an online newspaper popular among Russia's expatriate community, as an "undesirable organization."

The designation comes amid a crackdown on critical news media and the opposition. It means the newspaper must stop any work in Russia and it subjects any Russian who cooperates with the paper to up to five years in prison.

It is a more severe measure than the "foreign agent" designation applied to the news outlet in November, which subjects individuals and organizations to increased financial scrutiny and requires any of their public material to prominently include notice of being declared a foreign agent.

The Moscow Times already moved its editorial operations out of Russia in 2022 after the passage of a law imposing stiff penalties for material regarded as discrediting the Russian military and its war in Ukraine.

**'Belarus depriving Bialiatki of medicine':** The wife of an imprisoned Belarusian Nobel Peace Prize laureate said Wednesday that the country's authorities are depriving her husband of medicine as his health deteriorates.

The 61-year-old pro-democracy activist, Ales Bialiatki, is serving a 10-year prison sentence. He suffers from a number of serious chronic illnesses that have worsened during his three years behind bars, his family says.

The family has been trying to supply him with medicine, but Belarusian authorities are refusing to pass it on to him, his wife, Natalia Pinchuk, told The Associated Press.

The Interior Ministry did not respond to a request for information from the AP.

Bialiatki was detained in the aftermath of mass protests following an election in 2020 that gave authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko a sixth term in office.



US Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally at Trump National Doral Miami on July 9 in Doral, Fla. (AP)

## Politics

### Harris focuses on her personal story

## Biden looks to union leaders for support

WASHINGTON, July 11, (AP) - US President Joe Biden met Wednesday with the executive council of the AFL-CIO, America's largest federation of trade unions, to shore up support from a critical constituency as he beats back continued calls to step aside in the 2024 campaign.

"I think of you as my domestic NATO - not a joke," the 81-year-old Democrat told the crowd gathered at headquarters.

Hours later in the Oval Office, when a reporter asked him about an opinion piece written by George Clooney in which the actor implored Biden to leave the 2024 race, the president responded with "AFL-CIO!" paused, pumped his fists and added, "Go, go, go."

The AFL-CIO said the president has been booked to attend the meeting for more than a year, but his participation now involves much higher scrutiny after his weak debate performance against Donald Trump raised fears about his ability to compete in November's election. His sit-down with union officials also overlaps with the NATO summit in Washington, where Biden is navigating geopolitics with other world leaders.

### Plans

Biden spoke with a handheld mic and no teleprompter in sight. He thanked the union leaders for their support, and outlined his plans for the future seeking to cast aside doubt over his reelection campaign. Biden is close to many union leaders who were in room, and considers AFL-CIO president Liz Shuler to be a personal friend.

"I said I'm going to be the most pro-union president in American history," Biden told the cheering crowd. "Well, guess what? I am."

In announcing Biden, Shuler told the room he has supported jobs, manufacturing and created good union jobs in clean energy. She flat-out told the president that he had the union's support.

"You've always had our back - we have your back," Shuler said to the president.

The council is composed of more than 50 officials from the unions that compose the AFL-CIO, with the group representing 12.5 million union members.

A person familiar with the meeting said it reflected some of the wrangling among Democrats about Biden. One union leader pushed Biden to do more to show he's a fighter, while the head of the North America's Building Trades Unions said the Democrats calling for Biden to step down didn't know how to fight tough. The person insisted on anonymity to discuss the closed-door gathering.

United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain, who Biden had actively courted during last year's strikes, was not recognized to speak while Biden was in the room. But he later pushed Biden's team to explain their plans for beating Trump.

Biden's imperiled reelection campaign hit new trouble Wednesday as House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi said merely "it's up to the president to decide" if he should stay in the race, celebrity donor George Clooney said he should not run and Democratic senators and lawmakers expressed fresh fear about his ability to beat Republican Donald Trump.

Late in the evening, Vermont Sen. Peter Welch called on Biden to withdraw from the election, becoming the first Senate Democrat to do so. Welch said he is worried because "the stakes could not be higher."

The sudden flurry of grave pronouncements despite Biden's determined insistence he is not leaving the 2024 race put on public display just how unsettled the question remains among prominent Democrats. On Capitol Hill, an eighth House Democrat, Rep. Pat Ryan of New York, and later a ninth, Rep. Earl Blumenauer of Oregon, publicly asked Biden to step aside.

"I want him to do whatever he decides to do," Pelosi said Wednesday on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" rather than declaring Biden should stay in. While Biden has said repeatedly that he's made his decision, she said, "We're all encouraging him to make that decision, because time is running short."

### Also:

**DALLAS:** First US Vice President Kamala Harris went to Nevada to launch the reelection's outreach campaign to Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians



US President Joe Biden, (left), and Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer talk during the NATO Summit, Washington on July 10. Starmer made his maiden appearance on the international stage on Wednesday with a strong signal of support for Ukraine. (AP)



Tyler



Konek

## America

**3 fatally shot in Calif. home:** Three people were fatally shot in California Wednesday night and a person of interest is in custody, according to the Alameda Police Department.

The APD said in a statement on Facebook that it received a call from an individual who reported that their neighbor had been shot in the 400 block of Kitty Hawk Road in the City of Alameda. Upon arrival, Alameda police officers located the victim. While clearing the residence, APD located multiple family members suffering from apparent gunshot wounds, including juveniles. A person of interest is in custody. Police did not immediately give a motive for the shooting.

"We are deeply saddened to report that three victims did not survive, and additional family members are being treated at local hospitals," police said.

There is no information to suggest there is any threat to members of the public, police said. An investigation is ongoing. (AP)

**Coast Guard spots Chinese ships:** A US Coast Guard cutter on routine patrol in the Bering Sea came across several Chinese military ships in international waters, but within the US exclusive economic zone, officials said Wednesday.

The crew detected three vessels approximately 124 miles (200 kilometers) north of the Amchitka Pass in the Aleutian Islands, the Coast Guard said in a statement. A short time later, a helicopter aircrew from Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak spotted a fourth ship approximately 84 miles (135 kilometers) north of the Amukta Pass.

All four of the People's Republic of China vessels were "transiting in international waters but still inside the US Exclusive Economic Zone," which extends 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) from the US shoreline, the statement said.

"The Chinese naval presence operated in accordance with international rules and norms," said Rear Adm Megan Dean, Seventeenth Coast Guard District commander. "We met presence with presence to ensure there were no disruptions to US interests in the maritime environment around Alaska."

US Coast Guard Cutter Kimball is a 418-foot (127-meter) ship based in Honolulu.

This wasn't the first time Chinese naval ships have sailed near Alaska waters. (AP)

**Wildfire risk rises:** Authorities in Western states warned of the rising risk of wildfires as hot conditions and low humidity dry out the landscape amid a protracted heat wave that was expected to bake much of the US again Thursday.

California's top fire official said Wednesday that so far this year the state has responded to more than 3,500 wildfires that have scorched nearly 325 square miles (842

square kilometers) of vegetation - five times the average burned through July 10 in each of the past five years.

"We are not just in a fire season, but we



An instructor draws a portrait of a child during the opening ceremony of Chinese Culture Land - Vienna Camp in Vienna, Austria on July 9. The 11-day camp kicked off on Tuesday, with lectures on Chinese language, arts and traditional cultures to help young audience better understand the Chinese civilization. (Xinhua)

and Pacific Islanders and addressed the crowd as "longtime friends."

Then, she was in Dallas to speak at the annual gathering of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Black sorority that she pledged as a student at Howard University, one of the most storied historically Black colleges in the country. She conveyed to her fellow "sorors" - sorority sisters - about the stakes of November's election.

Events she held on successive days this week illustrate how her racial identity and personal background could help President Joe Biden's flagging reelection after his widely-panned June 27 debate performance, and make her a potentially formidable replacement if he withdraws.

Harris is the nation's first female vice president as well as the first Black woman and person of Asian descent to hold the role. The campaign swing allowed the vice president to exhort key elements of the Biden coalition by addressing her personal story more than squabbles among Democrats about whether Biden should bow out and let her be the party's presidential nominee.

The vice president's mix of identities can sometimes perplex her detractors, but supporters argue it is an embodiment of America's rich nuances. Throughout her campaign events this week, Harris sought to use her multifaceted identities and life story as a vehicle to defend universal American values such as freedom, justice and democracy.

**Andrea Rodriguez Campos**, a teacher in Las Vegas, was moved to tears as Harris described her upbringing and the importance of immigrant communities.

"I find that everything they're supporting is so important," Rodriguez Campos said of the Biden administration. "Being an immigrant myself, I mean, that's why we're here. Being able to see somebody like her reminds me that because she can, we all can."

Biden has insisted he will not drop out of the election after his disastrous debate performance even as he faces growing disension from Democrats on Capitol Hill and many donors. Harris and other potential replacements have said they still support Biden.

California crews working in scorching temperatures and single-digit humidity were battling at least 19 major wildfires Wednesday, including a stubborn 45-square-mile (117-square-kilometer) blaze that prompted evacuation orders for about 200 homes in the mountains of Santa Barbara County northwest of Los Angeles.

Oregon Gov Tina Kotek issued an emergency authorization allowing additional resources to be deployed against fires breaking out as the state has seen record daily high temperatures. (AP)

**Pilot killed:** The pilot died when a single-engine firefighting aircraft crashed into a Montana reservoir Wednesday afternoon while scooping up water to fight a nearby blaze, officials said.

The crash was reported shortly after noon on Hauser Reservoir on the Missouri River northeast of Helena in Lewis and Clark County.

Law enforcement and search and rescue teams in boats responded, along with divers from Gallatin County.

Officials said later in a news conference that the "scooper" plane's pilot, a 45-year-old woman, died. (AP)

## Lat/Am

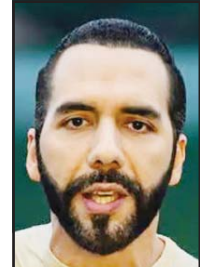
## Cuba slams US

## 'At least 261 died in El Salvador prisons'

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, July 11, (Agencies): The human rights organization Cristosal said Wednesday that at least 261 people have died in prisons in El Salvador during President Nayib Bukele's 2 1/2-year-old crackdown on street gangs.

Under a state of emergency originally declared in 2022 and still in effect, Bukele's government has rounded up 81,110 suspected gang members in sweeps that rights groups say are often arbitrary, based on a person's appearance or where they live. The government has had to release about 7,000 people because of a lack of evidence.

The group said in a report that, as of April 15, 88 of the 261 deaths "may have been the result of a criminal act," though it did not specify what those acts may have been.



Bukele

The report said 87 of the deaths were due to illnesses, 14 were apparently "acts of violence" and no cause could be immediately identified for the other 72.

"People have died in El Salvador's prisons and jails because of torture, a lack of food, unhealthy conditions, an inhuman lack of attention and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment," said lawyer Zaira Navas, who authored the report. "There is a deliberate policy of not protecting the rights of incarcerated people."

There was no immediate reaction from the government to the report.

While the government is accused of committing mass human rights abuses in the crackdown, Bukele remains highly popular in El Salvador because homicide rates sharply dipped following the detentions. The Central American nation went from being one of the most dangerous countries in the world to having the lowest homicide rate in the region.

Bukele rode that popularity into reelection in February, despite the country's constitution prohibiting second terms for presidents.

In April, a report by the rights organization Humanitarian Legal Relief estimated that at least 241 people had died in Salvadoran prisons since the start of the crackdown.

**Colombian warlord released:** Colombian warlord Salvatore Mancuso on Wednesday was released from prison in the South American country after repeatedly asking the courts to approve his freedom and promising to collaborate in the government's rapprochement with illegal armed groups.

Mancuso, a leader of a paramilitary group founded by cattle ranchers, was repatriated from the United States in February after serving a 12-year drug-trafficking sentence and then spending three years in an immigration detention facility while officials decided whether to send him to Colombia or Italy, where he also is a citizen.

Since his return to Colombia, he appeared before various courts, which then notified corrections authorities that they no longer had any pending detention orders. Courts had judged him responsible for more than 1,500 acts of murder and disappearances during one of the most violent periods of Colombia's decades-long armed conflict.

Human rights organizations and government officials in Colombia hope that Mancuso will cooperate with the justice system and provide information about hundreds of crimes that took place when paramilitary groups fought leftist rebels in rural Colombia in the 1990s and early 2000s. Mancuso's United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia fought against leftist rebels.

In multiple hearings with Colombian judges, including some by teleconference while in US custody, the former warlord has spoken of his dealings with politicians, and of the potential involvement of high-ranking politicians in war crimes. But his 2008 extradition to the US slowed down investigations.

Mancuso was born to a wealthy family in northwest Colombia and was a prosperous cattle rancher.

**Cuba slams US:** While claiming to fight terrorism, the United States turns a blind eye to violent incursions planned in its territory against Cuba, the Caribbean island said on Tuesday.

"For some time we have been alerting the United States about terrorists operating against Cuba from Florida. However, they continue to act with impunity," Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel said on social media X, formerly Twitter.

"That is being a state sponsor of terrorism! Evident imperial cynicism," he added.

Washington regularly includes Cuba on a list of State Sponsors of Terrorism that is compiled by the U.S. State Department.

Bruno Rodriguez, Cuba's minister of foreign affairs, said that "terrorist operations and violent acts against Cuba are organized and financed from United States territory."

"The Government of that country knows about it and tolerates it. These are actions that have the support of well-known political figures with anti-Cuban positions," he said in a post on X.

**'Mexico to build 3 train lines':** Mexico's massive, debt-fueled passenger rail building program is not going to end with the administration of outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, but will instead double, he said Wednesday.

López Obrador said his successor, President-elect Claudia Sheinbaum, is planning to build three passenger train lines running from the capital to some cities on the U.S. border. López Obrador and Sheinbaum agree she will build about 1,850 miles (3,000 kilometers) of passenger rail, double the amount he built.

Sheinbaum said the trains would be electric and would run at speeds of up to 100 mph (160 kph). Almost all of Mexico's current freight trains run on diesel.

Sheinbaum said she was planning to build a passenger line from Mexico City to the border city of Nuevo Laredo - across the border from Laredo, Texas - a distance of about 680 miles (1,100 kilometers) at a cost of about \$22 billion. However, the cost of most recent railway projects in Mexico have ballooned far above initial estimates.

Sheinbaum said she was also planning a train line from Mexico City to the western city of Guadalajara, for about another \$3 billion, and said that rail line could be extended to border cities like Nogales, across from Nogales, Arizona, or other border cities further west if there was time in her six-year term.



This photo provided by the North Korean government, shows what it says attack drones during a military parade to mark the 70th anniversary of the armistice that halted fighting in the 1950-53 Korean War, on Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang, North Korea, July 27, 2023. South Korea said on July 11 it will begin deploying laser weapons systems designed to intercept North Korean drones, which have caused security concerns in the South in recent years. (AP)

## South Korea to deploy laser weapons to intercept NKorean drones

South Korea said Thursday it will begin deploying laser weapons systems designed to intercept North Korean drones, which have caused security concerns in the South in recent years.

South Korea's Defense Acquisition Program Administration said that it will deploy at least one anti-air laser weapons system called "Block-I" by the end of this year and more in coming years.

An agency statement said the "Block-I" system is

capable of launching precision attacks on small incoming drones and multi-copters. It said the system, developed by local company Hanwha Aerospace, costs just 2,000 won (about \$1.50) per shot.

"We face North Korea on our doorstep and its drones pose present threats to us, so that's why we've been aiming to build and deploy laser weapons soon to cope with them," an agency official said, requesting anonymity because he wasn't authorized

to speak to media on the issue.

He said that other countries like the United States and Israel are ahead of South Korea in laser weapons technology, but their primary focus has been on higher-powered laser guns that can shoot down incoming ballistic missiles. South Korea also hopes to develop such anti-missile laser weapons, which its defense procurement agency called "a game changer" in future combat environments. (AP)

## Asia

## Indonesia's ex-minister gets 10 yrs for corruption

## China tells NATO not to create chaos in Asia

BEIJING, July 11, (AP): China accused NATO on Thursday of seeking security at the expense of others and told the alliance not to bring the same "chaos" to Asia.

The statement by a Foreign Ministry spokesperson came a day after NATO labeled China a "decisive enabler" of Russia's war against Ukraine.

"NATO hyping up China's responsibility on the Ukraine issue is unreasonable and has sinister motives," spokesperson Lin Jian said at a daily briefing. He maintained that China has a fair and objective stance on the Ukraine issue.

China has broken with the United States and its European allies over the war in Ukraine, refusing to condemn Russia's invasion. Its trade with Russia has grown since the invasion, at least partially offsetting the impact of Western sanctions.

NATO, in a communique issued at a summit in Washington, said China has become an enabler of the war through its "no-limits partnership" with Russia and its large-scale support for Russia's defense industrial base.

Lin said that China's trade with Russia is legitimate and reasonable and based on World Trade Organization rules.

He said that NATO's "so-called security" comes at the cost of the security of other countries. China has backed Russia's contention that NATO expansion posed a threat to Russia.

China has expressed concern about NATO's budding relationships with countries in the region. Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea sent their leaders or deputies to the NATO summit this week.

**Indonesia ex-min gets 10 yrs:** Indonesia's anti-graft court sentenced a former agriculture minister to 10 years in prison Thursday after finding him guilty of corruption-related extortion, abuse of



Former Indonesian Agriculture Minister Syahrul Yasin Limpo, (center), is escorted by police officers after his sentencing at the Corruption Court in Jakarta, Indonesia on July 11. (AP)



Tinubu



Lesufi

## Africa

**S.Africa bus crash kills 13:** Twelve schoolchildren and their driver were killed in South Africa on Wednesday when their minibus overturned and caught fire on a road in Gauteng province, officials said. The accident took place a day after schools reopened after the winter holidays.

Seven other children were injured in accident, which took place in the town of Merafong, west of the country's economic hub Johannesburg.

Reports said that a small truck, known as a bakkie, had slammed into the back of the minibus transporting the children, causing it to overturn and erupt into flames.

Education and transport officials visited the scene of the crash and the injured children at a hospital in the nearby area of Carletonville. Head of the Gauteng provincial government, **Panyaza Lesufi**, also visited the injured children.

Gauteng education department spokesman Steve Mabona said 11 of the children who died attended attended Rocklands Primary School while the twelfth child went to Laerskool Blyvoortuisig in Carletonville.

"The pupils' transport was hit from behind by a bakkie, causing it to overturn and subsequently catch fire," Mabona said, describing the crash as a "horrific accident." (AP)

**Gunmen kill 10 in Nigeria:** At least 10 people were killed in an attack by suspected gunmen who invaded a local community in Nigeria's south-central state of Benue late Tuesday, a local government official said Wednesday.

Phillip Ebenyakwu, head of the Agatu local government area of Benue, told the media that the gunmen further wreaked havoc by razing several houses in the Olegumachi community of the Agatu local government area of the state Tuesday night. Nigeria's president is **Bola Ahmed Tinubu**.

The gunmen were armed with sophisticated weapons, looting the houses of locals, and carting away foodstuff and livestock, while setting ablaze at least seven other houses, Ebenyakwu said.

The incident was reported to local po-

## 11 dead as passenger bus collides with truck in northern Philippines

TUGUEGARAO, Philippines, July 11, (AP): A bus collided with a pickup truck early Thursday morning, killing 11 people and injuring six others in a northern Philippine town, police said.

Those who died were riding the small truck as it was rammed on the side by the bus, causing it to lose control and smash into a roadside food stall in Abulug town, about 600 km (373 miles) north of Manila, said police chief Maj. Antonio Palattao.

**2 Australians, Filipina killed:** Two Australian nationals and their Filipina companion were killed in a hotel in a popular resort city south of the Philippine capital, Manila and police were trying to identify and track down the suspects, officials said Thursday.

A hotel worker found the bodies of the victims, whose hands and feet were tied, in a room at the Lake Hotel in Tagaytay city, on Wednesday, according to a police statement.

**Chinese woman rescued:** A Chinese woman who was swept out to sea while swimming at a Japanese beach was rescued 37 hours later after drifting in a swimming ring more than 80 kilometers (50 miles) in the Pacific Ocean, officials said Thursday.

Japan's coast guard launched a search for the woman, identified only as a Chinese national in her 20s, after receiving a call Monday night from her friend saying she had disappeared while swimming at Shimoda, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) southwest of Tokyo.

power and bribery involving ministry contracts with private vendors.

Syahrul Yasin Limpo is the sixth member of President Joko Widodo's Cabinet to be sentenced to prison in a corruption case, casting a shadow over his efforts to clean up government in the closing months of his administration.

The court in the capital, Jakarta, ruled that the former minister was guilty of abusing his power by enriching himself and other officials. It also ordered him to pay a 300 million rupiah (\$18,500) fine, and said he would be subject to another four months' imprisonment if he fails to pay.

"The defendant has legally and convincingly been proven guilty of corruption," presiding Judge Rianto

Adam Pontoh said.

**PNG lawmaker pleads not guilty:** Papua New Guinea's sidelined Petroleum Minister Jimmy Maladina pleaded not guilty in a Sydney court Thursday to a charge of assaulting a woman during a domestic dispute.

His lawyer Margaret Cunneen entered the plea on his behalf during his brief appearance in Waverley Local Court. Neither Maladina nor Cunneen made a statement to media waiting outside court.

Police allege he assaulted a 31-year-old woman Saturday at an address in nearby Bondi in Sydney's expensive eastern suburbs and she suffered facial injuries.

Children, warned on Wednesday.

The child rights agency also warned of a devastating large-scale hunger crisis among children in South Sudan, which is on alert for a looming human and climate disaster in the coming months.

Pompun Jib Rabiltoassapom, Save the Children South Sudan country director, said a horror scenario is unfolding in the country. "While floods are part of life for families in much of the country, we are seeing a situation where the floods will be so extreme, over such vast patches of land, that entire communities will be marooned from assistance," Rabiltoassapom said in a statement issued in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

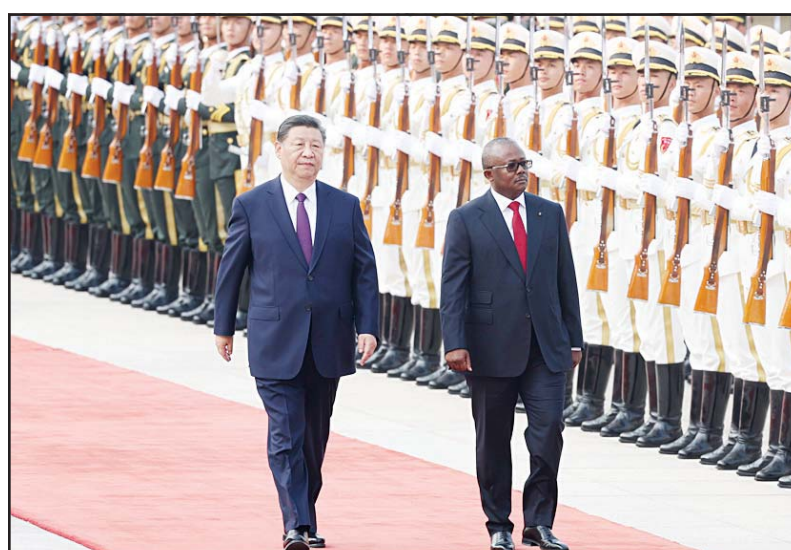
Rabiltoassapom said children will start to die from hunger-related illnesses as the flooding takes hold amid extreme levels of hunger and malnutrition in children across the country.

The statement was in response to new data released on Monday by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS-NET), an analysis agency that monitors food security worldwide, which shows massive floods will contribute to a risk of famine in South Sudan from June 2024 until January 2025.

lice early Wednesday, he added. (Xinhua)

**'S.Sudan on brink of famine':** South

Sudan is on the brink of famine as it braces for its worst floods in 60 years, which will drive parts of the country to the edge of starvation, a global charity, Save the



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds a welcome ceremony for Umaro Sissoco Embaló, president of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, who is on a state visit to China, at the square outside the east gate of the Great Hall of the People prior to their talks in Beijing, capital of China, July 10. Xi held talks with Embaló at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Wednesday. (Xinhua)

## KOC approved for KD105 mln oil tenders

The Kuwait Oil Company has got the nod from the Central Agency for Public Tenders to proceed with two significant oil tenders totaling 105 million dinars, reports Al-Qabas daily.  
The following are the key details:  
Gas Desalination Facility and Sulfur Processing Unit; worth 85 million dinars -- the project will be implemented under the build-operate-transfer system and is divided into two independent phases.  
The tasks include licensing, design, engineering, health, safety, and environmental services, project management, supply, shipping, construction, testing operations, mechanical works completion, startup

preparations, operation, and performance testing.  
The operational phase involves operating, maintaining the facility, ensuring safety, quality control, environmental protection, and other related obligations.  
Construction of main receiving stations in Burgan -- worth 20 million dinars, the contractor is Nasser Mohammed Al-Badah Company  
These projects are part of Kuwait Oil Company's broader strategy to enhance its global oil market position by modernizing infrastructure, adopting advanced technologies, improving production efficiency, and reducing carbon emissions, thereby supporting sustainable development in the oil and gas sector.

## Kuwait's oil production drops by 3,000 barrels/day

The monthly report from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) revealed that Kuwait's oil production decreased by about 3,000 barrels per day in June 2024, reports Al-Seyassah daily.  
According to the report issued yesterday, based on secondary sources, Kuwait's production last month was 2.427 million barrels per day, down from 2.430 million barrels per day in May 2024.  
Kuwait was among seven countries that reduced oil production last month, with Saudi Arabia leading the reductions by cutting its production by 76,000 barrels per day.

In contrast, five other countries increased their oil production, led by Libya, which boosted production by 24,000 barrels per day to 1.2 million barrels per day.  
Saudi Arabia continued to be the largest oil producer among OPEC members, producing 8.934 million barrels per day last month, while Equatorial Guinea was the smallest producer with just 54,000 barrels per day.  
Overall, OPEC's production fell by about 80,000 barrels per day, totaling 26.566 million barrels per day in June 2024, compared to 26.646 million barrels per day in May.

## Market Movements

11-07-2024

Change Closing pts

|             |              | Change  | Closing pts |
|-------------|--------------|---------|-------------|
| SAUDI       | - TASI       | +8.32   | 11,792.41   |
| DUBAI       | - DFMGI      | +10.76  | 4,090.98    |
| JAPAN       | - Nikkei 225 | +392.03 | 42,224.02   |
| PHILIPPINES | - PSEI       | +119.89 | 6,609.24    |
| PAKISTAN    | - KSE 100    | +179.71 | 80,074.69   |

# Business

## UAE tops US car imports

## Kuwait's car imports from US reach \$71 mln in May

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: The recent US government data revealed that during May 2024, US exports of cars, buses, and spare parts to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE totaled \$753 million, reports Al-Seyassah daily.  
This amount includes \$600 million for passenger cars, \$64 million for passenger trucks and buses, and \$89 million for spare parts.  
Kuwait's share of the car imports reached \$71 million, broken down as follows: \$47 million for passenger

cars, \$19 million for trucks and buses, and \$5 million for spare parts.  
In April, Kuwait's imports were valued at \$36 million, with \$27 million for passenger cars, \$2 million for trucks and buses, and \$8 million for spare parts.  
The UAE led in terms of the highest imports of cars from the US, with total imports during May 2024 amounting to approximately \$505 million, including \$409 million for passenger cars.

## National Bank leads in liquidity

## Bursa Kuwait sees decline in indices and high liquidity

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: Bursa Kuwait yesterday saw a decline in its indices following four consecutive sessions of gains and high liquidity levels, reports Al-Jarida daily.  
Here are the details of the trading session:  
General Market Index -- Decreased by 0.30% or 21.22 points, closing at 7060.17 points; liquidity decreased to 40.6 million dinars with 179.8 million shares traded in 11,925 transactions. Of the 130 traded shares, 44 gained, 67 lost, and 19 remained unchanged.  
First Market Index -- Lost 0.25% or 19.00 points, closing at 7,717.82 points; liquidity was 29.9 million dinars with 98.2 million shares traded in 7,101 transactions out of 34 traded shares, 9 gained, 19 lost, and 6 remained unchanged.  
Main Market Index -- Declined by 0.57% or 33.50 points, closing at 5,865.51 points; liquidity stood at 10.6 million dinars with 81.6 million shares traded in 4,824 transactions. Among the 96 traded shares, 35 gained, 48 lost, and 13 remained unchanged.  
The trading session began simi-

larly to recent sessions with rises in leading and liquid stocks, except for Future Kids, which continued its decline.  
Notably, National Bank topped the liquidity with trades amounting to 3.6 million dinars, despite losing 7 fils. Other banks like Gulf Bank, Boubyan Bank, and Al Ahli Bank also saw declines, alongside telecommunications giant Zain.  
However, several leading stocks performed well, including Baytak, Agility, and various sectors like cables and buildings. Small stocks like Gulf, IFA Hotels, and IFA and Establishments also showed positive movements.  
Across the GCC markets, most indices recorded declines, albeit limited, except for slight gains in the Emirates markets of Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Oil prices continued their decline, settling at \$84 per barrel for Brent crude.  
The session concluded with profit-taking activities after the recent upward trend in the Bursa Kuwait, reflecting a balanced market sentiment amid varying sector performances.

## License granted to Bait Al-Securities

## Capital Markets Authority to launch 'Ihsah-2' trial system

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: The Capital Markets Authority will launch a trial version of the "Ihsah-2 Disclosure System" starting next Sunday, July 14, reports Al-Seyassah daily.  
In a statement released yesterday, the Authority indicated that the parties concerned with this system include licensed persons, listed companies, auditors, collective investment systems, other regulatory authorities, the Kuwait Stock Exchange Company, and all individuals and institutions dealing in the stock market in Kuwait.  
The pilot phase aims to prepare system users, raise awareness about the features and mechanisms of the electronic disclosure system, provide full support to all categories, and verify the stability of the system's operational processes as it interacts with the systems of the Authority and the Kuwait Stock Exchange Company.  
During the mandatory implementation phase, traditional disclosure methods will be suspended. The electronic

disclosure system will become the sole mechanism for submitting disclosures and reports to the Authority. This phase is planned to begin on Sunday, January 5, 2025.  
The electronic disclosure system is based on XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language), a flexible digital standard developed to support the disclosure and exchange of financial and non-financial information between various economic entities and users.  
Additionally, the Capital Markets Authority issued Resolution No. 87 of 2024 yesterday, granting a collective investment system license to Bait Al-Securities Company to establish the Tamkeen Educational Fund.  
The fund, which will be offered for private subscription, has a fixed capital of 6.5 million dinars, with a nominal value of 10,000 dinars per unit.  
Each unit holder must subscribe to at least one unit. Only 130 units will be available for subscription, valued at a total of 6.5 million dinars.

## US Bitcoin ETFs see record \$295m inflows in single day

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: On Monday, US Bitcoin exchange-traded funds (ETFs) saw significant inflows totaling nearly \$295 million, marking the highest single-day inflow in a month, according to data from SoSoValue, reports Al-Jarida daily.  
BlackRock's IBIT fund led with \$187 million in inflows, followed by Fidelity's FBTC fund with \$61.5 million, and Gray Skull's GBTC fund with \$25 million.  
Other funds such as BITB from Bit Wise, ARKB from ARK 21Shares, and HODL from VanEck received \$11 million, \$8 million, and \$1.5 million respectively. This surge in inflows comes amidst ongoing selling pressure from the German government and the commencement of payments from the collapsed cryptocurrency exchange Mt.Gox.  
The German government has been

steadily selling Bitcoin, currently owning about 27,400 bitcoins valued at approximately \$1.5 billion, down from an original holding of around 50,000 BTC.  
Meanwhile, the Mt.Gox Rehabilitation Trustee has begun distributing payments to creditors, albeit through selected cryptocurrency exchanges rather than directly in Bitcoin and Bitcoin Cash, potentially increasing selling pressure in the market.  
Bitcoin's price has declined by 17% over the past month, currently trading around \$57,000. This decline reflects broader market trends, compounded by recent activities involving Mt.Gox and government sales of Bitcoin.  
Despite recent setbacks, Bitcoin remains up 89% over the past year, illustrating its continued volatility and resilience in the digital currency landscape.

# Real estate sector 'booms' amid economic challenges

200% increase in replacement brokerage book requests

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 11: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Kuwait has released its latest economic bulletin for May, revealing a substantial 81% increase in real estate trading transactions compared to April. The total number of transactions surged to 114, up significantly from 63 the previous month, indicating a robust activity in the real estate sector despite broader economic challenges.**

According to the ministry's report, almost all categories of real estate transactions saw growth, with the exception of transactions related to issuing real estate brokerage books, which experienced a minor 4% decline. In April, 27 brokerage books were issued compared to 26 in May.  
The standout increase came in renewal requests for brokerage books, which soared by 121% in May, reaching a total of 31 requests compared to just 14 in April. Similarly, there was a notable uptick of 200% in requests for replacement of brokerage books, rising from 4 in April to 12 in May. Cancellation requests also saw a 67% increase, totaling 10 compared to 6 the previous month. Requests for issuance of real estate broker identities surged by 158%, with 31 requests recorded in May compared to 12 in April.  
Conversely, the number of transactions involving real estate appraisers saw a sharp decline of 75% in May compared to April. Despite this, Kuwait registered a cumulative total of 1,689 licensed real estate brokers and 145 licensed appraisers by the end of May, underscoring the continued

## Airports target doubling air traffic

## Gulf countries boost tourism sector, aim for \$340 billion GDP contribution by 2030

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: The Gulf countries are embarking on ambitious plans to diversify their economies away from oil dependence, with a strong focus on expanding their tourism sectors, reports Al-Qabas daily.  
Here are the key points and projections regarding the Gulf region's tourism and aviation industries:  
Tourism Sector Growth -- The tourism sector's contribution to GDP in the Gulf region is expected to increase significantly, from approximately \$130 billion in 2023 to over \$340 billion by 2030.  
This growth is projected to account for more than 10% of the region's GDP by 2030, highlighting the sector's strategic importance in economic diversification.  
Aviation Industry Expansion -- The aviation industry will play a pivotal role in supporting the growth of the tourism sector.  
Significant growth in air passenger traffic is anticipated, driven by expansions in airport infrastructure and increasing tourism activities.  
Key airports in the region, such as Dubai International Airport, Hamad International Airport, and King Abdulaziz International Airport, already rank among the most modern and busiest in the world.  
Traffic Trends and Comparisons -- In 2023, air traffic at Gulf airports showed robust recovery compared

to pre-pandemic levels, with traffic levels surpassing those of 2019 by 8%.  
Compared to 2022, air traffic increased by approximately 20% across Gulf airports, indicating strong recovery and growth momentum.  
In the broader Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) region covered by Fitch Ratings, air traffic in 2023 reached 97% of 2019 levels, reflecting varying degrees of recovery across different regions.  
Infrastructure Development and Goals -- Gulf countries are aiming to double their air traffic by 2030 through extensive infrastructure development projects.  
These projects include expansions and upgrades to existing airports, as well as plans for new airport developments, aimed at accommodating the anticipated growth in air passenger numbers and enhancing connectivity.  
Overall, the Gulf region's strategic focus on developing its tourism and aviation sectors underscores a broader economic diversification strategy away from traditional oil dependency.  
The planned investments in airport infrastructure and the projected growth in tourism are pivotal in achieving these ambitious economic targets by 2030.

professionalization and regulation of the real estate market.  
In addition to real estate, the bulletin highlighted significant increases in transactions across other sectors. Exchange transactions, for instance, rose by 75%, with 14 transactions reported in May compared to 8 in April. Similarly, transactions involving metals saw a substantial increase of 123%, totaling 143 transactions in May compared to 64 in April.  
Detailed breakdowns revealed a 33% increase in requests for real estate establishment, from 43 in April to 57 in May. Exchange-related requests surged by 200%, with 3 transactions recorded in May compared to just 1 in April. Meanwhile,

requests related to metals transactions increased by 60%, totaling 23 in May compared to 7 the previous month.  
Renewal and amendment requests showed varied trends across different sectors. Real estate saw a notable 105% increase in renewals, contrasting sharply with a 100% decrease in exchange transactions. Requests for compliance monitor appointments also varied significantly, with a 33% rise in real estate, 50% in exchange, and a substantial 93% increase in metals transactions.  
Office audit transactions exhibited declines across multiple categories, with real estate audits dropping by 13%, exchange audits by 50%, and metals audits by 6% in May com-

pared to April. Conversely, field audit and monitoring transactions saw dramatic increases. Real estate transactions under this category surged by an astonishing 1167%, from 3 in April to 38 in May. Exchange transactions increased by 600%, from 1 to 7, and metals transactions saw a substantial 420% rise, from 1 to 52 over the same period.  
These statistics underscore Kuwait's dynamic real estate and financial markets, navigating through economic fluctuations and regulatory adjustments amid evolving market conditions. The substantial growth in transactions across sectors reflects ongoing efforts to stimulate economic activity and ensure robust regulatory oversight.

Investment share of GDP modest at 17% in 2022, potential for growth

## Kuwait GDP declines 4.4% in Q4 2023, non-oil sector contracts

By National Bank of Kuwait

Preliminary estimates show GDP declined by 4.4% y/y in Q4 2023, easing slightly on Q3's outcome of -5.8%. The oil sector remained constrained by OPEC-mandated crude oil production cuts, while the non-oil sector recorded a steeper decline than in the previous quarter. For 2023 as a whole, the non-oil economy contracted for the second consecutive year. Parallel data on the expenditure side of the national accounts showed that investment's share of GDP stood at a modest 17% of GDP in 2022. This is something that could be pushed much higher as the new government pursues its diversification and development goals.  
Oil sector in contraction territory though OPEC+ supply cuts from Q4 promises reversal  
The figures showed oil GDP in Q4 down 6.4% y/y, a slight improvement on Q3, with Kuwait maintaining crude oil production at 2.55 mb/d in line with its OPEC+ production cut obligations. For the full year, oil GDP contracted by 4.3%, a marked turnaround from the robust expansion witnessed in 2022 when a tighter oil market had prompted Kuwait and its OPEC counterparts to raise production.  
But oil's positive performance in 2022 largely came against the grain, for in seven of the last ten years, oil GDP growth has tended to be negative, fluctuating in line with OPEC supply policy, which in turn has had to adjust to the post-US shale landscape of ample supply and downward oil price pressures by having to cut production more often than raise it. Kuwait's crude oil production in 2023 (2.59 mb/d) is consequently about 10% lower than it was in 2014 (2.87 mb/d).  
Looking ahead, oil GDP growth will likely begin ticking up from Q4 2024 after OPEC+ announced in June that members' 2024 voluntary production cuts, of which Kuwait's share is 135 kb/d, will be gradually unwound over the course of a year from October. We estimate Kuwait's oil GDP will rise by 0.9% q/q in Q4 and by 4.0% y/y in 2025 if this production is restored fully as planned, though OPEC has left open the possibility that it could pause and even reverse these supply gains if market conditions dictate.  
Non-oil activity decline lessens in Q4, but sector posts second year of contraction in 2023  
Meanwhile, GDP in the non-oil sector remained

in contraction territory at -2.3% y/y in Q4 23, a sequence which extended for a fifth consecutive quarter. For 2023 as a whole, non-oil activity fell by 2.9%, a second consecutive annual decline following 2022's fall of 0.1% (downwardly revised from +0.3%). This is the weakest reading in the available series and well below the 2011-2019 average of +3.3% per year.  
Performance at the sectoral level in 2023 was led by transportation & storage (+20%), hotels & restaurants (+17.4%) and household employment (+13.1%). The latter pointed to burgeoning demand for domestic labor while the increase in hospitality sector output, for the second consecutive year, not only signifies strong consumption but also efforts made in recent years to develop and expand local dining and tourism capacity. That said, the performance of the larger sectors, such as manufacturing (-17% y/y), which has underperformed in recent years despite strong gains in oil refining output, trade (-2.8%) and other services & real estate (-2%) was markedly more negative in 2023 compared to 2022.  
GDP by expenditure categories shows investment ranging at historically low levels  
The Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) also published GDP characterized by expenditure, with data up until 2022, providing a useful look at Kuwait's economy from a different perspective. It is clear to see that in 2020, amidst the pandemic that private consumption (-11%) and total investment (-36%) fell sharply, contributing to that year's near-5% decline in real GDP. Private and government consumption led the recovery in 2021, while investment was little changed (+1.8%).  
Exports drove the continued recovery in 2022, the year in which Kuwait's oil output and oil exports recorded double-digit increases to balance a tight market reeling from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Investment also surged 44% in 2022 -- but this was from the low, Covid affected base: in levels terms, real investment remained well below pre-Covid years.  
This was signaled in cuts to capex in successive government budgets, falling from a peak of KD3.8bn in FY19/20 to KD2.5bn in FY23/24. It also reinforces what we know from other figures about the shape of the economic recovery post-Covid, which has lent mostly on consumer spend-

ing and oil exports. Gross investment (public and private), at 17% of GDP in 2022, will need to increase quite substantially if the government is to succeed with its reform and economic diversification goals.  
Economy recovered to pre-Covid size in 2021, earlier than originally thought  
The release confirms previous indications that Kuwait's economy recovered to its pre-pandemic size more quickly than originally thought. Nominal GDP clocked in at KD42.9 billion (\$143 billion) in 2021 from KD33.6 billion in 2020, increasing by 28% y/y largely on the back of surging oil prices which propelled oil GDP up more than 67%. In 2023, however, GDP was back down, at KD50.3 billion (-9.8%), again reflecting changes in oil GDP. Partly reflecting this fall and partly an increase in population (+2.3% y/y according to PACI data) per capita income had dropped to \$33.7k in 2023.  
Government prioritizes economic reforms, development amid sub-par non-oil growth trend  
The modest growth in the non-oil economy since the Covid-19 pandemic, averaging +0.8% per year compared to a pre-pandemic average of 3.3% (2010-2019) highlights a sector performing well below potential in recent years. Partly this reflects a succession of challenging external shocks and developments including the pandemic itself, oil price volatility and aggressive global central bank monetary tightening. But it also comes despite traditionally elevated levels of government spending and a divergence in non-oil performance between Kuwait and some of its GCC peers. Changes in the composition of public spending, with more emphasis on capital investment, will be necessary to close the performance gap with neighboring Gulf economies.  
The role of the private sector will need to be greatly enhanced, with the government providing the regulatory tools, incentives and likely capital initially to provide the leg-up for businesses to ultimately expand and deepen the non-oil base and drive longer-term productivity gains. The new government, for its part, has stated that it intends to use the coming period to prioritize structural fiscal and economic reforms and accelerate implementation of development plan projects.



### Italy's industrial production inches higher

Industrial production in Italy increased in May, reversing a recent downward trend and providing a little boost to the economy.

Italy's National Statistics Institute (ISTAT) said Wednesday that industrial production in May was 0.5 percent higher than in April, its first month-on-month increase in three months. Though ISTAT called the increase a "positive dynamic,"

the country's industrial production levels for the three months ending in May were still down by 1.6 percent compared to the same period last year.

ISTAT said production of capital goods declined by 1.0 percent in May, but the other sectors all recorded production increases. Production of energy goods increased by 3.0 percent, and both consumer and intermediate goods

grew by 0.7 percent.

Industrial production is a leading indicator of economic performance. Italy's economy has grown in all but one economic quarter since the start of 2023. However, its quarterly growth did not surpass 0.4 percent in six of the last seven quarters, except the second quarter of last year, when there was a 0.2 percent contraction. (Xinhua)

### Russian lawmakers OK increase in income taxes for the wealthy

Russia's parliament on Wednesday approved a bill that would raise income taxes for the rich, in a move to help fill government coffers during the fighting in Ukraine.

The bill was endorsed in the final third reading by the lower house, the State Duma, and hours later by the upper house, the Federation Council. It must be signed by President Vladimir Putin to become law. The legislation, which envisages a progressive tax on personal in-

come, is a major change of course from the flat-rate tax that was widely credited with improving tax collections after it was introduced in 2001. The bill would impose a 13% tax for incomes of up to 2.4 million rubles (\$27,500) a year. For incomes over that amount, a steadily higher tax rate would apply, with the maximum rate of 22% for incomes exceeding 50 million rubles (\$573,000). Putin has said that the tax in-

crease would affect no more than 3.2% of Russia's taxpayers.

The bill also calls for an increase in the company income tax rate from 20% to 25%.

The tax reform is estimated to bring 2.6 trillion rubles (\$29 billion) in additional federal revenues in 2025. A 13% flat tax was put into effect quickly after Putin's first election in 2000 in an attempt to fight widespread tax evasion and boost state revenue. (AP)

### Grants cover a broad range of the automotive supply chain

## Biden awards \$1.7b to boost EV manufacturing & assembly in 8 states

WASHINGTON, July 11, (AP): The Biden administration is awarding nearly \$2 billion in grants to help restart or expand electric vehicle manufacturing and assembly sites in eight states, including the presidential battlegrounds of Michigan, Pennsylvania and Georgia.

The Energy Department will issue grants totaling \$1.7 billion to create or retain thousands of union jobs and support auto-based communities that have long driven the U.S. economy, the White House said Thursday. Besides the three battleground states, grants also will go to EV facilities in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland and Virginia.

The grants cover a broad range of the automotive supply chain, including parts for electric motorcycles and school buses, hybrid powertrains, heavy-duty commercial truck batteries and electric SUVs, the White House said.

"Building a clean energy economy can and should be a win-win for union autoworkers and automakers," President Joe Biden said in a statement. "This investment will create thousands of good-paying, union manufacturing jobs and retain even more - from Lansing, Michigan to Fort Valley, Georgia - by helping auto companies retool, reboot and rehire in the same factories and communities."

The grants, paid for by the landmark

2022 climate law, will help deliver on his commitment to ensure the future of the auto industry is made in America by American union workers, Biden said.

"Workers that were left behind by my predecessor are now making a comeback with the support of my policies, including the conversion grants my administration is announcing today," the Democratic president said.

The grant announcement comes as Biden rejects calls to step aside after a disastrous debate performance last month. Biden, 81, has acknowledged his poor performance but has brushed it off as a "bad night," even as many congressional Democrats, including former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, have declined to give him a full vote of confidence.

Former President Donald Trump, meanwhile, has maintained a tight grip on the Republican party, even after becoming the first former president to be convicted of a felony.

"There is nothing harder to a manufacturing community than to lose jobs to foreign competition and a changing industry," said Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, a former Michigan governor. Even as competitors like China invest heavily in electric vehicles, the grants announced Thursday will help "ensure that our automotive industry stays competitive - and does

it in the communities and with the workforce that have supported the auto industry for generations," Granholm said.

The new grants complement \$177 billion in private sector investment in EV and battery manufacturing since Biden took office, Granholm and other officials said.

Awards are subject to negotiations to ensure that commitments to workers and communities are met, officials said. The Energy Department also will complete environmental reviews before money is awarded later this year.

If awards are completed as planned, the selected projects would create more than 2,900 jobs and help ensure that about 15,000 union workers are

## UK water firms get smaller rate hikes than sought

LONDON, July 11, (AP): British regulators on Thursday slashed proposed rate increases by water companies, crimping revenue at a time they are struggling to persuade investors to finance efforts to reduce sewage spills that have fouled waterways around the country.

Under the draft decision by regulator Ofwat, Thames Water, Britain's biggest water company, would be al-

lowed to raise consumer bills by 23% over the next five years, about half of the 44% the company sought.

The decision comes four months after shareholders of Thames Water, which serves 16 million people in and around London, pulled the plug on 500 million pounds (\$643 million) of emergency funding, saying regulators had made the company "uninvestable." That has triggered speculation

the government may nationalize the company to keep water flowing in the capital.

The prospect of big rate increases has sparked outrage in Britain, where consumers are angry about the companies' failure to prevent sewage spills that have blighted lakes, rivers and coastal waterways. Critics complain that the companies created the problem by putting off needed upgrades

while taking on billions of pounds of debt and paying generous dividends to their investors.

"Let me be very clear to water companies," Ofwat Chief Executive David Black said. "We will be closely scrutinizing the delivery of their plans and will hold them to account to deliver real improvements to the environment and for customers and on their investment programs."

retained across all 11 facilities, the White House said. The grants come after successful union organizing drives from Chattanooga, Tennessee to Fort Valley, Georgia, the White House said.

"The president will not take his foot off the pedal when it comes to supporting the U.S. auto industry," said White House national economic adviser Lael Brainard.

Transportation accounts for the single largest source of U.S. greenhouse gas pollution and Biden has made electric vehicles a key part of his climate agenda.

"Not only are we delivering new sources of clean transit - that iconic yellow school bus going green - but we're also delivering to the American

people options to save ... thousands of dollars of fuel and maintenance costs over the lifetime of a vehicle" by going electric, White House climate adviser Ali Zaidi said.

Companies slated for awards include Blue Bird Body Co., which will receive nearly \$80 million to convert a Georgia site previously used to make diesel-powered motor homes to produce electric school buses. Fiat Chrysler will receive nearly \$335 million to convert an idled assembly plant in Illinois to assemble electric vehicles, and \$250 million in a separate grant to convert an Indiana transmission plant to make electric drive modules for EVs.

General Motors, meanwhile, will

receive \$500 million to convert an assembly plant in Lansing, Michigan to produce EVs. GM production lines will further support and benefit from ongoing investments in a U.S. battery supply chain, accelerating the commercialization of advanced, affordable EVs, the White House said.

Harley-Davidson will receive \$89 million to expand a facility in York, Pennsylvania to make electric motorcycles, and Volvo Group will receive \$208 million to upgrade three manufacturing facilities that supply and build Mack and Volvo-branded heavy-duty trucks. The plants are located in Macungie, Pennsylvania; Dublin, Virginia; and Hagerstown, Maryland.

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General Motors, meanwhile, will



President Joe Biden drives a Cadillac Lyriq through the showroom during a tour at the Detroit Auto Show, Sept. 14, 2022, in Detroit. The Biden administration is awarding nearly \$2 billion in grants to help restart or expand electric vehicle manufacturing and assembly sites in eight states, including the presidential battlegrounds of Michigan, Pennsylvania and Georgia. Grants totaling \$1.7 billion will be issued by the Energy Department to create or retain thousands of union jobs and support auto-based communities that have long driven the U.S. economy, the White House said Thursday, July 11, 2024. (AP)

### EU accepts pledge

## Apple to let rivals access 'tap to pay' iPhone tech

LONDON, July 11, (AP): The European Union says it's accepting Apple's pledge to open up its "tap to pay" iPhone payment system to rivals as a way to resolve an antitrust case and head off a hefty fine.

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm and top antitrust enforcer, said Thursday that it's accepting the commitments that Apple offered earlier this year and will make them legally binding.

The Commission had accused Apple in 2022 of abusing its dominant position by limiting access to its mobile payment technology.

Apple responded by proposing in January to allow third-party mobile wallet and payment service provid-

ers access to the contactless payment function in its iOS operating system.

After Apple tweaked its proposals following testing and feedback, the Commission said it "concluded that Apple's final commitments would address its competition concerns."

The changes that Apple is making are to remain in force for a decade and apply throughout the bloc's 27 countries plus Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein and be monitored by a trustee.

Apple said in a statement that it's providing European developers with the option to enable contactless payments and transactions for a range of applications, while its Apple Pay and Apple Wallet will continue to be available for users and developers.

## S. Korea freezes policy rate at 3.5 pct for the 12th time

SEOUL, July 11, (Xinhua): South Korea's central bank on Thursday froze its policy rate for the 12th successive time amid lingering uncertainty over massive household debt and the weak domestic currency that offset lower inflation.

Bank of Korea (BOK) Governor Rhee Chang-yong and other monetary policymakers decided to leave the benchmark seven-day repurchase rate unchanged at 3.50 percent.

It was in line with market expectations. According to the Korea Financial Investment Association's poll of 100 fixed-income experts, 99 percent predicted the rate freeze this month.

The BOK put the rate on hold in January, February, April and May this year and seven times last year after delivering policy rate hikes by 3.0 percentage points between August 2021 and January 2023.

The consecutive rate freeze came amid the remaining uncertainty about household debt and the weak local currency that counterbalanced slower headline inflation.

Consumer prices rose 2.4 percent in June from a year earlier, hovering

below 3 percent for the third straight month, but the consumer price inflation continued to top the BOK's mid-term inflation target of 2 percent.

The headline inflation had been on the decline after peaking at 6.3 percent in July 2022.

Inflationary pressure remained in recent months on the back of the spike in agricultural products price, which soared 13.3 percent in June on a yearly basis. It was lower than a surge of 19.0 percent in May.

The BOK said in a statement that inflation continued its slowing trend owing to the effects of a sustained restrictive monetary policy stance, expecting the inflation to keep slowing due to the modest consumption recovery and the base effect from the sharp rises in global oil and agricultural product prices last year.

Despite the slower inflation, concerns lingered about the prolonged weakness of the South Korean currency against the U.S. dollar.

The won/dollar exchange rate traded high at 1,376.7 won per dollar at the end of June, far higher than 1,288.0 won tallied six months earlier.

## US inflation 'cools' again, potentially paving way for Fed to cut rates soon

### Unemployment still relatively low

WASHINGTON, July 11, (AP): Inflation in the United States cooled in June for a third straight month, a sign that the worst price spike in four decades is steadily fading and may soon usher in interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve.

In a better-than-expected report from the government, consumer prices declined 0.1% from May to June after having remained flat the previous month, the government reported Thursday. And measured from 12 months earlier, prices were up 3% in June, down from 3.3% in May.

The latest inflation readings could help convince the Fed's policymakers that inflation is returning to its 2% target. A brief pickup in inflation early this year had caused Fed officials to scale back their expectations for interest rate cuts. They responded by saying they would need to see several months of mild price increases to feel confident enough to cut their key rate from its 23-year high.

The June inflation data will qualify as another installment of the more good data the Fed's policymakers have been seeking. Should inflation remain low through the summer, many economists expect the Fed to begin cutting its benchmark rate in September.

### Inflation

Even as inflation slows, though, the costs of food, rent, health care and other necessities remain much higher than they were before the pandemic - a source of public discontent and a potential threat to President Joe Biden's re-election bid.

Excluding volatile food and energy costs, so-called core prices climbed just 0.1% from May to June, below the 0.2% increase in the previous month. Measured from a year ago, core prices rose 3.3% in June, down from 3.4% May. Core prices are thought to provide a particularly telling signal of where inflation is likely headed.

The Fed has kept its key rate unchanged for nearly a year after having aggressively raised it in 2022 and 2023, leading to costlier mortgages, auto loans, credit cards and other forms of consumer and business borrowing.

Inflation is now far below its peak of 9.1% in mid-2022. Other measures suggest that the economy is healthy, though slowing: Unemployment is still relatively low, hiring remains steady and many consumers continue to travel, eat out and spend on entertainment.

In the second half of 2023, core inflation cooled steadily, raising expectations that the Fed would cut its key rate up to six times this year. But then fast-rising costs for auto insurance, apartment rents and other services kept inflation elevated in the first three months of this year, leading Fed officials to downgrade their forecasts for rate cuts in 2024 from three to just one.

Wall Street traders expect two rate cuts



Workers serve customers at a fast food restaurant Thursday, June 27, 2024, in southeast Denver. On Thursday, July 11, 2024, the Labor Department issues its report on inflation at the consumer level in June. (AP)

## IRS collects milestone \$1b in back taxes from high-wealth taxpayers

WASHINGTON, July 11, (AP): The IRS announced Thursday that it has collected \$1 billion in back taxes from high-wealth tax cheats - a milestone meant to showcase how the agency is making use of the money it received as part of the Biden administration's signature climate, health care, and tax package signed into law in 2022.

Part of the push for public awareness of high-wealth tax collections is a growing recognition by agency officials that a potential Republican takeover of the White House and Congress could mean massive future budget cuts for the IRS. Showing the public how much work the IRS is getting done is meant to give the much-maligned agency a more sympathetic image.

As part of that effort, last year the IRS launched a series of initiatives aimed at pursuing high-wealth individuals who have failed to pay their tax debts. The IRS says the campaign is focused on taxpayers with more than \$1 million in income and more than \$250,000 in recognized tax debt.

"President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act is increasing tax fairness and ensuring that all wealthy taxpayers pay

the taxes they owe, just like working families do," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in a statement.

In June, the Treasury proposed a rule and guidance that includes plans to essentially stop "partnership basis shifting" - a process by which a business or person can move assets among a series of related parties to avoid paying taxes. That could raise more than \$50 billion in revenue over the next decade, Treasury said.

Other initiatives announced in the past year have included pursuing people and businesses that improperly deduct personal flights on corporate jets and collecting back taxes from delinquent millionaires.

Eugene Steuerle, a fellow and co-founder of the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, said if the IRS "can show they're having a positive impact and it's not impacting average American taxpayers, there would be more public support for this activity and the agency."

"Any increase in government investigations appears like an intrusion," Steuerle said. He added that if the IRS can show taxpayers how it is conduct-

this year and have put the likelihood of a first cut in September at roughly 75%, according to futures prices tracked by CME FedWatch.

The national average gas price dropped about 18 cents a gallon, to \$3.42 in mid-June, according to the Energy Information Administration. (It has since climbed about 6 cents.)

In testimony Tuesday to Congress, Fed Chair Jerome Powell noted that

the job market has "cooled considerably" and is "not a source of broad inflationary pressures." That marked a notable shift from his past comments, which had suggested that rapid wage growth could perpetuate inflation because some companies would likely raise their prices to offset their higher labor costs.

Instead, last week's June jobs report showed that even as hiring re-

mained healthy, the unemployment rate rose for a third straight month to a still-low 4.1%. More Americans have started looking for work, but some have encountered trouble finding jobs. Most of the economy's hiring in recent months has come from just three sectors: Government, health care and a category that includes restaurants, hotels and entertainment companies.

# What's On



Photos from the event.

## Promotion brings flavorful experience to Kuwait shoppers

# LuLu Hypermarket Kuwait celebrates South African cuisine and culture

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: LuLu Hypermarket hosted a spirited celebration of the diversity of South African food, culture, and community with their 'LuLu Proudly South Africa' promotion, held from 10-16 July, across all outlets of the hypermarket in Kuwait.

The official launch of the promotion took place on 10 July at the LuLu Hypermarket Al Qurain outlet. The event was inaugurated by the Ambassador of South Africa H.E. Manelisi Genge, in the presence of LuLu Kuwait's top management.

Stepping into any LuLu Hypermarket during the promotion was akin to setting out on a safari to South Africa. Eye-catching displays featuring iconic landmarks and beautiful decorations transported shoppers to the heart of the Rainbow Nation.

However, the true heart of the 'LuLu Proudly South Africa' promotion lay in the incredible offers and discounts available on a wide range of South African

food brands. Customers enjoyed significant savings on popular products like Blue Diamond almonds, Heartland's food range, Bokomo's breakfast cereals, Bakers' biscuits, Wellington's sauces, Ceres' fruit juices, The Harvest Table's healthy options, and Robertsons' spices.

Delectable aromas of authentic South African foods wafted from the street-food stalls, and food sampling kiosks set up along the aisles of the hypermarket. While the food-stalls tempted customers with offers on flavorful South African dishes, the free food sampling kiosks allowed for an adventurous exploration of South Africa's myriad delicacies.

LuLu Hypermarket's 'LuLu Proudly South Africa' promotion transformed an ordinary shopping experience into an extraordinary event, providing shoppers with a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich flavors, traditions and cultural diversity of the Rainbow Nation.



Photos during the event.

## COO highlights Kuwait as key market

# LuLu Exchange opens 36th customer center at Kuwait Airport

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: LuLu Exchange Kuwait – one of the nation's most trusted names in cross-border payments and foreign currency exchange – inaugurates its 36th customer engagement center at Kuwait International Airport Terminal 1 on Thursday.

The opening aligns with the company's expansion strategy in Kuwait, as the country progresses towards achieving financial inclusion.

The engagement center was inaugurated by Mr. Narayan Pradhan, COO of LuLu Exchange, in the presence of Rajesh Rangray, GM of LuLu Exchange Kuwait, and other senior management from the country's operations.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Narayan Pradhan said, "This new customer engagement center marks a significant step in enhancing accessibility and convenience for our customers. This strategic location underscores our

commitment to seamless service delivery and innovation in digital payments. Kuwait remains a key market for our operations, and we are thankful to our valued customers and partners for their continued support in our growth."

Established in 2011, LuLu Exchange Kuwait is one of the country's leading financial services providers, pioneering digital transformation through several industry-first initiatives to better serve retail and corporate customers.

As one of Kuwait's most forward-thinking payment companies, LuLu Exchange delivers financial services promptly, transparently, and reliably through its network of customer engagement centers and mobile payments app - LuLu Money.



Alfouz account poster

Quarterly & monthly draws introduced

# ABK unveils 'Alfouz' weekly draw winner

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is excited to announce RASHA LAFTA SHAKHEER as the winner of Alfouz KD 10,000 weekly draw on Monday 8 July 2024. The draw took place in the presence of a Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative, ensuring transparency.

From the highly coveted mega annual draw of a KD 5,000 monthly salary for 10 years to its KD 10,000 weekly prize, the Alfouz account has already attracted the attention of the Kuwaiti market. Based on the account's great success, ABK decided to go above and beyond to reward customer loyalty.

By introducing a KD 100,000 quarterly draw, in addition to an exciting KD 20,000 monthly draw, the Alfouz offering has continues to surpass expectations and deliver even more customer satisfaction.

To top it off, ABK has simplified the ability to open the account and win! Customers can enter the draws and get extra entry chances for every KD 10 deposited as opposed to KD 100 previously. The more you save, the higher your chance to be the next Alfouz winner!

ABK encourages everyone to open an Alfouz draw account or increase their balance to participate in the upcoming weekly draw, which is scheduled to take place on 15 July 2024.

Open an Alfouz account today and enjoy increased opportunities to win the lifestyle you've been waiting for!

To learn more about the Alfouz account and its range of exciting draws and prizes, please follow the ABK's Instagram account @abk\_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches across Kuwait.

## Bank held discussion session with program's participants

# NBK promotes financial literacy among 'NBK Aspire' students

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: As part of its initiatives to promote financial literacy and awareness among all sectors of society National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continues active participation in the "Let's Be Aware" banking awareness campaign launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait, in collaboration with Kuwait Banking Association (KBA).

In this context, the bank held a discussion session for the students participating in the 'NBK Aspire' Summer Internship Program for 2024, targeting students between the age of 14 and 18 years, shedding light on its outstanding efforts in promoting the campaign in 2023 by the Central Bank of Kuwait, outperforming all local banks.

The session witnessed discussion of a number of topics including - social media safety and protection, not sharing personal information, the risks of investing in cryptocurrencies and what to do when in dangerous situations both online and offline.

It also touched on the difference between external and internal communication and how the bank serves employees with the same efforts done with our customers.



Diraya campaign banner.

During the session, the speakers highlighted NBK's strong presence of different social media platforms including Instagram, X, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube and TikTok, showing the bank's dedication to keeping pace with all developments in order to meet customers' changing needs and expectations, as well as maintain active engagement with followers on these platforms.

They mentioned that the impressions on NBK's different channels reached 10 million, an 18% increase on end of June last year, whereas total follower base exceeded 2 million.

They added that the bank continues to intensify

its efforts to promote and develop the content of the "Let's Be Aware" campaign, by publishing educational and awareness content related to the campaign across all its social media platforms as well as other digital channels. This translated in a total engagement towards the campaign of more than 300,000, a 215% increase compared to end of June last year.

'Aspire' participants were engaged in the workshop, active in discussions and participated in an activity to show their creativity in social media strategies and design.

NBK is a key supporter and partner in all CBK's campaigns and initiatives to increase financial and banking awareness among different sectors of society. As a leading financial institution in Kuwait, it frequently organizes various activities to raise awareness on all topics related to the banking sector.

The goal of 'NBK Aspire' is to encourage students during their summer vacation to receive training and engage in the banking business experience. It also reflects the bank's steadfast commitment to deliver its social responsibility by empowering and upskilling the young generation to play an active role in the future.

# ASSP Kuwait Chapter conducts its annual general body meeting for term 2023-2024

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: The American Society of Safety Professionals, Kuwait Chapter (ASSP-KC), an ISO 9001 certified non-profit organization committed to advancing Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) practices among industrial sectors and social groups in Kuwait, organized its Annual General Body Meeting on 4th July 2024 at the B5 Auditorium of Kuwait Oil Company.

Mr. Mohamed Yusuff A., Acting Vice President & Secretary, started the meeting with a welcome note and invited the chairman to the dais. Eng. Fadhel Al-Ali, Chairman of the ASSP Kuwait Chapter, in his welcome speech, praised the activities performed by the office bearers of 2023-24 and sincerely thanked KOC for providing the venue for the event.

Mr. Safdar Ali Khan, President of ASSP Kuwait Chapter, joined via ZOOM from India during his vacation and delivered his speech. He commended the support from his team during his tenure and congratulated the newly elected and honorary members for the term 2024-2025. He also highlighted the upcoming major events: the ASSP GCC HSE Excellence Award 2024 and the 12th International HSSE Loss Prevention & Professional Development Conference 2025.

Mr. Mohamed Yusuff A. presented the annual report, detailing the events, workshops, and webinars organized by the re-



Photo from the event.

spective committees. The event was attended by Ex-Presidents of ASSP-KC, the President of the Board of Directors of BCSP, ASSP Region IX (Global) Vice President, and other advisory

and committee members, all of whom were recognized for their contributions.

Mr. Kashif Vali Syed, the Treasurer, presented the finan-

cial report for the term 2023-2024. During the open feedback session, several suggestions were received from advisors and members for the chapter's improvement. The financial statement was ratified during this session.

A technical presentation on "An Overview of KOC Life Saving Rules" was delivered by Mr. Ashok Garlapati, CSP, QEP, CFIOH, HSE Consultant at Kuwait Oil Company. Additionally, Mr. Sunil N. Sadanandan gave a brief presentation on the importance of Toastmasters in helping HSE professionals enhance their communication and leadership skills.

The closing ceremony of the event was held by Mr. Mohammad Yusuff, Actg. President ASSP Kuwait Chapter 2023-2024 in his vote of thanks he appreciated the overwhelmed response from the EC, advisory committee, committee heads & Admin staff. He thanked all ASSP volunteers and supporting & endorsing organizations for making this AGBM grand success.

The meeting concluded with giveaways to all members and a buffet dinner sponsored by the chapter. We extend our gratitude to all the volunteers for their support and special thanks to the Kuwait Oil Company for providing the venue.

# Rashida Jones explores AI ethics in new series 'Sunny'

LOS ANGELES, July 11, (AP) — As an actor and a writer, Rashida Jones has spent a lot of time thinking about artificial intelligence. The use of AI was a major issue at the bargaining table during last year's Hollywood strikes. AI is also front and center in her new series "Sunny" for Apple TV+.

"My feeling today - because it changes every day - is it's here and there's no going back. There's an inevitability that we have to accept," Jones said.

"We need some kind of collective ethical parameters about how we use this because it is pretty scary... It's out of our control at this point."

In "Sunny," Jones plays Suzie, an expat in Japan whose husband Masa (Hidetoshi Nishijima of "Drive My Car") and son Zen are missing after a plane crash. She is gifted a companion robot named Sunny as a condolence gift from Masa's employer.

Suzie is shocked to discover Masa worked in robotics and programmed Sunny specifically with her in mind. She thought he worked in refrigeration technology. With Sunny at her side, Suzie begins looking into who Masa really was, compared to who she thought he was.

As she delves further into the mystery, Suzie discovers that in the wrong hands, the code to creating robots like Sunny can be dangerous. Judy Ongg, Annie the clumsy and Jun Kunimura also co-star.

Katie Robbins adapted the series for TV from the novel "The Dark Manual" by Colin O'Sullivan. She says that while there's an optimism to the series from the connection Suzie feels to Sunny, it's also a cautionary tale.

"What AI does in the course of this show, is help people who are turning inward and who have trouble connecting with others."

"It's beautiful," said Robbins. "But because it is human-made, there's also tremendous potential for it to be abused and used in dangerous ways."

The speed at which AI developed in the real world as Robbins wrote the series came as a surprise.

"When I was first writing the show, I was working with an AI consultant and a roboticist and they would sort of talk about this being on the horizon. And I was like, 'You're crazy. This show is science fiction. This is never going to happen.' And they were like, 'Watch out.' And then while we were shooting, ChatGPT came out, and as a writer, I am incredibly concerned about the capacity of generative AI."

In Jones' scenes, Sunny was a less-sophisticated robot in need of human help.

Actor Joanna Sotomura was in a nearby tent voicing Sunny's lines and making facial expressions the robot would mimic. "That actually gave me a little bit of relief because I was like, 'Oh, we're nowhere near this being an integrated part of our lives,'" Jones joked.

"There was a lot of effort, both within production and post-production, to get her to feel and seem like this highly functioning thing."

So, would Jones want to own a robot in real-life? "To comfort me emotionally? No. To fold clothes and do dishes? Yes, very much so," she quipped.

**Also:**

**NEW YORK:** CBS News President **Ingrid Ciprian-Matthews** said Wednesday she's resigning after less than a year in her role, and CNN announced that it was eliminating approximately 100 jobs in continued signs of upheaval for the media business.

Ciprian-Matthews will continue to work as an adviser through the presidential election before exiting CBS News. She was named CBS News president last August.

Her resignation came a few days after CBS parent Paramount Global announced it was selling control of the company to the entertainment firm Skydance, which is expected to make job cuts at

CBS.

Ciprian-Matthews alluded to coming changes in a memo she sent to staff members.

"We all know our industry and company are going through a transformation and a number of short- and long-term decisions need to be made," she wrote.

"I do not want to be disingenuous with any of you about who should drive these decisions."

Once one of the most powerful jobs in journalism, the broadcast network news president job is evolving into a secondary role under a corporate-appointed manager. In the case of CBS, Ciprian-Matthews has reported to Wendy McMahon, president and CEO of CBS News and Stations.

CNN said it plans to debut its first digital subscriptions before the end of the year as the news network leans into reshaping its business. The network's plans were outlined in a memo sent to staff on Wednesday by CNN CEO **Mark Thompson**.

Thompson said that the 100 jobs come out of a total workforce of around 3,500 people. He said that open roles were closed wherever possible in order to minimize the total layoffs.

Media organizations including CNN have struggled to grow audiences and revenue, and have sought to diversify what they're offering to customers.

Thompson said that CNN's digital strategy must be "ambitious enough to deliver the audiences and the revenue we need to maintain our unique journalistic firepower and succeed as a business."

The executive said CNN will create subscription-ready products that offer news, analysis and context in new formats. He emphasized that there will be an effort to keep users on CNN.com's website longer and finding ways to get them to return more.

While CNN's digital products have primarily focused on text articles, Thompson said there will be a shift to more video content being provided.

Television

Variety



This image released by Neon shows Maika Monroe in a scene from 'Longlegs.' (AP)

Film

Explore childhood nightmares in 'Longlegs'

## Monroe cuts like a knife in chilling thriller

By Jake Coyle

A chilling, half-remembered encounter from childhood looms over "Longlegs," Osgood Perkins' stylishly composed 1990s-set horror film about a young FBI agent (Maika Monroe) whose past seems to hold a key to a decades-long serial killer suburban spree.

In the opening flashback scene of "Longlegs," a young girl walks out of her house to meet a stranger on her snow-covered yard. We never see more than the bottom half of his face, but the sense of creepiness is overwhelming. The image, with a scream, cuts out before "Longlegs" properly gets underway.

Twenty five years later, that girl (Monroe's Lee Harker) is now grown and brought into the investigation. She's preternaturally good at decoding the serial killer's choreographed targets, but her psychological astuteness has a blind spot. In Osgood's gripping if trite horror film about an elusive boogeyman, the most unnerving mystery is the foggy, fractured nature of childhood memory.

"Longlegs," which opens in theaters Thursday, is arriving on its own wave of mystery thanks to a lengthy, enigmatic marketing campaign. Is the buzz warranted? That may depend on your tolerance for a very serious procedural that's extremely adept at building an ominous slow burn yet nevertheless leads to a pile-up of horror tropes: satanic worship, scary dolls and an outlandish Nicolas Cage.

It's a credit to the harrowingly spell-binding first half of "Longlegs" - and to Monroe - that the film's third act disappoints. After that prologue - presented in a boxy ratio with rounded edges, as if seen through an overhead projector - the screen widens.

Harker, a terse, solitary detective, is part of a large task force to track down the killer behind the deaths of 10 families over the course of 30 years. Sent to knock on doors, she gazes up at a second floor win-

dow and knows immediately.

"It's that one," she tells a partner (Dakota Daulby) whose lack of faith in her intuition quickly proves regrettable.

Harker is brought in for a psych evaluation that demonstrates her strange clairvoyance.

Agent Carter (Blair Underwood) gives her all the accumulated evidence, which suggests the same killer - every murder scene has a coded letter left signed by Longlegs - but at the time points to no intruder within the homes of the murdered. Carter is reminded of Charles Manson. "Manson had accomplices," Harker reminds him. Also troubling: all of the victims have a daughter with a birthday of the 14th of the month, a trait Harker, naturally, shares.

**Narrative**

Families are prominent in the narrative, too. Harker occasionally visits her shut-in mother (Alicia Witt) and their brief interactions suggest a knowingness with the cruelty of the world. One time on the phone, Harker tells her she's been busy with "works stuff."

"Nasty stuff?" the mom asks. "Yep," she answers. Scenes of dread follow as they hunt the killer in rural Oregon. They frequent the usual spots: an old crime scene, a locked up barn, an old witness in a psychiatric hospital.

Longlegs (Cage) is skulking about, too, and leaves a letter for Harker. We see him fleetingly at first. He's a bleached, pale figure who, with long white hair, looks increasingly clownish the nearer we get to him.

If Manson belonged to the '60s, Longlegs, with his Bob Dylan Rolling Thunder Revue white face, seems a product more in the '70s. T.Rex opens and closes the film and the album cover of Lou Reed's "Transformer" sits above his mirror.

Perkins ("Gretel & Hansel"), is the filmmaking son of Anthony Perkins, who famously played one of the movies' most unsettling characters in Norman Bates of "Psycho." The roots of "Longlegs," which Perkins also wrote, have personal connections for

the director, Perkins has said, about his own upbringing and his father's complicated private life. But something deeper struggles to pierce "Longlegs." Its sense of horror seems to come mainly from little besides other movies. "Se7en" and "The Silence of the Lambs" are clear touchstones. Longlegs ultimately feels like more of a stock boogeyman and big-screen vessel for Cage.

In any case, this is Monroe's movie. Her compelling screen presence in movies like "It Follows" and "Watcher" has earned her the title of today's preeminent "Scream Queen." But she's much more than a single-genre talent. Again and again in "Longlegs," Monroe's Harker confronts a singularly disturbing scenario and walks right in. It's not that she isn't nervous; her heavy breathing is part of the artful sound design by Eugenio Battaglia. Monroe, steely and strong, cuts like a knife through this almost cartoonishly severe film. Nasty stuff? Yep.

"Longlegs," a Neon release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for bloody violence, disturbing images and some language. Running time: 101 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

**Also:**

**BEIJING:** "A Legend," a Chinese domestic epic drama starring action movie icon **Jackie Chan**, came up third in the box office chart on the Chinese mainland on Wednesday, the first day of its screening.

The film pocketed 6.67 million yuan (934,959 US dollars) on Wednesday. With its presale box office, the film's total box office amounted to nearly 43 million yuan, data from the China Movie Data Information Network showed.

Crime thriller "A Place Called Silence," continued to top the chart with a daily earning of 64.6 million yuan.

Disney's "Inside Out 2" stayed in the second place, pocketing 7.41 million yuan.

The total box office revenue of the Chinese mainland on Wednesday stood at 95.64 million yuan. (Agencies)

**LOS ANGELES:** Ex-Red Hot Chili Peppers guitarist **Josh Klinghoffer** is being sued for wrongful death and negligence after allegedly hitting and killing a pedestrian earlier this year.

The lawsuit was filed Wednesday by **Ashley Sanchez**, the daughter of 47-year-old **Israel Sanchez**, who died after being hit while walking in a crosswalk in **Alhambra**, east of Los Angeles.

The collision happened the afternoon of March 18, when plaintiffs allege Klinghoffer was driving a black SUV with no license plates and turned left at an intersection with a marked crosswalk.

Video from the plaintiffs shows a black car hitting a man, who was Israel Sanchez, during the turn before pulling over. The footage was obtained from a neighbor's Ring camera. Israel Sanchez suffered blunt force trauma to the head and died from his injuries a few hours later at the hospital, the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit also alleges Klinghoffer was using a cellphone while driving, as video footage shows the driver holding an object above the steering wheel. Video also shows a 40-foot-wide grassy median dividing the road that should have given Klinghoffer time to see pedestrians in the crosswalk, the lawsuit said.

"My dad was known for being a great chef, the most talented of his family, the greatest grandpa always full of love and joy," Ashley Sanchez said in a news release. "His smile was so infectious. His life was taken by a careless act of a person who didn't bother to look where he was driving."

Klinghoffer is currently on tour with the band **Pearl Jam**. He could not be reached for comment.

The plaintiff's attorney, **Nick Rowley**, called the incident a "reckless homicide" that law enforcement has failed to properly investigate.

"They never charged the guy or even wrote him a ticket for blowing through the crosswalk and killing someone," Rowley said. "This is a horrific injustice." Alhambra police spokesperson **Sgt. Brian Chung** said the case was still active and could not comment further. (AP)

**MEDFORD, Ore.:** A man charged in the death of **Dennis Day**, an original cast member on Walt Disney's "Mickey Mouse

Club" television program in the 1950s, has been sentenced to just over four years in prison after entering a modified guilty plea this week.

**Daniel Burda**, 41, pleaded no contest Monday to charges of criminally negligent homicide and abuse of a corpse. Burda was a live-in handyman at Day's home in



Klinghoffer



Burda

**Phoenix, Oregon.** But Day, 76, had been trying to evict him around the time he disappeared in mid-2018. A no-contest plea is a concession that the state can prove criminal charges at trial and carries the same legal effect as a guilty plea.

Prosecutors said Burda caused Day's death and then used Day's identity to spend money.

Day's badly decomposed body wasn't discovered for nine months, beneath a pile of clothes at the home. His family has sued the Phoenix Police Department, saying its failure to discover his remains in his own home for so long - despite having been to the home multiple times - caused emotional distress.

During one search, police stepped on Day's body, causing fractures to the corpse, but they still didn't find it until April 2019, when Oregon State Police came with a cadaver-sniffing dog, the lawsuit said. The delay prevented the medical examiner from being able to determine a cause of death, it said. (AP)

## People &amp; Places

## People

## 'He was just acting'

## Baldwin portrayed as reckless 'rule flouter'

SANTA FE, N.M., July 11, (AP) — Prosecutors sought to cast **Alec Baldwin** as someone who flouts rules and has little regard for safety at the first day of his New Mexico trial in the shooting of a cinematographer.

Special prosecutor Erlinda Ocampo Johnson repeatedly referred to Baldwin playing "make-believe" with a revolver on the set of the film "Rust," and said it led to very real danger and the death of Halyna Hutchins, whom she called "a vibrant 42-year-old rising star."

Ocampo Johnson told jurors in her opening statement Wednesday that Baldwin "requested to be assigned the biggest gun available" and that during a training session for it, he had "people filming him while he's running around shooting this gun."

The prosecutor said behind-the-scenes video will show Baldwin casually disregarding basic firearm safety.



Baldwin

"You will see him using this gun as a pointer to point at people, point at things," Ocampo Johnson said. "You will see him cock the hammer when he is not supposed to cock the hammer, you will see him put his finger on the trigger when his finger's not supposed to be on the trigger."

Hutchins' death and the wounding of director Joel Souza nearly three years ago sent shock waves through the film industry and led to the felony involuntary manslaughter charge against Baldwin that could result in up to 18 months in prison.

The trial of the 66-year-old star of "30 Rock" and frequent host of "Saturday Night Live" continues Thursday with testimony from a crime scene technician with the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Department.

The beginning of testimony of the technician, Marissa Poppell, allowed jurors to see the revolver and the spent round from the shooting.

Baldwin's lawyer Alex Spiro emphasized in his opening statement that Baldwin did only what actors always do.

"He must be able to take that weapon and use it in the way that the person he's playing would," Spiro told jurors.

## Trigger

That includes pulling the trigger. Baldwin has said the gun fired accidentally, but Spiro said that it still would not be manslaughter even if he had willfully fired it.

"On a movie set, you're allowed to pull that trigger," said Spiro.

Spiro called the shooting an "unspeakable tragedy" and that an "amazing person" dies, but said the responsibility lies with the film's armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, who has already been convicted of involuntary manslaughter, and of assistant director David Halls, who told Baldwin the gun was "cold."

"It had been checked and double checked by those responsible for ensuring the gun was safe," Spiro said. "He did not tamper with it, he did not load it himself. He did not leave it unattended."

The first witness to take the stand was Nicholas LeFleur, the first law enforcement officer to arrive at the movie set at Bonanza Creek Ranch after the shooting, and his lapel camera video gave jurors a glimpse of the chaotic scene: a grim view of an apparently unconscious Hutchins as LeFleur and others worked to revive her.

Later in the video, LeFleur can be seen telling Baldwin not to speak to the other potential witnesses, but Baldwin repeatedly does.

"Was Mr. Baldwin supposed to be talking about the incident?" special prosecutor Kari Morrissey asked him.

"No ma'am," LeFleur replied.

"Does he appear to be doing it anyway?" Morrissey asked.

"Yes, ma'am," LeFleur said.

Among those sitting in the gallery behind Baldwin watching the trial were his wife Hilaria Baldwin, younger brother Stephen Baldwin and older sister Elizabeth Keuchler - who wiped away tears at times during the proceedings.

Spiro told jurors Wednesday that the shooting death of Hutchins was an "unspeakable tragedy" but that "Baldwin committed no crime; he was an actor, acting." Baldwin's lawyer Alex Spiro emphasized in his opening statement in a Santa Fe, New Mexico, courtroom that Baldwin, who is on trial for involuntary manslaughter, did exactly what actors always do on the set of the film "Rust," where Hutchins was killed in October, 2021.

"I don't have to tell you any more about this, because you've all seen gunfights in movies," Spiro said.

Special prosecutor Erlinda Ocampo Johnson argued in her opening statement that Baldwin "violated the cardinal rules of firearm safety" by skipping safety checks and recklessly handling a revolver in the moments leading up to the shooting. "The evidence will show that someone who played make-believe with a real gun and violated the cardinal rules of firearm safety is the defendant, Alexander Baldwin," Johnson said.

Spiro replied that "these cardinal rules, they're not cardinal rules on a movie set."

"On a movie set, safety has to occur before a gun is placed in an actor's hand," Spiro told the jury.

Johnson emphasized in her opening that the set was a workplace, where innocent people had the expectation of safety that Baldwin and others denied them.

## Evidence

"The evidence will show that like in many workplaces, there are people who act in a reckless manner and place other people in danger," Johnson said. "That, you will hear, is the defendant."

Johnson walked the jurors through the events leading up to Hutchins' death. She said on that day, Baldwin declined multiple opportunities for standard safety checks with armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed before the rehearsal in the small church about 20 miles (32 kilometers) from the courthouse where Hutchins, "a vibrant 42-year-old rising star," was killed. She said Baldwin instead "did his own thing."

"He cocks the hammer, points it straight at Miss Hutchins, and fires that gun, sending that live bullet right into Miss Hutchins' body," said Johnson, a relative newcomer to the case, appointed in late April by the Santa Fe district attorney's office.

During the presentation, Baldwin trained his eyes downward on a notepad, away from the jury. He watched Spiro intently during his opening. His wife Hilaria Baldwin and his brother, actor Stephen Baldwin, were among the family and friends sitting behind him.

The trial will delve into the confluence of gun safety, high-wattage celebrity and a low-budget Western movie on the remote ranch set.



From left: Ron Wood, Mick Jagger and Keith Richards of The Rolling Stones perform during their 'Hackney Diamonds' tour stop at SoFi Stadium, Wednesday, July 10, 2024, in Inglewood, Calif. (AP)

## Music

## 'Good Together' embraces happiness

## Lake Street Dive crafts joyful tunes

NEW YORK, July 11, (AP) — Lake Street Dive chooses to spread some joy. You got a problem with that?

The veteran pop-soul band's upbeat approach permeates the new disc "Good Together," with the title track's sprightly synthesizers pushing along members' Rachael Price and Akie Bermis duet about of a couple in that stage of new relationship bliss.

On "Dance With a Stranger," Price encourages audience members to make eye contact with someone they don't know and take a chance. "Open up your heart and dance with a stranger," she sings, "until they're not a stranger anymore."

Lake Street Dive explains the perspective as "joyful rebellion," seemingly a convoluted way of explaining their nature.

"I do feel as performing artists you're asking people to connect with you," Bermis told The Associated Press recently. "That's part of the mission behind this record and the shows - to be connected to the audience. We wanted to call people to create joy."

The band, whose core members met while studying jazz at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, have methodically built an audience with their original music and a penchant for well-selected cover songs. A long North American tour this summer and fall includes their first-ever headlining gig at New York's Madison Square Garden.

They won't be gazing at their shoes and singing about their troubles.

"We really came into our own as a band playing small bars, where people didn't know our songs at all," Price said. "We had to learn how to get people's attention. And the way we figured out to get people's attention is to play happy, joyful songs that had a catchy melody and a catchy phrase that you would sing along to before the song

was over. This was an act of survival."

They're not Pollyannas. Bad things happen to joyful people, too. But even Lake Street Dive's breakup songs have a certain sweetness to them. One of their best-known cuts, "Good Kisses," is about a woman who tells her ex that when he's trashing her to his friends, don't ignore the good parts - like the talent referred to in the title.

The ballad "Twenty-Five," the new disc's best song, takes a poignant look back at a breakup. "There was a time when I imagined we'd be forever," Price sings, in the song that was penned by bass player Bridget Kearney.

But the young couple in the story couldn't bridge their differences. "I'll be an old woman with somebody else by my side," Price sings. "But I will always be in love with you in my memories, when we were 25."

## Friendships

Price talked over the idea with Kearney, reflecting on a perspective gained with time's erasure of sour feelings. Price, 38, and her musician-husband, Taylor Ashton, are new parents.

"The idea that something has to last a long time or else it's a failure doesn't make sense in times of growing up and relationships and friendships," she said. "They can be beautiful, and they can be ephemeral."

At a recent concert, she sang "Twenty-Five" as part of a one-two punch following Bermis' cover of his own "Alone Again," a song about loneliness delivered with such humor that he's not likely to have that problem himself if he keeps singing it.

Good cheer can be looked upon with suspicion in music. The headline of critic Jeremy Levine's review of "Good Together" in Pop Matters talks about Lake Street Dive creating "obligatory fun." Another critic, Matt

Collar of AllMusic, said the disc "feels convivial and breezy, showcasing their warm group harmonies and a nice balance of stylistic influences."

It's the group's first disc without guitarist-trumpet player Mike "McDuck" Olson, who arguably was most influential in the band coalescing at school. He left during the pandemic, no longer wanting to travel. James Cornelison replaced him on guitar. Keyboard player Bermis joined the band in 2017, supplementing original members Price, Kearney and drummer Mike Calabrese.

"Akie's addition to the band was something that helped us create a lot more space in the music, which was something that we were looking for," Price said.

In 2022, Lake Street Dive released its second EP of cover songs, taking on The Pointer Sisters, Shania Twain, the Cranberries and the Bacharach-David classic "Anyone Who Had a Heart" in the eclectic mix.

It's a fun attention-getting device for the band, whose cover of the Jackson 5's "I Want You Back" was a viral video early in their career, with a key endorsement by Kevin Bacon. Their live take on "Bohemian Rhapsody" received notice, too.

They're careful not to let it overshadow their own music: A Nantucket show's 22-song set earlier this month had only Hall and Oates' "Rich Girl" and Bermis' "Alone Again" as covers.

They enjoy stripping other artists' songs down to their essence, Price said.

"You learn a lot by learning songs that you love," she said. "You realize what makes a song stand on its own, what makes a groove and what's pivotal to the performance. That's influenced our own songwriting, as well. It's an education and a gateway for fans."



Singer Rachael Price, (left), and keyboardist Akie Bermis of Lake Street Dive pose for a portrait on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, in New York to promote their latest release 'Good Together.' (AP)



Costner

Latt

## Variety

**KUWAIT CITY:** As part of the 16th cultural summer festival 'Saifi Thakafi 16', Peruvian experts in handicrafts, and traditional weaving and dyeing displayed magnificent products at a workshop hosted by Al-Sadu House in Kuwait on Wednesday.

The workshop is co-organized by the Peruvian embassy and Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NCCAL).

It is the first activity being done under the agreement on cultural cooperation signed by Kuwait and Peru in last November. Peruvian Ambassador Carlos Manuel Mendiola told KUNA.

He appreciated the efforts being made by NCCAL and Al-Sadu House to promote the presence of the Peruvian culture at the ongoing exhibition and shed light on the traditional weaving in Peru.

Organized by NCCAL, the 16th cultural summer festival opened in early July under auspices of Minister of Information and Culture **Abdurahman Al-Mutairi** and lasts for two months. (KUNA)

**NEW YORK:** The August theatrical release for the second chapter of **Kevin Costner's** ambitious Western epic "Horizon: An American Saga" has been canceled after the first film fizzled in theaters.

New Line Cinema announced Wednesday that "Horizon: Chapter 2" will not hit theaters on Aug. 16 as scheduled. The studio had planned an unusually fast back-to-back release for the two "Horizon" films. But after the first chapter collected a modest \$23 million in its first two weeks in theaters, the distributor pivoted.

"Territory Pictures and New Line Cinema have decided not to release 'Horizon: Chapter 2' on August 16 in order to give audiences a greater opportunity to discover the first installment of 'Horizon' over the coming weeks," a spokesperson for New Line said in a statement.

For now, the release of "Chapter 2" will be marked TBD on the theatrical calendar. The first "Horizon," which opened in theaters on June 28, will land on premium-demand July 16. No streaming date on Max has yet been announced. The Hollywood Reporter first reported the shift in plans.

The move is a humbling acknowledgment that Costner's big theatrical gamble for his decadeslong passion project has failed to catch on with audiences. The first chapter of "Horizon," which debuted in May at the Cannes Film Festival, cost some \$100 million to make, making its path to profitability extremely challenging if not

impossible. Costner put some of his own money into it, and has already begun shooting a third installment of what he envisions will ultimately be four movies.

When asked in May about the movies hitting theaters in quick succession, Costner said, "The studio wanted to try that. I knew this was going to come out fairly quickly, like every four or five months. That may have been easier. But this is something they feel like people can remember the first one and it can tie into the second one." (AP)

**LOS ANGELES:** A woman who pleaded guilty to killing entertainment consultant and social justice advocate **Michael Latt**

was sentenced to 35 years to life in prison on Wednesday.

**Jameelah Elena Michl** had been stalking and threatening film director **A.V. Rockwell** and targeted Latt because he was Rockwell's friend, prosecutors and police said. Michl pleaded guilty last month to charges of first-degree murder and first-degree burglary in connection with the November attack.

Latt was a consultant whose company focused on social impact in film and entertainment. He worked with "Selma" director **Ava DuVernay** and "Black Panther" director **Ryan Coogler**, among many others, and his death was mourned throughout Hollywood.

"As a tireless advocate for social justice, Mr. Latt championed equality, justice and

equity in our criminal legal system," Los Angeles County District Attorney **George Gascón** said in a statement. "Mr. Latt's ability to uplift the community left an indelible mark. His legacy will continue to inspire us to strive for a more just and inclusive society."

Prosecutors alleged that Michl knocked on the door of Latt's Los Angeles home on Nov. 27, 2023, forced her way in and fatally shot him with a semi-automatic handgun. He was declared dead at a hospital. (AP)

**TOKYO:** Japanese scholar **Seiya Matsuno's** new book, which unveils the historical truths of Japan's various "clandestine operations" during World War II (WWII), was officially published on Sunday.

Titled "Materials Related to Imperial Japanese Army Noborito Research Institute," the book includes 125 documents and over 1,500 original historical records meticulously compiled by **Matsuno**, a researcher at Meiji Gakuin University's International Peace Research Institute in Japan.

Over the past five years, Matsuno has conducted extensive research, uncovering over 100 historical documents related to the Noborito Research Institute, an Imperial Japanese Army laboratory that focused on "clandestine warfare" including counterintelligence and espionage activities.

The source materials for the book primarily come from the National Archives of Japan, the Defense Ministry's National Institute for Defense Studies, the Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Edo-Tokyo Museum, among others.

Combining the newly discovered documents with previously released ones, Matsuno has systematically compiled them into a comprehensive collection that reveals the secrets of the so-called research facility. (Xinhua)



Rita Ora arrives at the premiere of 'Descendants: The Rise of Red' on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, in Burbank, Calif. (AP)

16.4 pct increase in cancer-related deaths among citizens: statistics

# Heart disease dominates as leading cause of death in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: Official statistics highlight a notable increase in births within government hospitals for Kuwaiti citizens, contrasting with a decline in private sector maternity hospital births. In 2023, government hospitals recorded 7,917 births, up from 7,133 in 2022. Conversely, births in private maternity hospitals for Kuwaiti citizens decreased to 24,396 in 2023 from 25,723 in the previous year, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to the Central Administration of Statistics' annual bulletin on births and deaths for 2023, published yesterday, Kuwait saw a decrease in the death rate among citizens to 2.56 percent per thousand of the population, down from 2.94 percent in 2022. Diseases of the circulatory system, particularly heart-related ailments, persisted as the primary cause of death over the past two years, accounting for 94.81 percent of deaths per 100,000 citizens compared to 55.27 percent for non-citizens.

The report also noted a 16.4 percent increase in cancer-related deaths among citizens, rising from 628 in 2022 to 731 in 2023. Overall deaths among citizens and residents combined reached 1,394 in 2023, marking a 35.47 percent increase from 1,027 in 2022.

Regarding fertility among female citizens, the birth rate declined to 80.610 percent in 2023 from 83.913 percent in 2022. This decline contributed to a decrease in the natural increase rate among citizens, which fell to 18.73 percent in 2023 compared to 19.17 percent the previous year. The live birth rate for citizens also decreased to 21.30 percent in 2023, down from 22.11 percent in 2022.

The bulletin further highlighted positive trends with a decrease in Kuwaiti stillbirths to 4.18 percent in 2023, down from 5.48 percent in 2022. Similarly, the Kuwaiti infant mortality rate saw improvement, declining to 6.28 percent in 2023 from 7.76 percent in 2022.

These findings underscore critical shifts in Kuwait's demographic and health landscapes, revealing both challenges and advancements in public health and population dynamics.

Early treatment key

## Unpacking why plague rarely affects humans

NEW YORK, July 11, (Agencies): Colorado health officials have confirmed a human case of the plague, the rare bacterial infection infamously known for killing tens of millions in 14th century Europe. Today, it's easily treated with antibiotics.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates there are seven human cases of plague per year in the US, and in February, Oregon officials reported it in a person who likely got it from their sick cat.

Surprised to hear the plague is still around? Here's what to know.

The bubonic plague is the most common form of the bacterial infection, which spreads naturally among rodents like prairie dogs and rats.

There are two other forms of the plague: septicemic plague (which spreads through the whole body) and pneumonic plague (which infects the lungs).

Bubonic plague causes painfully swollen lymph nodes that are most commonly found in the groin, armpit and neck, called buboes. It will often advance and turn into the other two forms of plague if untreated.

Other symptoms of the plague include sudden high fever and chills, headaches, and pain in the abdomen, legs and arms, according to the Cleveland Clinic.

The bacteria is transmitted through the bites of infected fleas, which spread it between rodents, pets and humans.

People can also get plague through touching infected bodily fluids, so health experts recommend taking extra care when handling dead or sick animals. The plague can also spread through the respiratory droplets of a patient who has pneumonic plague.

Pneumonic plague is the most deadly and easiest to spread, with a nearly 100% fatality rate untreated, said Lisa Morici, a microbiologist and immunologist at the Tulane University School of Medicine.

In the US, most cases happen in rural areas of northern New Mexico, northern Arizona, southern Colorado, California, southern Oregon and far western Nevada, according to the CDC.

Worldwide, plague is found the most in Congo, Madagascar and Peru, according to the World Health Organization.

Plague

The plague was never eradicated, but we've gotten better at preventing its spread and treating it in humans.

When treated early with antibiotics, the plague can be cured. The key is to get to a doctor fast -- otherwise the plague can be deadly.

And, as the old adage goes, prevention is better than a cure.

Keeping areas around the home clear of debris and other things that can attract rodents can lower the risk of infection, as can making sure pets are up to date on flea treatments. When hunting, camping or otherwise spending time outdoors, the CDC recommends using a bug spray with DEET to keep fleas and other disease-spreading pests away.

Yes, but the WHO only recommends it for people who are at high risk of infection, like laboratory and health care workers. There's no plague vaccine available in the US.

'Cuts birth defect' **China safeguards newborns' health**

BEIJING, July 11, (Xinhua): China has consistently worked to safeguard the health of newborns, leading to a significant decrease in infant and child mortality attributed to birth defects.

Given the varied disease types and complex pathogenesis associated with birth defects, early prevention and treatment are crucial to mitigating risks from the outset.

China has seen expanded coverage of medical screening for birth defects, with incidences of pre-pregnancy checks and pregnancy screenings reaching 96.9 percent and 91.3 percent, respectively, nationwide, according to the top health authority in the run-up to World Population Day on Thursday.

Earlier data from the National Health Commission (NHC) showed that the infant mortality rate and the death rate for children aged under five caused by birth defects have both declined by over 30 percent over the past five years.

In 2023, the general mortality rate among the two groups came down to 4.5 per 1,000 and 6.2 per 1,000, respectively, indicating improvement in newborn health, according to the NHC.

Efforts have also been made to ensure early detection and treatment for newborns with birth defects, including the promotion of screening services for phenylketonuria, an inherited metabolic disease that can lead to growth retardation. Now the services are available nationwide for all newborns.

"If children with this disease consume special milk powder in time, it can effectively alleviate intellectual impairment, allowing most to reach a normal level of intelligence," said Shen Haijing, an NHC official.

Additionally, a central public fund initiative, launched in 2014, has provided over 81,000 times of financial assistance to children suffering from birth defects across the country.

According to a plan on enhancing birth defect prevention released by the NHC in August 2023, by 2027, the infant mortality and death rate among children aged under five caused by birth defects will further decrease below 1 per 1,000 and 1.1 per 1,000, respectively.

With a shrinking newborn population and expanding aging population, China sees birth defect prevention crucial for improving the health of newborns.

Morici said there is need for more research, because while the vaccines used in other parts of the world work against bubonic plague, there isn't strong evidence to show they protect against the pneumonic form of plague.

Testing a plague vaccine would be ethically and logistically difficult, she said.

Striking the right balance with parental guidance

# Stricter monitoring of tween and teen internet use may not always be better

By Linda Charmaraman and Elana Pearl Ben-Joseph, Wellesley College, and J. Maya Hernandez, University of California, Irvine

The Conversation is an independent and non-profit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

**A** national conversation about potential links between smartphones and digital media and the ongoing teen mental health crisis has reached a fever pitch.

Research does not definitively show that excessive screen time causes teen anxiety or depression, though research is ongoing. Still, in June 2024, the US surgeon general called for warning labels to be placed on social media, stating that "the mental health crisis among young people is an emergency - and social media has emerged as an important contributor."

But some researchers are expressing concerns that these warnings are too broad. Still, it's no wonder that parents feel pressured to do something - anything - to reduce the risks.

Setting strict limits on how preteen and teen children use the internet is a popular strategy. But our research suggests that achieving a healthy media environment at home may require a more complex and nuanced approach.

We are a group of research scientists who have backgrounds in psychology, human development, social ecology, pediatrics and community psychology and education.

Collaborated

Recently we collaborated on a mixed-method study of how parents monitor their middle school-aged kids' internet use. We found that more restrictive parental monitoring was significantly associated with problematic internet use, while some forms of less restrictive monitoring were not.

There are no hard and fast rules about the maximum number of screen hours before it's deemed unhealthy. But many parents understandably seek guidance on what should be socially acceptable and healthy use.

Developmentally appropriate use entails any use - including content consumed and for a certain amount of time - that does not interfere with daily functioning such as completing homework, having social relationships in real life, eating meals and getting enough sleep.

"Problematic internet use," on the other hand, is a catch-all phrase for use that is excessive or risky, such as engaging in secretive behaviors or impulsive ones, like spending a lot of money. Among tweens and teens, it is associated with negative effects on physical, social or emotional well-being, such as depression, loneliness and spending less time with family and friends. This is the kind of internet use that parents want to avoid.

The word "associated" is important here; when two things are associated, that doesn't mean that

one necessarily causes the other. In this situation, researchers like us don't know which is the chicken and which is the egg. It may be that parents of middle schoolers who struggle with problematic internet use are more likely to implement restrictions. Or it may be that implementing restrictions leads to problematic internet use. Our study simply shows that the two are associated with each other. Much more research is needed to show whether one causes the other.

For this study, we sent online surveys - available in English, Spanish and Portuguese - to parents of middle schoolers in the Northeast US via school-based newsletters and email lists.

Of the 248 parents who completed the survey, most reported using multiple strategies. Nearly 85% reported regularly using a restrictive strategy of placing one- to six-hour time limits on internet use. About 62% reported using "active monitoring" - in other words, encouraging their children to converse with them about their ongoing digital media use and to think critically about its effects on them now and in the future.

Strategies

Approximately 29% of parents also mentioned using "deference monitoring" strategies. This means not relying on internet restrictions because they believed their children already knew enough or were mature enough to avoid problematic use of digital media, or to showcase trust in their children's decision-making skills, often as they get older.

Next, we recorded in-depth interviews with a smaller and demographically diverse group of these parents.

We asked about their children's use of internet-based technologies such as smartphones, social media and gaming. We also asked how they were dealing with potentially or actively problematic internet use, and what informed their monitoring styles - such as advice from other parents, school staff or websites.

After transcribing, sorting and coding the interviews into themes and subthemes, we found that all but one of the 31 parents reported use of at least one restrictive strategy. The most common was control of device settings - "I restricted the internet ... so she can only go to certain websites that I put in" - and withholding devices: "The deal was that he follows the rules or he loses the phone." Parents used active and deference monitoring strategies less often.

Most parents also reported mixing monitoring strategies, as well as shifting strategies. Sometimes this was in response to the child's changing development and social context. Sometimes it was related to the parents' insecurities about how effective their strategies were at preventing problematic internet use.

Many parents using restrictive strategies told us they wanted concrete evidence that these approaches were worth the household conflicts they created.

However, we found that only restrictive monitoring was significantly associated with problematic internet use. Children in these families were moody and depressed when away from their devices. They tended to lose more sleep and were more withdrawn

from their families. By comparison, active and deference monitoring strategies were not significantly correlated with these issues generally, though deference strategies were specifically associated with device use during meal-times.

Why would being more strict be potentially less successful?

A well-established body of research shows that family closeness is a strong predictor of healthy social technology use. Interestingly, this also applies to television and older media.

Open and honest parent-child conversations about risky online content, sticky social media situations and more can potentially help protect against problematic internet use. This may stem from the child's willingness to come forward to their "ready-to-listen" parents when issues arise.

Building this kind of relationship can be challenging and take time, and even the closest relationships cannot help teens avoid every problem online. But knowing they have the support of parents can make a difference.

Vulnerability

Given that there is no monolithic household scenario that works in every instance, a mix of restrictive and less restrictive approaches that can support differing levels of vulnerability, such as self-regulation skills, digital distractions and reactions to online drama, may balance the types of internet monitoring needed as kids transition from childhood into adolescence. This is when smartphones and social media become more central to testing developmental milestones like seeking autonomy and peer relations.

We don't yet know whether parents who set hard-and-fast restrictions believe they have avoided the need for these kinds of conversations. This could in turn be related to the level of child-parent emotional connection and trust.

Again, there is no one-size-fits-all approach to managing a child's internet use.

However, our study and others suggest that there are multiple ways to be successful, and that families are often able to find what works best for them.

Parents can encourage their children to find social support, online companionship and emotional intimacy online while avoiding problematic content, particularly around harmful unrealistic beauty ideals and hate messaging. They can agree on limits that ensure social media doesn't interfere with sleep or physical activity.

There is still a lot of research to be done on how parental monitoring and children's internet use influence each other. The question is essentially: Which is the chicken and which is the egg?

Perhaps parents of middle schoolers already struggling with problematic internet use are more likely to implement restrictions, or that implementing strict limits leads to problematic use. Similarly, it's unclear whether using active or deference monitoring can help lessen problematic internet use, or that these teens are already less prone to it.

# Raw milk salmonella outbreak grows in US

NEW YORK, July 11, (AP): Dozens of salmonella illnesses have been linked to raw milk from a California farm, a far wider outbreak than previously known, according to newly released state records.

As of February, at least 165 people were sickened with salmonella infections tied to products from Raw Farm, of Fresno, California, according to the records. It is the largest reported salmonella outbreak linked to raw milk in the U.S. in the past decade, according

to health officials. The disclosure of the outbreak's size comes as health officials warn the public to avoid unpasteurized milk due to a bird flu virus circulating in U.S. dairy cows.

The bird flu, known as Type A H5N1, has been detected in more than 140 U.S. dairy herds, and federal health officials say the virus has been detected in high levels in raw milk.

State and local health officials hadn't updated the

public about the full scope of the salmonella outbreak since October, when officials in San Diego reported about a dozen cases. At the time, Raw Farm issued a voluntary recall of milk and heavy cream sold between Oct. 11 and Nov. 6.

Cases continued to mount, however, according to documents obtained by Bill Marler, a Seattle food safety lawyer who shared the records with The Associated Press. Marler said he represents 16 clients allegedly sickened in the outbreak.

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# Copper scores 32 and Mercury beat Wings



Atlanta Dream's Destanni Henderson and Chicago Sky's Chennedy Carter chase after a loose ball during the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Chicago. (AP)

## Mystics overcome Fever 89-84

**PHOENIX, July 11, (AP):** Kahleah Copper scored 32 points, the seventh time she's had over 30 this season, and the Phoenix Mercury beat the Dallas Wings 100-84 on Wednesday for their third straight series victory.

Brittney Griner added 23 points for Phoenix (12-10), which scored 100-plus points against Dallas for the second time in a week, following a 104-96 victory on July 3.

Copper scored 18 points in the first half and Griner added 13 to help Phoenix build a 49-46 lead. Copper scored seven of Phoenix's 31 third-quarter points to help pull away.

The Mercury improved to 10-0

### BASKETBALL

when taking a lead into the fourth quarter this season.

Natasha Cloud scored 14 points and Mikiah Herbert Harrigan added a season-high 12 for Phoenix. Copper was 12 of 19 from the field and 7 of 9 at the stripe. Diana Taurasi (leg) did not play for the second straight game.

Natasha Howard and Odyssey Sims each scored 19 points for Dallas (5-18). Teaira McCowan had 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Arike Ogunbowale had 13 points and a career-high 13 assists.

### Mystics 89, Fever 84

In Indianapolis Ariel Atkins scored 26 points, including a key basket in the final minute, and the Washington Mystics held off the Indiana Fever to spoil Caitlin Clark's 29-point performance.

Washington led 76-55 after three quarters before Indiana rallied behind 15 fourth-quarter points from Clark.

Clark became the first WNBA player with 29 points, 13 assists, five rebounds, five 3-pointers, five steals and three blocks in a game.

After Clark capped a 14-0 run with a free throw to pull Indiana within 85-82 with 1:05 left, Atkins answered at the other end with an off-balance shot in the lane.

Clark made two more free throws and a jump ball was called with 20.3 seconds left. Indiana forward Aliyah Boston tapped it back, but Atkins grabbed it and fell to the ground before a timeout was called with 16.9.

Julie Vanloo secured an inbounds pass and made two free throws with 1.2 left for a five-point lead to secure it.



Indiana Fever guard Caitlin Clark (22) and Washington Mystics forward Aaliyah Edwards (24) go for a rebound in the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Indianapolis. (AP)

Stefanie Dolson and Vanloo each scored 13 points for Washington (6-17). Aaliyah Edwards added 12 points and Myisha Hines-Allen had 10. The Mystics were without Shakira Austin, Brittney Sykes and Karlie Samuelson. Kelsey Mitchell scored 15 points and NaLyssa Smith added 11 for Indiana (9-14). Lexie Hull, who made her first start of the season, finished with five points in 20 minutes.

### Aces 84, Storm 79

In Seattle, A'ja Wilson had 24 points and 20 rebounds for her first career 20-20 game and the Las Vegas Aces beat the Seattle Storm.

It was the 21st 20-20 game in WNBA history.

Jackie Young scored 27 points, including a 3-pointer from the corner with 4:32 left in the third quarter to give Las Vegas a 48-45 lead. Young also scored on Las Vegas' next three possessions, during a personal 9-0 run, to build a 54-45 advantage.

Wilson sank a contested jumper from the free-throw line with 48.2 seconds left for an 82-76 lead. Jewell Loyd was fouled on a 3-point attempt at the other end, and she made all three free throws to pull Seattle within three points.

The Storm had a good opportunity to tie it on their final possession, but Nneka Ogwumike was short on an open 3-pointer and Loyd was well off on a heave from distance. Wilson secured the rebound and made two free throws.

Wilson had a scary moment when she was accidentally struck in the nose by Ogwumike in the third quarter and had to leave the court. She returned a few possessions later.

## Exclusivity of the Finals comes with a big price increase

# NBA agrees to terms on a record 11-year, \$76 bln media rights deal

WASHINGTON, July 11, (AP): The NBA has agreed to terms on its new media deals, a record 11-year agreement worth \$76 billion that would assure player salaries will continue rising for the foreseeable future and one that will surely change how some viewers access the game for years to come.

A person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press that the networks have the terms sheets, with the next step being for the league's board of governors to approve the contracts.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Wednesday because they weren't at liberty to discuss such impending matters.

There is a board of governors meeting in Las Vegas next week, coinciding with NBA Summer League, and it would seem logical that the deals - if they get through various committees and obtain other approvals - may be finalized around that time.

The NBA did not comment Wednesday.

The deal, which set NBA records for both its length and total value, goes into effect for the 2025-26 season. Games will continue being aired on ESPN and ABC, and now some will be going to NBC and Amazon Prime. TNT Sports, which has been part of the

### BASKETBALL

league's broadcasting family since the 1980s, could be on its way out, but has five days to match one of the deals.

The five-day clock would begin once the league sends the finished contracts to TNT. The Athletic was the first to report on the contracts.

ESPN and ABC will continue to have the league's top package, which includes the NBA Finals and one of the conference finals series. ABC has aired the NBA Finals since 2003. ABC would continue to air games on Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons when the NFL's regular season ends.

ESPN's main nights would continue to be Wednesday with some Friday and Sunday games.

Exclusivity of the Finals comes with a big price increase. Walt Disney Company, which owns ESPN and ABC, will pay \$2.6 billion per year under the new contract compared to \$1.4 billion in its current deal.

## Team USA sending more women than men for the 4th consecutive Summer Olympics

DENVER, July 11, (AP): For the fourth consecutive Summer Olympics, Team USA will be sending a roster featuring more women than men.

The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee announced the 592-member contingent Wednesday that's heading to the Paris later this month. The lineup features 314 women and 278 men, spanning ages from 16 to 59 and with 46 states represented.

There are 66 Olympic champions who've earned a combined 110 gold medals and three five-time Olympians, including basketball standout Diana Taurasi along with equestrians Steffen Peters and McLain Ward.

The opening ceremony in Paris takes place on July 26, with athletes assembling in boats that sail along the Seine River toward the Eiffel Tower. Competition kicks off July 24 and ends Aug. 11.

Team USA is the favorite to top the medal table, with Nielsen's Gracenote forecasting 123 medals, with 37 of them gold.

"As they prepare to represent our nation on the greatest stage in all of sports, we honor their personal achievements and celebrate the unwavering support of the people that make it possible - their families, teammates, national governing bodies, coaches, and communities around the country," USOPC CEO Sarah Hirshland said in a statement. "In the true spirit of 'One for All,' we join a proud nation of fans in cheering them on through inspiring performances and

### OLYMPICS

unforgettable moments."

There are a trio of 16-year-olds heading to Paris, with artistic gymnast Hezly Rivera the youngest of the bunch. The oldest athlete is Peters at 59. Swimmer Katie Ledecky leads Team USA with 10 Olympic medals, including seven golds and three silvers. Next on the list are gymnast Simone Biles and swimmer Caeleb Dressel with seven medals apiece,

while swimmer Ryan Murphy has six medals.

California leads the way by sending 120 athletes. That's followed by Florida (42) and Texas (41). There are three athletes who list hometowns that are abroad - sailing's Ian Barrows is from St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; soccer's Maximilian Dietz from Frankfurt, Germany, and water polo's Luca Cupido from Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy.

Four athletes are making the Olympic squad for a fourth time. The list includes Brady Ellison (archery), Gerek Meinhardt (fencing), Stu McNay (sailing) and Vincent Hancock (shooting).

Of the 592 athletes heading to Paris, 75% of them competed on the college level. There are 15 teams that are made up completely of athletes who played in college. That pertains to women's basketball, men's and women's 3x3 basketball, beach volleyball, men's and women's indoor volleyball, diving, fencing, women's field hockey, women's rugby, modern pentathlon, men's and women's water polo, rowing and triathlon.

raises at least some possibility that top players may be earning somewhere near \$100 million per season by the mid-2030s.

It also clears the way for the next major item on the NBA's to-do list: Expansion.

Silver was very clear on the order of his top agenda items in recent seasons, those being preserving labor peace (which was achieved with the new CBA), getting a new media deal (now essentially completed) and then only then would the league turn its attention toward adding new franchises. Las Vegas and Seattle are typically among the cities most prominently mentioned as top expansion candidates, with others such as Montreal, Vancouver and Kansas City expected to have groups with interest as well.

As the broadcast rights packages have grown in total value over the last 25 years, so, too, have salaries because of how much that revenue stream ends up fueling the salary cap.

## Cherono banned for doping and fake documents

MONACO, July 11, (AP): Kenyan runner Lawrence Cherono, a former winner of the Boston and Chicago marathons, has been banned for seven years for doping and trying to use fake documents to explain his failed drug test.

Cherono tested positive for the banned substance

### Change Name

I, Bernardo Cardoso R/O H.N.O.1350 Near st. Xavier Ashram, Damon Raia Salcete Goa, would like to change my name and my Mother's, on my Indian Passport bearing No X3277525 My Name From BERNARDO FELIPE CARDOSE to BERNARDO CARDOSO and Mother's Name from SALVACAO to SALVACAO PINTO as per my birth Certificate and also my Wife Name MARCELINA as a MARCELINA CASTANHA



Lawrence Cherono of Kenya breaks the tape to win the 123rd Boston Marathon in front of Lelisa Desisa of Ethiopia (right), on Monday, April 15, 2019, in Boston. Cherono, a Kenyan runner who won the Boston and Chicago marathons has been banned for seven years for doping and trying to use fake documents to explain his failed drug test, the Athletics Integrity Unit said Wednesday July 10, 2024. (AP)

trimetazidine in 2022 and was suspended just before he was due to compete at the world championships in Eugene, Oregon.

He won the Boston and Chicago marathons in 2019 and his personal-best time of 2 hours, 3 minutes, 4 sec-

onds from 2020 remains the 12th-fastest in history. The ban is backdated to the start of his provisional suspension in 2022, but at the age of 35, it could still end his top-level career. In a case which took nearly two years

to reach a final verdict, the Athletics Integrity Unit said Wednesday that Cherono had been banned for the original positive test and for "tampering" with the anti-doping process in his attempts to explain it away.

The AIU said Cherono claimed he had been injected with an "unknown substance" by a doctor for a stomach complaint and tried to implicate supposedly "jealous" training partners, before he then submitted documents purportedly from a clinic in an attempt to back up a claim that his wife had been prescribed medication and gave it to him by mistake instead of painkillers.

However, medical records obtained by court order in Kenya showed no sign Cherono's wife had received any such treatment, the AIU said.

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## Alcaraz faces Medvedev, Djokovic plays Musetti in Wimbledon's semis

## Paolini reaches second consecutive Grand Slam final

LONDON, July 11, (AP) — Jasmine Paolini reached her second consecutive Grand Slam final with a 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (10-8) victory over unseeded Donna Vekic at Wimbledon on Thursday in a rollicking match that lasted 2 hours, 51 minutes.

Paolini kept coming back, coming back, coming back - after dropping the opening set, after being two games from defeat at 4-all in the second, af-

## TENNIS

ter twice trailing by a break in the third at 3-1 and 4-3 at Centre Court.

But the No. 7-seeded Paolini never went away, eventually converting her third match point. This showing on the grass courts of the All England Club follows her runner-up finish to Iga Swiatek on the red clay at Roland Garros last month.

The 28-year-old Italian is the first woman to get to the title matches at the French Open and Wimbledon in the same season since Serena Williams in 2015 and 2016.

Carlos Alcaraz's ability to hit any type of shot, from any position on the court, on any surface, keeps fans on



Jasmine Paolini of Italy celebrates after defeating Donna Vekic of Croatia in their semifinal match at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London. (AP)

the edge of their seats.

Keeps other players guessing, too. Alcaraz delights in all of that - he loves putting on a show just as much as he enjoys knowing he makes the guys on the other side of the net uncomfortable - and figures it can only

help him in the Wimbledon semifinals against Daniil Medvedev on Friday.

It's beneficial, Alcaraz said, that opponents need to focus on whether he'll be "able to be back (in) the point or ... able to hit an unbelievable shot." "For me," he said, "it's great that

## Kuwait's U-17 star Khurshid out for two weeks

they're thinking about it." Alcaraz, the No. 3 seed, is seeking a second consecutive trophy at the All England Club and fourth Grand Slam title overall. His triumph last month at the French Open made him, at 21, the youngest man to collect a major trophy on hard, grass and clay courts.

Medvedev, who is seeded No. 5 and defeated No. 1 Jannik Sinner in the quarterfinals, won the 2021 U.S. Open but is just 1-5 in major finals.

The other match Friday will be No. 2 Novak Djokovic, who has won seven of his men's-record 24 Slam championships at Wimbledon, against No. 25 Lorenzo Musetti, making his debut in a major semifinal.

"Against him, you are probably more stressed, because he's probably the best player ever - or one of the best players ever," said the 22-year-old Musetti, who beat Taylor Fritz in five sets on Wednesday, while Djokovic got the day off because his foe, Alex de Minaur, withdrew with an



Muhammad Khurshid

injured hip.

"You walk on court with a different mentality," said Musetti, whose 1-5 record against Djokovic includes a five-set loss at this year's French Open that ended at after 3 a.m. "If I play in a certain way, I could have my shot in the next round."

BELGRADE, July 11: Kuwait U-17 player Muhammad Khurshid sustained a leg injury that will sideline him from Al-Azraq's training for two weeks. This comes during the team's foreign camp in Serbia as it prepares for the Asian U-17 Cup qualifiers.

The team has been in camp since last week and is scheduled to participate in multiple friendly matches during its stay.

Alcaraz vs. Medvedev is a rematch from last year's semifinals, when Alcaraz won in straight sets before getting past Djokovic in the final.

It also offers a contrast between a talented attacker (Alcaraz) and a consummate defender (Medvedev).

"The most difficult thing about facing Daniil, or the most special thing about him, is he can reach every ball," Alcaraz said. "Well, he is like a wall. Every ball bounces back."

Asked what Alcaraz's best quality is, Medvedev began this way: "To be honest, everything."

## Roglic 'crashes' near finish of stage won by Girmay, Pogacar keeps lead



Eritrea's Biniam Girmay, wearing the best sprinter's green jersey, celebrates as he crosses the finish line ahead of Belgium's Wout van Aert, (far left), Belgium's Arnaud de Lie, (second left), Germany's Pascal Ackermann, (third left), Britain's Mark Cavendish, (third right) in light blue, and Belgium's Jasper Philipsen, (far right), to win the twelfth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 203.6 kilometers (126.5 miles) with start in Aurillac and finish in Villeneuve-sur-Lot, France. (AP)

## Biniam extends advantage

VILLENEUVE-SUR-LOT, France, July 11, (AP) — Primoz Roglic lost more than two minutes to his rival Tour de France contenders after crashing near the finish where Biniam Girmay won a third stage on Thursday.

Roglic hit the tarmac with some 12 kilometers left after a rider in front of him hit road furniture and lost control of his bike. Roglic could not avoid the crash and went down with several others.

It was the second accident in 24 hours for Roglic, a four-time Grand Tour champion. He got back on his bike but struggled at the back and was helped to the stage finish by his

## CYCLING

Bora-Hansgrohe teammates. He crossed 2 minutes, 27 seconds after the winner according to provisional results and dropped to sixth place overall.

Girmay, who became the first Black rider to ever win a Tour stage this month, edged Wout van Aert and Arnaud Démare to extend his lead at the top of the rankings for the best sprinter's green jersey.

Two-time Tour champion Tadej Pogacar kept the yellow jersey.

Pogacar has a lead of 1:06 over Remco Evenepoel, with two-time defending champion Jonas Vingegaard in third place, 1:14 off the pace.

The crash disturbed preparations for the final sprint, with Matthieu Van der Poel also missing from the main group and unable to lead out teammate Jasper Philipsen.

Stage 12 took riders on a 204-kilometer (126-mile) route from Aurillac to Villeneuve-sur-Lot in southwestern France without major difficulty.

There was an early breakthrough but Jonas Abrahamson, Quentin Pachy and Valentin Madouas were caught after 162 kilometers.

## Kuwait Club finalizes deal for Yahya Gibran

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 11: Kuwait Club has terminated contracts with foreign

players for the upcoming season, finalizing a deal worth approximately \$800,000 for Moroccan Yahya Gibran.

Gibran, aged 33, excels in the mid-field position and recently trained with



Coach Nasser Al-Shatti and Iwala in Al-Arabi training.



Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, celebrates on the podium after the twelfth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 203.6 kilometers (126.5 miles) with start in Aurillac and finish in Villeneuve-sur-Lot, France. (AP)

Kuwait Club during his camp in Turkey. He has previously played for Dibba Al-Fujairah, Hassania Agadir, Mouloudia Oujda, Raja Beni Mellal, and most recently for Morocco's Wydad.

His contract with Kuwait Club, replaces fellow Moroccan Mahdi Rahma, who joined Al-Qadisiya after three standout seasons.

Al-Abyad's roster includes Tunisian Yacine Al-Khanisi, returning from injury, Bahraini Mohammed Marhoon, Congolese Arsene Zola "Malik," and Argentine Sergio Vitor.

## SOCCER

Meanwhile, Al-Arabi, Nigerian professional Anayo Iweala resumed training at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium after his break. The team's training continues until July 18, when it departs for Bosnia for pre-season preparations.

Iweala is the fourth foreign player in Al-Arabi's lineup, alongside Algerians Ahmed Khalidi and Sofiane Bouchard, and Moroccan Hamza Khaba. The club aims to delay signing a fifth foreign player until September, with Libyan international Omar Al-Khoja under consideration to bolster its midfield.

Al-Arabi is focusing on strengthening its midfield after bolstering its attack and defense. It has opted not to renew contracts with Algerian defender Imad Eddine Boubacar, Tunisian striker Ayman and Moroccan midfielder Walid Sabbar.

Kazma renewed the contract of Algerian defender Reda Bencha, making him the fourth foreign player alongside Brazilian Rafael Guimaraes, Jordanian Ahmed Arsan, and Colombian Hancel Zapata.

The team is in negotiations to sign Saad Al-Rousan from Al-Hussein Irbid and Ma'an Clubs and the Jordanian national team. Kazma has also strengthened its local contingent with Mishal Al-Shammari from Al-Nasr and renewed contracts with captain Nasser Al-Faraj, Sharida Al-Sharida, Mohammed Al-Azmi, and goalkeeper Faisal Al-Subaie.

## Celtics have 3 players on the roster

## White replaces Leonard on US Olympic basketball team

LAS VEGAS, July 11, (AP) — USA Basketball intended to bring Kawhi Leonard to the Paris Olympics. After watching him play in a four-day training camp, they and the Los Angeles Clippers realized that the plan needed to change.

Derrick White of the NBA champion Boston Celtics is replacing Leonard on the U.S. team for the Paris, the first shakeup to a roster that was announced in the spring. The decision was made Tuesday. White accepted the invitation Tuesday night and USA Basketball announced the move Wednesday morning.

"He wanted to be here like all these guys want to be here," USA Basketball managing director Grant Hill said Wednesday night about Leonard. "And we don't take that lightly at all. It speaks to the program and the opportunity. Personally speaking, I know what it's like to want to do something and your body is just not right. And I've lived that personally. And so, I applaud him for coming here and being willing to sacrifice, give up his summer and represent our country and play for our program. It just ultimately didn't work out."

## BASKETBALL

Leonard missed 12 of the Los Angeles Clippers' final 14 games this past season with right knee inflammation, though he said in recent days that he felt fine and the knee was doing well. But USA Basketball felt differently and, in conjunction with the Clippers, made the decision.

White, who accepted the invitation after talking with Hill on Tuesday night, averaged 15.2 points and 5.2 assists for the Celtics this past season. His selection gives Boston three of the 12 players on the U.S. roster; Celtics teammates Jayson Tatum and Jrue Holiday also are Paris-bound.

White is expected to be in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in the coming days - plans are still being made - to join the U.S. squad. The team flew to Abu Dhabi from Las Vegas on Thursday and is scheduled to practice there Saturday ahead of exhibition games against Australia on July 15 and Serbia on July 17. It's unclear if White will be there in time for Saturday.

"I don't feel like his role changes much with our team from what he does with the Celtics," Hill said.

"He plays alongside two incredibly great young players, Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum. And this setting is hard when you come in and you're the center of your universe and now you have to establish a role and it might be different than what you have to do with your team. To have someone who can come in and play off of guys, be complementary to some others, but then also stand out ... we're excited."

Brown, on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, posted this on Wednesday: "(at)nike this what we doing?" It seemed like an insinuation that Brown, who has been critical of Nike in the past, may have played a role in him not being selected for the Olympic team. Nike is a USA Basketball partner.

"This is about putting together a team," Hill said.

White - a second-team All-Defensive selection after this past NBA season, meaning he'll clearly take some of the on-ball defending duties that the Olympic team likely envisioned Leonard having - has some USA Basketball experience, including being part of the 2019 World Cup team that finished seventh in China. He and the Celtics agreed on a four-year extension worth nearly \$126 million after the playoff run, one in which he led Boston with 65 made 3-pointers on a team-best 40.4% shooting from beyond the arc.



In this file photo, Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard (2) shoots against the Orlando Magic during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Friday, March 29, 2024, in Orlando, Fla. (AP)

## Best of the Rest

**Fei loaned to Shanghai:** Chinese Super League (CSL) club Shanghai Shenhua announced on Thursday that they have signed Fei Nanduo on loan from Shandong Taishan.

The 31-year-old striker, who has been banned from training with the Shandong side amid media reports of strained relations with their head coach Choi Kang-Hee, appeared at the Shanghai railway station with luggage on Wednesday afternoon, leading to speculations that he was seeking to join Shanghai Shenhua.

The Shanghai side has been looking to introduce a striker from the domestic market during the summer window to strengthen their firing power upfront.

"According to the agreements reached through friendly consultations with the Shandong Taishan FC and the player, as of today Fei Nanduo joins Shanghai Shenhua FC on loan until the end of 2024," the Shanghai club said in a statement on Thursday.

**Letexier picked to handle final:** French referee François Letexier was picked by UEFA to handle the European Championship final between Spain and England.

The 35-year-old Letexier becomes one of the youngest referees

to take charge of a major tournament final.

Letexier already refereed three games at Euro 2024 including Spain's 4-1 win over Georgia in the round of 16.

The final is on Sunday at the Olympiastadion in Berlin. (AP)

□ □ □

**Austin, Miami keep races:** Miami and Austin, Texas, will keep their Formula 1 sprint races next year as Belgium gets a sprint instead of Austria.

The number of sprint races on the 24-event F1 calendar stays at six for the third year running.

The Circuit of the Americas at Austin and the Miami street circuit are joined by Belgium's Spa-Francorchamps track, which is the only 2025 sprint venue not hosting a sprint this year, although it did in 2023.

It will be the third year of a sprint race at Austin and the second at Miami.

The other three sprints for 2025 will be in Brazil for the fifth year running, as well as China and Qatar.

F1 shifted around its weekend schedule for this year to move the sprint race to earlier Saturdays, ahead of qualifying for the grand prix. (AP)



England's Ollie Watkins celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during a semifinal match between the Netherlands and England at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Dortmund, Germany. (AP)

# Sports

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## Late drama as England seal final spot

Southgate's bold substitution pays off

**DORTMUND, Germany, July 11, (AP):** England is into another European Championship final after its latest dramatic, come-from-behind win that even took King Charles III on a roller coaster ride.

Ollie Watkins, who came on for captain Harry Kane in a bold call by England coach Gareth Southgate, scored in the first minute of stoppage time to earn England a 2-1 win over the Netherlands on Wednesday and a shot at Spain in the title match.

### SOCCER

In the knockout stage at Euro 2024, England has scored a stoppage-time equalizer through Jude Bellingham before edging past Slovakia in the last 16 and needed a penalty-shootout to see off Switzerland in the quarterfinals.

The English are keeping their supporters back home on the edge of their seats as the men's team moves closer to a first title since the 1966 World Cup - and that includes its monarch.

"If I may encourage you to secure victory before the need for any last minute wonder-goals or another penalties drama, I am sure the stresses on the nation's collective heart rate and blood pressure would be greatly alleviated!" the king said in a congratulatory message soon after the game in Dortmund. Watkins' goal was fit for a king.

He had only made one previous appearance at Euro 2024 - as a substitute in the group game against Denmark - so it was a surprise when he was introduced by Southgate in the 80th minute in England's biggest match so far.

The gamble paid off. Fed by another substitute in Cole Palmer, Watkins took a touch with his



England's Harry Kane challenges for the ball with Jerdy Schouten of the Netherlands during a semifinal match between the Netherlands and England at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Dortmund, Germany. (AP)

back to goal just inside the area and, from a tight angle, smashed a fierce shot into the bottom corner.

"Unbelievable - I've been waiting

for that moment for weeks," said Watkins, the Aston Villa striker who was the fourth-equal top scorer in the Premier League last season. "It's taken a

lot of hard work to get to where I am today. I got the opportunity and took it with both hands."

It was painful for Netherlands coach

Ronald Koeman.

"I had a feeling toward the end of the match that maybe we could score," Koeman said, "and for sure in extra

time I'd have put money on us."

England will play Lamine Yamal and Spain in Sunday's final in Berlin. It will be the nation's first title match on foreign soil, having won the World Cup in 1966 and lost to Italy in the Euro 2020 final - both times at Wembley Stadium.

"It's going to be unbelievably tough - a really difficult game," Kane said of the title match, with Spain widely regarded as the best team at the tournament. "One more game to make history."

The sea of orange in the giant South Stand at Dortmund's Westfalenstadion fell silent for the first time after Watkins' late goal. It housed the most vocal of the Dutch supporters who dominated the city center before marching in their thousands to the stadium ahead of the game. Police reported three separate clashes between fans from both countries in the city.

It gave the occasion the feeling of a home match for the Dutch and England was up against it even more after the 21-year-old Xavi Simons became the second youngest scorer for the Netherlands at a Euros.

The Paris Saint-Germain midfielder dispossessed Declan Rice about 40 meters (yards) out, drove forward and unleashed a shot into the far corner from outside the area.

Compared to the 16-year-old Yamal, Spain's new superstar, Simons is a soccer veteran but this was another case of a young player shining on the big stage at the Euros.

Kane has had plenty of big moments at major tournaments and he had another when he slotted home a penalty after Denzel Dumfries' outstretched leg made contact with Kane's foot as the England striker attempted a shot.

Kane became the sixth player to be on three goals for the tournament.

An open first half, which saw Dumfries and England's Phil Foden hit the goal frame, made way for a tight and tense second half that had a huge two-minute spell when Bukayo Saka had a goal disallowed before Kane and Foden were taken off.

## Al-Mansour shatters world record in finswimming



Mansour Al-Mansour celebrates with his coaches.

**BELGRADE, July 11:** Kuwaiti Fin swimming champion Mansour Al-Mansour shattered the world record in the Masters category, clinching the gold medal with a time of 16:06 seconds at the World Championship held in Belgrade, Serbia.

### FINSWIMMING

Additionally, Mohammed Al-Ajmi, another standout from our national team in flipper swimming, secured a bronze medal.

In the 50BF category, promising national team player Fahad Al-Kandari achieved two new national records. He clocked 11:58 in the 8x50 category and set a time of 4:00 in the 4x50 category.



Portugal's Joao Palhinha, (right), challenges for the ball with Slovenia's Andraz Sporar during a round of sixteen match between Portugal and Slovenia at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Frankfurt, Germany. (AP)

## One yr after failed bid, Bayern finally sign Portugal's Palhinha

**MUNICH, July 11, (AP):** A year after a high-profile failure to sign Portugal midfielder João Palhinha, Bayern Munich finally made the deal happen on Thursday.

Palhinha joins Bayern from English Premier League club Fulham for a reported fee of nearly 50 million euros (\$54.2 million) on a contract through June 2028, the Bavarian club announced. Palhinha, who helped Portugal to the quarterfinals at the European Championship, is the latest signing in a Bayern rebuild after the club's first

season without a trophy since 2012.

"Palhinha was highly sought after by FC Bayern even last summer, and rightly so. It was important that we never lost touch," Bayern board sporting director Max Eberl said. "João really wanted to come to Bayern, and we need players like that. He's an important building block for our future."

Bayern seemed sure to sign the player last year and the midfielder even traveled to Munich for a medical but the deal - reportedly worth 65 million euros (\$70 million) at the time - collapsed just before the end of the transfer window.

Thomas Tuchel, Bayern coach at the time, was keen to sign a more defensive-minded midfielder like Palhinha in a squad packed with midfielders like Joshua Kimmich and Leon Goretzka who liked to make attacking runs into the opponent's box. Two weeks after that, Palhinha signed a new contract at Fulham through the 2027-28 season.

Palhinha is the third new signing to be confirmed at Bayern since Vincent Kompany was hired as coach in May, after Stuttgart defender Hiroki Ito and Crystal Palace forward Michael Olise. Bayern has yet to sell any of its current first-team players in this transfer window.

Núñez, Uruguay teammates enter stands as fans fight

## Colombia edge Uruguay, set up final clash with Argentina

**CHARLOTTE, July 11, (AP):** Colombia is headed to the Copa America championship game for the first time in 23 years after a contentious win over Uruguay in which it played the second half a man short and players brawled with fans in the stands following the final whistle.

Jefferson Lerma scored in the 39th minute for a 1-0 win Wednesday night and a matchup with Lionel Messi and defending champion Argentina on Sunday.

"Until you overcome your weaknesses you cannot grow," Colombia coach Nester Lorenzo said through an interpreter. "And when you overcome those obstacles you can grow."

Daniel Muñoz was ejected in first-half stoppage time for an elbow that led to his second yellow card. Despite Uruguay having 61.9% possession, Colombia held on to reach the championship for the first time since winning its only Copa title as host in 2001.

Colombia extended its unbeaten streak to a team record 28 games, one more than from 1992-94 and the longest current streak in men's international soccer.

"They are very hungry as players and very eager and they really add many elements to their game beyond the tactical side," Lorenzo said.

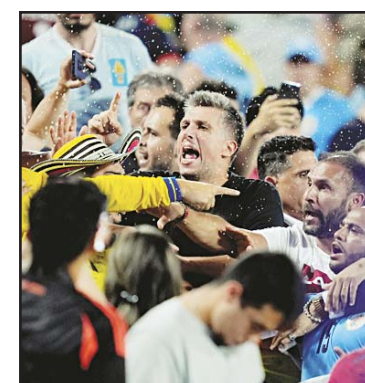
In a match that included seven yellow cards in addition to the red, players from both teams pushed and shoved in a scrum on the field at the final whistle. Darwin Núñez and about a dozen Uruguay teammates went into the stands as fans brawled.

A video showed Núñez hitting a fan in Colombian team colors.

CONMEBOL released a statement after the game saying that it strongly condemns any act of violence that affects the game.

"Our work is based on the conviction that soccer connects and unites us through its positive values," the organization said. "There is no place for intolerance and violence on and off the field. We invite everyone in the remaining days to pour all of their passion into cheering on their national teams and having an unforgettable party."

Defending champion Argentina and Colombia meet at Miami Gardens, Florida, in the tournament finale. The Albiceleste are seeking a record 16th Copa title and are looking to join Spain



Uruguay's players argue with fans at the end of a Copa America semifinal soccer match against Colombia in Charlotte, N.C. (AP)

from 2008-12 as the only countries to win three straight major championships.

Uruguay stays in Charlotte to meet Canada in Saturday night's third-place match.

Before an overwhelmingly pro-Colombia crowd of 70,644 that filled Bank of America Stadium with yellow jerseys and flags, Uruguay fell behind for the first time in the tournament.

James Rodríguez's corner kick was headed in from short range by Lerma, who outjumped José María Giménez for his third international goal and second of the tournament. Rodríguez has

six assists in the tournament -- triple the total of any other player.

Muñoz received his first yellow card from Mexican referee César Ramos in the 31st minute for a reckless slide tackle on Maximiliano Araújo and his second for elbowing Manuel Ugarte in the stomach.

Rodríguez was given a yellow card in the 55th minute for arguing with Ramos when the referee failed to stop play after Richard Ríos was kicked on a shin by Darwin Núñez.

### SOCCER

Ríos was removed on a stretcher, re-entered the match, then went down in another challenge and was substituted in the 62nd minute. Rodríguez was removed at the same time to keep him eligible for the final.

Colombia goalkeeper Camilo Vargas didn't have to make his first save until he stopped Nicolás de la Cruz in the 68th minute.

Luis Suárez, Uruguay's career leader with 68 goals, entered in the 66th minute and hit the outside of a post with a shot in the 71st. He grasped his head in his hands in disgust.

"The moments in which we could unbalance the game, we did not succeed," Uruguay coach Marcelo Bielsa said. "We should have generated more goal situations than we did."



Uruguay's Cristian Olivera, (left), and Colombia's Johan Mojica battle for the ball during a Copa America semifinal soccer match in Charlotte, N.C. (AP)