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Kuwait Metro encounters slow ride

Fruitless meetings, procedures delayed project for decades

Opinion

Kuwait needs 30 ministers to realize the dreams of its ruler

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

I HAVE been closely monitoring Kuwait's public affairs since 1962, and I am well versed in them. Therefore, I can confidently say that in all my years, I have never heard from officials at all levels what I heard in the speech delivered by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad during the oath-taking ceremony of the current Council of Ministers.

In his speech, His Highness the Amir said, "I will hold accountable those who fail to fulfill their duties. People are seeking actual achievements, and we aspire to unlimited generosity. I will oversee the implementation of your work. You must earn people's trust and support, as their trust is precious and priceless."

There is no doubt that His Highness is a man of his words, according to what is known about him. He believes that Kuwait currently needs a lot of work and increased effort, especially because parliamentarians and ministers were given free rein for about 61 years to pursue all their desires and whims at the expense of the people and the state.

Therefore, the changes, spanning 46 councils of ministers, about 20 national assemblies, with over 470 ministers and numerous parliamentarians, were deemed unreliable. This was due to the foundation being consistently based on deals struck between powerful parliamentary blocs, influential figures, and some members of the ruling house.

Instead of Kuwait developing under democracy to serve as the foundation for a strong and effective state with the ability to benefit from climates of freedom in opinion and expression, or the economy and society, it became more like cantons. Every sect, tribe, and family has its authority parallel to the authority of the state. It has almost become an "open-air market" where all forms of evil are exposed.

Also, things must be put into perspective, as the Almighty Allah said, "And do not deprive people of their things..."

It is therefore true that there were some reform attempts, but they were limited to formalities, and did not develop to change the essence.

That is why we have witnessed successive crises over the past three decades, which revealed flaws in the Constitution, something that His Highness the Amir highlighted on several occasions.

This includes his Amiri speech at the opening of the National Assembly on October 18, 2022 when his eyes became teary as he was reciting the verse, "Our Lord, let not our hearts deviate after You have guided us and grant us from Yourself mercy. Indeed, You are the Bestower."

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By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Kuwait Metro is a huge and long-awaited development project that has been subjected to numerous hurdles, prompting the State Audit Bureau (SAB) to include criticisms and

comments in its reports, due to the large number of procedures and meetings that took place to implement the project and the long period it took to study and present it – about 10 years ago.

The bureau's reports indicated the amounts spent on consultations that were concluded in accordance with the law.

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Beachgoers find respite from the scorching heat at Marina Beach on Saturday, with temperatures expected to peak at 50°C and drop to 38°C, as reported by the Kuwait Meteorology Department. The electricity load index set a new record at 17,275 megawatts, surpassing the previous high by 155 megawatts. – See Page 2

Photo by Samer Shiker

New airport to boost passenger travel

Eliminate hurdles in T2 project completion: minister

By Mohammad Ghanem Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan has confirmed that her ministry is determined to intensify its efforts to ensure the completion of the new passenger terminal (T2) at Kuwait International Airport, which significantly contributes to improving the passenger experience and expanding the capabilities to accommodate the expected increase in air traffic.

During her meeting with the contractor and the project's advisory office, Al-Mashaan pointed out that the T2 project is an affirmation of the commitment to developing the civil aviation sector and its vital role in supporting the country's economic growth; stressing the need to speed up the completion of the project to ensure it is done within the contract's timetable.

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Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, during the meeting with the contractor and the consulting office for the T2 airport project.

KUNA photo

Bid to curb pollution

Kuwait seeks to hike clean energy production to 30%

TOKYO, July 13, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Minister of State for Housing Dr. Mahmoud Bushehri has highlighted Kuwait's investments in renewable and clean energy to raise its percentage of the total produced energy to 30 percent in the next decade.

This came in his speech at the 5th session of the Arab-Japanese Economic Forum held in Tokyo on July 10-11, the Ministry of Electricity said in a press statement on Thursday.

He affirmed that the use of renewable and clean energy in producing electricity will help protect the environmental system from pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Kuwait is also striving to upgrade infrastructure and technologies related to the electricity grids' security and management and energy storage stations, he pointed out.

The Minister added that Kuwait is also keen on localizing renewable energy technologies to create more high-value job opportunities for nationals.

With a view to rationalizing electricity consumption, Kuwait started using smart electricity meters and AI technology in raising efficiency of power management in economic productive institutions and is considering restructuring electricity pricing system, he said.

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Newswatch

Kuwait M2 holds steady

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: In a recent announcement by the Central Bank of Kuwait, the financial landscape of the nation for the month of May was detailed, highlighting various aspects of monetary stability and shifts in banking activities, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The broad money supply (M2) was reported to have stabilized at 40.1 billion dinars, equivalent to approximately 131 billion dollars on a monthly basis.

This figure encapsulates the total volume of currency in circulation and deposits held in banks, reflecting a steady economic environment.

According to the bank's Economic Research Department, private sector deposits denominated in Kuwaiti dinars saw a slight increase of 0.2 percent in May, reaching 36.6 billion dinars (approximately 119.6 billion dollars). Conversely, deposits in foreign currencies experienced a 2.9 percent decline, settling at 1.85 billion dinars (about 6 billion dollars).

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KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip: Israel said it targeted Hamas' shadowy military commander in a massive strike Saturday in the crowded southern Gaza Strip that killed at least 71 people, according to local health officials. Hamas immediately rejected the claim that Mohammed Deif was targeted.

It was not immediately known whether Deif was among the dead. Israeli officials confirmed that he and a second Hamas commander, Rafa Salama, were the targets. A military official later said they were "still checking and verifying the result of the strike," and did not deny it took place inside the Israeli-designated safe zone. (AP)

'Major thrust for economy'

Finance Ministry gears up to host 1st budget forum July 14

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: On Sunday morning, July 14, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) is preparing to host the inaugural General Budget Forum 2024.

Officials and specialists will all gather under the distinguished patronage of Dr. Anwar Ali Al-Mudhaf, Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment.

Among them will be Aseel Sulaiman Al-Munifi, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance, to oversee the last-minute arrangements alongside assistant undersecretaries and experts from the General Budget Affairs Sector.

Their mission is to steer government agencies towards implementing the upcoming fiscal year's budget, 2024/2025, with precision and efficiency.

The forum promises more than just directives; it aims to refine the art of fiscal stewardship. Discussions revolve around aligning every decision, every circular, and every budgetary rule towards optimizing spending, while also addressing concerns over wasteful practices and regulatory compliance.

But the morning's agenda extended beyond immediate concerns. As the gathering progresses, attention will turn towards the horizon – the fiscal year 2025/2026.

Detailed guidelines and crucial instructions will be unveiled, outlining how each government agency should meticulously prepare their budgets within the limits set by the Ministry of Finance.

This commitment underscores adherence to Decree Law No. (31) of 1978, which outlines meticulous steps for preparing, monitoring, and finalizing general budgets.

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KRCS aid continues for displaced

By Fawaz Al-Otaibi

The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) continued on Friday its distribution of relief aid to people in southern Lebanon, affected by Israeli occupation's military aggression since October 7, 2023.

In a statement to KUNA, relief coordinator for the Lebanese Red Cross Yousef Boutros said that the KRCS is continuing its relief aid distribution to the Lebanese in cities and villages in the south whose security

had been threatened in the last three months by Israeli occupation attacks.

In coordination with KRCS, the Lebanese Red Cross' aid included food and cleaning supplies for over 2,000 Lebanese families since May, added Boutros.

The KRCS' aid, Boutros stated, was distributed to towns and villages in a five-kilometer radius from the shared border between Lebanon and occupied Palestine.

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A KRCS volunteer hands over a food parcel to a refugee.

KUNA photo

All Article 17 passports annulled, clarifies MoI

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Public Relations and Security Media Department at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) clarified in a statement published on its account on the X platform, that all passports issued under Article 17 are considered cancelled, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Individuals with humanitarian cases, such as those requiring treatment or study, must visit the Adan Center with a prior appointment made through the Ministry of Interior's website.

All passports are considered cancelled and humanitarian cases must visit the Adan Center by prior appointment.

Sources indicate that instructions have been issued to withdraw passports from arrivals and departures, with a receipt provided for review by the Nationality and Passports Department.

It is prohibited to complete any transactions for those whose nationalities have been withdrawn, except with a card issued by the Central Agency for Illegal Residents. This comes within the framework of further study and scrutiny by the competent authorities.

Informed security sources told Al-Seyassah daily that instructions have been issued to stop issuing Article 17 passports to illegal residents and to withdraw them from those arriving and departing, providing a

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Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:24	Asr	15:28
Sunrise ..	04:57	Maghrib ..	18:50
Zohr	11:54	Isha	20:20

Local

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

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-38.

By Night: Hot to rather hot with light to moderate northwest-

Weather

erly wind, with speeds of 12-35 km/h.	Abdaly	50	37
	Jahra	50	38
	Salmiyah	47	36
	Nuwaisib	50	36
	Wafra	50	37

In 2016 on this day the country witnessed an unprecedented danger

July 15th: Another milestone for victory of democracy in Türkiye

By Tuba Nur Sönmez

Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait

It has been eight years since Turkish people have bravely stood against the bloody coup attempt launched by the "Fethullahist Terrorist Organization" (FETO) targeting the foundation of Turkish democracy and its elected government.

On the night of July 15, 2016, Türkiye witnessed an unprecedented danger that threatened the very fabric of its democracy.

FETO affiliated army units or Putschists left their barracks to occupy key locations, such as the Bosphorus Bridge in Istanbul and fighter jets and attack helicopters bombed strategic targets including the Parliament, Presidential compound, army and police headquarters in the capital city of Ankara. They even tried to assassinate H.E. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The state broadcaster, TRT, was forced to read a statement proclaiming the so-called military takeover.

However, H.E. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, addressing the nation via a FaceTime call broadcasted on television, called on our citizens to defend their democracy. His appeal resonated deeply, galvanizing millions to resist the coup. Mosques broadcasted calls for unity and resistance, echoing the sentiment that democracy was worth defending at any cost.

Then, Turkish public rose with remarkable unity and courage and defended democracy with their lives, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to their democracy. Citizens from all walks of life, regardless of political affiliation, took to the streets in defiance of the coup. Men, women, and even children confronted armed soldiers and tanks, driven by a deep-seated belief in the sanctity of their democratic institutions thereby marking a "Victory of Democracy."

Nevertheless, the heinous plotters did not even hesitate using deadly military force against innocent civilians, martyring 251 people and leaving thousands injured. Police officer Ms. Zeynep Sağır, who has served in our embassy for 3 years, was also martyred in the attack of the traitors.

The crimes committed on the night of July 15th were just the tip of an iceberg. If the coup had succeeded, there would be no democracy, and fundamental rights and freedoms of Turkish nation would be frozen indefinitely. The nation would have fallen in the hands of an extremist government as the traitors attempted to usurp country's rule and law.

However, putschist could not estimate people's strong perseverance and heroism. FETO's long standing will to dominate whole country was defeated by people's will to protect democracy.



Tuba Nur Sönmez

On the other side, we have to understand the true nature of FETO. This terrorist organization was established in the late 1960's as a so-called "religious movement". In the guise of promoting education and inter-religious dialogue, it managed to cover its malign intentions.

The well-planned and wide-spread infiltration by FETO members and converts into the army, law enforcement, judiciary and numerous government institutions, was carried out for decades clandestinely for an overarching plan, of which the final phase was unleashed on July 15, 2016 with a coup attempt.

Due to complexity and gravity of this betrayal, the fight against FETO in and outside Türkiye has constituted one of the main priorities of our state. The perpetrators of the coup attempt have been brought to justice on the basis of the rule of law. FETO's organizational structure within governmental institutions has been revealed; administrative and judicial procedures have been started against its members.

We have a resolute determination to fight against FETO and eliminate any upcoming threat that may come from this heinous terrorist organization in the future.

The events of 15th of July will be forever etched in our collective memory as a testament to the power of brave citizens in defending their democratic way of life.

The courage and resilience of the Turkish public in the face of a grave threat to their democracy is an inspiring story of national unity and determination. It is a powerful reminder that the true strength of a nation lies in the hands of its people, and their unwavering commitment to the principles of democracy. For this reason, July 15 is commemorated as the "Day of Democracy and National Unity", a day to keep collective memory alive.

With these feelings, we remember with gratitude our martyrs and veterans, who defended democracy with their lives. They are the heroes of the "Century of Türkiye".

May Allah almighty (swt) grant those who sacrificed their lives heroically Jannah.

Unprecedented increase in temp pushes power use to record high

Sub-feeders malfunction led to power outage

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The electricity load index reached a new record high at noon on Saturday with 17,360 megawatts – 560 megawatts higher than the maximum load of 16,800 megawatts at the beginning of August 2023 – due to the remarkable rise in temperature that exceeded 49 degrees Celsius.

The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy announced that the above-mentioned record high power consumption was reached at 2:00 pm on Saturday with a temperature of 49 degrees Celsius.

Reliable sources from the ministry explained that the difference in the increase in Saturday's electrical load index is enough to supply electricity to an entire region. They cited the remarkable increase in temperatures as the cause of rise in power consumption rates, especially at noon. They said the 500 megawatts purchased from the Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnection Authority (GCCIA) and the 1,160 megawatts added to the power reserve in the past weeks put the ministry in the safety zone and even suspended the programmed power cuts.

After securing the required quantities of energy, the only remaining issue is the power outage common in any electrical network around the world during peak hours. This includes the resumption of the operation of feeders that were out of service due to malfunctions and combustion in one of the components of the transmission networks – main or secondary substations. The ministry's emergency teams immediately dealt with these malfunctions. It also stressed the need to continue the rationalization measures until the current summer season ends in September. This is done through the coordinated efforts of the ministry, other government agencies and productive sectors like the industrial, agricultural and commercial sectors, sources clarified.

In a related development, the ministry has confirmed that three sub-feeders in the main transmission station in Mina Abdullah malfunctioned recently; leading to a power outage in some parts of Ali Sabah Al-Salem.

In a statement on its X account, the ministry announced that the emergency teams were dispatched to the location to take the necessary measures and restore electricity as quickly as possible.

PAFN shuts facility, issues 42 citations in inspection tours

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) revealed the closure of a facility and the issuance of 42 citations during inspection tours of shops and central markets in Capital, Hawally and Jahra governorates during the weekend.

It explained that the inspection teams issued 18 citations for various violations during inspection tours in the Capital Governorate, 24 during inspection tours in Jahra Governorate, and 10 during inspection tours in Hawally Governorate where a facility was closed.

The violations varied between handling food without obtaining a health certificate, employing workers who do not have a health certificate, and not adhering to the rules and requirements of public hygiene during work, and operating a food facility after the expiry of its health license.

They also found a worker who was suffering from ulcers and was handling food without obtaining a report from the competent authorities concerning his fitness to work.

Meanwhile, PAFN announced the extension of receiving applications from major food companies wishing to invest in school canteens from today until Thursday, July 25, in accordance with the regulations related to school canteens and the ministerial Resolution No. 5/2021.

It highlighted that the required documents can be submitted either directly at its headquarters in Sabah Al-Salem or through its official website.



Photo by Rizk Taufiq

Ambassador HE Nusret Cancar poses for a photo.

Ambassador emphasizes deep-rooted ties between Kuwait, Bosnia and Herzegovina

By Paul Francis X. Fernandes

Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Ambassador of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Kuwait HE Nusret Cancar emphasized the deep-rooted and flourishing bilateral relations between Kuwait and Bosnia and Herzegovina, describing them as historic and excellent, spanning various levels and areas of cooperation.

Speaking at the commemoration of the 29th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, Ambassador Cancar underscored the significance of Kuwaiti-Bosnian relations, noting the historical contributions of Bosnian companies, including the construction of the iconic Kuwait Towers.

He highlighted the existence of bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding that have solidified cooperation in diverse fields since Bosnia and Herzegovina's independence.

Ambassador Cancar expressed satisfaction that Kuwaitis are increasingly recognizing Bosnia and Herzegovina as a unique destination for tourism and investment.

He mentioned Kuwaiti investments in Bosnian cities and the growing popularity of Bosnia as a tourist destination among Kuwaiti travelers.

Reflecting on the solemn occasion, Ambassador Cancar recalled the United Nations General Assembly's designation of July 11 as a

Ratio of Kuwait's female workers comes first in GCC states: official

LONDON, July 13, (KUNA): The percentage of Kuwaiti female workers ranked first in the GCC member states, reaching 56.9 percent in 2023, Dr. Lubna Al-Kadhi, head of woman research and studies center at Kuwait University, said on Friday.

Al-Kadhi made the statement while taking part, with a working paper, in a panel discussion on migration to the Gulf organized by the Gulf research center at Cambridge University, as part of the activities of the 14 forum of the Gulf research forum.

Kuwaiti females who are well educated constitute a

valuable resource of sustainable economy, she said, referring to the retirement age of Kuwaiti women rose to 53, with the aim of enhancing their participation in work.

Amending some laws that hinder women's participation in labor market paves the way for establishing a labor market in which citizens take part in an optimal way to achieve sustainable development aligning with Kuwait 2035 Vision (New Kuwait), Al-Kadhi noted.

Gender equity at labor market leads to increasing productivity and decreasing the need of migrant workers, she stated.

day to commemorate the Srebrenica genocide, emphasizing the importance of remembrance to prevent such atrocities from recurring.

He condemned denial of the genocide as a dangerous trend that could lead to further atrocities, drawing a parallel with current events in Gaza and urging international institutions to learn from history to prevent future tragedies.

In solidarity, Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Tuba Sonmez expressed condolences to the victims' families and reiterated Turkey's commitment to commemorating the genocide and preventing its recurrence, quoting the late Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic's poignant words: "Whatever you do, do not forget the genocide, because the forgotten genocide will be repeated."

Embassy celebrates Algeria's Independence Day

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Embassy of Algeria in Kuwait held an event to celebrate Algeria's Independence Day, corresponding to the fifth of July, in the presence of a distinguished presence from various segments of the Algerian community residing in Kuwait.

The event was held in a joyful and celebratory atmosphere filled with honor and pride in Algeria's history and present, with the participation of members of the embassy and Algeria's newly appointed Ambassador to Kuwait Abdelkader Qasimi Al-Hassani, who arrived in the country a few days ago and

was set to present his credentials to the Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya this morning.

In a press statement, the embassy affirmed that the Kuwaiti-Algerian relations are historical and deep.

It highlighted the important role played by Kuwait in supporting the Algerian revolution from the time of its inception until the Algerian people gained their freedom and independence on July 5, 1962.

The embassy highlighted that the Algerian people are celebrating the 62nd anniversary of Algeria's independence in honor of the sacrifices of its people who created the glory of the nation with their pure blood.

It also highlighted the symbolism of the event in serving as a reminder

to everyone that freedom is not a gift, but rather a right that must be defended and preserved with all feelings of pride and belonging to the homeland.

The embassy praised the members of the community in Kuwait for their active participation in the national development efforts, and their commitment to Kuwaiti laws.

It is worth highlighting that the Algerian Independence Day is the celebration of the anniversary of Algeria's independence after its liberation from French colonialism, which lasted more than 13 decades (132 years), thanks to the outbreak of the Great Liberation Revolution, which is considered the largest revolution in the 20th century.

'Bone cancer more prevalent among kids than adults'

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh, an oncology consultant, says bone cancer is a rare type of cancer and it usually affects children more than adults.

In a press statement issued on the occasion of the World Bone Cancer Month, Al-Saleh said, "There are no recent statistics on the prevalence of bone cancer in Kuwait. However, the latest statistics of the Kuwait Cancer Control Center for the period between 2010 and 2019 revealed that the number of infections among male citizens was 47 cases, with an age rate of 0.9 percent, and 35 cases among female citizens, with an age rate of 0.4 percent.

Bone cancers originate within the bone itself, which serves as a common site for the spread of certain types of cancerous tumors. For in-

stance, prostate cancer can metastasize from other areas of the body to the bones.

Chondrosarcoma is one of the most common types of bone cancer that affect those over the age of 50. Osteosarcoma and Ewing's sarcoma are the most common in children, as they arise in immature tissue in the bone marrow."

Regarding the symptoms of bone cancer, Al-Saleh explained that the most common symptoms of primary bone cancer are pain and weakness of bone that may lead to fracture. Most of the injuries are in the long bones such as the arms and legs, in addition to other less common symptoms such as fever, fatigue, and unintentional weight loss.

He stressed the need to pay attention to any sudden swelling in the bones, indicating that most cases are diagnosed after feeling pain from a mild injury, which leads to attention

to the swelling.

Dr. Al-Saleh added, "The injured person thinks that the tumor is due to the injury, but the truth is that the tumor had existed for a while but the injured person did not notice it before".

Regarding the causes of bone cancer, Dr. Al-Saleh indicated that the causes of primary bone cancer are unknown, but he confirmed the existence of a genetic relationship between this type of cancer and hereditary syndromes.

He said some bone diseases may be a contributing factor in the emergence of bone cancers, such as Paget's disease.

Dr. Al-Saleh explained that the treatment of bone cancer includes several therapeutic measures and procedures depending on the type of cancer, its stage, and the patient's health condition, and that it includes surgical treatment, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy.



Traffic congestion on Fourth Ring Road.

King Faisal Street temporarily closed

PART okays design for 4th RR development

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport is currently finalizing the design for the development of the Fourth Ring Road in Kuwait, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This project is crucial to enhancing road performance to accommodate future population growth and address existing traffic congestion issues.

Spanning 17 kilometers from the United Nations Roundabout to the Al-Mughira Bin Shuba intersection in Salmiya, the project will expand the road to three lanes in each direction and include the construction of 20 bridges, incorporating both new and existing structures.

The development plan focuses on upgrading all bridges, integrating pedestrian bridges, and rehabilitating existing services along the Fourth Ring Road.

The authority emphasizes environmental preservation, especially given the road's

proximity to densely populated areas, while seeking practical solutions to mitigate traffic congestion.

The project is being executed with the support of international and local consultants, following comprehensive studies to ensure alignment with Kuwait's standards and international specifications for such infrastructure projects.

Additionally, PART, in collaboration with the General Traffic Department, has announced a temporary closure of King Faisal Street at the Khaiteh Intersection from 12 midnight to 6 am for nine days, starting from yesterday until June 20.

This closure is necessary to facilitate the construction of an upper bridge at the intersection. Alternative routes have been designated for traffic heading to the airport and Kuwait City during this period, with road users urged to exercise caution and use alternative roads to minimize disruption.

Bachelors residing in residential areas targeted

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality has confirmed the continuation of the inspection campaign carried out by supervisory teams from the Engineering Audit and Follow-up Department in Hawally Governorate, according to the plan and timetable in this regard and in cooperation with the concerned government agencies like the ministries of Electricity and Interior, reports Al-Anba daily.

The campaign resulted in cutting off power supply in seven properties housing

bachelors in Salwa.

The department urged citizens and expatriates to cooperate with the concerned departments at the Municipality in reporting the presence of bachelors in private residential areas in order to take the necessary measures like eviction as per the law prohibiting bachelors from residing in these areas. It added the public can make such reports by calling the hotline number 139 or WhatsApp number 24727732, or by submitting a written complaint to the director of the Municipality branch in the governorate.

'Mideast region to remain US' thorny dilemma for decades'

"ONE of the most perplexing issues for observers is why the United States continues to maintain its strong military presence in the region, rather than shifting it to the Pacific where China poses the greatest strategic threat to American dominance," columnist Dr. **Noura Saleh Al-Majim**, wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"Despite a clear shift in American strategic orientation towards the Pacific since 2008, the U.S. military remains heavily engaged in the region.

"What is even more concerning is that this military presence appears to have no clear positive impact on the serious crises in the region. The area is engulfed in chaos, with nearly seven countries suffering from devastating civil wars that threaten their disintegration.

"This strong presence has been the subject of intense debate in Washington since 2009. A significant military, political, and academic faction argues for the necessity of a gradual but definitive withdrawal of these forces. They view the region as an unbearable burden and a trap draining the United States, which is already experiencing a general decline.

"From a strategic standpoint, this withdrawal perspective appears logical, as the United States no longer has vital interests in the region aside from the security of Israel.

"Furthermore, addressing the significant challenge posed by China requires focusing all efforts and not dispersing them in non-strategic areas, especially given the economic decline of American power.

"It is a well-established fact in international relations that when a major power enjoys overwhelming dominance in a region, it is reluctant to relinquish that dominance easily.

"Therefore, even if Washington aims for a complete withdrawal from the region, it will be gradual and extended over a long period. It is unlikely to be a complete withdrawal, as the US will retain some forces, albeit limited but highly effective, in the era of smart wars.

"More importantly, as long as Israel is in the region, there will inevitably be a US military presence, even if it is modest. Defending Israel's survival and security remains an eternal American commitment, often at the expense of Washington's broader strategic interests.

"Ultimately, the most critical strategic interest justifying the strong presence in the region over the Pacific is the region's vital strategic importance in countering China.

"Maintaining a robust military presence, especially naval, is crucial for global naval dominance. The region serves as a strategic nexus for the unrestricted passage of the U.S. Navy between the three oceans, making it easier to restrict the Chinese Navy and undermine its influence, particularly in the Indian Ocean.

"The region's proximity to the world's most important strategic straits, many of which are in the Indian Ocean and near the Arabian Sea, allows continued pressure on China's commodity and oil trade. Additionally, a strong presence in the region acts as a significant pressure point on China regarding energy imports, over half of which come from the Arabian Gulf.

"Given these factors, the continued American presence and superiority in the region have become crucial pillars in countering China.

"This does not preclude the gradual increase of the American presence in the Pacific, as the United States builds strong alliances against China and increases the number of troops redeployed from Afghanistan and Iraq.

"The wars in Ukraine and Gaza have also been pivotal in Washington's reassessment of its overall strategy in the region. These conflicts have highlighted the continued strategic importance of the region, particularly in terms of energy and its pivotal role within the Western coalition against the Eastern coalition led by China and Russia.

"Furthermore, Israel's survival, now under threat following the Al-Aqsa flood and the potential for a broad war between Israel and Iran and its proxies, remains a top priority.

"In summary, since 2009, the United States has settled on maintaining a strong military presence in the region to serve its strategic interests globally, primarily to counter China and to intervene when necessary to protect vital interests, particularly Israel's security.

"This has resulted in general chaos, with limited political engagement in the region. The Gaza and Ukraine wars were turning points in American strategic thinking, likely leading to an increased military and political presence in the region at the expense of the Pacific. Thus, the Middle East will remain Washington's thorny dilemma for decades to come."

Also:

"There is an ongoing effort by some newspaper columnists to shape public opinion within the local political scene, suggesting a preconceived agreement to support or frame events that occurred more than 40 or 50 years ago in a certain light," columnist **Yaqoub Abdulaziz Al-Sanea**, wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"This framing relates to the political circumstances following the dissolution of the National Assembly and the suspension of certain articles of the Constitution.

"Notable historical events in Kuwait's modern history, particularly after the Renaissance era and the issuance of the 1962 Constitution, include the dissolution of the National Assembly and the suspension of parliamentary life in 1976 and 1986.

"Despite the differences between these events and the dissolution of the 2024 Assembly, some writers persist in adding their often shifting opinions to the reasons behind this year's dissolution.

"Analyzing the reasons for this repetitive narrative, we see nothing but a culture of justification, a pragmatic approach, and a distinctive Kuwaiti style.

"These writers, distancing themselves from the National Assembly and its members, exploit the evolving political circumstances to direct accusations or gloat, even though they were not called upon to play the role of judge. Issuing final sentences of imprisonment for those violating publishing laws and then using these instances to gloat or defame is inappropriate for any journalist or publisher.

"The freedom of expression is not absolute. The public opinion climate, especially on social media and in some printed articles, suffers from the persistence of fake accounts and a lack of awareness about the limits and scope of publishing in its various forms.

"This is highlighted by references to the Publications Law 3/2006, the Information Technology Law 63/2015, Law 37/2014, and the Law 8/2008 for Electronic Media.

"The Ministry of Information can enforce the law's prestige on news services, ensuring compliance with neighboring laws and regulations, including the law regulating the legal profession and the code of honor.

"Publication crimes extend beyond state security or individual dignity, encompassing a wide range of offenses such as defamation, challenging public office, and publishing news that harms society.

"In conclusion, the Supreme Constitutional Court in Egypt has emphasized the principles of freedom of opinion and expression.

"Protection extends to all opinions, except those lacking social value or expressed in a manner that stifles public dialogue, incites unlawful actions, or is essentially obscene or damaging to reputation. Activating the National Unity Law could effectively address those who misuse freedom of expression to attack societal components, intentionally or unintentionally."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes



Dr Noura Al-Majim



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Chief of Staff Lt. Gen Al-Muzain during the inspection visit to Air Defense Corps.

Chief of Staff stresses training for air defense excellence

Chief of General Staff of Kuwait's Armed Forces Lt. Gen Bander Al-Muzain affirmed the importance of carrying on training and development human calibers to ensure permanent excellence of air defense systems.

Following paying an inspection visit to Air Defense Corps on Thursday, Al-Muzain expressed his pride for efforts made by the corps' staff, lauding their efficiency, which shows loyalty of the Armed Forces,

according to a news statement issued by the General Staff.

He underlined the significance of high alert and readiness to maintain security and safety of the country, calling for continuing this approach and enhancing potential during ongoing training and development.

Al-Muzain affirmed that the wise leadership has been paying much attention to provide all potential that ensures excellence and permanent preparedness of the country's

Armed Forces.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to maintain security and safety to the dear homeland under the leadership of His Highness the Amir, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and His Highness the Crown Prince.

Al-Muzain was received by the head of Air Defense Corps Maj. Gen. Khaled Saad and some officers, and he listened to the duties and missions of this corps. (KUNA)

Extensive security campaigns net 57 residency law violators

Citizen acquitted of stealing KD 12K from woman

By Munif Naif and Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Officers of the Special Forces and the Residency Affairs Investigation Department carried out an extensive security campaign against violators of the residency law in Mahboula and Fahaheel, which resulted in the arrest of about 57 violators of the residency law who were referred to the concerned authorities.

According to security sources, the security campaign was carried out by officers of the Special Forces and the Residency Affairs Investigation, led by the Assistant Undersecretary for Private Security Affairs Major General Abdullah Saffah and other security leaders. Such security campaigns will continue to pursue the violators of residency law and deport them from the country.

Club chief freed on bail: The Court of Appeals has suspended the enforcement of the ruling to imprison Arabi Club Chairman Abdulaziz Ashour for six months with hard labor and ordered his release on bail of KD5,000.

The court scheduled another session for next Thursday to announce its ruling on charges of insulting and challenging the integrity of a member of the judiciary.

During the recent trial, the lawyer of the accused, Attorney Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan, asked the court to halt the enforcement of the imprisonment ruling and to release his client on any bail amount it deems appropriate until the decision regarding the case is finalized.

The Public Prosecution had earlier charged Ashour and several others of disrespecting a Supreme Court judge by publishing a video clip of an interview of the accused on the social networking site 'Instagram'. The clip contained words and phrases that could undermine the judge's integrity and his commitment to the laws, as indicated in the investigations.

They were also charged with publishing the same video clip on the Instagram account of another defendant, considering the clip included words that would undermine the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

The accused also deliberately misused telephone communications to commit crimes that are the subject of the aforementioned accusations.

Citizen acquitted of swindling woman: The Criminal Court has acquitted a citizen of swindling a retired woman of KD12,000 by deluding her into investing in a bogus enterprise, reports Al-Anba daily.

The complainant said the accused contacted her after she responded to an investment company advertisement. He asked her to download a program and agree to an endorsement in the program, only to be surprised by the deduction of KD12,000 from her bank account – the equivalent of her pension for six months.

The Public Prosecution charged the accused with forging bank documents and stealing the victim's money through deception and fraud.

During the court session, the defendant's lawyer, Attorney Anam Haider, argued that the elements of the crime were non-existent. The lawyer also pointed out the absence of criminal intent and that the procedures followed in the arrest of the accused were invalid, as everything took place under circumstances not permitted by the law.

KD 250K worth Shabu seized: The Kuwait Ministry of Interior, as part of its ongoing efforts to combat smuggling and drug trafficking, has made a significant arrest, reports Al-Jarida daily. The Criminal Security Sector, in coordination with the General Department for Combating Narcotics, detained an individual attempting to smuggle approximately 25 kilograms of the narcotic substance Shabu. The drugs, valued at around 250,000 Kuwaiti dinars, were ingeniously concealed and were intercepted at a seaport. The suspect has been handed over to the Public Prosecution for legal action.

Power outage: The Ministry of Electricity and Water announced that three sub-feeders from the main power station, Ras B, have failed, resulting in a power outage in limited parts of the Rumaythiya area, specifically in blocks 6 and 7, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Emergency teams took the necessary measures and restored electricity as soon as possible.

Expat loses KD1,350 from 'bank account'

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: An expatriate reported Friday a significant theft from his bank account at Al Zahraa Police Station, where he works. He discovered that his entire balance of 1,350 dinars had been stolen, reports Al-Anba daily.

The victim recounted his experience, stating, "Last Monday, my colleague requested 69 dinars from me, so I asked him to send a payment link. I fulfilled the request using my banking app. About an hour later, I received a notification that my account balance was zero. I immediately contacted my bank's customer service and was informed that the transaction was legitimate and that the amount had been reserved for a purchase in an Asian currency."

The expatriate continued, "I tried to explain to the bank that I had not made any such purchase, but they insisted that the transaction was valid and had been processed correctly, including the card number, PIN, and other details. Eventually, the reserved amount was withdrawn, and my dinars were converted into an Asian currency."

A source explained that the expatriate might have fallen victim to one of two scenarios: either his phone was hacked by specialized hacking groups, or he unknowingly downloaded a malicious program that enabled these groups to steal his balance. These programs can also intercept OTPs (one-time passwords) meant for the victim's phone. The source emphasized the importance of caution, warning against engaging with calls from foreign numbers, chatting with unknown contacts, or downloading unreliable applications.

KD320 stolen: An expatriate has filed a complaint against an unknown person who claimed to be a local bank employee and stole KD320 from his bank account, reports Al-Anba daily.

The complainant told police that the suspect called him using a local mobile number to inform him about the need to update his bank card and demanded for his bank information. The supposed bank employee said he will be provided with the OTP only to be surprised later that four transactions were performed on his bank account. His entire account balance amounting to KD320 was stolen.

A bank document forgery case, classified as felony, was referred to the Commercial Affairs Prosecution.

In addition, a security source reiterated the call for citizens and expatriates to never give their bank account number or password to any caller. He disclosed there have been many complaints about receiving calls from people asking for information to update their data, including the first four digits of the card number or the civil identification number, then the customers are instructed to complete the rest of the civil identification numbers, and they are lured into revealing their secret numbers. After obtaining all these data, the scammers can empty the bank account, since they have the card and secret numbers.



The large amount of money seized.

Securitymen nab perplexed Egyptian man with KD 50K

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: A Egyptian resident was found in possession of about KD 50,000 in Jabriya, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In this regard, the Ministry of Interior said, "As part of the efforts of the Public Security Sector to arrest wanted persons and outlaws, the Hawally Security Directorate stopped a resident of an Arab nationality as he was leaving a building in a state of confusion and trying to hide a large sum of money from an unknown source.

When proof was requested, he tried to escape, so he was nabbed and referred along with the seized amount to the concerned authority for necessary legal measures.

One dies in road accident

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: This morning, a tragic accident occurred on Al-Salmi Road involving a German vehicle and a water tanker, resulting in the death of the German vehicle's driver, reports Al-Anba daily.

Firefighters arrived promptly on the scene to extricate the driver's body from the severely damaged vehicle. The deceased has been transferred to the forensic medicine department for further examination.

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Mol, MEW to coordinate on integrated plan

900 plots in Jleeb blocked due to major violations

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: In a letter sent to Farwaniya Municipality, the Director of Engineering Audit and Follow-Up Department in Farwaniya Municipality Jassem Al-Khedhr said 900 plots in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh have been blocked due to major violations related to construction measures and the use of buildings for irrelevant purposes, reports Al-Qabas daily.

He explained that the total number of residents in the six blocks located in the east of Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh is 148,500 with about five individuals in each room, considering the average number of rooms in each plot as 30.

The number of plots and residents in each block are as follows:

■ Block 1 - 202 plots occupied by 30,300 individuals

■ Block 2 - 212 plots occupied by 31,800 individuals

■ Block 3 - 245 plots occupied by 36,750 individuals

■ Block 4 - 219 plots occupied by 32,850 individuals

■ Block 21 - 60 plots occupied by 9,000 individuals

■ Block 19 - 52 plots occupied by 7,800 individuals

Al-Khedhr highlighted that coordination will be held with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Electricity and Water and the relevant authorities to develop an integrated plan aimed to deal with violations in line with the Bachelor Rent Law No. 125/1992 including partial power cuts, and the issuance of citations for buildings that are constructed without obtaining the necessary licenses.

MC addresses several pressing issues filed by citizens, entities across Kuwait



Kuwait Insurance CEO Sami Sharif, (left), with Umniah CEO Sanaa Al-Ghamlas, (center), and Fajer Al-Sayegh, Director of Communications at Kuwait Insurance.

Initiative supports sustainability

Kuwait Insurance partners with Umniah to hoist recycling efforts

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Kuwait Insurance Company has reinforced its commitment to environmental sustainability by entering into a strategic partnership with Umniah aimed at collecting and recycling plastic materials, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This initiative underscores the company's dedication to corporate social responsibility and its efforts to safeguard the environment. The agreement, signed in the presence of Kuwait Insurance CEO Sami Sharif and Umniah CEO Sanaa Al-Ghamlas, marks a significant step towards promoting a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

By reducing waste and encouraging recycling, both organizations aim to improve future generations' quality of life.

Fajer Al-Sayegh, Director of Communications at Kuwait Insurance, expressed her satisfaction with the partnership, emphasizing its alignment with the company's strategy to support eco-friendly initiatives under Kuwait's 2035 vision

for sustainable development.

She highlighted the installation of special collection containers throughout the company premises for employees to deposit plastic and recyclable materials.

Umniah conducted a seminar for Kuwait Insurance employees, educating them on the importance of recycling and providing guidance on sorting and using the Umniah application for efficient material collection.

The application facilitates the sorting and recycling process, enhancing effectiveness in reducing environmental impact.

Kuwait Insurance Company has previously initiated various environmental conservation campaigns, including beach clean-ups, paper waste recycling agreements, and sponsorship of the Kuwait Sustainability Exhibition.

Al-Sayegh commended Umniah for its role in promoting recycling culture and educating future generations on environmental sustainability.

Committee upholds municipal laws

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: In its recent session chaired by Saud Al-Kandari, the Objections and Complaints Committee of the Municipal Council addressed several pressing issues submitted by citizens and entities across Kuwait.

One of the notable decisions made was the approval of a citizen's complaint concerning the unlawful attachment of a chalet in Nuwaiseeb area, Block 11, Block 3, which violated building regulations.

This decision highlighted the committee's commitment to upholding municipal laws and ensuring compliance with zoning and construction standards.

Among the 15 complaints reviewed, the committee referred six to the executive body for further action. These included a significant complaint regarding violations of private housing laws by the Indian community in Khaitan, Blocks 5 and 10, as well as concerns raised by a company regarding delays in an agricultural expansion project.

Additionally, a female citizen's objection to the municipality's stance on property reorganization was forwarded, along with a proposal advocating for the transformation of a northern Kuwait camping area into a desert-groves' park.

In a demonstration of procedural adherence, the committee preserved certain complaints for future consideration.

These included issues related to the construction of a mosque in Al-Masayel and disputes over properties such as the building in Hawally and the Egyptian Consulate headquarters in Al-Salam area.

The latter complaint underscored

MoE announces grade 12 results

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Ministry of Education announced that the results for the second round of the twelfth grade for the academic year 2023-2024 are now available on its website and the "Sahel" application, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Ministry made this announcement on its account on the "X" platform, inviting students to view the results for the scientific, literary, and religious education departments at moe.edu.kw.

Additionally, the Ministry announced that students can now submit grievances regarding the second-round results for the twelfth grade (scientific, literary, religious education) on its website. This window for submitting grievances opened Friday and lasts until Sunday. Each student can submit grievances for up to three subjects.

diplomatic nuances, emphasizing that consulates and embassies are governed by international protocols rather than local housing laws, thus requiring coordination with Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Regarding telecommunications infrastructure, the committee addressed concerns over towers on association premises, noting ongoing efforts by tower owners to comply with new regulations within an 18-month grace period.

Furthermore, the committee responded to complaints concerning residential violations, including the eviction of bachelors from properties in Salwa and commercial activity approvals for a beauty salon in an investment residence.

HH Amir, Crown Prince and PM extend wishes to Montenegro on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, July 13, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Saturday cable of congratulations to the President of the Republic of Montenegro Jakov Milatovic, on the occasion of his country's national day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the president good health and further prosperity and progress for the friendly country and people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Saturday a cable

of congratulations to the President of the Republic of Montenegro Jakov Milatovic on the occasion of his country's national day.

In his cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished the president good health and further progress.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Saturday a cable of congratulations to the President of the Republic of Montenegro Jakov Milatovic on the occasion of his country's national day.



Initiative to treat cholera patients in Yemen.

KUNA photo

Najat Charity provides medicine to 1K cholera patients in Yemen

KUWAIT CITY, July 13, (KUNA): Kuwait's Najat Charity chief Mohammad Al-Ansari has stated that the society had provided urgent medicine to 1,000 cholera patients in Yemen.

Al-Ansari told KUNA that the project was in coordination with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Social Affairs and in cooperation with official societies.

He took note of Kuwait's humanitarian efforts in Yemen, including establishment of schools, hospitals, mosques, orphanages, desalination plants, homes and other developmental projects.

Al-Ansari thanked all those who contributed to the campaign, saying that such projects make a tangible difference in the lives of others.

Contracts to be implemented in 900 days

PAHW signs KD 41.8 mln deals for service buildings in Al-Mutlaa city

KUWAIT CITY, July 13, (KUNA): The Public Authority For Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced Thursday the signing of two contracts, evaluated at KD 41.8 million (about USD 136.8 million), to set up 25 service buildings in four neighborhoods in Al-Mutlaa residential city.

The contracts will be implemented in 900 days, acting general director of the authority Rashed Al-Enzi said in a news statement issued by the corporation.

He added that the first contract includes establishing a number of shops, one high school for boys and another for girls and two kindergartens in the suburb of (N1) and (N2).

He noted that the second contract is for establishing a primary school for girls, a kindergarten, a gas branch in the suburb (N4) as well as some shops, four schools for primary and middle stages, and another for kindergartens in the suburb (N2).

Al-Enzi said that the authority is following up on the implementation of 20

service buildings in the two districts (N9-N10).

He added that each one includes a health center, an ambulance, a central market, a group of shops, a police station, a municipal building, a social unit, a community development center, a post office, and an office for the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

He referred to other contracts that will be signed to set up 20 service buildings in N5, N6, N7, N8, N9, N10 and N12. They contain some facilities for children and shops as well as schools and others.

Some 20 schools, 26 mosques, three medical centers, two ambulance centers, 20 groups for shops, two central markets, four gas branches, two police stations and others have been established, he revealed.

He pointed out that there is coordination with the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy to get this service, indicating that power was supplied to 115 government buildings.



Al-Mutlaa Residential City project.

Bank committed to supporting youths

Farwaniya Governor honors HS graduates

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi sponsored a ceremony held recently at the governorate's head office in honor of outstanding students -- those who ranked first among the graduates of public secondary schools in the governorate, reports Al-Anba daily.

Present at the event were Senior Director of the Corporate Communications Sector at Commercial Bank Yousef Mohsen and acting Director of the Farwaniya Educational District Jassim Bu Hamad.

Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser expressed his happiness over the achievements of the students; affirming that he is keen on supporting them, especially since they deserve to be honored, as they build nations and they are the fu-

ture of the country. He congratulated the students and their parents, wishing them continued success in the future and urged them to serve as role models for their classmates.

Meanwhile, Mohsen affirmed that Commercial Bank is committed to supporting the youths, particularly the top high school students; indicating this is part of the bank's corporate social responsibility.

Bu Hamad praised Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser for his unwavering support for the students, which reflects his commitment to achieve educational goals and provide the students with an environment conducive for learning.

The parents thanked Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser for supporting their children.

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Kuwaiti leaders congratulate President Vila Nova and Maamau

Amir wishes Sao Tome, Principe and Kiribati on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, July 13, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Friday a cable of congratulations to Sao Tome and Principe President Carlos Vila Nova on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the President everlasting health and further progress and prosperity for the friendly country and people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent Friday a cable of congratu-

lations to Sao Tome and Principe President Carlos Vila Nova on the occasion of his country's Independence Day, wishing him good health and wellness.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent Friday a cable of congratulations to Sao Tome and Principe President Carlos Vila Nova on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations Friday to President of the Republic of Kiribati

Taneti Maamau on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

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

His Highness the Crown Prince Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Friday to President of the Republic of Kiribati Taneti Maamau on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

In the cable, His Highness wished

First Deputy Premier, envoys tackle enhancing relations

KUWAIT CITY, July 13, (KUNA): Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah on Wednesday discussed with

ambassadors means of enhancing relations and developing joint work with friendly countries.

A statement by Chief of the General Staff said that Sheikh Fahad Al-Yusuf

separately received Ambassadors of Qatar, Tunisia, Czech Republic and Yemen.

They discussed issues of mutual concern and the recent regional and international developments, it said.

the President a long and healthy life and his country and its friendly people further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah also sent Friday a cable of congratulations

to President of the Republic of Kiribati Taneti Maamau on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

Ensuring integrity in workforce

Kuwait forms committee to verify academic certificates

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: In an ongoing effort to combat the use of forged academic certificates and ensure the validity of academic qualifications, the Council of Ministers has established a six-member committee, reports Al-Rai daily. This committee, chaired by the Fatwa and Legislation Department, will scrutinize the academic credentials of employees in both government and private sectors, including citizens and residents.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Sherida Al-Maousherji, was tasked with forming the committee. It comprises representatives from five key government agencies: the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice, and the Civil Service Bureau.

This decision is part of the government's broader initiative to eliminate forged certificates in the public and private sectors, promoting fairness and equality among employees and job candidates. It aligns with efforts to combat corruption, uphold academic integrity, and ensure educational quality.

The Ministry of Higher Education has already set up a committee to review post-secondary educational certificates obtained outside Kuwait since 2000, for both citizens and residents. This move follows directives from the Council of Ministers.

The Civil Service Bureau has requested all ministries and government agencies under its purview to submit comprehensive data on higher education certificates for their employees, including those in the private sector. This includes providing details of all

post-secondary qualifications obtained since January 1, 2000.

The Fatwa and Legislation Department has asked for a list of employees holding qualifications above secondary school, along with copies of their academic credentials, specializations, awarding universities, and countries, as well as the equivalency of these qualifications as verified by the Ministry of Higher Education.

Should any forged certificates be found, the authorities will be informed to initiate the cancellation of appointments and take legal action against the individuals involved.

Dr Al-Hassan critical with some websites

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Dr. Dalal Al-Hassan, a specialist in surgery and emergency medicine, confirmed that several news websites republished her statement to Al-Seyassah about the effect of temperature.

She noted that these websites did not handle the information professionally, and some even used a photo that was not hers.

Dr. Al-Hassan believes this behavior demonstrates the randomness of some websites that quote major newspapers like Al-Seyassah without properly citing the source of the news.

SAB affirms commitment to protect human rights of expatriate workers

PAM suspends 158,179 employer files in 2023

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The State Audit Bureau (SAB) has affirmed Kuwait's commitment to protect the human rights of expatriate workers; as well as the implementation of the Constitution and the State's laws, amendment

of laws and regulations, and issuance of decisions to protect the rights of all parties, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily obtained a copy of SAB's report, following up the recommendations for evaluating the effectiveness of government measures in reducing the number of marginal workers in the year 2024.

According to the report, the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) has regulated the issuance of work permits through the announcement of the list of rules and procedures in this regard as per Administrative Resolution No. 156/2022. The authority has also activated the law criminalizing visa trafficking, toughened penalties for perpetrators and referred the files of violating employers to the judicial authority in a bid to deter visa traders.

In the past year (Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2023); PAM suspended 158,179 employers' files for violating the Labor Law or the decisions implementing it. Out of these files; 143,331 were automatically suspended; 14,848 files were administratively suspended and 7,896 were referred to the Investigations General Department for violating the Labor Law.

When the bureau pointed out the absence of statistics on Labor Law violations for the year 2021, PAM explained this was due to the discontinuation of the system it used earlier and the launching of a new system. Nevertheless, the bureau stressed the need to include the outputs of the new system to the statistics for the authority to evaluate it and determine if it is necessary to return to the old system.

The bureau underscored the need to impose harsher punishment on those who employ workers despite the expiration of their contract as this is a violation of the Labor Law, Constitution and international regulations; in addition to harming the State and wasting its humanitarian work at the international and regional levels.

The bureau recommended studying the reasons for the annual increase in the number of workers, decrease in the number of departing workers compared to those arriving and the impact of this on the State's services and infrastructure. PAM stated that the labor market in Kuwait depends on the law of supply and demand, so the increase or decrease in the number of workers is subject to many variables.

PAM monitored the movement of expatriate workers over the last three years; indicating their increased by 21 percent from 2021-2023 -- 1,275,053 in 2021 to 1,545,078 in 2023.

The authority attributed the disparity in the number of expatriate workers at the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022 to the number of expatriate workers leaving the private sector or the country.

The bureau recommended the continuation of awareness programs for expatriate workers to know their legal, material, living rights and duties.

PAM responded by focusing on programs aimed at educating expatriate workers about their rights and duties and providing them with the correct and comprehensive information, which increase their knowledge about their rights and protect them from exploitation.

The bureau affirmed that PAM is performing its role in terms of providing social protection to expatriate workers in accordance with international laws and agreements.

It also recommended the establishment of controls for expatriate workers and the implementation of a program for national workers to replace expatriates without affecting the economic activities in the country.

PAM stated that it has no replacement policy, but the decision on national labor rate specified a certain percentage of national workers in each sector; thereby, requiring companies to employ the specified percentage of Kuwaiti employees. The percentage varies across the sectors, depending on which sectors attract national workers and the educational outputs that cover the imposed percentages.

Following are the vital figures in SAB's report: 143,331 files were automatically suspended in 2023

14,848 files were administratively suspended in 2023

770 percent of total increase recorded in 2023 compared to 2020

9,617 percent increase in violations leading to permanent suspension of files since 2022



Ministry of Health

MOH approves 282 employees for scholarships, study plans 2024-25

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Ministry of Health has announced the approval of 282 male and female employees for the scholarship, study leave, and delegation plan for the year 2024-2025, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This initiative aims to enhance the competence of health personnel across various specializations in Kuwait. The plan encompasses postgraduate studies in technical, administrative, and engineering fields, as well as bachelor's and diploma degrees in technical specialties such as genetic medicine, public health, radiology, clinical psychology, nutrition, nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, laboratories, audiology, and medical emergencies, among others.

The Ministry congratulated all suc-

cessful candidates and emphasized that their acceptance was confirmed through direct communication to ensure a smooth and organized process.

This initiative underscores the Ministry's commitment to continuously developing the professional and academic levels of its employees.

By equipping healthcare practitioners with the latest knowledge and skills, the Ministry aims to elevate the quality of healthcare services provided to patients and enhance overall healthcare standards in Kuwait.

Furthermore, this initiative is part of a comprehensive strategy aimed at cultivating national competencies capable of addressing diverse health challenges and delivering advanced healthcare services to all segments of society in Kuwait.

Eliminate hurdles

Continued from Page 1

In a press statement after the meeting, Al-Mashaan disclosed that her ministry is coordinating with the concerned authorities to resolve issues and overcome all obstacles in order to complete the project within the specified date.

She also asserted that the people of Kuwait should work as one team to implement projects and improve services that contribute to the advancement of the country's status in various fields.

All Article 17

Continued from Page 1

receipt for review by the Nationality and Passports Department.

The Ministry of Interior began withdrawing passports yesterday afternoon and is considering establishing a new mechanism for issuing passports in coordination with the Central Agency for Illegal Residents.

Al-Seyassah learned that the Ministry of Interior issued a circular prohibiting any transactions for individuals whose nationalities have been revoked, except in accordance with a card planned to be issued by the Central Agency for Illegal Residents. The circular emphasized that all ministry agencies must implement it with precision.

Informed sources indicated that the agency coordinated with relevant authorities to issue cards to individuals whose nationalities were withdrawn, reflecting their correct legal status according to decrees issued for each case individually. These cards will grant access to education and health services only.

The head of the Central Agency for Illegal Residents requested the Minister of Social Affairs, Dr. Anthal Al-Huwailah, to issue circulars to all government agencies under her authority, stipulating that no transactions be completed for individuals whose Kuwaiti nationalities were recently revoked, except after referring to the agency, with the necessity of provid-

Board approves acceptance of non-Kuwaiti students

PAAET decides to enhance educational standards and administrative processes

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Following a recent meeting chaired by Dr. Adel Al-Adwani, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, significant decisions were taken by the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) to enhance educational standards and administrative processes, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam, Director General of PAAET, outlined several key resolutions. Firstly, the Board approved the acceptance of non-Kuwaiti students based on available vacancies and specific financial fees, marking a pivotal shift towards greater inclusivity and international engagement.

Additionally, measures were endorsed to allow dismissed students, due to prolonged stays or academic performance issues, to continue their studies at their own expense, under stringent controls.

Central to the meeting was the approval of PAAET's strat-

tegic plan for 2023-2028, developed in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and the Arab Planning Institute.

This strategic blueprint aligns with Kuwait's vision for 2035 (New Kuwait 2035), emphasizing advancements in education and training.

A new promotion system for faculty members in colleges was also greenlit, set to roll out in the second semester of the 2024/2025 academic year.

Key features of this system include a complete transition to electronic promotions, an earlier submission window for promotion requests, and the establishment of a central committee to vet scientific publications for neutrality and objectivity.

Dr. Al-Fajjam emphasized the promotion of a scientific invention culture within PAAET, noting that patents could now constitute up to 20 percent of the total scientific output submitted for promotion consideration.

Kuwait needs

Continued from Page 1

All of this is because the actual ruler in the country was the National Assembly, not the government or other authorities. Many laws were passed that led to the closure of the country, an attempt to change the nature of society, and undermine its economy.

Other resources required for the country's sustainable development lay dormant including using some of the funds invested abroad, which are high risks, in infrastructure, development projects, or other proper use of sovereign funds to serve Kuwait and its people.

Regarding financial matters, there are many laws that the Council of Ministers must review, approve, and amend as necessary to expedite progress towards development.

His Highness's commitment to restoring Kuwait's leadership, and his pledge to hold negligent individuals accountable, should remain foremost in the minds of all ministers.

We have to admit that everyone is aware of the great prosperity that awaits the GCC countries as a result of their stability. Currently, and with the intensification of global crises, they will be a refuge for experts, doctors, engineers, and investors. It will also be a medical, educational and recreational oasis.

This means that Kuwait must expedite the development of all its facilities to ensure it remains competitive in revitalizing the country.

Therefore, His Highness's vision for the next stage is what the Council of Ministers must work to achieve. He is watching and will hold them accountable. He constantly follows up their work, due to which they must avoid the wrath of the forbearing.

For all this, it must be emphasized that Kuwait needs 30 ministers in order to achieve the dreams of its ruler, and banish the specter of overlapping powers.

Finance Ministry

Continued from Page 1

Ministry of Finance is poised to guide the nation's financial future through careful planning and strategic foresight. The forum isn't just a meeting -- it is a cornerstone in Kuwait's journey towards economic resilience and sustainable growth.

KRCS aid

Continued from Page 1

Moreover, the KRCS' relief and contributions extend to its permanent "loaf project," aiding and supplying food to thousands of Syrian and Lebanese families and refugees over the years. (KUNA)

Kuwait Metro

Continued from Page 1

It also criticized the previous move to cancel the project due to the huge cost for the State.

Sources from the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) confirmed in a statement to the newspaper that the Kuwait Metro project is included in its plan, but the implementation was postponed until the organizational structure of the authority is completed and the Board of Directors and the director general are appointed.

Sources revealed the authority has gone through difficult circumstances and challenges over the past few years, including some ministers seeking to abolish it and merge it again as a sector in the Ministry of Public Works. Sources said this was prevented through the rejection of the abolition procedures by the Public Utilities and Budgets committees in the previous National Assembly.

Sources added these challenges contributed to the suspension of many PART projects, including the Metro; as well as its failure to fully exercise

World News Roundup

Europe

Shelling kills 2 in Kherson; fire at oil depot: Russian shelling of Ukraine's Kherson region killed two people, local officials said, as the two countries exchanged drone attacks overnight into Saturday.



Golubev

Two others were wounded in the attack close to the regional capital, said Oleksandr Prokudin, governor of the partly occupied Kherson region.

In Russia's southwestern Rostov region, an oil depot in the Tsimlyansky District, deep inside the region, was set ablaze in the early hours of Saturday following a Ukrainian drone attack - the latest long-range strike by Kyiv's forces on a border region.

Ukraine has in recent months stepped up aerial assaults on Russian soil, targeting refineries and oil terminals in an effort to slow down the Kremlin's war machine. Moscow's army is pressing hard along the front line in eastern Ukraine, where a shortage of troops and ammunition in the third year of war has made defenders vulnerable.

Rostov regional Gov **Vasily Golubev** said the drone attack had caused a fire spanning 200 square meters (2,100 square feet), but there were no casualties.

In addition to two drones being intercepted over the Rostov region, Russian air defense systems overnight destroyed two drones over the country's western Kursk and Belgorod regions, the Russian Ministry of Defense said. (AP)

Russia passenger jet crash kills 3 crew: A Russian passenger jet crashed Friday near Moscow while flying without passengers, killing its crew of three, officials said.

The Sukhoi Superjet 100 plummeted into a forest near the village of Apraksino about 90 kilometers (55 miles) southeast of the Russian capital, according to emergency officials.

The plane belonged to Gazprom avia, a carrier owned by the Russian state-controlled natural gas giant Gazprom.

Gazprom avia said the plane took off from an aircraft-making plant at Likhovitsy 110 kilometers (68 miles) southeast of the Russian capital where it had undergone repairs. It was heading to Moscow's Vnukovo airport when it crashed eight minutes after takeoff.

The cause of the crash wasn't immediately known, but some Russian media reports indicated that both of the plane's engines may have failed, probably because of birds getting into them on takeoff. (AP)

Zelenskyy takes case for US aid to govts: Away from Washington, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy sought to broaden support for US military aid by telling state governors Friday that the world's leaders should see for themselves the carnage wrought since Russia invaded his country more than two years ago.

Zelenskyy's plea at the National Governors Association summer meeting in Salt Lake City came days after NATO leaders met in the US capital and pledged more help for Ukraine.

"The only thing we ask for is sufficient support - air defense systems for our cities, weapons for our men and women on the frontline, support in protecting normal life and rebuilding," Zelenskyy told the governors. "This is all we need to withstand and drive Russia from our land and to send a strong signal to all other potential aggressors which are watching."

NATO members this week agreed to a new program to provide reliable military aid to Ukraine and prepare for its eventual membership in the alliance. They declared Ukraine was on an "irreversible" path to join NATO and, for the first time, that China was a "decisive enabler" of Russia in the war. (AP)

King Charles III hosts Elba: We hear you. That was the simple message offered to a group of young people hosted in London on Friday by King Charles III, who also invited Hollywood megastar Idris Elba and Prime Minister Keir Starmer to St. James' Palace to discuss the troubles that young people face.

Elba, the London-born star of "The Wire" and "Luther," has used his celebrity status to shine a light on youth violence, urging the British government to ban machetes and serrated "zombie" knives to help stop young people from falling victim to knife crime.

"This topic has always had a spike in interest when we lose a life," Elba said. "I think where we are right now ... our country is wanting to have some change and is consistently banging on that door for change."

In the UK, which has strict gun-control laws, about four in 10 homicides involve a knife or sharp instrument. But knife crime involving young people in Britain's cities has prompted particular concern. (AP)

Man arrested in UK over human remains: British police said Saturday they have arrested a man in connection with the deaths of two men whose remains were found in two suitcases in southwest England.

The Metropolitan Police said armed officers detained a 34-year-old suspect at a train station in the city of Bristol early Saturday.

Police also said more human remains were found at an address in Shepherd's Bush, west London, the previous day, believed to be connected to those found in the suitcases dumped near the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol on Wednesday.

Forensic officers wearing blue suits and masks could be seen working behind the cordon at the crime scene in Shepherd's Bush, west London, on Saturday morning. (AP)

Poland's centrist gov't suffers defeat: Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk and his centrist coalition government suffered a bitter defeat Friday in parliament, where a slim majority rejected legislation that would have eased the strict anti-abortion law.

The vote was 218-215 with two abstentions to reject the liberalization draft.

Tusk and his liberal Civic Coalition parliamentary caucus supported the draft that would have lifted the current punishment for persons aiding women in abortion. They face up to three years in prison.

The liberalization was a key element in Tusk's program of reversing various policies of the previous right-wing government that have drawn massive protests.

However, some lawmakers of the wider ruling coalition - notably most of the agrarian Polish People's Party, but also some others - voted against the change, exposing cracks in the governing bloc. (AP)

Finnish lawmakers OK controversial law: Finnish lawmakers on Friday narrowly approved a controversial bill that will allow border guards to turn away third-country migrants attempting to enter from neighboring Russia and reject their asylum applications because Helsinki says Moscow is orchestrating an influx of migrants to the border.

The government's bill, meant to introduce temporary measures to curb migrants from entering the Nordic nation, is a response to what Finland sees as "hybrid warfare" by Russia. It believes Moscow is funneling undocumented migrants to the two countries' border.

The temporary law, valid for one year, was approved by 167 lawmakers - the minimum needed for it to pass in the 200-seat Eduskunta, or Parliament. (AP)

Hungary's Orbán faces backlash: Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has made a Trumpian vow to "Make Europe Great Again" during his country's six-month presidency of the European Union. As a first step last week, he astonished his allies by making a surprise trip to Ukraine -- his first since Moscow invaded the country -- followed by similarly unannounced visits to Russia and China for talks with two of the EU's primary adversaries.

The EU's longest-serving leader - who has endorsed former President Donald Trump and is known as having the warmest relations with Vladimir Putin in the bloc - wrapped up a NATO summit in Washington on Thursday before traveling to Trump's Mar-a-Lago compound - his latest stop on what he calls a "peace mission" aimed at brokering an end to Russia's war in Ukraine. (AP)



US President Joe Biden speaks at Renaissance High School on July 12 during a campaign event in Detroit. Biden on Friday forcefully defied the growing number of critics in his own party who have called on him to exit the race, pivoting to warnings about a second Donald Trump term and declaring he was 'not done yet.' (AP)

Politics

Collins says she will write in Haley

Biden slams Trump, Project 2025

DETROIT, July 13, (AP) - US President Joe Biden on Friday forcefully defied the growing number of critics in his own party who have called on him to exit the race, pivoting to warnings about a second Donald Trump term and declaring he was "not done yet."

As a raucous Detroit crowd chanted "don't you quit!" and "we got your back!" Biden said - again - that he was still running for reelection and vowed to "shine a spotlight on Donald Trump" and what the Republican would do if he returned to the White House. Biden lambasted an expansive far-right policy agenda crafted by conservative think tanks that Trump has scrambled to distance himself from, while ticking off several items on his own wish list for the first 100 days of his second term.

At the same school where, four years ago, then-candidate Biden positioned himself as a bridge to the next generation of Democratic leaders, the embattled president, who has been under pressure for more than two weeks to step aside, made it clear he was going nowhere.

"You made me the nominee, no one else - not the press, not the pundits, not the insiders, not donors," Biden said, to cheers. "You, the voters. You decided. No one else. And I'm not going anywhere."

Convince

The show of force from Biden at the evening rally was part of his team's relentless sprint to convince fretting lawmakers, nervous donors and a skeptical electorate that at the age of 81, he is still capable of being president. But a spate of travel to battleground states, interviews with journalists and a rare solo news conference have not tamped down the angst within the party about Biden's candidacy and his prospects against Trump in November.

So far, one Democratic senator and roughly 20 House Democrats have publicly called on Biden to step aside. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries told Democrats he had met privately with Biden after the news conference, sharing the "full breadth" of views from lawmakers about the path forward in the president's campaign for reelection. Earlier Friday, in a vir-

tual meeting with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Biden was told directly by California Rep. Mike Levin that he should step down as the Democratic nominee, according to three people familiar with that call who were granted anonymity to discuss it.

But the support Biden retains among Democrats was clear among the hundreds of supporters at the rally, who waved signs that read "Motown is Joe-town" and enthusiastically cheered the president's remarks - and jeered at any mention of Trump.

"He inherited millions of dollars only to squander it. He's filed for bankruptcy six times," Biden said. "He even went bankrupt running a casino. I didn't think that was even possible. Doesn't the house always win in a casino?"

Drafted

He also singled out Project 2025, a massive proposed overhaul of the federal government drafted by longtime allies and former officials in the Trump administration that Trump has insisted he knows "nothing" of.

"You heard about it? It's a blueprint for a second Trump term that every American should read and understand," Biden said, accusing his opponent of trying to run from the plan "just like he's trying to distance himself from overturning Roe vs. Wade because he knows how toxic it is. But we're not gonna let that happen."

Biden also criticized the media, claiming was focusing on his errors and not on Trump's. It prompted his supporters to boo reporters in the room - a staple of Trump rallies - though Biden tried briefly to calm the jeers, saying "no, no, no."

He smiled, though, when the audience repeatedly chanted "lock him up" in reference to Trump, who was convicted on felony charges in New York relating to his hush money payments to an adult film actress around the 2016 election. Trump frequently encouraged the same chant regarding his political opponents.

The Biden campaign and the White House did not immediately respond when asked if Biden condoned the chant.

Biden's campaign has indirectly

acknowledged that Biden's route to the White House is narrowing, saying the so-called "blue wall" of Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania is now the "clearest pathway" to victory even while insisting other battleground states like Arizona and Nevada are not out of reach.

Also:

PORTLAND, Maine: US Sen **Susan Collins** didn't vote for **Donald Trump** for president in 2016 or 2020, and the third time will not be the charm - because she is writing in **Nikki Haley**.

Collins, a longtime moderate Republican senator from Maine, told reporters on Friday that she intended to write in the former South Carolina governor's name on the ballot in November. The move recalls 2016, when Collins said she wrote in then-House Speaker **Paul Ryan** for president Trump.

Collins is the only New England Republican in Congress and the only Republican holding statewide office in Maine, where Trump has twice won an electoral vote. She said Friday that she is sticking with her endorsement of Haley despite the fact Haley will not be on the ballot.

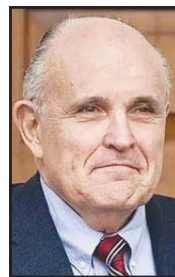
"I publicly endorsed Nikki Haley, and I wanted her to win. She's still my favorite candidate, and I think she could do a great job. She's my choice, and that's how I'm going to express it," Collins told WMTW-TV.

Collins made the remarks about the election at an event in Limerick, about 34 miles west of Portland, where she was speaking at a ribbon-cutting for a new fire and EMS station. After the event, Collins spokesperson **Annie Clark** said Collins has made clear that she does not intend to vote for Trump many times, and she has voiced support for Haley before, including during a June television appearance.

During that appearance, on Spectrum News, Collins said she "does not support the Democratic nominee either" and supports "some of President Trump's policies." However, she also said "a lot of it is President Trump's style as well -- I think it's divisive at a time when our country is already so polarized."



King Charles III with Idris Elba, (left), and young people attend an event for The King's Trust to discuss youth opportunity, at St James's Palace in central London on July 12. The King and Mr Elba, an alumnus of The King's Trust (formerly known as The Prince's Trust), are meeting about the charity's ongoing work to support young people, and creating positive opportunities and initiatives which might help address youth violence in the UK, as well as the collaboration in Sierra Leone between the Prince's Trust International and the Elba Hope Foundation. (AP)



Giuliani



Raybuck

America

Tourist copter crash kills 1: A tour company helicopter crashed off the Hawaiian island of Kauai, police said, killing one person and leaving two missing in the latest in a series of crashes to plague the industry in recent years.

A hiker on the Kalalau trail reported seeing the helicopter crash into the water about a quarter of a mile (0.4 kilometers) off the Na Pali Coast on Thursday afternoon and contacted the fire department, officials said.

The Robinson R44 helicopter was part of Ali'i Kauai Air Tours & Charters, authorities said.

"Preliminary information indicates that the pilot on board was a local resident, and the two passengers on board are believed to be visitors from the mainland," Kauai Police Chief **Todd Raybuck** said at a news conference Friday. Authorities did not provide their identities. (AP)

Judge ends Giuliani 'case': A judge threw out **Rudy Giuliani's** bankruptcy case on Friday, slamming the former New York City mayor as a "recalcitrant debtor" who thumbed his nose at the process while seeking to shield himself from a \$148 million defamation judgment and other debts.

US Bankruptcy Judge Sean Lane criticized Giuliani for repeated "uncooperative conduct," self-dealing, and a lack of transparency. The judge cited failures to comply with court orders, failure to disclose sources of income, and his apparent unwillingness to hire an accountant to go over his books.

"Such a failure is a clear red flag," Lane wrote. (AP)

5 escape hot, acidic pond: Five people were able to escape a hot, acidic pond in Yellowstone National Park after the sport utility vehicle they were riding

in went off the road and into an inactive geyser, park officials said Friday.

The passengers were able to get out of the 105 degree Fahrenheit (41 degrees



Forensic officers work at an address in Shepherd's Bush, after human remains were found in two suitcases near the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol on July 13, in London. British police said on Saturday they have arrested a man in connection with the deaths of two men. (AP)

Celsius) water on their own after the crash Thursday morning and were taken to the hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries, park spokesperson Morgan Warthin said in a statement.

The road was closed for about two hours Friday while the SUV was extracted from 9 feet of water, Warthin said.

The Semi-Centennial Geyser has been inactive since a major eruption in 1922. It is located near Roaring Mountain between Mammoth Hot Springs and Norris Junction. (AP)

Man gets 226 years: A man who killed two Alaska Native women and was heard while videotaping the torture death of one say that in his movies "everybody always dies" was sentenced Friday to 226 years in prison.

Brian Steven Smith received 99-year sentences each for the deaths of Kathleen Henry, 30, and Veronica Abouchuk, who was 52 when her family reported her missing in February 2019, seven months after they last saw her.

"Both were treated about as horribly as a person can be treated," Alaska Superior Court Judge Kevin Saxby said when imposing the sentence.

"It's the stuff of nightmares," Saxby said. (AP)

Africa

Kenya police boss resigns

School collapse kills 22 people in Nigeria

ABUJA, Nigeria, July 13, (AP): A two-story school collapsed during morning classes Friday in north-central Nigeria, killing 22 students and sending rescuers on a frantic search for more than 100 people trapped in the rubble, authorities said.

The Saints Academy college in Plateau state's Busa Buji community collapsed shortly after students, many of whom were 15 years old or younger, arrived for classes.

A total of 154 students were initially trapped in the rubble, but Plateau police spokesperson Alfred Alabo later said 132 of them had been rescued and were being treated for injuries in various hospitals. He said 22 students died. An earlier report by local media had said at least 12 people were killed.



Ashoms

Dozens of villagers gathered near the school, some weeping and others offering to help, as excavators combed through the debris from the part of the building that had caved in.

One woman was seen weeping and attempting to go closer to the rubble as others held her back.

Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency said rescue and health workers as well as security forces had been deployed at the scene immediately after the collapse, launching a search for the trapped students.

"To ensure prompt medical attention, the government has instructed hospitals to prioritize treatment without documentation or payment," Plateau state's commissioner for information, **Musa Ashoms**, said in a statement.

The state government blamed the tragedy on the school's "weak structure and location near a riverbank." It urged schools facing similar issues to shut down.

Building collapses are becoming common in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country with more than a dozen such incidents recorded in the last two years. Authorities often blame such disasters on a failure to enforce building safety regulations and on poor maintenance.

Also:

NAIROBI, Kenya: Kenya's police boss resigned Friday, the latest attempt by the country's president to respond to growing concerns of police brutality in response to protests triggered by a proposed tax hike.

Protesters stormed parliament on June 25 after a bill was passed that proposed tax increases, forcing lawmakers to flee through an underground tunnel. Police responded by opening fire on protesters in the streets. The protests have morphed into calls for President **William Ruto** to resign.

Ruto has sought to respond to the social outcry with a series of steps. He withdrew the tax hike proposal and on Thursday he followed up by dismissing almost all of his Cabinet ministers. He vowed to form a new government that will be lean and efficient.

In his latest move Friday, Ruto accepted the resignation of inspector general **Japhet Koome**. The presidential office said the deputy, **Douglas Kanja**, would step in as acting inspector general.

The social unrest has played out in a country generally viewed as a regional leader in Africa due to its size and political stability, and which is a key ally of Western countries in the counterterrorism fight and other issues. Underlying its international role, 400 Kenyan police landed in violence-hit Haiti in recent weeks to lead a UN-backed multinational force. Underlying Kenya's stature, President **Joe Biden** honored Ruto with a state dinner at the White House in May.

Human rights groups have accused Kenyan police of carrying out abductions and illegal detentions as they crack down on the recent protests. Some of the victims have been released and an independent policing oversight body has asked them to record statements that will help in a probe on police conduct.

Police confirmed Friday that six bodies wrapped in sacks and several other body parts had been recovered from a quarry near **Mukuru kwa Njenga**, a slum in the capital, **Nairobi**. Police said the six were all female and appeared to have been killed in a similar way. The recovery operation will continue Saturday after human rights activists said more bodies had been sighted.



KIGALI, Rwanda: Rwandans vote Monday in an election that will almost certainly extend the long rule of President **Paul Kagame**, who is running virtually unopposed after three decades in power in the eastern African nation.

Kagame has been met by crowds of admiring supporters at campaign rallies that evoke the apparent inevitability of his victory as he seeks a fourth term as president. His challengers - **Frank Habineza** of the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda and independent candidate **Philippe Mpayimana** - have struggled to pull crowds to their events.

Kagame faced the same opponents in 2017, when he took nearly 99% of the vote. Observers say a similar result is expected in a country where serious opposition to Kagame has long been absent.

Kagame, 66, took power as the leader of rebels who took control of Rwanda's government and ended the genocide in 1994. Kagame was Rwanda's vice president and de facto leader from 1994 to 2000, when he first became president. He has since ruled the East African country as an authoritarian who is intolerant of political dissent.

Rwanda's election takes place amid heightened fears of insecurity in Africa's **Great Lakes** region. A violent group of rebels known as M23 is fighting Congolese forces in a remote area of eastern **Congo**. Between 3,000 and 4,000 Rwandan forces are fighting alongside M23, U.N. experts said in a report circulated Wednesday. The U.S. government has described the group as being backed by Rwanda. Rwanda accuses Congo's military of recruiting fighters who were among the perpetrators of the 1994 genocide.

Campaign rallies close Saturday. Monday's vote is expected to extend Kagame's rule by five years. A total of 9.5 million Rwandans are registered to vote, according to electoral authorities.

Rights groups continue to raise alarm over harsh restrictions on human rights, including freedom of association. Amnesty International expressed concerns in a recent statement over "threats, arbitrary detention, prosecution on trumped-up charges, killings and enforced disappearances" targeting the political opposition in Rwanda.

That statement said the suppression of dissenting voices, including among civic groups and the press, "has a chilling effect and limits the space for debate for people of Rwanda."



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Prime Minister Jeremiah Manele of the Solomon Islands, who is on an official visit to China, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China on July 12. (Xinhua)

Solomon Islands and China strengthen their ties

The new Solomon Islands prime minister is in China for a visit as Beijing and the strategic Pacific archipelago strengthen their ties. Prime Minister Jeremiah Manele met Chinese leader Xi Jinping in the Chinese capital on Friday after a stop in coastal Fujian province earlier this week.

"Solomon Islands values its comprehensive and strategic relations with China," Manele told Xi in prepared remarks at the start of their meeting in the Great Hall of the People.

China's influence increased significantly during the term of Manele's predecessor, with the country switching diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to China and striking a secretive security pact that has raised fears of China's security forces gaining a foothold in the region long dominated by the US, Australia and New Zealand.

Those moves came at a time of major tensions between Washington and Beijing, and the Solomons' tighter ties with China are seen as undermining

the influence of the US and other traditional allies in the Western Pacific.

Xi also met the prime minister of Vanuatu on Friday in back-to-back meetings with Pacific Island nations. China and Vanuatu are commemorating 42 years of diplomatic ties, Prime Minister Charlot Salwai said.

Both visiting prime ministers said that China's development and poverty alleviation is a model for other countries to learn from. (AP)

Asia



Nepal army personnel carry out a search operation looking for the survivors after two buses were swept by a landslide off the highway and into a swollen river near Simaltal, about 120 kilometers (75 miles) west of the capital Kathmandu, Nepal on July 13. (AP)



Guterres



Maduro

Lat/Am

UN condemns Haiti violence: The UN Security Council unanimously approved a resolution condemning "in the strongest terms" the increasing gang violence and criminal activity in Haiti that is undermining peace, stability and security in the country and the region.

Friday's resolution expresses grave concern at illegal arms and ammunition flowing into Haiti and their link to the expanding territorial control by gangs and "the extreme levels of armed violence," including sexual and gender-based violence, that lead to deteriorating security in the country.

The council extended the UN political mission in Haiti known as BINUH until July 15, 2025, with a mandate to support the advancement of "a Haitian-led, Haitian-owned political process towards the holding of free and fair legislative and presidential elections."

The resolution, sponsored by the United States and Ecuador, reiterates the council's support for a Kenyan-led multinational security force to help the Haitian National Police re-establish security. The initial contingent of 200 Kenyan police arrived in the capital Port-au-Prince on June 25.

Haiti asked for an international force to combat gangs in 2022, and UN Secretary-General **António Guterres** appealed for months for a country to lead the force before the Kenyans came forward. (AP)



Argentina charges players: Prosecutors charged two French rugby players with aggravated assault Friday, the latest development in the case of a woman who said she was repeatedly raped by the athletes after they took her to their hotel room and prevented her from leaving.

The prosecutor's office in the western Argentine city of Mendoza - where the alleged assault took place Sunday following the French team's test match against the Argentine Pumas - ordered the two players, Oscar Jegou and Hugo Auradou, to remain under detention until trial.

After being arrested in Buenos Aires, 21-year-old Jegou and 20-year-old Auradou were transferred 1,000 kilometers (some 620 miles) to Mendoza on Thursday for their first court appearance. They chose not to testify in Friday's hearing.

The French Rugby Federation previously said that the players admitted to having sex with the woman but that they described it as

Taiwan steps up alertness
NKorea threatens to boost N-capability

SEOUL, South Korea, July 13, (AP): North Korea threatened Saturday to boost its nuclear fighting capability and make the U.S. and South Korea pay "an unimaginably harsh price" as it slammed its rivals' new defense guidelines that it says reveal an intention to invade the North.

On Thursday, President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol authorized the signing of joint nuclear deterrence guidelines as part of efforts to enhance their capabilities to cope with North Korea's growing nuclear arsenal.

The guidelines were adopted a year after the two countries established a consultation body to bolster information-sharing on nuclear operations and discuss how to integrate US nuclear weapons and South Korean conventional weapons in contingencies.

In a statement carried by state media, North Korea's Defense Ministry said the US-South Korea guidelines betrayed "their sinister intention to step up their preparations for a nuclear war against" North Korea.

The statement said its enemies' escalating nuclear threats urgently require North Korea to further improve its nuclear deterrent readiness and add unspecified "important elements to the composition of the deterrent." It said the US and South Korea will "pay an unimaginably harsh price" if they fail to stop provocative acts.

Details of the US-South Korean guidelines weren't available, but experts say they are largely about how the two countries would integrate US nuclear weapons and South Korean conventional weapons to respond to various potential contingencies caused by North Korean attacks and provocations. Experts say the US and South Korea are expected to map out detailed concept and operation plans based on the guidelines and review them via bilateral military exercises.

Also:

MANILA, Philippines: The United States has renewed its call on China to stop its aggressive actions in the South China Sea, saying a broader web of security alliances has emerged to preserve the rule of law in the disputed waters.

Washington's top diplomat in Manila was joined by counterparts from key Western and Asian allies, including **Ja-**

Taiwan steps up alertness

NKorea threatens to boost N-capability

Nepal's PM 'loses' confidence vote forcing him to step down

KATHMANDU, Nepal, July 13, (AP): Nepal's prime minister lost a vote of confidence in parliament on Friday after the largest party in his governing coalition withdrew its support, forcing him to step down from office after 19 months in power.

Pushpa Kamal Dahal failed to get the support of more than half the members of the House of Representatives, the lower house of parliament on Friday, needed to win the vote.

Parliament Speaker Dev Raj Ghimire announced that he only received 63 votes in his favor while 194 other members voted against him denying him the majority that was required for him to hold on to power.

Dahal shook hands with the members of parliament after the vote before leaving the building.

pan and Australia, in a Manila forum to express alarm over increasing hostilities in the contested waters, particularly between China and the Philippines.

TAIPEI, Taiwan: Taiwan's Defense Ministry said Saturday it was monitoring "waves of test-firing" by China's missile unit in a region more than 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) from the self-ruled island and that its air force stepped up its alertness.

China views the democratic island as a breakaway province that should be reunified with the mainland.

According to Taiwan's military news agency, the ministry had detected "multiple waves of test-firing operations" by China's Rocket Force in **Inner Mongolia** on Saturday. It did not give details on the tests taken by the force, which takes charge of China's arsenal of missiles.

The loss of vote now puts him as the leader of a caretaker government until a new one is formed. Nepal's President Ram Chandra Poudel will ask political parties to come up with proposals for a new government, once he's officially notified of the parliament's decision.

Also:

KATHMANDU: Rescuers in Nepal recovered Saturday the first body after a landslide swept away two buses, pushing them into a raging river a day earlier, authorities said.

The buses, carrying more than 50 people, fell into the Trishuli river which was swollen by continuous rainfall over the past few days as heavy monsoon downpours turned their waters murky brown, making it even more difficult to see the wreckage.

It is not immediately clear whether the tests were related to China's harassment of Taiwan. In May, Taiwan's newly elected President **Lai Ching-te** said in his inauguration speech that he wants peace with China and urged it to stop its military threats and intimidation of the island.

China's military has displayed a strong show of force toward Taiwan since Wednesday, when the US new top envoy to Taipei promised that **Washington** would help the island defend itself. They committed to help defend a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry said Thursday it had detected 66 warplanes around the island and that dozens flew across the median line in the Taiwan Strait, the de facto boundary between the two sides. On Saturday, 30 warplanes also were detected around Taiwan over a 24-hour period with 20 crossing the median line.

consensual and denied any acts of violence. (AP)

Venezuelan fugitive arrested: Chile announced Friday that one of the suspects wanted in the kidnapping and killing of a dissident Venezuelan soldier on Chilean soil early this year has been arrested in Costa Rica.

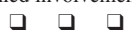


People and rescuers gather at the scene of a collapsed two-storey building in Jos, Nigeria, Friday, July 12. The school collapsed during morning classes on Friday in north-central Nigeria, killing 22 students and sending rescuers on a frantic search for more than 100 people trapped in the rubble, authorities said. (AP)

The slaying in February caused shock in Chile, where Ronald Ojeda, a former lieutenant and self-described political prisoner, had sought asylum after protesting against Venezuelan President **Nicolás Maduro**.

"It's an important step," Chilean Interior Minister Carolina Tohá wrote on the social media platform X of Friday's arrest, promising that Chile would "continue making every effort to clarify the case and ensure that those responsible face justice."

The killing has strained relations between the South American nations. Chilean authorities have suggested Venezuelan officials orchestrated Ojeda's capture, sparking fears that Maduro's government had opened a new front in its political crackdown. Venezuela has denied involvement. (AP)



Instigators get 34 yrs: The two instigators of the 2023 assassination of Ecuadorian presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio were sentenced on Friday to 34 years and eight months in prison. Three accomplices were sentenced to 12 years in prison. The Prosecutor's Office had requested the maximum sentence for the five defendants.

The sentences for the man and woman convicted of instigating the murder included a fine of \$460,000 and a compensation payment of \$100,000 by each to the politician's family. The other three defendants were each fined \$156,400 and ordered to pay \$33,000 to the family. (AP)

		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
↑ DUBAI	- DFMGI	+12.95	4,103.93	JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	-1,033.34	41,190.68
↑ PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	+38.99	6,648.23	↓ PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	-44.28	80,030.38
↑ BRITAIN	- FTSE 100	+29.57	8,252.91				
↑ EUROPE	- EURO Stoxx 50	+66.89	5,043.02				

Boursa Kuwait sees dynamic week with 1.63 pct market value increase

Healthcare sector leads gains

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Throughout the past week, the Boursa Kuwait witnessed a dynamic series of fluctuations across its main indices, set against a backdrop of heightened trading activity and a significant 1.63 percent increase in the overall market value of shares, totaling 674 million dinars, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Premier Market Index led the charge with a notable 1.97 percent rise, culminating in a closing figure of 7,751.86 points, reflecting a gain of 149.75 points over the week. Investors showed robust interest, driving up trading volumes and injecting liquidity into the market.

Similarly, the general market index recorded a strong performance, closing at 7,097.75 points after a 1.63 percent increase, equivalent to 113.85 points gained during the trading sessions. However, the main market index experienced a marginal decline of 0.02 percent, settling at 5,923.31 points, a loss of 0.93 points from the previous week.

The overall Main 50 Index faced a slight downturn, decreasing by 0.43 percent or 24.45 points to reach 5,704.31 points by the week's end. Total market capitalization rose to 41.949 billion dinars, reflecting the increased investor confidence and activity, marking a positive sentiment in the trading environment.

Trading activities were vibrant across the board, with the value of trading hitting 185.22 million dinars, up by 9.22 percent from the previous period. Volumes surged by 26.12 percent to 780.51 million shares traded, although the number of deals executed decreased slightly by 2.73

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Kuwait Accountants and Auditors Association (KAAA) recently reaffirmed its steadfast support for cooperative work in Kuwait, emphasizing its pivotal role in the country's economic and social development throughout history, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Sabah Mubarak Al-Jalawi, Chairman of the Association's Board of Directors, highlighted the cooperative societies' resilience and essential contributions during critical periods like the Iraqi invasion, the global financial crisis, and the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Al-Jalawi underscored the significant role of cooperative societies in ensuring food security and providing essential goods at affordable prices, lauding the effective oversight provided by the Ministry of Social Affairs and the government.

He vehemently opposed calls to privatize cooperative societies, dismissing claims of regulatory loopholes as grounds for such measures. Instead, he stressed that cooperative work in Kuwait serves as a model not only nationally but also regionally and globally.

The success of cooperative societies was evident in their substantial sales figures, surpassing the billion-dinar mark, equivalent to the profits generated by 158 listed

percent.

Sector performance varied, with healthcare leading the gains at 5.56 percent, while the insurance sector saw a decline of 6.03 percent, and the technology sector remained stable.

At the individual stock level, Arab Holding made significant gains of approximately 17.81 percent, contrasting sharply with Future Kid, which topped the decliners list with an 18.95 percent decrease. Future Kid also led in trading volume with

66.09 million shares, illustrating significant market activity.

KFH emerged as the liquidity leader, with a trading value of 19.75 million dinars and a weekly growth rate of 1.96 percent.

As the trading week concluded, the Kuwait Stock Exchange closed with positive movements across its indices.

The general index rose by 37.58 points to reach 7,097.75 points, marking a 0.53 percent increase. The main market index also showed

growth, gaining 57.80 points or 0.99 percent to reach 5,923.31 points, while the Premier Market Index climbed by 34.04 points, a 0.44 percent increase to settle at 7,751.86 points. The Main 50 Index saw a rise of 25.39 points, up by 0.45 percent, closing at 5,704.31 points.

In summary, the week's trading activities underscored the Boursa Kuwait's resilience and investor confidence, driven by strategic sector investments and robust trading volumes.

companies.

Al-Jalawi attributed this success to the societies' commitment to community projects, Kuwaitization policies to support national labor, and their pivotal role in enhancing community capabilities across various sectors.

Supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) stood out as a core pillar of cooperative societies' activities, particularly in aiding entrepreneurs impacted by the pandemic. These societies have also been active in promoting educational and health initiatives as part of their broader social responsibility efforts since their inception.

Emphasizing transparency and accountability, Al-Jalawi highlighted the rigorous oversight mechanisms implemented by the Ministry of Social Affairs in every cooperative society.

Each society, he said, is mandated to appoint financial and administrative controllers to ensure the integrity of financial data, prevent manipulation, and safeguard the rights of shareholders.

In essence, the Kuwait Accountants and Auditors Association's statement reflects a resolute commitment to preserving and promoting the essential role of cooperative societies in Kuwaiti society, advocating for their continued contribution to national development and societal well-being.

Other Voices

Kuwait considers asset sales amidst rising budget deficit

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

The ongoing argument in Kuwait about borrowing against the sale of some government assets to deal with our current budget deficit is a sensitive matter.

This option is costly, so privatizing some of our government-owned companies appears to offer greater benefits for the country's future in the long run, despite the opposition's strong objections or the temptation of a quick-fix solution.

Kuwait is grappling with an annual budget deficit ranging between KD 4-5 billion (approximately \$12-15 billion) each year, a figure that is expected to rise due to continuous growth in expenditures.

The current oil prices are insufficient to keep up with the escalating demand on our annual budget on a long term basis.

We need a minimum oil price of \$90 per barrel to balance the budget.

However, Kuwait's increasing annual budget, primarily driven by expenditures such as salaries, wages, and benefits, which constitute 80 percent of the total expenses, necessitates an oil price of \$95 per barrel and higher.

Such being our case year by

year, the government is faced with the reality of two choices - either resort to direct borrowing from international sources or opt for privatization, starting with government departments that are eligible, and certain companies such as oil companies, which were initially founded by private Kuwaiti entities such as Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC), Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), and Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), which has seen 40 percent participation by private sector in new ventures within the risky refining industry.

The advantage of selling our government-owned companies is that it will attract funds from external sources, thereby creating a historic opportunity to introduce outsiders to Kuwaiti investment environments and test their potential.

The decision should not be difficult for the government - sell its assets to the public and wait for the outcome.

When Saudi Arabia sold five percent of its prized Aramco shares (jewel in the crown) for \$27 billion to fund its long-term strategic objectives, it set a precedent. Let us also explore this opportunity for ourselves and wait for the outcome. The choice may be tough, but are we seeking easy solutions or challenging ones that promise a better long-term outlook for Kuwait?

□ □ □

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Al-Harami

Integration of Civil ID streamlines account opening for app

Kamco Invest unveils its all-new app, featuring enhanced user experience

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced the launch of its all-new Kamco Invest App with enhanced performance and user interface, and a strong infrastructure for easier future developments.

The Kamco Invest App's user journey and experience have been comprehensively improved across all aspects, including account opening, KYC updates, dashboard functionality, and transaction processing. Alongside these front-end enhancements, the back-end infrastructure and all associated processes have also been optimized to ensure a seamless experience with minimal approval times for completed eligible applications. Our support team has worked diligently with the developers to enhance the app's usability and responsiveness, ensuring a superior user experience.

The dashboard has been redesigned to dynamically showcase complete portfolio holdings and performance, allowing clients to delve deeper into their investments. The app enables clients to invest in a variety of Kamco Invest solutions, including mutual funds managed by the company. Clients can fund their portfolios by depositing cash using KNET or wire transfer, making it easy to start their investment journey with our comprehensive range of investment solutions.

Nawal Mulla-Hussain, Managing Director of Support Operations, said, "We are proud to launch the all-new Kamco Invest App. By building internal expertise and competencies, we are better positioned to understand user trends, enhance their experience, and seamlessly implement changes and developments that assist users in their digital investment journey. The app is a cornerstone of our digital transformation strategy, designed to revolutionize the investment experience for both new and existing clients."

It is worth noting that the Civil ID is integrated with the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) system, leveraging the institution's online services, including identity authentication through Mobile ID. This integration offers clients a streamlined and efficient way to open accounts and provide the necessary periodic updates, making the



Nawal Mulla-Hussain



Ahmed M. Nahla



Kamco Invest App

entire process hassle-free.

Furthermore, the App provides registered users access to track the performance of the Company's managed funds, discover and read comprehensive coverage on regional markets, sectors, and asset classes, amongst others.

Ahmed M. Nahla, Director of Digital Innovations said, "Our robust backend and infrastructure are designed to support our clients' key requirements while enabling us to effectively evolve the app with the integration of new services and features, which are core aspects behind our digital transformation strategy. Offered to both iOS and Android users, the all-new Kamco Invest App boasts a wide range of innovative features, as well as the

option to invest in several of the Company's top performing funds and products."

Mulla-Hussain concluded, "With the accelerated development of innovative technologies witnessed today, digital solutions have become one of the strategic pillars behind the sustainability strategy of most companies in the financial services sector, especially investment companies. At Kamco Invest, we aim to continuously fine tune the client journey and strengthen the App's infrastructure to offer our clients an experience that incorporates the full breadth of our lucrative offerings and investment opportunities, reinforcing our competitive position in the market."

Key products and industries supported

Kuwait's PIC expands globally with projects and acquisitions

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Well-informed sources have confirmed that the Kuwait Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), a subsidiary of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, is pursuing new projects and acquisitions of existing factories in Asia and Europe.

This move aligns with its production strategy, which aims to increase its output from 8.5 million to 15 million tons annually within the next ten years.

The Al-Seyassah daily quoting reliable sources said, the company regularly receives numerous international and local partnership offers but consistently seeks the best companies and factories that will provide added profitability.

he company's most significant expansion is expected after the completion of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, which will enhance maritime transport operations, facilitating the global distribution of Kuwaiti petrochemical products.

The PIC owns and has stakes in eight international companies, including two in South Korea, with 49 percent and 25 percent stakes, respectively.

It wholly owns the Kuwait-Vietnam Petrochemical Company and holds a 33 percent stake in the Gulf Petrochemical Company (GIPCO). Through Equate, PIC also has shares in three companies located in the United States, Canada, and Germany, where it holds a 42.5 percent stake. Additionally, PIC

Production boost in key oil field

KGOC restructures leadership team amidst growth initiatives

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Kuwait Gulf Oil Company is set to undergo significant leadership changes in the near future.

The current CEO, Khaled Al-Otaibi, will soon be replaced by a new appointee, and several other leadership positions, including the Deputy CEO role, are also slated for new appointments.

The sources revealed that these changes come as part of a strategic initiative aimed at expanding KGOC operations in the divided zone between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

In an exclusive statement, informed sources have indicated to Al-Seyassah

daily, that there are ambitious plans to boost production capacity at the Wafra field.

It is projected that daily production at Wafra will increase from its current level of 170 thousand barrels per day to more than 200 thousand barrels per day by the year 2025.

These developments underscore Gulf Oil's commitment to enhancing its operational capabilities and maximizing production output in one of the region's key oil fields.

The upcoming leadership transitions are expected to play a crucial role in driving these expansion efforts forward, positioning Gulf Oil for continued growth and influence in the energy sector.

has shares in seven local companies in the petrochemical industry.

The company's olefins production, which constitutes 61 percent of its output, is significant due to olefins' extensive use in industries such as plastics, building materials, packaging, auto spare parts, medical devices, and

rubber. Aromatics, which make up 23 percent of the company's production, are used in manufacturing insulators, capsule shells, foam containers, and plastic containers.

Furthermore, PIC produces 16 percent of fertilizers used in detergents, refrigerants, adhesives, and pipes.

Kuwait's minister attends Arab ministerial meeting

Japan and Arab ministers strengthen cooperation across multiple sectors

TOKYO, July 13, (KUNA): Japan and Arab ministers agreed, Thursday, to enhance their cooperation in various areas to benefit the development of all parties involved, said the fifth Japan-Arab Economic Forum.

The fields of interest included industrial development, energy and economic security, high-quality infrastructure, digital transformation, low-carbon energy and energy saving and resources development, added a joint press statement issued after the forum.

During the ministerial conference on the second day of the Economic Forum, the two sides exchanged views on co-creating sustainable and resilient economic development through a wide range of fields.

Japan expressed its desire to cooperate with the Arab public sectors and businesspersons towards sustainable and resilient economic development under the theme "Japan-Arab New Horizons for Innovation and Creativity," the document said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Ken Saito co-chaired the ministerial-level talks, which were attended by Arab League Secretary-General Ahmad Abul-Gheit.

Kuwait's Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Minister of State for Housing Dr. Mahmoud Bushehri, and other Arab ministers also attended.

The ministers also decided to hold

the sixth Japan-Arab Economic Forum in one of the Arab countries in 2026, the press release said.

Kamikawa said the concept of the forum was to create synergy between Japan and the Arab countries and to progress toward prosperity together, and that the aim of the ministerial conference was to deepen discussions on directions for new economy and business cooperation between Japan and the Arab countries, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Abul-Gheit said that cooperation on climate change, artificial intelligence (AI), education and other areas would help expand investment, according to public broadcaster NHK.

Germany to bar Chinese cos' components from core parts of its 5G networks

Germany will bar the use of critical components made by Chinese companies Huawei and ZTE in core parts of the country's 5G networks in two steps starting in 2026, the nation's top security official said Thursday.

Germany, which has Europe's biggest economy, has long mulled what to do about components made by Chinese suppliers in its new-generation cellphone networks.

Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said critical components from Huawei and ZTE will be barred from 5G core networks by the end of 2026, while "critical management systems" from the two manufacturers in 5G access and transport networks must be replaced by the

end of 2029.

The decision follows negotiations in recent weeks with Deutsche Telekom, Vodafone and Telefonica, which operate Germany's 5G networks, and agreements will be signed with all three companies, the Interior Ministry said.

"We have examined the risks from critical components manufactured by Huawei and ZTE in German 5G cellphone networks very carefully," Faeser said as she announced the "clear and strict agreement" with German operators.

"With this, we are protecting the central nervous systems of Germany as a business location - and we are

protecting the communication of citizens, companies and the state," she said. "We must reduce security risks and, unlike in the past, avoid one-sided dependencies."

Today's threats underline the significance of secure telecommunications infrastructure, particularly "with a view to dangers from sabotage and espionage," Faeser said. "There is no specific evidence or scenario that Huawei's technology has cyber security risks," the company said late Thursday in a statement, adding that it "will continue to promote the improvement and progress of cyber security, and promote the construction of mobile networks and digitalization in Germany."

The United States in recent years successfully pushed

European allies including Britain and Sweden to ban or restrict Huawei equipment in their phone networks over fears Beijing could use it for cybersnooping or sabotaging critical communications infrastructure - allegations Huawei has denied repeatedly. Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Canada have taken similar action.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government last year drew up a strategy for relations with China that refers to a "systemic rivalry" with the Asian power and a need to reduce risks of economic dependency, but highlights Berlin's desire to work with Beijing on challenges such as climate change and maintain trade ties. The strategy drew criticism from Beijing. (AP)

Indication that some price pressures remain elevated

Wholesale inflation in the US picked up in June

WASHINGTON, July 13, (AP) - Wholesale prices in the United States rose by a larger-than-expected 2.6% last month from a year earlier, a sign that some inflation pressures remain high.

The increase, the sharpest year-over-year increase since March 2023, comes at a time when other price indicators are showing that inflation has continued to ease.

The Labor Department said Friday that its producer price index - which tracks inflation before it reaches consumers - rose 0.2% from May to June after being unchanged the month before. Excluding food and energy prices, which tend to bounce around from month to month, so-called core wholesale prices increased 0.4% from May

and 3% from June 2023.

The increase in wholesale inflation last month was driven by a sizable 0.6% rise in services prices, led by higher profit margins for machinery and auto wholesalers. But profit margins for wholesalers and retailers - categorized as "trade services" in the producer price report - can be very volatile. By contrast, a measure of wholesale inflation that excludes trade services, food and energy was unchanged from May to June. It helps explain why many economists were not alarmed by Friday's unexpected uptick in overall wholesale inflation.

In addition, the overall prices of goods fell 0.5%. Gasoline prices tumbled 5.8% at the wholesale level. Food

prices also dropped.

The producer price index can provide an early sign of where consumer inflation is headed. Economists also watch it because some of its components, notably healthcare and financial services, flow into the Federal Reserve's preferred inflation gauge - the personal consumption expenditures, or PCE, index. Some of the wholesale price components that feed into PCE - including some healthcare costs - came in below expectations Friday, raising hopes for continued progress toward easing consumer price inflation, which would reassure the Fed.

Friday's wholesale figures follow the government's report Thursday that consumer inflation cooled in June for a

third straight month. Consumer prices declined 0.1% from May to June - the first such drop in overall inflation since May 2020, when the economy was paralyzed by the pandemic.

As a whole, this week's price figures, along with other recent data, still suggest a continued slowdown in the inflation that first gripped the nation three years ago, when the economy rocketed out of the pandemic recession, leaving deep supply shortages and sending prices soaring.

The Fed raised its benchmark interest rate 11 times in 2022 and 2023, to a 23-year high, to try to curb the price spikes. Inflation has since cooled from its four-decade high of 9.1%, and the central bank is widely expected to be-

gin cutting interest rates in September.

"The big picture is that inflation pressures have moderated over the last two years but are still a bit stronger than the Fed would like them to be," said Bill Adams, chief economist at Comerica Bank. "With the economy operating in low gear, the Fed thinks the right time to start cutting interest rates is close. But they are planning to cut gradually."

Rate cuts by the Fed would likely lead, over time, to lower borrowing costs for mortgages, auto loans and credit cards as well as business borrowing, and could also boost stock prices.

A brief pickup in inflation early this year had caused Fed officials to scale back their expectations for interest

rate cuts. The policymakers said 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.

Even as inflation slows by most measures, 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.

Yet despite the lingering inflation pressures and higher borrowing costs, the U.S. economy remains steady, if gradually slowing. Hiring is still solid. And unemployment remains relatively low, giving Americans unusual job security.

Figure beats forecasts

China's exports up 8.6% in June

HONG KONG, July 13, (AP) - China's exports beat forecasts in June, customs data showed Friday, while imports grew less than expected.

Exports grew 8.6% from the same time last year to hit \$307.8 billion, according to data released by Chinese customs, beating estimates of about 7.4% to 8% growth. Imports however fell 2.3% from a year earlier to \$208.8 billion.

China's strong exports for June led to its trade surplus widening to \$99 billion, up from \$82.6 billion in May.

The growth in exports comes as China faces escalated trade tensions with the U.S. and Europe. The U.S. and Europe have ramped up tariffs on Chinese-made electric cars.

"Tariffs from the US and EU won't significantly impact overall exports in the short run. They only target a small portion of Chinese exports," Zichun Huang of Capital Economics wrote in a note, adding that the effects of tariffs can be dampened through "trade rerouting and exchange rate adjustments."

"Overall, we expect exports to remain a near-term tailwind to economic growth," she said.

Import volumes will likely rebound soon as the uptick in recent government bonds issued will likely result in increased infrastructure spending, thereby lifting demand for industrial commodities, Huang wrote.

The 10 nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations remained the largest destination for Chinese products, with exports to ASEAN growing 10.7% year-on-year in the January to June period. In June, China exported \$49.8 billion to ASEAN countries.

Exports to the U.S. grew just 1.5% in the January to June period compared to the same time last year, while shipments to the European Union declined 2.6%.

Steel, automobiles, home appliances and ships have been the fastest growing categories of Chinese exports this year. China has shipped 2.93 million automobiles in the first six months of the year, as well as 29.8 million ships.

Smart ports boosting China's foreign trade

TIANJI, July 13, (Xinhua) - Automated container cranes and driverless transport vehicles are busy unloading and carrying containers at Tianjin Port in Tianjin Municipality, north China.

Smart port construction, which incorporates technologies such as 5G, AI, autonomous driving, and cloud computing, has completely transformed Tianjin Port. The port now stands as the world's first intelligent zero-carbon terminal.

The smart terminal increases the operating efficiency of a single gantry crane by more than 40 percent and reduces labor costs by 60 percent.

In recent years, China has been vigorously developing smart transport and logistics as it pushes to build world-class smart and green ports.

In addition to Tianjin Port, Ningbo-Zhoushan Port, the world's busiest port in terms of cargo throughput, has also ridden the wave of intelligent port construction.

"About 90 percent of China's foreign trade is shipped by sea. The development of smart ports will enhance operational efficiency and significantly contribute to the growth of China's foreign trade," said Lin Yikun, an official from the China Communications and Transportation Association.

As the world's largest trader of goods, China's foreign trade reached a new high in the first half of this year, providing more momentum for economic recovery, official data showed Friday.

The trade volume of goods expanded 6.1 percent year on year to 21.17 trillion yuan (about 2.97 trillion U.S. dollars) in the January-June period, according to the General Administration of Customs.

Signs of US consumers slowing down their 'spending' emerge

Big bank quarterly results show dip in profits

NEW YORK, July 13, (AP) - Signs of consumers slowing down their spending and falling behind on their bills weighed down shares of the big banks on Friday. JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo saw their adjusted profits fall, while Citigroup saw sluggish spending on its credit cards.

The major banks have benefited from higher interest rates for the last two years, but those rates are causing consumers and businesses to slow down spending due to higher financing costs.

JPMorgan set aside \$3.1 billion to cover potentially bad loans, up sharply from a year earlier, as the bank acknowledged that delinquencies were climbing among some Americans. Meanwhile Citigroup had to set aside more for potential losses as well.

"Higher-for-longer interest rates, persistently high housing prices, softening used vehicle values, and signs of a cooling labor market merit focused scrutiny from the banking sector," wrote Chris Stanley, the banking industry practice lead at Moody's, in a note to investors.

JPMorgan's headline profits jumped sharply in the second quarter as the bank cashed in billions of dollars of its holdings in Visa Inc.

The nation's biggest bank by assets on Friday posted a profit of \$18.15 billion, up 25% from a year earlier. On a per share basis, JPMorgan earned \$6.12 per share, which beat analysts' estimates.

A significant contributor to JPMorgan's results was a \$7.9 billion gain on its stake in Visa. The bank converted its ownership in the payment processing giant into common stock in the second quarter. The bank also donated \$1 billion of Visa shares to JPMorgan's philanthropic organization.

Without the gain, profit fell compared with the year-ago quarter due to higher expenses.

JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon repeated his warnings about heightened geopolitical risks and inflation in his statement to investors. Dimon, in several interviews, has said he believes that Americans and the bank should be preparing for inflation to remain higher than normal for longer than people are expecting.

"There has been some progress bringing inflation down, but there are still multiple inflationary forces in front of us: large fiscal deficits, infrastructure needs, restructuring of trade and remilitarization of the world," he said.

The latest government reading on consumer prices Thursday showed that price pressures are easing but remain above levels preferred by the Federal Reserve. Still, Wall Street is betting

that the Fed has made enough progress bringing inflation down that it will cut interest rates at its policy meeting in September.

JPMorgan shares dropped slightly more than 1%.

Two other major banks also reported their results Friday: Wells Fargo and Citigroup. Wells Fargo earned \$4.91 billion in



Pedestrians approach JPMorgan Chase headquarters on Dec. 29, 2023, in New York. JPMorgan reports earnings on Friday, July 12, 2024. (AP)

JPMorgan Q2 profit jumps as bank cashes in Visa shares, but higher interest rates also help results

NEW YORK, July 13, (AP) - JPMorgan Chase's profits jumped sharply in the second quarter as the bank cashed in billions of dollars of its holdings in Visa Inc. But the bank's results were also helped by higher interest rates, as well as consumers who seemed to still want to spend, despite geopolitical and economic uncertainties.

The nation's biggest bank by assets on Friday posted a profit of \$18.15 billion, up 25% from a year earlier. On a per share basis, JPMorgan earned \$6.12 per share, which beat analysts' estimates.

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Morgan's philanthropic organization.

Without the gain, profit fell compared with the year-ago quarter due to higher expenses. The bank set aside \$3.1 billion to cover potentially bad loans, up sharply from a year earlier, as the bank acknowledged that delinquencies were climbing among some Americans. On a call with reporters, executives said they remain unconcerned about the rising delinquencies, adding that the U.S. consumer is doing just fine.

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Two other banks are reporting their results Friday: Wells Fargo and Citigroup. Wells Fargo earned \$4.91 billion in the second quarter, or \$1.33 per share, which beat Wall Street targets and last year's \$1.25 per share

profit. Revenue of \$20.7 billion also beat analyst forecasts and last year's \$20.5 billion.

Wells said growth in fee-based revenue helped to offset declines in net interest income - the difference between what it earned on loans and what it paid out to depositors - which fell 9% to \$11.9 billion. That figure was below Wall Street expectations and the bank's shares fell more than 5% in pre-market trading.

The San Francisco bank said average loans fell again, to \$917 million from \$946 million a year ago, as elevated interest rates kept many borrowers on the sidelines.

It was Wells Fargo's second earnings report since the Biden administration eased some of the restrictions on the bank after a series of scandals.

the second quarter, or \$1.33 per share, which beat Wall Street targets and last year's \$1.25 per share profit. Revenue of \$20.7 billion also beat analyst forecasts and last year's \$20.5 billion.

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Citi shares fell almost 3%, although they're still up more than 20% so far this year.

Citigroup posted a 10% gain on its

quarter profit on Friday, helped by strength in its investment banking businesses as well its own sale of Visa shares. But the bank executives said they felt that consumer spending was slowing, particularly among those with lower credit scores and incomes.

Chris Weaver, CEO of Macro-Advisory consultancy, described the increase in taxes as part of government efforts to reduce a heavy reliance

on oil revenues as Western nations tighten sanctions against Russian oil exports.

"The government is looking to broaden out the tax base to make it less dependent on external factors and to therefore make it more secure by shifting the orientation as best they can towards domestic sourcing," he said after the bill's endorsement by lawmakers.

Putin signs bill increasing income taxes for the wealthy

MOSCOW, July 13, (AP) - Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday endorsed a bill that raises income taxes for the rich, part of efforts to help fill government coffers during the fighting in Ukraine.

Putin signed the bill into law two days after it was approved by both houses of parliament.

The legislation, which envisages a progressive tax on personal income, is

a major change from the flat-rate tax that was widely credited with improving revenue collections after it was introduced in 2001.

The new law imposes 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 increase 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 elec-

tion in 2000 in an attempt to fight widespread tax evasion and boost state revenue. In 2021, Russia modified the system so that people earning more than 5 million rubles a year would pay 15% on the amount above the threshold.

Chris Weaver, CEO of Macro-Advisory consultancy, described the increase in taxes as part of government efforts to reduce a heavy reliance

on oil revenues as Western nations tighten sanctions against Russian oil exports.

"The government is looking to broaden out the tax base to make it less dependent on external factors and to therefore make it more secure by shifting the orientation as best they can towards domestic sourcing," he said after the bill's endorsement by lawmakers.

'Easy Pay service expands access to 42 merchants'

Gulf Bank partners with Emirates for Easy Pay flight installments

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: As part of its ongoing efforts to provide the best services, and just in time for the summer travel season, Gulf Bank has partnered with Emirates airline to enable its customers to pay for their flight tickets through Easy Pay on the airline's website in 12 months installments, with 0% interest and no administrative fees.

As part of the partnership, all Gulf Bank credit cardholders can use the Easy Pay service for bookings starting from KD 50. Customers can take advantage of this service by booking through the Emirates Airline website, or by contacting Gulf Bank's Call Center to convert their purchase into an Easy Pay plan.

Mohammad Al-Qattan, Gulf Bank's General Manager of Consumer Banking, stated, "We are pleased to partner with Emirates airline, the world's largest international airline, to offer our customers the Easy Pay installment service." He emphasized the



bank's commitment to continuously improving its services to meet the needs and requirements of its customers, by providing easy and innovative solutions.

He added that the bank strives to offer an exceptional banking experience by simplifying

procedures and transactions, and providing solutions that are straightforward, efficient, and transparent. He emphasized that the bank prioritizes communication with customers, understanding their needs, and responding quickly to meet them.



Gulf Bank partners with Emirates.

Al-Qattan also mentioned that the service enables customers to access a wide range of products and services from 42 merchants in the following categories, including travel, cars, health and beauty, electronics, home furnishings, jewelry, fashion, sports, fitness,

home appliances, and more.

Additionally, he highlighted that Gulf Bank offers its credit cardholders the best rewards program in Kuwait. This program allows them to redeem points for flight tickets without being restricted to a specific airline, book hotel stays

at over 300,000 hotels worldwide, and enjoy special travel offers. He noted that points earned on international purchases are higher than those on local transactions, providing customers with more rewarding returns when using their credit cards.

Tailored all-inclusive customer packages

ABK unveils GMC Yukon quarterly draw 'winner'

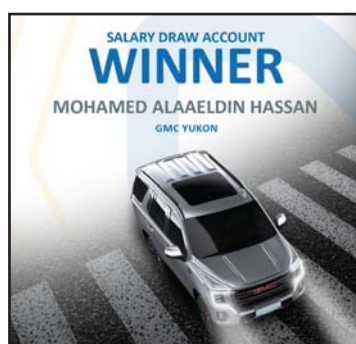
KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced MOHAMED ALAAELDIN HASSAN as the winner of the GMC Yukon vehicle in the Bank's quarterly 'Transfer Your Salary!' campaign draw, held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

On this occasion, Johair Marafi, General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, said, "I would like to begin by congratulating our winner. I am very pleased to witness the great success of our campaign, reaffirmed by the noteworthy customer turnout seeking to benefit from the numerous features offered."

Upon salary transfer, ABK awards new customers an array of benefits including a cash gift of up to KD 1,000, a free-of-charge Visa Signature credit card for life, as well as a chance to enter the next quarterly draw to win yet another GMC Yukon.

Marafi continued, "Our salary transfer offering represents one of the Bank's most significant campaigns designed to reward customers with worthwhile benefits. It encompasses an all-inclusive package catered to suit customer needs and desires."

In addition to attracting new cus-



Bank's quarterly 'Transfer Your Salary!' campaign draw winner.

tomers to open accounts, she also expressed ABK's commitment and eagerness to ensure the satisfaction of its existing customers. She said, "All our initiatives are in line with the Bank's goal to sustain our position as one of the most prominent players in the market."

Marafi affirmed, "We constantly study the best possible ways to enhance our product and service offering to thank and reward our customers for their loyalty and trust. As such, the Bank will continue to develop more sought-after promotional campaigns in the near future."

Marafi concluded with an invitation to follow the Bank's social media accounts to remain up to date with the latest marketing initiatives and to benefit from the promotions offered throughout the year.

Strategic partnership boosts student projects at Kuwait University

Min commends KFH's support at engineering exhibition

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Under the patronage and presence of Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the College of Engineering and Petroleum's 46th Engineering Design Exhibition, held at Sabah Al Salem University City.

On this occasion, Minister Al-Mashaan commended KFH's continuous support towards education, students and youth. She also lauded its extended strategic partnership with the College of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University and its support for the Engineering Design Exhibition.

She indicated that the support provided to students and the exhibition demonstrates the commitment towards developing the engineering sector and enhancing the role of innovation in this field. Additionally, she highlighted the importance of recognizing and supporting engineering innovations due to their contributions to the sector's enhancement and the motivation of distinguished individuals to drive further development and prosperity in the country.

KFH's participation entailed supporting many students in their engineering projects, in addition to dedicating the Environmental Sustainability Award to projects focusing on sustainability and environmental issues.



Student receiving honor from Minister Noura Al-Mashaan in the presence of officials from the College of Engineering and Petroleum.

KFH is one of the main and largest supporters of graduation projects at the College of Engineering and Petroleum. During its extended partnership with the college, KFH supported around 300 graduation projects for students throughout the year.

It is worth noting that KFH's sup-

port is part of its keenness to sponsor students, education, and youth and encourage scientific initiatives that contribute to achieving growth and development in various fields.

Through its strategic partnership with the College of Engineering and Petroleum, KFH contribute to creating a fruitful social and scientific

environment by providing the necessary support for the development of scientific capabilities.

Meanwhile, officials and participating students from the College of Engineering and Petroleum expressed their sincere gratitude and appreciation for KFH's continuous support of students and youth.

The Conversation

Importance of legal protections

Small family businesses lead innovation globally

By Vitaliy Skorodzyevskiy,
University of Louisville

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

Close your eyes and imagine a world where the most innovative companies aren't big tech giants but family-run businesses. Now open your eyes, because you don't have to imagine it: It's reality.

That's what our team of business experts found in a recent global analysis of research into family-owned and family-run firms.

When we reviewed 193 studies published from 1996 through 2022 about the strategies, including innovation, that these businesses pursue, we saw that smaller family companies lead the charge in innovation - with a caveat.

Specifically, we found that small and medium-sized family companies in legal environments with strong property rights are the most innovative in the world. They surpassed large family businesses and non-family-run business of all sizes.

To determine which countries have stronger property rights protections, we used the most comprehensive ranking available, the International Property Rights Index.

The index takes several issues into account, including political stability, judicial independence, corruption, ease of access to loans, and copyright and patent protection.

The three countries with the strongest legal environments are Finland, Switzerland and Australia. The U.S. came in 12th place.

When business professors talk about "innovation," we're typically referring to investments in research and development, business process improvements, new product creation and other activities associated with product-related strategic change.

Previous research has suggested that family businesses are more or less in-

novative based on two things: how large they are and whether they're in a country that protects property rights. When property rights aren't protected, people have less incentive to innovate - because their ideas are liable to be stolen.

We've personally seen how this affects business owners. Some members of our team come from countries where property rights aren't strongly protected - namely, Kazakhstan and China - and we'd heard from family-business owners about their struggles to innovate.

Our work illustrates the importance of property-rights protections to business growth. And while such legal protections enable growth for everyone, small and medium-sized family-run businesses stand to gain the most from them.

This isn't entirely surprising. Large companies often have more robust systems in place to protect against risks such as theft and fraud. And they have less need to innovate thanks to their size and established market presence. In contrast, smaller companies must innovate continuously to compete and grow.

Family companies also care about passing firms to future generations, which gives them an extra incentive to innovate: If they don't, they may cease to exist. This seems to be more relevant to smaller, less established family companies.

Our findings are qualitative rather than quantitative, which means that more research is needed to confirm them. We also don't yet know what kind of innovations make smaller family companies stand out, or whether these innovations should be incremental or radical.

Our team wants to learn more about the legal environments in which family companies operate and how they affect behavior and performance. We plan to conduct more research on various strategies that family companies pursue, such as innovation, internationalization and mergers or acquisitions. (AP)

Couponing and budgeting strategies highlighted

Expert tips for saving on grocery shopping

NEW YORK, July 13, (AP): If you've noticed that you're paying more than before for the same amount of groceries, you're not the only one. Inflation is easing slightly, but grocery prices are still high - up 21% on average since inflation started to surge more than three years ago.

"When inflation rises, it reduces people's ability to afford groceries by increasing the overall cost of goods," said Cassandra Happe, analyst for WalletHub.

Unlike some other items, you can't just stop buying groceries when they get pricey. There's nothing you can do about inflation, but you can find ways to save on groceries so they don't heavily impact your wallet or your eating habits. These include using coupons, budgeting, and buying in bulk.

Here's some expert recommendations for saving on groceries:

Kiersten Torok started using coupons back when she was in high school, after her parents lost their jobs during the 2008 recession. She began relying on them even more in 2020, when she lost her own job during the pandemic. Now she's using her social media platform to help others learn how to save.

"When times like these come up, coupons are a necessity for so many Americans," said Torok, known on Instagram and TikTok as Torok Coupon Hunter.

Many might think that using coupons means cutting them out of a magazine. While you can certainly still do that, there are now easier ways to get the discounts. Many stores, like Walmart and Target, have coupons available on their apps.

"All you have to do is scan an item in a store, the coupons pop up on your app and then they automatically apply in the register," Torok said. "It's become much more streamlined."

One of Torok's coupon golden



A shopper peruses cheese offerings at a Target store on Oct. 4, 2023, in Sheridan, Colo. Inflation is easing slightly, but grocery prices are still high. (AP)

rules is: never pay for toothpaste - there's always a combination of coupons and offers available. For anyone who wants to try couponing, Torok recommends that you first start using them at your favorite store and never buy things you don't need, even if there's a big discount.

Apps like Flipp, which lets you browse for coupons from all major grocery stores, and Ibotta, an app that gives you cashback for using coupons, can make your journey with couponing easier.

Making a budget is a key to keeping grocery spending under control, and the first step is to track how much you're already spending. Start by reviewing how much you have spent on the last few times you've gone grocery shopping, recommended David Brindley, deputy editor for AARP Bulletin.

If you don't keep receipts from past grocery runs, try looking at your bank account statement and adding up the grocery charges. Once you know how much you

spend on groceries, set a goal, for example, staying within a specific budget or reducing your spending.

You need a plan, but before you make one, ensure you know what you currently have in your fridge and your pantry. Sarah Schweisthal, personal finance expert and social media manager at budgeting app YNAB, recommends taking everything out and making an inventory so you don't buy duplicates of things you already have on hand.

Brindley also recommends planning to cook multiple meals with similar ingredients, which saves money and also cuts down on food waste.

Once you've tracked your spending and inventoried what you already have, the next step is to make a plan. Write down the items you're looking to buy and your estimated cost, making sure you stay on budget. Meal planning for the week or month can be a good way to stay on top of your spending, Schweisthal said.

Going up and down the aisles can

sometimes make you crave things that you haven't planned for, like a snack or a new dish. If you foresee that it'll be hard for you to stick to your list, include some flexibility in your plan, such as allotting a specific amount to buy snacks or a random item you see at the check-out line.

"I think having flexibility in a plan actually helps you stick to it more," Schweisthal said.

Making a plan can be as simple as writing down a list on paper or in your phone's notes app. Or, you can use apps that specifically help you with meal planning such as AnyList or Mealime.

If you tend to wander off your grocery list because every time you go to the store you buy things you don't need, shopping online and picking up curbside is a good workaround.

"I 100% recommend sitting down Sunday morning and just looking at the stores and comparing the items you need for the week, especially with things you can get for curbside pickup," Torok said.

If you buy your groceries from multiple stores because each has better prices on some items, ordering ahead of time can also save time.

If you are in charge of buying groceries for your entire family, it can be beneficial to include them in your grocery budgeting routine. For Torok, this has meant teaching her children how to scan coupons while they shop.

Since buying in bulk can be very cost-effective, Brindley also recommends that you team up with a friend or a family member to buy specific items in bulk and share the discount.

Lastly, you can save money by using food-sharing apps such as Olio, which connects people around their community to share extra grocery items, and Too Good to Go, where you can buy surplus food at a discount.

Baldwin emotional as manslaughter case ends abruptly

SANTA FE, N.M., July 13, (AP) — A New Mexico judge on Friday brought a sudden and stunning end to the involuntary manslaughter case against Alec Baldwin, dismissing it in the middle of the actor's trial and saying it cannot be filed again.

Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer dismissed the case based on misconduct of police and prosecutors over the withholding of evidence from the defense in the 2021 shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set of the film "Rust."

Baldwin cried, hugged his two attorneys, gestured to the front of the court, then turned to hug his crying wife, Hilaria, the mother of seven of his eight children, holding the embrace for 12 seconds. He climbed into an SUV outside the Santa Fe County courthouse without speaking to the media.

"The late discovery of this evidence during trial has impeded the effective use of evidence in such a way that it has impacted the fundamental fairness of the proceedings," Marlowe Sommer said. "If this conduct does not rise to the level of bad faith it certainly comes so near to bad faith to show signs of scorching."

The case-ending evidence, revealed during testimony Thursday, was ammunition that was brought into the sheriff's office in March by a man who said it could be related to Hutchins' killing. Prosecutors said they deemed the ammo unrelated and unimportant, while Baldwin's lawyers alleged they "buried" it and filed a motion to dismiss the case.

The judge's decision ends the criminal culpability of the 66-year-old Baldwin after a nearly three-year saga that began when a revolver he was pointing at Hutchins during a rehearsal went off, killing her and wounding director Joel Souza.

"Our goal from the beginning was to seek justice for Halyna Hutchins," District Attorney Mary Carmack-Altwies said in a state-

ment. "We are disappointed that the case did not get to the jury."

The career of the "Hunt for Red October" and "30 Rock" star and frequent "Saturday Night Live" host — who has been a household name for more than three decades — had been put into doubt, and he could have gotten 18 months in prison if convicted. It's not clear what opportunities will await him now, but he and his wife signed an agreement for a reality show on their large family in June.



Baldwin

Baldwin and other producers still face civil lawsuits from Hutchins' parents and sister, and from crew members. Hutchins' widower and young son had agreed to settle their own lawsuit about a year after the shooting, with the widower becoming an executive producer on the then-unfinished film.

Settlement

But that settlement was reportedly in jeopardy before the trial, and the lawyer who filed it, Brian Panish, now said in a statement that "we look forward to presenting all the evidence to a jury and holding Mr. Baldwin accountable for his actions in the senseless death of Halyna Hutchins."

"Rust," an independent Western, was completed in Montana. It has not found a distributor or been seen by the public.

Prosecutors did get one conviction for Hutchins' death: Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, the film's armorer, was sentenced to 18 months in prison on an involuntary manslaughter conviction.

She is appealing, and her attorney Jason Bowles said he would file

a motion to dismiss his client's case on the same basis as Baldwin's. Marlowe Sommer put a pause on the trial earlier Friday and sent the jury home so she could hear testimony and arguments on the dismissal motion.

Troy Teske, a retired police officer and a close friend of Gutierrez-Reed's father Thell Reed, who is a gun coach and armorer on movies, was the person who appeared with the ammunition on the same day the guilty verdict in her case was read.

Teske and the ammunition had been known to authorities since a few weeks after the shooting, but they determined it was not relevant.

The evidence was collected but crucially was not put into the same file as the rest of the "Rust" case, and it was not presented to Baldwin's team when they examined ballistics evidence in April.

The issue came up during defense questioning of crime scene technician Marissa Poppell, who acknowledged receiving the ammunition, a moment that the judge watched on a police supervisor's body camera Friday.

Morrissey argued that the emergence of the evidence was part of an attempt by Reed to shift blame away from his daughter.

"This is a wild goose chase that has no evidentiary value whatsoever," Morrissey said. "This is just a man trying to protect his daughter."

The evidence might not have mattered in Baldwin's case were it included. The charges against him did not allege that he was responsible for the deadly rounds being on set. But the defense's lack of access to it was deemed egregious enough for a dismissal.

The trial's other special prosecutor, Erlinda Ocampo Johnson, who delivered the state's opening statement just two days ago, resigned from the case Friday, a move that would have been stunning in itself were it not followed moments later by the dismissal.

People

Variety



This image released by A24 shows Colman Domingo, (right), and Clarence Maclin in a scene from 'Sing Sing.' (AP)

Film

Inmates find redemption through art

'Sing Sing' cheers the power of art

By Mark Kennedy

"Sing Sing" follows the well-trodden path of a motley group of amateur actors as they come together to rehearse and put on a play in front of their peers. It's different this time, though, because everyone is a captive audience.

The movie is set inside a maximum security prison in New York state, highlighting a real-life rehabilitation program that works to offer inmates an artistic outlet and featuring a cast that includes many formerly incarcerated actors.

This is a premise that could turn horrifically treacherous or maudlin. But Greg Kwedar — who directs and co-writes with Clint Bentley — has a firm, no-nonsense but emotional hand, even if he uses a few too many razor-wire-through-the-window shots.

It's a cinematic high-five to all arts programs behind bars and, in particular, the power of theater. If you are a cynic, "Sing Sing" may be an elaborate infomercial for its Rehabilitation Through the Arts program. Even if it is, it's wonderful. Cynics are not welcome here.

Part of its power is Colman Domingo, who is finally becoming indispensable in Hollywood. He got his flowers in George C. Wolfe's "Rustin" and now deserves a larger bouquet playing not just a key part of the Sing Sing theater program, but its soul.

To see inmates acting — which requires participants to be real, vulnerable and honest — isn't "something men don't get to do too often," says the program's director, one of movie's only free characters, played by a nicely understated Paul Raci.

We first find Domingo as Divine G, a one-time "Fame"-high school actor and playwright, trying to help determine which show they should mount next and who will be onstage. He's a lot like other actors — a tad vain, self-involved and reverential when it comes to the craft.

He is challenged by the appearance of the very dangerous gangster Divine Eye — played fiercely by magnetic former inmate Clarence Maclin — who has a rap poet's heart underneath all that menace. ("My slings and arrows are on the inside," he says).

Taming him to be emotionally open — or at least not bashing in the skull of someone passing behind him, a prison no-no — will take some nuance and patience.

"Sing Sing" is based on "The Sing Sing Follies," a 2005 Esquire article by John H. Richardson, as well as personal interviews that Kwedar and Bentley conducted with current and former participants.

Kwedar's camera is often shaky and he sometimes has his actors talk in overlapping dialogue, giving "Sing Sing" a documentary feel. He is sober about the indignities inside, from random violence to endless lines.

Surrounding these men is a faceless, pitiless system filled with guards routinely tossing cells, stern parole boards and lockdown sirens. The acting program allows individual expression in a world where they are mere numbers in prison green.

Freedom

The movie's band of actors — now tired of heaviness after having just done Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" — ask for a comedy and the director dreams up an insane one, featuring ancient Egyptian mummies, time travel, Old West gunslingers, Freddy Krueger, gladiators and a soliloquy from "Hamlet."

The movie's most affecting scenes are the ones that follow the inmates doing the craft — tender auditions, reciting their lines while doing chores and working on their characters. Watching them giddy backstage in costume before a show is all of us.

"We here to be human again," says one.

The movie's script is not content with a just inmates-put-on-a-show premise so it has added some depth — parole board freedom for one in the cast and a sudden death. Sometimes they are clunky touches and you just want to go back to the scenes where the inmates are bonding and bursting with art. "Sing Sing," after all, is a song about how art can sustain us in even the darkest hours.

Clarence "Divine Eye" Maclin is standing inside Sing Sing Correctional Facility for the first time since he was incarcerated here 12 years ago. In this very chapel, he reminisces, he once sold drugs — a backup plan for when the yard was closed.

Not many men pine to return to the prisons in which they toiled away years of their life. Maclin, 58, lived inside Sing Sing for 15 years. But on this day, he's buoyant.

"I got a purpose now," Maclin says.

Maclin was at Sing Sing, the 198-year-old maximum-security prison perched on a hillside overlooking the Hudson 30 miles upriver from New York City, last Thursday for the premiere of the upcoming movie "Sing Sing." In the film, which opened July 12 in theaters, Colman Domingo stars as an incarcerated man who helps lead a theater program for others at Sing Sing. Together, they find community and catharsis through theater.

The program is real: Rehabilitation Through the Arts, or RTA, is a nonprofit founded by Katherine Vockins at Sing Sing in 1996. Many of its former participants make up the cast of "Sing Sing" alongside professional actors like Domingo and Paul Raci. Maclin plays himself — a hard, muscle-bound character whose talent for shake-downs in the yard, it turns out, transfers remarkably well to Shakespeare.

"On stage," Maclin says, "I got permission to do anything."

As movie premieres go, the one for "Sing Sing" at Sing Sing was about as poignant as it gets. The film was screened above the stage where RTA performed its first show for an audience half civilian, half incarcerated men in navy green jumpsuits. For the formerly incarcerated actors in the film, returning to Sing Sing was an emotional homecoming. They brought a message of hope and healing that they, themselves, are still trying to live up to.

Plaques outside the walls of Sing Sing — a high-walled citadel of incarceration beside which trains carrying commuters pass regularly — tout its rich history. This is where phrases long ubiquitous in movies — "Up the river," "the Big House" — come from. Historically, Sing Sing — where, among many others, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed — has loomed in the public imagination more as a symbol of harsh, Victorian age-style punishment than soulful rehabilitation. (AP)

SALT LAKE CITY: Actor Matthew McConaughey continued to tease he might run for political office to a room full of governors Friday, joshing about drinking his brand of tequila with at least one of them the night before and taking advice from another to be himself if he ever does run.

Whether the star known for "Dazed and Confused," "A Time to Kill" and "True Detective" would run as a Democrat or Republican, and for what office, remained unknown. McConaughey has been vague about his political affiliation and didn't tip his hand at the National Governors Association meeting.

"I'm on a learning tour and have been for probably the last six years," McConaughey told New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, a Democrat who asked about his plans. "Do I have the instincts and intellect that it would be a good fit for me and I would be a good fit for it. You know, would I be useful?" He was learning a lot at the governors' annual summer meeting, he told Murphy.

"I learned a lot from you last night through that tequila, sir," he kidded Murphy, who'd brought up drinking McConaughey's tequila with him.

McConaughey took part in a panel discussion with Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, a Republican, and Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, a Democrat, about how to promote civility in politics.

Cox, the genial governor of famously polite Utah, has led a "Disagree Better" campaign to counter harsh rhetoric and combativeness in government — a project that has caught the attention of McConaughey, who's also been outspoken about U.S. leaders practicing more respect. The three discussed how politicians' need to grab attention — and clicks online — drive extreme rhetoric. McConaughey said that extreme polarization has bled into Hollywood as well.

"My industry has to watch its tongue out of the gate because it's coming from the left. We have to open that conversation with our opening statements and not invalidate a moderate or conservative at the gate, which we're guilty of to an extent," McConaughey remarked of actors and directors weighing in on politics.

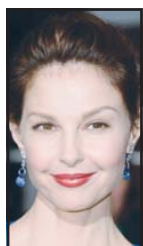
McConaughey hinted in 2022 he might run for governor in his home state of Texas. He has meanwhile

been outspoken on gun control, urging Congress from the White House after that year's school massacre in Uvalde, Texas, to pass legislation to bolster background checks for gun purchases and raise the minimum age to purchase an AR-15-style rifle to 21 from 18.

Hawaii Gov. Josh Green, a Democrat, encouraged Mc-



McConaughey



Judd

Conaughey to someday run and offered advice. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Voice actor Ashley Judd is adding her voice to calls for President Joe Biden to step aside from the presidential race following his performance in last month's debate, arguing that she

worries he could lose to Republican Donald Trump in November.

In an opinion piece for USA Today published on Friday, Judd called on Biden to "voluntarily, gracefully step aside" so that his party can support a "talented, robust Democrat" for the presidency. She described Biden during the debate as "incapable of counter-

ing Trump, while he, unchecked, gushed a firehose of galling lies."

Judd, who has been an outspoken supporter for Biden and other Democrats across the country, noted the political activism that has accompanied her multi-decade Hollywood career. Her allegations against movie mogul Harvey Weinstein helped spark the #MeToo movement. (AP)

People & Places

People

Armani turns 90

Harry honored with 'Pat Tillman Award'

LOS ANGELES, July 13, (AP): Prince Harry received the Pat Tillman Award for Service at The ESPYS on Thursday night, and he mentioned the late Army Ranger's mother who had criticized ESPN for honoring the royal.

With wife Meghan joining in a standing ovation, the Duke of Sussex accepted the trophy from three service veterans who were injured during their tours of duty. Harry served in the British military for 10 years, including two tours in Afghanistan as a helicopter pilot.

He created the Invictus Games in 2014, which serves as a multi-sport, paralympic-style games for wounded or injured servicemen and veterans.

"This award belongs to them, not to me," Harry said from the stage of the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood.

Tillman's mother, Mary Tillman, had criticized ESPN's choice of Harry, saying there are recipients working in the veteran community who would have been more fitting. Harry thanked Tillman's widow, Marie, for her attendance and also acknowledged Mary Tillman.

"Her advocacy for Pat's legacy is deeply personal and one that I respect," he said. "The bond between a mother and son is eternal and transcends even the greatest losses."

Dawn Staley, coach of the national champion South Carolina women's basketball team, received the Jimmy V Award for Perseverance. Her friend, Tennessee standout Nicki McCray-Penson, died of breast cancer and Staley's sister was diagnosed with leukemia.

"I must confess I feel a little undeserving of this recognition. Past recipients of the Jimmy V Perseverance Award have faced incredible challenges and proven themselves as true warriors," Staley said. "I have merely been a spectator to such immense courage and resilience."

Staley's Gamecocks won the best team award.

Services

Retired NFL safety Steve Gleason was honored with the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage. He was diagnosed with ALS or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, in 2011. His nonprofit, Team Gleason, helps people with ALS live purposeful lives by providing programming and support services.

Gleason received a standing ovation when he took the stage in a motorized chair and was kissed by former New Orleans Saints teammate Drew Brees. Gleason's voice was heard through special technology. His young son, Rivers, stood next to his father and held the trophy.

"For me, this honor represents some encouragement and triumph for the families currently living with ALS, all the people living with disabilities or other illnesses," he said. "I suppose if you have never experienced fear, isolation or suffering, you can roll your sanctified ass right out of here."

A'ja Wilson of the Las Vegas Aces won as best women's sports athlete and as best WNBA player.

"It's crazy to think that a young girl that didn't even want to play basketball is now up in the running for even one ESPY," she said in videotaped remarks.

Rookie Caitlin Clark of the Indiana Fever also earned two trophies, for record-breaking performance in becoming the NCAA's all-time career scoring leader, and as best college athlete, for her Iowa basketball career.

JuJu Watkins won best breakthrough athlete, taking the first award after the show began 30 minutes late because of President Joe Biden's news conference.

The Southern California basketball star had a stand-out freshman season, leading the Trojans to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament for the first time in decades.

"This is crazy," Watkins said. "I want to thank all the great, powerful women who came before me that made this possible."

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes was named best men's sports athlete and best NFL player.

Host Serena Williams joked during her monologue after Ciara opened the show with a musical performance. Older sister, Venus, later came out and joked that she had actually been asked to host and the siblings got into a mock argument.

"You may be wondering why I'm doing this," noted fashion fiend Serena said. "Any opportunity to wear 16 outfits in three hours, I'm going to take it."

Cooper Flagg, a senior guard-forward from Montverde (Florida) Academy, and track and field athlete Sadie Engelhardt of Ventura (California) High won the Gatorade National Players of the Year.

Also:

MILAN: Milan fashion mainstay **Giorgio Armani** celebrated his 90th birthday on Thursday just like any other day - at work.

"I couldn't live my life any other way," Armani told the Milan daily *Corriere della Sera*. "It wouldn't be me if I stopped. When I was younger, I thought that at 80 I would be on permanent vacation. But the work is so exciting, energizing, that I really can't leave it."

The newspaper reported that Armani was meant to spend the day celebrating with friends and family in the south of France. Instead, energized by the recent success of the Armani Prive' couture during Paris Fashion Week, he has set to work on his next womenswear collection, which will be unveiled in October in New York City.

Armani's office confirmed that the designer who helped propel Milan ready-to-wear into a global industry was working a regular week, with appointments scheduled for Friday at 9:30 a.m.

While Armani celebrates his 90th birthday, his namesake brand Giorgio Armani next year marks its 50th year. His group also includes Emporio Armani, the official outfitter of the Italian Olympic team, and Armani Prive couture.



ROME: **Dominique Meyer** has been appointed executive director of the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, effective July 15, the orchestra's board of trustees said on Friday.

Meyer, however, will remain superintendent of Milan's Teatro alla Scala until the end of his term on Feb. 28, 2025, *la Scala* added in a statement.

Meyer had been offered to stay in his current position at Italy's famed opera house until August next year, when he turns 70. His replacement comes against the backdrop of new rules introduced last year by Italy's far-right government led by **Giorgia Meloni**, which set an age limit of 70 for opera directors.



Lainey Wilson arrives at the premiere of 'Twisters' on Thursday, July 11, in Los Angeles. (AP)

Obituary

The 'female Buster Keaton'

Duvall, 'The Shining' star, dies at 75

LOS ANGELES, July 13, (AP): Shelley Duvall, the intrepid, Texas-born movie star whose wide-eyed, winsome presence was a mainstay in the films of Robert Altman and who co-starred in Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining," has died. She was 75.

Duvall died Thursday in her sleep at home in Blanco, Texas, her longtime partner, Dan Gilroy, announced. The cause was complications from diabetes, said her friend, the publicist Gary Springer.

"My dear, sweet, wonderful life, partner, and friend left us last night," Gilroy said in a statement. "Too much suffering lately, now she's free. Fly away beautiful Shelley."

Duvall was attending junior college in Texas when Altman's crew members, preparing to film "Brewster McCLOUD," encountered her at a Houston party in 1970. They introduced the 20-year-old to the director, who cast her in "Brewster McCLOUD" and made her his protegee.

Duvall would go on to appear in Altman films including "Thieves Like Us," "Nashville," "Popeye," "Three Women" and "McCabe & Mrs. Miller."

"He offers me damn good roles," Duvall told *The New York Times* in 1977. "None of them have been alike. He has a great confidence in me, and a trust and respect for me, and he doesn't put any restrictions on me or intimidate me, and I love him. I remember the first advice he ever gave me: 'Don't take yourself seriously.'"

Duvall, gaunt and gawky, was no conventional Hollywood starlet. But she had a beguilingly frank manner and exuded a singular naturalism. The film critic Pauline Kael called her the "female Buster Keaton."

At her peak, Duvall was a regular star in some of the defining movies of the 1970s. In "The Shining" (1980), she played Wendy Torrance, who watches in horror as her husband, Jack (Jack Nicholson), goes crazy while their family is isolated in the Overlook Hotel. It was Duvall's screaming face

that made up half of the film's most iconic image, along with Jack's axe coming through the door.

Kubrick, a famous perfectionist, was notoriously hard on Duvall in making "The Shining." His methods of pushing her through countless takes in the most anguished scenes took a toll on the actor. One scene was reportedly performed in 127 takes. The entire shoot took 13 months. Duvall, in a 1981 interview with *People* magazine, said she was crying "12 hours a day for weeks on end" during the film's production.

"I will never give that much again," said Duvall. "If you want to get into pain and call it art, go ahead, but not with me."

Duvall disappeared from movies almost as quickly as she arrived in them. By the 1990s, she began retiring from acting and retreated from public life.

Relationship

"How would you feel if people were really nice, and then, suddenly, on a dime, they turn on you?" Duvall told the *Times* earlier this year. "You would never believe it unless it happens to you. That's why you get hurt, because you can't really believe it's true."

Duvall, the oldest of four, was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 7, 1949. Her father, Robert, was a cattle auctioneer before working in law and her mother, Bobbie, was a real estate agent.

Duvall married the artist Bernard Sampson in 1970. They divorced four years later. Duvall was in a long-term relationship with the musician Paul Simon in the late '70s after meeting during the making of Woody Allen's "Annie Hall." (Duvall played the rock critic who keeps declaring things "transplendent.") She also dated Ringo Starr. During the making of the 1990 Disney Channel movie "Mother Goose Rock 'n' Roll," Duvall met the musician Dan Gilroy, of the group Breakfast Club, with whom she remained

until her death.

Duvall's run in the 1970s was remarkably versatile. In the rugged Western "McCabe & Mrs. Miller" (1971), she played the mail-order bride Ida. She was a groupie in "Nashville" (1975) and Olive Oyl, opposite Robin Williams, in "Popeye" (1980). In "3 Women," co-starring Sissy Spacek and Janice Rule, Duvall played Millie Lammoreaux, a Palm Springs health spa worker, and won best actress at the Cannes Film Festival.

In the 1980s, Duvall produced and hosted a number of children's TV series, among them "Faerie Tale Theatre," "Tall Tales & Legends" and "Shelley Duvall's Bedtime Stories."

Duvall moved back to Texas in the mid-1990s. Around 2002, after making the comedy "Manna from Heaven," she retreated from Hollywood completely. Her whereabouts became a favorite topic of internet sleuths. A favorite but incorrect theory was that it was residual trauma from the grueling shoot for "The Shining." Another was that the damage to her home after the 1994 Northridge earthquake was the last straw.

To those living in Texas Hill Country, where Duvall lived for some 30 years, she was neither in "hiding" nor a recluse. But her circumstances were a mystery to both the media and many of her old Hollywood friends. That changed in 2016, when producers for the "Dr. Phil" show tracked her down and aired a controversial hourlong interview with her in which she spoke about her mental health issues. "I'm very sick. I need help," Duvall said on the program, which was widely criticized for being exploitative.

"I found out the kind of person he is the hard way," Duvall told *The Hollywood Reporter* in 2021.

THR journalist Seth Abramovitch wrote at the time that he went on a pilgrimage to find her because "it didn't feel right for McGraw's insensitive sideshow to be the final word on her legacy."



Shelley Duvall is shown on Oct. 27, 1983, in Los Angeles. Duvall, whose wide-eyed, winsome presence was a mainstay in the films of Robert Altman and who co-starred in Stanley Kubrick's 'The Shining,' has died. She was 75. (AP)



Ambani



Infantino

Variety

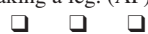
NEW DELHI: It has been a wedding like no other - and the festivities have been going on for months. So where does one start?

With a three-day pre-wedding celebration in March when **Rihanna** and **Akon** performed for a star-studded 1,200-person guest list? Or a four-day European cruise in May that featured on-deck concerts from the Backstreet Boys and **Pitbull**, followed by a masquerade ball where **Katy Perry** sang? Or last week's traditional music night in **Mumbai** where **Justin Bieber** belted out his music hits?

Wait. There's more. An actual wedding that finally happened early Saturday and was attended by the likes of **Mike Tyson**, **Nick Jonas**, **Tony Blair**, **Boris Johnson** and **Kim Kardashian**, who was escorted to her hotel room by artists playing a flute. Mind you, almost everyone from Bollywood was there as well. And the groom arrived in a Rolls Royce, with marching bands playing in the procession.

The wedding of **Anant Ambani**, the youngest son of **Asia's** richest man, **Mukesh Ambani**, has been a global spectacle. Not only has it brought the world's most famous celebrities, powerful politicians and business tycoons under one roof, it has also highlighted the immense clout of the Indian billionaire.

Video clips coming out from the event showed guests dancing to Bollywood music. Most television news channels offered minute-by-minute coverage of the main wedding ritual of the couple walking around the sacred fire seven times. Even FIFA President **Gianni Infantino** was seen shaking a leg. (AP)



MINSK: The 33rd International Arts Festival, Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk, opened with a grand ceremony at Vitebsk's summer open-air theater on Thursday evening, with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko in attendance.

Lukashenko called the event a celebration of family and traditional values. The

festival features national cultural day activities from the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, celebrating Belarus' recent membership in the organization on July 4.

The festival, which runs through July



Actor Alec Baldwin hugs a member of his legal team after the judge threw out the involuntary manslaughter case for the 2021 fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins during filming of the Western movie 'Rust,' Friday, July 12, in Santa Fe, N.M. (AP) - Details Page 11

15, will also showcase performances and competitions by artists from nearly 40 countries. Over 5,000 guests have registered to participate in the event. (Xinhua)



NAIROBI: When Kevin Kimani visited the East Africa (Kenya) Fashion Life Show in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, on Friday, the 24-year-old youth fell for elegant Chinese fabric and designer wear on display in many exhibition stands.

His excitement palpable, Kimani who is a communications major, said that part of the reason he was drawn to the Chinese-made garment was their exotic appearance and friendly pricing.

The youngster revealed that a mutual friend alerted him about the East African (Kenya) Fashion Life Show and International Small Commodities Expo At Sarit Expo Center that runs from July 10 to 13, attracting 60 exhibitors, of which 40 are local and 20 are Chinese, adding that his visit was motivated by a desire to explore fashionable clothes and shoes from China.

"I decided to come and see for myself the good things Chinese exhibitors have, especially clothes that are in fashion. The Chinese fashion is different from others and its unique features are texture and color," Kimani said. (Xinhua)

Kuwait's Abu Arjeeb wins WIPO award

WIPO honors Kuwaiti inventor Bourjeb for medical innovation

VIENNA, July 13, (KUNA): Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Daren Tang honored the Kuwaiti visionary inventor Sarah Bourjeb, whose ScansX won the 2024 WIPO health award.

At a celebration, held in Geneva on Friday on the fringes of the 65th WIPO Assemblies, Tang presented the WIPO awards to nine winners of this year awards, including Eng. Bourjeb.

Congratulating the winners, he reaffirmed WIPO's support for them to optimize the IP commercialization system and expand market access for their innovations.

Twenty-five of the 667 inventors, who vied for the 2024 WIPO Awards from 107 countries, had been shortlisted and nine of them were proclaimed winners.

The function gathered representatives of WIPO member states and several ambassadors, including Kuwait Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen, according to a statement from Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.

Ambassador Al-Hayed congratulated Eng. Bourjeb for being the first



Kuwaiti inventor Sarah Bourjeb being honored with WIPO award.

Arab inventor to win the celebrated award since its launching in 2022.

Bourjeb's ScansX, founded in 2023, stands at the cutting edge of brain injury diagnosis and medical technology innovation.

Its mission is to transform and enhance diagnostic procedures through our state-of-the-art technology, making them safer, more efficient, and more accessible.

ScansX is dedicated team with expertise aiming to drive forward pio-

neering vision and revolutionize medical diagnostics in the Middle East and globally.

The other eight winners are AETECH - Climate tech - Republic of Korea; Farmer Lifeline Technologies - Climate tech - Kenya; Solar; HealInno Tech - Health - China; Laboratorios Quimica Luar - Health - Argentina; Meticuly - Health - Thailand; PONS Teknoloji - Health - Türkiye; Qnami - Advanced Technology - Switzerland; and Vivo Surgical - Health - Singa-

Safety, efficacy honored

Jaber Hospital earns 'global' distinction in breast surgery

KUWAIT CITY, July 13, (KUNA): Kuwait's Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Hospital has been recognized by the Surgical Review Corporation (SRC) as a distinguished breast surgery center, becoming the world's seventh hospital in this field, announced the Ministry of Health.

The SRC is an internationally recognized healthcare leader committed to advancing the safe-

ty, efficacy and efficiency of surgical care worldwide, the ministry said in a post on its X account on Thursday.

Established in November 2018, Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Hospital is the largest medical center in the Middle East and the world's sixth-largest hospital, covering 720,000 sqm and composed of five nine-story towers.

pore.

The WIPO Global Awards are dedicated to SMEs and startups from a wide range of industrial sectors that making smart use of intellectual property for commercialization of products and services while also bringing a positive contribution to society through their innovation and creativity.

The Global Awards program takes

root in WIPO's mission to ensure a world where intellectual property rights support innovation and creativity from anywhere, for the good of everyone.

These independent, jury-selected awards recognize and support those whose skills contribute to progress and improve people's lives.

Winners receive a personalized

mentorship program to help them use IP for business growth, along with exclusive support and sponsorship to facilitate their access to funding and business opportunities.

Also:

KUWAIT CITY: Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity announced Friday that Kuwait's Sara Abu Arjeeb won an award of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Abu Arjeeb's invention is related to the early detection of tumors and cerebral hemorrhage by the use of alternating light technology integrated into artificial intelligence, the center, affiliated with Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, said in a press release.

More than 600 investors from over 100 countries all over the world competed for the prize, it said.

The competition included participants from South Korea, Kenya, China, Argentine, Thailand, Turkiye, Switzerland and Singapore, along with Kuwait.

WIPO is the UN agency that serves the world's innovators and creators to ensure that their ideas travel safely to the market and improve lives everywhere.

Expert advice and practical tips

What to do if your 'personal info' has been exposed in data breach

LONDON, July 13, (AP): Data breaches like the most recent one involving AT&T customers are becoming an almost regular occurrence.

As more of our lives move online, our personal data like email addresses, phone numbers, birthdates and even passcodes are becoming ever more vulnerable to theft or being mistakenly exposed.

In malicious breaches, cybercriminals can use stolen data to target people with phishing messages, or by taking out loans or credit cards in their name, a common and harmful type of identity theft.

Here are some tips to protect yourself.

In the United States, there's no federal law compelling companies or organizations to notify individuals of data breaches, but it's standard practice for them to inform affected customers and often provide identity protection services, said Oren Arar, vice president of consumer privacy at cybersecurity company Malwarebytes.

The situation is better in the European Union, where the 27-nation bloc's privacy regulations require disclosure of certain types of breaches.

Even after a breach has been made public, cybersecurity experts say people need to remain vigilant. Be on guard for phishing and other social engineering attempts, in the form of emails or phone calls purporting to be from the hacked organization or someone offering help. Contact the company or organization involved to see if they can confirm it. But use their official website, smartphone app or social media channels - don't use links or contact details in any messages you've been sent.

Also consult the Federal Trade Commission's website for identity theft victims, identitytheft.gov, which provides step-by-step advice on how to recover from various sce-

narios.

If your data has been exposed, the first thing you should do is change your password for the account involved.

Use a strong password including letters, numbers and symbols. The longer the better - some experts say it should be 16 characters. Make sure to add multifactor authentication, which adds a second layer of verification by requiring a code sent by text message or email, or inserting a USB authenticator key into your device.

Hackers

And if you've been using the same or similar login information for multiple websites or online accounts, make sure to change it. The reason is that if hackers pilfer your password from one service, they can try it on your other accounts and easily get into all of them. If you find it too hard to memorize all your various credentials, consider a password manager.

"Just because your info shows up in a breach doesn't mean someone's stolen your identity or money. But it does mean you're at risk," said Arar. "That's why it's smart to watch your credit for new accounts, change any passwords that get leaked, use multifactor authentication, and have a separate 'junk' email for less important sign-ups."

Data breaches are rampant and it can be hard to keep track of them through individual notifications. There are online services that you can check, like Have I Been Pwned, a free website that shows if your email has been involved in a data breach.

Malwarebytes' Digital Footprint Portal does a similar job but it can also check whether your info has been posted on the dark web.

"When public data breaches occur, cybercriminals gather as much

data as possible so they can sell it on the dark web," said Darren Guccione, CEO of Keeper Security, which makes password protection software and offers a tool, BreachWatch, that scans the dark web to see if your personal information shows up there.

If card payment numbers were stolen, inform your bank or credit card company, explaining that your card is at risk of fraud and asking them to alert you of any suspicious activity.

They'll probably issue a new card right away. Some banking and credit card apps allow you to lock the account and freeze any transactions from the app.

Access

You can also notify credit agencies - the three main ones are Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. They can freeze your credit, which restricts access to your credit report and makes it hard to open new accounts or issue a fraud alert, which will be a warning added to your credit report encouraging lenders to contact you before lending money.

Cybersecurity experts have warned that breaches that involve a telephone company, like the AT&T case, leave customers vulnerable to having their phone numbers stolen, or SIM swapped. Thieves could then use the hijacked number to access other accounts that use that number for multi-factor authentication through text messages.

To reduce that risk, AT&T advises also setting up a unique passcode that's needed to prevent significant account changes such as porting phone numbers to another carrier. Also, delete phone bills, bank statements and other messages with personal info from your email account, so that if criminals gain access to your inbox, they won't be able to use that information to pass security checks.

Side effects and drug deteriorations

Key facts: Extreme heat, certain medicines can be a risky combo

NEW YORK, July 13, (AP): Extreme heat can raise the danger of heat-related illnesses and threaten health in a more subtle way - by amplifying the side effects of many common medications.

Hot weather, too, can damage medicines such as insulin that require refrigeration. Inhalers can explode. Epinephrine injectors such as EpiPens can malfunction. Meds delivered in the mail can deteriorate.

A look at common problems and solutions related to heat and medicine: Blood pressure pills that reduce fluid in the blood can lead to dehydration. Beta blockers for heart conditions can decrease blood flow to the skin and make you less aware of dangerous heat.

Temperatures

Some antidepressants can hinder your ability to stay cool. Aspirin and other over-the-counter pain relievers decrease fluid and sodium levels, making it harder to deal with high temperatures.

On top of that, the combination of heat and drug side effects can lead to lightheadedness and falls. Alcohol increases the danger, said pharmacist Bradley Phillips of the University of Florida College of Pharmacy.

You can learn more about your medications' side effects and storage requirements at the National Library of Medicine's MedlinePlus website.

Or talk to your doctor or pharmacist, Phillips said. Ask about how much water you should be drinking if you're on medications that increase dehydration.

He recommends staying hydrated and "not relying on your body's ability to tell you that you're thirsty."

Some medicines - antibiotics, antifungals and acne drugs - can heighten sensitivity to the sun, causing rashes and sunburns. If you're taking them, stay under an umbrella or wear sun-protective fabrics and sunscreen, said Dr. Mike Ren, a family physician at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.



Temperature and humidity are monitored in a medicine cabinet at a medical center in California on Wednesday, May 29, 2024. (AP)

WHO donates \$9 million worth of medical supplies to Malawi

LILONGWE, July 13, (Xinhua): The World Health Organization (WHO) has donated assorted medical supplies, including drugs worth 9 million US dollars, to the government of Malawi to support the country's public hospitals.

When presenting the donation on Friday in Lilongwe, Neema Kimambo, the WHO country representative, expressed her organization's desire to see public hospitals in Malawi well-stocked and people have better access to healthcare services.

Kimambo added that the WHO will continue to support the Malawian gov-

ernment by providing various resources to meet the needs of Malawi's health system.

Malawian Minister of Health Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda hailed the donation, saying that the supplies will help address the shortage of medical supplies in the country's public hospitals.

The WHO has been providing vital medicine and medical supplies to the Malawian government since 2022 through the country's COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project.

"You might be on antibiotics, not think too much of it, go down to the beach and then come back with a whopping sunburn," Ren said.

Medication generally should be kept in a cool, dry place, unless it needs refrigeration. That can be challenging while traveling.

Before a summer road trip, check labels for the storage requirements of your meds. Carry medicine in a cooler when traveling by car, even if it doesn't require refrigeration. The car's trunk or glove box could get too hot for even room temperature storage.

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Barrett sparks NZ to victory over England in 2nd test

All Blacks preserve 30-year old unbeaten record at Eden Park

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, July 13, (AP): Beauden Barrett came off the bench to spark a wilting All Blacks team to a 24-17 win over England in the second test Saturday to preserve New Zealand's 30-year unbeaten streak at Eden Park.

New Zealand also swept the two-test series after winning 16-15 last weekend.

New Zealand's 48-match unbeaten run at the Auckland stadium looked under threat when England led 17-13 at the three-quarter mark.

Maro Itoje disrupted New Zealand's lineup, England dominated at kickoffs and won the kicking contest to press the All Blacks constantly inside their

own half, winning more than 60% of territory.

But Barrett came into the match and created a double threat with fellow playmaker Damian McKenzie. Within a few minutes, Barrett created the second try of the match for winger Mark Teale and New Zealand wrested back the lead as England tired.

Teale scored New Zealand's first try but England responded with two tries from Marcus Smith cross-kicks to wingers Immanuel Feyi-Waboso and Tommy Freeman to take a 14-13 lead into halftime. That lead increased to four points with a Smith penalty.

Itoje was a major force in the match as Ben Earl for his ball carrying up front and Ollie Lawrence crashed the ball up fearlessly in midfield. Smith was poised throughout and pressured the All Blacks with accurate kicks while the All Blacks struggled to exit their own half.

The England scrum was under pressure early but clawed its way back into the match and the England rush defense again dulled the New Zealand attack. Until Barrett arrived and changed the course of the match.

Teale's second try put New Zealand ahead 18-17 and McKenzie kicked two penalties to make the margin seven

RUGBY

points.

England made one last effort to score a try and save a draw but Lawrence was penalized for obstruction in the last play of the match and New Zealand survived.

"It was a proper test match and we expected nothing less from a classy England side," Barrett said. "It's test footy and it comes down to the wire. I'm proud of the boys for showing

some belief and finishing off there. I just try to stay calm off the bench and do what's required when I come on."

England comes away from New Zealand with nothing to show from a hard-fought test series in which the margin between the teams was slight. As in the first test, New Zealand found a way to escape again.

"I spoke earlier in the week to the boys about the journey this team has been on. It's been a long season for us dating back to the start of the World Cup," England captain Jamie George said.

George was over the All Blacks' line in the last play but called back for a penalty.

"We're a significantly better team than when we started and there's hugely exciting times again for this England team," he said.

There was more movement in the first 25 minutes of Saturday's match

than in all of the first test.

New Zealand found space early and had England under severe pressure twice in the first six minutes. The All Blacks scored the first try of the match in the 11th minute when it tapped a free kick. Ardie Savea carried the ball forward strongly, then New Zealand probed on the England right flank. Rieko Ioane dabbled forward and then passed to Teale to score in the left corner.

McKenzie converted in the first use of the goal-kicking "shot clock" introduced after a McKenzie penalty attempt was timed out in the first test.

England replied almost immediately, first crashing up along the left flank where Steward found some room. The ball came back into midfield and Marcus Smith kicked for Feyi-Waboso, who caught the ball with space and wrong-footed the defense to score in the 14th minute. The teams were level at 7-7.

New Zealand bombed what seemed a certain try in the 19th minute when Stephen Perofeta and Teale were involved in a long break out and a two-on-one mismatch with Smith. But Smith kept his head and Teale tried one too many passes, only for Smith to intercept and relieve the danger.

McKenzie kicked penalties in the 21st and 33rd minutes to put New Zealand ahead 13-7. In the interim, New Zealand had to soak up pressure in its own half as England kept the ball in hand and tried to blast through the All Blacks midfield.

The defense held until just after the halftime siren with Smith again chanced a cross-kick and winger Tommy Freeman went high to take the ball over Teale and score.

England extended its lead after halftime with a Smith penalty, before Barrett helped the All Blacks wrest back the advantage.



New Zealand's team pose with their trophy after defeating England in their rugby union test match in Auckland, New Zealand. (AP)

Storm blow away Lynx

Wilson notches 7th 30-point game of season to lead the Aces past Dream

COLLEGE PARK, July 13, (AP): A'ja Wilson scored 33 points and grabbed 18 rebounds, Jackie Young added 19 points and six assists, and the Las Vegas Aces won for the ninth time in 10 games, beating the Atlanta Dream 84-70 on Friday night.

Wilson has scored 30-plus points seven times this season, a career-high. She also tied Phoenix's Brittney Griner for the most WNBA games with 25-plus points and 10-plus rebounds in a single season with 10.

Cheyenne Parker-Tyus led Atlanta (7-15) with 17 points off the bench. Maya Caldwell added 13 points and Tina Charles had 12 points and 12 rebounds.

Wilson started the game making 6 of 9 shots, while the rest of her teammates were 6 of 22. Wilson had a nice sequence at the end of the second quarter when she made a driving layup, stole it at the other end, and then made two free throws with 1:52 left to extend Las Vegas' lead to 42-30.

Wilson secured her fourth straight double-double by scoring 19 points and grabbing 10 rebounds in the first half. She also finished with five blocks to move into 12th on the WNBA's career list.

BASKETBALL

Kelsey Plum had 15 points and seven assists for Las Vegas (15-7). Young reached 2,500 career points.

Storm 91, Lynx 63

In Seattle, Nneka Ogwumike scored 26 points to tie her season high, Skylar Diggins-Smith tied a career high with 12 assists to go with 10 points, and the Seattle Storm beat the Minnesota Lynx to snap a three-game losing streak in the series.

Seattle trailed 9-2 before scoring 36 of the next 49 points for a double-digit lead in the second quarter. Minnesota was scoreless in the second quarter until Diamond Miller made a shot with 4:58 left. The Storm (15-8) led 50-37 at halftime after shooting 56% from the field, including 4 of 10 from distance.

Kayla McBride scored 27 points and made six 3-pointers despite not playing in the fourth quarter for Minnesota (16-7).

Sami Whitcomb made two 3-pointers on three fourth-quarter possessions to cap a 9-0 run for an 81-57 lead. Minnesota's first points of the fourth came on Sika Kone's free throw with 6:46 left.

Whitcomb and Jewell Loyd each added 14 points and Ezi Magbegor had

ASOIF: US investigation undermines anti-doping fundamental principles

GENEVA, July 13, (Xinhua): The Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) said on Friday that a United States investigation into the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) approach to the case involving Chinese swimmers threatened to undermine the fundamental principles of the World Anti-Doping Code.

WADA held an online extraordinary executive meeting on Tuesday to discuss the interim report delivered by independent prosecutor Eric Cottier, regarding his review of WADA's handling of the Chinese Anti-Doping Agency's (CHINADA) decision not to punish 23 Chinese swimmers who tested positive for the heart medication trimetazidine seven months before the delayed Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

CHINADA determined that the athletes had unintentionally ingested the substance, and WADA did not subsequently appeal CHINADA's decision, leading to criticism from athletes and the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), who suggested a cover-up

had taken place.

"This federal investigation and the related issuance of a subpoena to World Aquatics' Executive Director regarding the anti-doping case involving Chinese swimmers threaten to undermine the fundamental principles of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the World Anti-Doping Code that applies universally," ASOIF said in its statement.

ASOIF expressed concerns that the leadership of one of its member international federations had been ordered to testify as a witness in a United States federal investigation.

"Independent prosecutor Eric Cottier's interim report stated that WADA's actions showed no bias towards China and that WADA's decision not to appeal the contamination scenario presented by the China Anti-Doping Agency was 'indisputably reasonable'," ASOIF said.

ASOIF claimed the US criminal investigation into an anti-doping case on foreign soil threatened to undermine

the role and independence of WADA.

"The US' extraterritorial investigation raises doubts about the personal safety of athletes, sport officials and representatives of international sport organisations and the confidence with which they may travel to the US for international sporting competitions and commitments," ASOIF added.

The US will host the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games and many major international sporting competitions in the future, and ASOIF called on IFs to consider the risks of allocating future international events to the US.

ASOIF also urged the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee and the Los Angeles 2028 organising committee to regard the position of WADA as an institution and respect the fundamental principles of the World Anti-Doping Code.

The International Olympic Committee also said that "the report clarifies that there were no irregularities on the part of WADA in handling the case" on Thursday.

10 points and eight rebounds for Seattle, which has lost six of its last eight games against Minnesota. Diggins-Smith secured her 12th career double-double.

After McBride, no other player scored more than seven points for the

Lynx, who were without Napheesa Collier (foot) for a third straight game.

Fever 95, Mercury 86

In Indianapolis, Kelsey Mitchell scored 28 points, Caitlin Clark had 20 points and 13 assists for her fifth

straight double-double and the Indiana Fever beat the short-handed Phoenix Mercury.

Kahleah Copper scored 20 of her 36 points in the fourth quarter as the Mercury (12-11) trimmed what had been a 31-point third-quarter deficit to single digits.

Mitchell gave Indiana (10-14) an 81-50 lead with 1:55 left in the third quarter before the Mercury scored the next 17 to get with in 81-67 on Sophie Cunningham's 3-pointer. Copper converted a shot in the lane with 5:02 left to get Phoenix within 85-76.

Clark tied the franchise record with her 13th assist on a cross-court pass to Mitchell for a 3-pointer and a 92-83 lead with 1:33 left.

Phoenix's comeback came without center Brittney Griner, who collided with a teammate in the first half and stayed on the floor before a timeout was called. The team announced Griner would not return due to a right hip injury. The Mercury were already without starters Diana Taurasi (leg) and Natasha Cloud (knee).

Copper scored 23 of her 36 points in the final 20 minutes.

Hull 'smashes' women's 2,000m world record at Diamond League

MONACO, July 13, (Xinhua): Jessica Hull showcased a fearless form ahead of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games as the Australian set a world record of five minutes and 19.70 seconds in the women's 2,000m at the Diamond League meeting.

The previous world record of this non-Olympic event was 5:21.56 achieved by Francine Niyonsaba of Burundi in September 2021. Having followed

ATHLETICS

closely as the pacemakers led through the first 1,000m in 2:39.88, Hull stayed focused and the trackside lights indicating world record pace never left her side.

Hull followed the United States' Heather MacLean as the second pacemaker stepped aside, and then when MacLean left the track too, it was Hull against the clock. Storming away from the lights as she left

the final bend, Hull crossed the finish line in 5:19.70 to take almost two seconds off the previous world record.

"It was incredible. When I was on my own on the last lap, everyone was cheering for me," said Hull. "I was just looking at the lights, hoping they wouldn't catch me." "There are for sure some women who can run that 5:19, but for now I have my place in the history books. I ran hard for this record, I worked extremely hard for this," she added.

The men's 800m all-time list was also rewritten again in Monaco, as Algeria's Djamel Sedjati crossed the finish line in 1:41.46 to break the Diamond League record, a performance that made him the third-fastest 800m runner in history.

Elsewhere, Jakob Ingebrigtsen stuck steadfast in his pursuit of a record time as the Norwegian improved his European record from 3:27.14 to 3:26.73 in the men's 1,500m.

China chasing continued success

BEIJING, July 13, (Xinhua): With less than two weeks until the opening of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, China announced a 716-member delegation, including 405 athletes, on Saturday, aiming to win more glory at the quadrennial sports extravaganza.

China has consistently finished in the top three positions in the Olympic medals table since Sydney 2000, and this trend is expected to continue in Paris.

Much of China's Olympic success relied on its squads in diving, shooting, gymnastics, table tennis, badminton and weightlifting - which have contributed a whopping 192 of China's total 263 gold medals at the Olympics since Los Angeles 1984.

During the Paris Olympic cycle, the country's "six ace squads" maintained a high level of performance across various competitions. Consequently, China is projected to finish second on total medals and should challenge the United States for first place on gold medals, according to Nielsen's Granote's latest Virtual Medal Table (VMT) forecast.

After missing out on the mixed doubles title in Tokyo, China's table tennis team will look to secure a clean sweep of all five Olympic titles this time around.

"We cannot take for granted that these five gold medals belong to China. All five gold medals are in Paris, and they are reserved for the brave and the wise, for those who excel the most," said Liu Guoliang, president of the Chinese Table Tennis Association.

China's table tennis icon Ma Long is now gearing up for his fourth Olympic appearance, leading China's men's team alongside world champions Wang Chuqin and Fan Zhendong, while Sun Yingsha, Chen Meng and Wang Manyu headline the women's squad.

"We have been fine-tuning our form for quite a long time, and we will give our all to achieve the best possible results in Paris," said women's world number one Sun Yingsha, who will compete in singles, mixed doubles, and team events.

China's diving squad includes five Olympic champions. Cao Yuan will become a four-time Olympian, while Quan Hongchan, Chen Yuxi, Wang Zongyuan and Xie Siyi will be competing in their second Olympic Games.

In the world championships held in February, China's diving team collected nine golds out of 13 events, and are hoping to continue that momentum in Paris.

"Our opponents are making rapid progress, and they will cause more trouble to the Chinese divers at the Olympic Games. But we are ready for the tense competitions and looking forward to a good performance," Chinese Diving Association president Zhou Ji-hong remarked.

China's shooting team will be another ambitious squad to watch, as it expects to improve on the haul of four gold medals it won three years ago.

As usual, the first gold medal of the Paris Olympics will be determined in shooting when the mixed team 10m air rifle event starts hours after the opening ceremony. China, represented by two pairs - world champions Han Jiayu

and Du Linshu, and Olympic silver medalists Sheng Lihao and Huang Yuting - stands a good chance of claiming the coveted honor.

China's weightlifting team won seven golds and one silver at the last Olympics, but due to the limit of six athletes per event, they cannot replicate that success in Paris. The team boasts four Tokyo Olympic champions: Li Fabin, Shi Zhiyong, Hou Zhihui and Li Wenwen, while newcomers Liu Huanhua and Luo Shifang are also promising.

China's badminton team has secured two Olympic qualifications in all five individual events, making it the only team to achieve full participation in each individual event. During the Paris Olympic cycle, China has maintained its dominance in mixed doubles and women's doubles, with Zheng Suiwei-Huang Yaqiong and Chen Qingchen/Jia Yifan ranking top in the world for a long time. But China's shuttlers face tough competition in the men's singles and men's doubles respectively.

With China striving to establish itself as a world-class sporting power, its attempts to expand its prowess to more mainstream sports, such as athletics, swimming and team ball sports, will undergo a stern test in Paris.

In athletics, China's star sprinter Su Bingtian, who ran an Asian record of 9.83 seconds in the men's 100m semi-

OLYMPICS

final and finished sixth in the final at the Tokyo Olympics, will miss the Paris Olympics with injury. The country's hopes of winning a gold medal will rest on race walkers Liu Hong, Yang Jiayu and Ma Zhenhong, Gong Lijiao (women's shot put), who is set to make her fifth Olympic appearance in Paris, and Feng Bin (women's discus throw) are also likely to be podium contenders.

China's women's basketball team was given a favorable draw for the Paris Olympics, avoiding defending champions the USA and hosts France in the group stage. Their real test will start from the knockout stage.

Injuries have lately plagued the team, who won only one game in six overseas warm-up matches, including two heavy defeats to Australia.

"The team is overcoming difficulties and actively preparing. We are diligently training every day, and hoping to adjust the team's condition as quickly as possible," said head coach Zheng Wei.

As the country's only world title-winning ball sports team, China's women's volleyball squad delivered a major confidence boost by winning four matches in a row at the Hong Kong leg of the FIVB Women's Volleyball Nations League last month.

"At the Paris Olympics, we will give our all in every match and showcase the spirit of Chinese women's volleyball," said head coach Cai Bin.

Elsewhere, China's post-00s athletes will try to captivate global attention with medals in emerging Olympic sports such as breakdancing, sport climbing, skateboarding and surfing.

Bielsa says players deserve apology, not sanctions after fight

Messi hails 'dynamic' Colombia ahead of Copa America final

BUENOS AIRES, July 13, (Agencies): Argentina captain Lionel Messi noted that Colombia will pose a formidable test when the teams meet in the Copa America final on Sunday.

Colombia is unbeaten in the past 28 matches and earned a place in the final by defeating Uruguay 1-0 in the semi-final, despite playing for more than half the match with only 10 men.

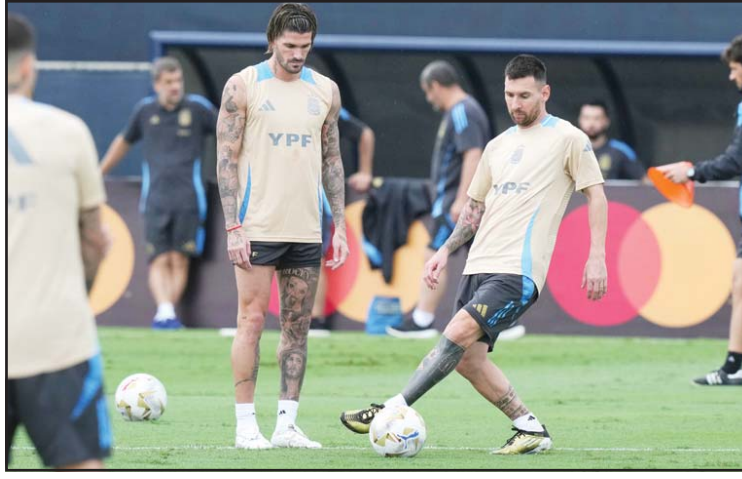
Sunday's duel at New Jersey's MetLife Stadium also added meaning for the Albiceleste given it will be the

SOCCER

last international appearance of winger Angel Di Maria.

Meanwhile, Uruguay coach Marcelo Bielsa thinks his players deserve an apology, not sanctions, for going into the stands at Bank of America Stadium and participating in a fight with Colombia fans following his team's 1-0 Copa America semifinal loss.

An angry Bielsa criticized tournament organizers for not doing enough to protect the families of players seated behind the Uruguay bench and he justified players taking matters into their own hands to protect their loved ones.



Lionel Messi, (front right), practices with the Argentina team in Miami. Argentina and Colombia will play in the final Copa America match. (AP)

Asked if he feared sanctions for his team, Bielsa grew irate.

The team returns to the same venue for Saturday night's third-place game against Canada. While the crowd is expected to be more subdued, the same level of security is planned.

A raucous crowd of more than 70,000 - the vast majority of whom were wearing Colombia's colors - at-

tended the match Wednesday night at the downtown Charlotte stadium, home of the NFL's Carolina Panthers and Charlotte FC.

There were only a few small patches of Uruguay fans in the crowd at the start of the game, many of them behind the team's bench.

After an emotional and physical game that included seven yellow cards

Yarmouk set sights on Premier League success with new signings

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Yarmouk has finalized its roster for the upcoming season by securing contracts with five foreign players. The team renewed the contract of Italian striker Mario and added Moroccan Ayoub Lakhdar, Ivorian Kayali Kone, Iranian Reda, and Moroccan Habib Dahmani to its ranks.

After securing a spot among Premier League clubs, Yarmouk is focused on thorough preparation for the new season. Training commenced on June 30 under the guidance of Serbian coach Goran Matkovic, who led the team to victory in the first division championship last season. The entire technical



Kayali Kone

staff has been renewed for the upcoming season.

In addition to retaining local players, Yarmouk has bolstered its squad with several local talents, aiming to deliver a standout performance and make

SOCCER

a strong impression in the upcoming season.

The Yarmouk delegation is set to depart next Friday for Azerbaijan, where they will undergo an external training camp featuring three friendly matches. The camp will run until August 3, ensuring the team is well-prepared for the challenges ahead.

and one red, a fight broke out in the stands and drinks were thrown. Shoving and punches ensued. The melee grew in terms of the magnitude of people involved before more than a dozen Uruguayan players, including Darwin Nunez, climbed a small set of portable stairs into the crowd.

Bielsa said not enough precautions

were in place and an emergency exit path for Uruguay fans was not provided. Many in the Uruguayan soccer association delegation got away from the fighting by climbing down onto the playing field while Mecklenburg County Police and security restored order as the stadium was cleared.

The melee in the stands lasted more

than five minutes.

At one point during the news conference, Bielsa got into a heated exchange with a reporter who wound up leaving halfway through. Bielsa went on to attack media outlets, saying "journalism responds to the interests of those who administer power, who are the ones who distribute the money."

Spain go for record 4th title as England look to end 58-yr wait for major trophy

Carvajal returns from suspension

BERLIN, July 13, (AP): Spain and England meet in the final of the European Championship on Sunday. Spain is seeking a record fourth title at the Euros to break a tie with Germany/West Germany, while England is bidding for a first major trophy in men's soccer since the 1966 World Cup.

Spain will start as the favorite after winning all six of its matches at Euro 2024 and being widely regarded as the best team at the tournament. Winning the title would continue a strong period of success for Spanish national teams, with the men having captured the UEFA Nations League in June last year and the women following that up by winning the World Cup two months later.

Lamine Yamal is Spain's new star having set up three goals before the

semifinals, where he scored a spectacular long-range strike in the victory over France - all at the age of 16. He turned 17 on Saturday, the day before the final. It is a breakthrough major tournament for Yamal, much like it was for a 19-year-old Kylian Mbappé at the 2018 World Cup and a 17-year-old Pelé at the 1958 World Cup.

Spain last appeared in a final at a major tournament in 2012, when the team won the third of its European Championship titles by beating Italy 4-0. England played in the final of Euro 2020, which was won in 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic, and lost in a penalty shootout to Italy.

England has shown resilience by com-



Yamal

ing from behind in all three of its knockout-stage matches at Euro 2024. Jude Bellingham scored an equalizer from an overhead kick in the fifth minute of stoppage time in the extra-time win over Slovakia in the last 16. Bukayo Saka equalized in the 80th minute against Switzerland in the quarterfinals before England won a penalty shootout, and substitute Ollie Watkins scored a winner

SOCCER

almost exactly on 90 minutes against the Netherlands in the semifinals.

England coach Gareth Southgate is often criticized for his in-game management but he has changed the culture inside the squad and is regularly getting the team deep at major tournaments. In Southgate's tenure that started in 2016, England has reached the World Cup semifinals in 2018 and now back-to-back European Championship finals.

Spain captain Alvaro Morata has been in training this week after limping out of the semifinal win over France after being knocked to the ground in the post-match celebrations by a steward trying to stop a pitch invader. Right back Dani Carvajal returns from suspension, leaving the only real selection dilemma at center back for coach Luis de la Fuente, with Nacho or Robin Le Normand vying to partner Aymeric Laporte. Dani Olmo should again fill in for the injured Pedri as Spain's attacking central midfielder.

Southgate has to decide who to play at left back - or left wing back - out of Kieran Trippier or Luke Shaw. Shaw is a natural on that side but has only made two appearances as a second-half substitute at Euro 2024 after recovering from an injury that had sidelined him since February. Otherwise, Southgate will choose the same players, with the 19-year-old Kobbie Mainoo having nailed down the problematic spot in central midfield alongside Declan Rice.



The technical staff of Al-Arabi.

Al Arabi renew technical staff deals

Al Arabi's Board of Directors has approved the administrative and technical staff for the club's first handball team for the 2024-2025 season.

The administrative staff will be led by Jassem Mohsen, with Zaa-bi Al Zaabi serving as the team

manager. The club has renewed its contract with the technical staff, which includes head coach Ahmed Foulad, assistant coach Shawqi Al-Abed, and technical analyst Hussein Al-Tamimi, along with goalkeeper coach Sami Rushdi.

Al-Qadisiya set up preseason camp in Egypt 'ahead' of the new season

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Al-Qadisiya has chosen Egypt as the location for its preparatory camp for the new season. The team will depart tomorrow morning and play several friendly matches before returning on July 30.

Al-Qadisiya is gearing up for the

SOCCER

new season, with their campaign kicking off against Kuwait on August 8 in the Zain Premier League. Originally, the team planned to hold their camp in Turkey, but logistical issues related to visas forced a change in location.

The "Yellow" team aims to prepare meticulously for the new season, striving to deliver an outstanding performance in local championships and the

Gulf Club Championship, where they are participating after a long hiatus.

Notably, Al-Qadisiya, last season's Amir Cup champion, hopes to reclaim the league title, which it last won in 2015. The team has bolstered its squad with four foreign players: Libyan Mohammed Sula, Moroccans Mahdi Barahma and Ismail Khafi, and Nigerian Daniel Gibula.

Al-Qadisiya coach Muhammad Al-Mashaan expressed his eagerness to have a successful season with the team. He praised the new signings, emphasizing that the additions, both professional and local, were carefully selected. Al-Mashaan mentioned that the team is still considering further professional signings to strengthen necessary positions.

Al-Mashaan highlighted his goal of achieving optimal readiness by the start of the season, particularly before its match against Kuwait Club.

Al-Khalidiya pursue Al-Arabi's Khaba

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Arab Club received a formal request from Bahrain's Al-Khalidiya to acquire the services of Moroccan striker Hamza Khaba, known as "Green."

According to Bahraini media reports, Al-Khalidiya is keen on signing Khaba during the current summer transfer window, impressed by his offensive skills and potential contributions to both local and Asian competitions in the upcoming season.

Khaba, formerly with Raja Sports Team, moved to Al-Arabi last July following the conclusion of his loan spell at Raja Athletic Club, where he played under Tunisian coach Monther Lakbir.

Sources indicate that Al-Khalidiya views Khaba as a valuable addition to

its offensive lineup and is preparing an official offer to present to Al-Arabi Club management. Khaba's contract with Al-Arabi extends until the summer of 2025. Al-Khalidiya's roster already includes Zuhair Al-Mutaraqi, formerly of Wydad Sports Club, who

SOCCER

joined the team during the winter transfer window.

In separate news, Algerian defender Sofiane Bouchard, who recently arrived at Al Arabi, reportedly returned to his country just two days after arrival without participating in group training. Conflicting reports suggest reasons for Bouchard's departure, including claims of issues regarding his contract advance payment.



Moroccan striker Hamza Khaba.



England's Phil Foden, (centre), Cody Gakpo of the Netherlands, (left), and Joey Veerman of the Netherlands during a semifinal match between the Netherlands and England at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Dortmund, Germany. (AP)

IOC and Saudi Arabia agree on 12-year deal for video gaming Esports Olympics

GENEVA, July 13, (AP): Saudi Arabia and the IOC are teaming up for their first commercial deal together with the oil-rich kingdom set to host the Esports Olympics that launch next year.

The gaming partnership will be for 12 years "with Olympic Esports Games held regularly," the International Olympic Committee said in a statement Friday. The value was not stated.

The announcement was made during the two-month Esports World Cup being staged in Riyadh.

The first formal hosting or sponsorship deal between the IOC and Saudi Arabia is the latest addition to the kingdom's sprawling portfolio of sports events, including confirmation due in December to stage the 2034 World Cup in men's soccer for FIFA.

Sports and entertainment events are a key part of the Vision 2030 program driven by Prince Mohammed bin Salman that aims to move the Saudi economy away from dependence on oil and to modernize its society.

Saudi sports minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Faisal said the country "has become a global hub for professional esports."

"This is a natural next step for our young athletes, our country and the global esports community," said Prince Abdulaziz, who also heads the Saudi national Olympic committee.

The IOC said last month it planned to launch video

gaming Olympics to try to attract and retain young fans and audiences.

The Saudi deal must be signed off by the IOC membership which meets July 23-24 in Paris on the eve of the Summer Games. That approval is typically a formality for projects proposed by the Olympic body's leadership. "We are very fortunate to be able to work with the Saudi NOC on the Olympic Esports Games, because it has great - if not unique - expertise in the field of esports with all its stakeholders," the IOC's president Thomas Bach said.

ESPORTS

Last month, Bach said the video gaming event would have a financial model separate from the Summer Games and Winter Games which share revenue with governing bodies of sports on those programs.

Saudi Arabia has hosted a swath of top-tier boxing events including heavyweight title fights in recent years and created the LIV Golf project as a disruptive rival to the PGA Tour in the United States. The kingdom also will host the 2027 Asian Cup in men's soccer, the 2029 Asian Winter Games centered on a ski resort being built for it, and the multi-sport 2034 Asian Games in Riyadh.

Best of the Rest

Tshabalala dies at age 75:

Stanley Tshabalala, who was South Africa's first men's national team coach after it was admitted to international soccer in 1992, has died, the Orlando Pirates said. He was 75.

The Pirates, where Tshabalala was a top administrator, said in a statement Thursday that Tshabalala "succumbed to the injuries he suffered when he was shot in March this year." (AP)

Sociedad sign Gomez:

Real Sociedad announced the signing of 23-year-old Spanish left back Sergio Gomez on a six-year contract.

Gomez joined Real Sociedad from Manchester City for a fee of around nine million euros (about 9.8 million U.S. dollars) and agreed a contract until the end of June 2030.

The former Barcelona youngster, who will play in the Paris Olympics with the Spanish national team, joined the club after two seasons with Manchester City in which he made 38 first team appearances. (AP)



Australia teammates pose with their trophy after defeating Wales in their rugby union test match and 2-game series in Melbourne. Australia beat Wales 36-28 to hand the Welsh their 9th consecutive rugby loss. (AP)

Sports

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Krejciikova wins Wimbledon for 2nd GS title

Djokovic faces Alcaraz again

LONDON, July 13, (AP): Barbora Krejciikova won Wimbledon for her second Grand Slam title with a 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 victory over Jasmine Paolini in the final on Saturday.

Krejciikova is a 28-year-old from the Czech Republic who adds this trophy to her championship at the French Open in 2021.

She was unseeded in Paris back then and was only the 31st of 32 seeds at the All England Club after illness and a back injury this season limited her to a 7-9 record entering this tournament.

Krejciikova is the eighth woman to leave Wimbledon as the champion in the past eight editions of the event. Last year's champion also is from the Czech Republic: unseeded Marketa Vondrousova, who lost in the first round last week.

The seventh-seeded Paolini was the runner-up at the French Open last month and is the first woman since Serena Williams in 2016 to get to the finals at Roland Garros and Wimbledon in the same season.

Both finalists Saturday took turns being charge of the run of play.

Playing coolly and efficiently - seemingly effortlessly - Krejciikova claimed 10 of the first 11 points and quickly owned a double-break lead at 5-1.

As much as the crowd, likely because of a desire to see a more competitive contest, pulled loudly for Paolini, yelling "Forza!" ("Let's go!") the way she often does or "Calma!" ("Be calm!"), Krejciikova never wavered.

She has net skills, to be sure - that's part of why she has won seven Grand Slam women's doubles titles, including two at Wimbledon - but Krejciikova mainly was content to stay back at the baseline, simply delivering one smooth

groundstroke after another to its appointed spot and getting the better of the lengthiest exchanges.

There really was no need for anything other than Plan A in the early going in front of a Centre Court crowd that included actors Tom Cruise, Kate Beckinsale and Hugh Jackman.

Paolini did try to shake things up a bit, with the occasional serve-and-volley rush forward or drop shot, but she couldn't solve Krejciikova. Not yet, anyway.

After the lopsided first set, Paolini went to the locker room. She emerged a different player, one who no longer looked like someone burdened by residual fatigue from the longest women's semifinal in Wimbledon history, her 2-hour, 51-minute win over Donna Vekic on Thursday.

Paolini had come back from dropping the first set in that one, so she knew she had it in her. And she began the second set against Krejciikova in style, delivering deep groundstrokes and grabbing a 3-0 advantage.

Once the match was tied at a set apiece, it was Krejciikova who left the court to try to recalibrate.

Her shots that suddenly went so awry in the match's middle - after four unforced errors in the first set, she made 14 in the second - were back to being crisp and clean.

At 3-all in the deciding set, it was Paolini who faltered, double-faulting for the only time all afternoon to get broken.

Krejciikova then held at love for 5-3, but when she served for the championship, things got a little tougher.

She needed to save a pair of break

TENNIS

points and required three match points to get across the finish line, winning when Paolini missed a backhand.

Not surprisingly, Novak Djokovic was far from convinced he could win Wimbledon when the tournament began less than a month after his surgery to repair a torn meniscus in his right knee.

After getting through his first few matches at the All England Club, though, Djokovic thought: "OK, I'm actually playing close to my best, and I can have a shot at the title."

Now he's just one victory away from what would be an eighth championship at Wimbledon - equaling Roger Federer for the most by a man - and a 25th Grand Slam trophy overall, more than any tennis player ever. Won't be easy: On Sunday, Djokovic will face defending champion Carlos Alcaraz in a rematch of last year's Wimbledon final; Kate, the Princess of Wales, is set to be there in a rare public appearance after her cancer diagnosis.



Barbora Krejciikova of the Czech Republic holds her trophy after defeating Jasmine Paolini of Italy in the women's singles final at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London. (AP)

Blues face China

Kuwait kick off Asian Youth Championship campaign

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Kuwait youth handball team begins its journey in the 18th Asian Youth Championship, a qualifier for the World Cup - Poland 2025, today in Amman, Jordan. The tournament, running until July 26, kicks off with Kuwait facing the Chinese national team at 5:15 p.m. On the opening day, China Taipei will also play against South Korea, Qatar will face Japan, Hong Kong will compete with Bahrain, and India will play against Oman.

Kuwait is competing in Group 2 with China and Iran.

The team left for Jordan two days ago after concluding an external training camp in Slovenia, where they played eight friendly matches in preparation for the Asian Cup.

According to the tournament's regulations, which feature four groups, the top two teams from each group will advance to the

HANDBALL

main round. This round will consist of two groups, with teams playing against each other. The top two teams from each group will qualify for the semi-finals and also secure spots in the 2025 World Cup finals.

The team delegation at the Asian Championship is headed by the Secretary of the Kuwait Handball Association, Qayed Al-Adwani, and includes Board of Directors member Mubarak Al-Daihani, national teams director Faisal Siwan, youth team director Abdulaziz Al-Zaabi, administrator Khaled Al-Gharib, coach Saeed Hegazy, assistant coach Muhammad Masoudan, goalkeeper coach Marwan Maqayez, therapist Mahdi Al-Bakoush, and technical analyst Ayman Al-Sheikh, along with 20 players.

Jassim Al-Suwailem, a member of the AFC Laws and Referees Committee, is also participating as a technical observer in the tournament.

Al-Adwani expressed his optimism about the participation of the team in the Asian Cup, given its level of preparation in the Slovenia camp, where it played several strong trial matches.

"Our ambition is to qualify for the 2025 World Cup, and we have great confidence in team, who has consistently delivered outstanding performances in tournaments, demonstrating its commitment to representing Kuwait well," he

Two-time champion extends overall lead over Vingegaard

Pogacar wins mountainous 14th stage of Tour de France



Stage winner Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, celebrates as he crosses the finish line during the fourteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 151.9 kilometers (94.4 miles) with start in Pau and finish in Saint-Lary-Soulan Pla d'Adet, France. (AP)

SAINT-LARY-SOULAN PLA D'ADET, France, July 13, (AP): Two-time champion Tadej Pogacar surged ahead on the last climb to win the mountainous 14th stage of the Tour de France and extend his overall lead to nearly two minutes on Saturday.

The elite climbers' duel between Pogacar and two-time defending champion Jonas Vingegaard finally came when Pogacar peeled away with about five kilometers (three miles) left.

CYCLING

Pogacar caught up with and overtook his UAE Emirates teammate Adam Yates, while Vingegaard was initially dropped but showed good composure to limit the damage.

The Dane crossed the line 39 seconds behind the Slovenian Pogacar, who completed the 152-kilometer (99-mile) trek in just over four hours. Remco Evenepoel of Belgium was third and dropped to third overall behind Vingegaard.

After about two hours riders reached the first of the day's two big "hors catégorie" (beyond category) climbs - a 19-kilometer (12-mile) grind up the Col du Tourmalet, one of the race's most famed Pyrenean climbs.

The second HC climb to the finish at Saint-Lary-Soulan Pla d'Adet was shorter at 10.6 kilometers (seven miles) but with a steeper gradient.

Irishman Ben Healy attacked first but was caught by Yates, who set up Pogacar for his 13th stage win of his Tour career.

Time bonuses for the victory added four valuable seconds and extended Pogacar's lead over Vingegaard to 1 minute, 57 seconds. Evenepoel was 2:22 behind Pogacar heading into another big mountain stage on Sunday.

Kuwait Club unveils new Tunisian star Yahya Gibran at Turkey training camp

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

ANKARA, July 13: Kuwait Club unveiled its new Tunisian player, Yahya Gibran, during the team's training camp in Turkey, which runs until July 29 in preparation for the new season. Gibran has been participating in daily training sessions.

"Al-Abyad" has now completed its roster of foreign players, including Tunisian Yassin Al-Khanisi, Bahraini Muhammad Marhoon,

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Congolese Arsene Zola "Malik," and Argentine Sergio Vitor.

Gibran, 33, excels as a defensive midfielder, and his signing fills the gap left by Moroccan Mahdi Barahma, who transferred to Al-Qadisiya.

The Turkey camp began last



Yahya Gibran in his first training with Kuwait Club.

week and will continue until July 29, as the team gears up for the new season. It will compete in the qualifying play-off for the AFC Champions League, facing Al-Ahly of Bahrain in Manama on August 14, with the winner advancing to the group stage. The defense of its league title starts against Al-Qadisiya on August 8.

said.

Coach Saeed Hegazy noted the success of the Slovenia camp, emphasizing the players' significant benefits from the experience.

"In the camp, we played high-level matches with Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, and Montenegro, thanks to the federation's efforts to ensure the camp's strength and the players' development," Hegazy said. He acknowledged the difficulty of the tournament but affirmed that everyone is determined to secure one of the tickets for the next World Cup.



Kuwait handball youth team delegation preparing to depart for the Asian Championship.



Jasmine Paolini of Italy plays a forehand return to Barbora Krejciikova of the Czech Republic during the women's singles final at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London. (AP)

KFA eyes new coach before qualifiers

Peseiro tipped to lead Kuwait national team

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Portuguese coach Jose Peseiro has emerged as the latest candidate to lead the Kuwaiti national team, succeeding his compatriot Rui Pinto, who was dismissed last month.

Previously, the Football Association received CVs from several notable coaches for this role, including Hector Cuper, Carlos Queiroz, Juan Pizzi, Djamel Belmadi, Niko Kovac, Bruno Metsu, Willy Sagnol, Felix Sanchez, Winfried Schaefer, and Jose Pekerman.

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Peseiro, born on April 4, 1960, has an extensive coaching resume and significant experience in football. His career began as a player before transitioning to coaching. He has managed various teams, including União de Santarém, União de Montemor, Oriental, Nacional Madeira, Real Madrid (assistant coach), Sporting Lisbon, Al Hilal, Panathinaikos, Rapid Bucharest, the Saudi Arabian national team, Sporting Braga, Al Wahda, Al Ahly of Egypt, Porto, Sharjah, Vitoria de Guimarães, Venezuela, and most recently Nigeria.

The Kuwait Football Association aims to appoint a new coach before the team begins its campaign in the decisive round of qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The Kuwaiti team is in Group 2, along with South Korea, Oman, Iraq, Palestine, and Jordan.

In related news, the Jordanian national team has started its physical and technical training in Amman under the leadership of coach Jamal Salami. This is part of its internal camp in prepara-



Portuguese coach Jose Peseiro.

tion for the third and decisive round of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers.

The team held training sessions last Thursday at the Petra and Karama stadiums in Al-Hussein Youth City, with 24 players participating. The full roster, comprising 27 players, will be completed in the coming days.

The roster includes: Nour Bani Attia, Abdullah Al-Fakhoury, Ahmed Jaedi, Yazid Abu Laila, Ihsan Haddad, Firas Shalbaya, Youssef Abu Al-Jazar, Hosam Abu Dahab, Muhammad Abu Taha, Salem Al-Ajalini, Abdullah Nasib, Saad Al-Rousan, Baraa Mar'I, Muhammad Abu Al-Nadi, Mahmoud Shawkat, Rajai Ayed, Youssef Abu Jalbush, Wassim Al-Riyalat, Arif Al-Haji, Mahmoud Mardi, Nizar Al-Rashdan, Muhammad Abu Zureiq "Sharara", Saif Darwish, Muhammad Abu Rizk, Anas Al-Awadat, Bakr Kalbouna, Ali Alwan

The Jordanian national team delegation is set to leave for Turkey next Wednesday to enter a camp that includes three friendly matches.