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Opinion

A minister distributes money to serve humanity, another declares reserves are exhausted, and then comes another who reveals a huge oil discovery!

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

TO whom should we complain? Perhaps His Highness the Prime Minister? Or someone with direct contact to help us or listen to us?

The significance of media discourse for any country lies in its role as a cornerstone of national marketing, with transparency being paramount in addressing its people. However, it is evident that Kuwait lacks an official media strategy. Instead, each minister blows his own trumpet, so how many trumpets do we have that deserves to be blown?

Your Highness the Prime Minister, is it possible to clarify the three contradictory statements given by three ministers within a period of ten days?

One of these statements was made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who said, "The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development works to finance development projects that contribute to serving humanity and the whole world. The number of countries borrowing from it has reached 100. The fund supports developing and least developed countries to achieve sustainable development goals."

If this fund works to serve all of humanity, which are in fact 102 countries, through the loans it provides at a total of KD 6.69 billion, equivalent to about USD 21 billion, according to the fund's own report, and that 25 of them have defaulted, is it possible to say to the people what benefit Kuwait gains from these loans?

In Kuwait, the infrastructure is dilapidated, the services are almost sub par, and most of the people are in debt, or banned from traveling, or persecuted.

Meanwhile, officials in the oil sector announced the discovery of an oil field with an estimate of about three billion barrels of oil, east of Failaka Island, and that it meets Kuwait's need for gas due to which it will no longer import gas.

According to estimates, this field, based on the current oil and gas prices, could generate USD 225 billion for the state, in addition to what the rest of the fields generate.

The question here is - If these expected returns from the new field are of this size, in addition to the sovereign fund or the so-called "Future Generations Fund" - the volume of which is USD 923.45 billion based on official data, is it possible to explain how the Minister of Finance can declare that the general reserve has been deflated, and that it has fallen from KD 33.6 billion to less than KD 2 billion in ten years?" Can't these statements be considered as riddles that must be solved?

Your Highness the Prime Minister, there is no doubt that there is a contradiction in these statements that cannot be ignored.

How can the owner of the theory of "working in silence" mourn the depletion of the general financial reserve? At the same time, the Minister of Foreign Affairs says "Our fund, which is aimed to serve the future of Kuwait and the Kuwaitis, is also aimed to serve humanity and the world, at a time when the country is blessed with financial abundance from one sovereign fund."

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'KD 100' PACI fine if address not updated

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has announced on the Official Gazette (Al-Kuwait Al-Yaum) about the cancellation of the residential addresses of 207 people based on the housing owners' acknowledgment or due to the demolition of the buildings.

PACI advised these individuals to register their new address with the supporting documents within 30 days from the date of the announcement; otherwise, they will be penalized as per Article 33 of Law No. 32/1982, which stipulates a fine not exceeding KD100. This amount may vary depending on the number of persons.

Earlier in June, PACI published a similar announcement, indicating that the addresses of 397 people were deleted. At the time, it confirmed the launching of a new service on the unified government application, 'Sahel', called 'Address Availability' service; which enables the user to inquire about the availability of a residential address in its records and amend the status if necessary in order to avoid paying the stipulated fine.

Moreover, PACI vehemently denied the rumor about the collection of fees for the authentication process on 'My Identity' (Kuwait Mobile ID) application. PACI stressed that it provides services through the application for free, including authentication, e-signature and sending notifications.

GLOBAL TECH SHAKEN BY CROWDSTRIKE FAILURE Kuwait acts on IT crisis



Kuwait Airways CEO Ahmad Alkreebani during a tour of the facility, says all systems are working normally.

KUNA photo

Move to curb future power rationing, outages

Kuwait strives to boost power output, cope with demand

KUWAIT CITY, July 20, (KUNA): Kuwait is diligently seeking to enhance its energy output and withstand forecast power outages resulting from soaring demand for electricity.

The need to boost the energy capacities has crystalized since June 20, when the authorities had to execute programmed power outages for a few days, in line with the approach to rationalize the electricity consumption.

The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy had begun to act in parallel approaches to avert a future power crisis, namely speeding up the energy ventures and making use of international partnerships and accords as well as examining feasible plans to enhance the electricity production for the summer of 2025.

Kuwait is also seeking to activate the strategic memorandum of understanding, inked by the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, and China National Energy Administration to overhaul the renewable energy sector in particular and the energy field in general.

Minister Mahmoud Boushehri, during a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of the Investment Company (SPIC) and China's representative in the Middle East and North Africa, Ma Shao, on July 15, examined means of developing the bilateral energy cooperation, namely planned enterprises with Beijing in this sector.

A report released by the Energy Institute of Energy Review revealed that the consumption per capita in Kuwait grew by four percent in 2023, reaching 365.9 gigajoules compared to 364.4 gigajoules in 2022, placing Kuwait third in energy consumption among the Gulf States.

Power generation in Kuwait rose by 5.7 percent from 83.5 terawatts in 2022 to 88.3 terawatts in 2023, while Kuwait planned to secure 15 percent of the forecast power demand in 2030 from renewable energy resources.

The forecasts show that the maximum

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Kuwait City high-rise buildings seen from the Martyr's Park. Temperatures hover around 50 degrees Celsius in the country forcing most people to stay indoors.

Kuwait, OIC welcome ICJ advisory

Israeli occupation 'unlawful', must end soon

KUWAIT CITY, July 20, (Agencies): The Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs has welcomed the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) concerning the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of the Israeli occupation in the occupied Palestinian territory.

In a press release, the ministry said the move reflects the Israeli occupation's illegitimate and unlawful practices that aim at maintaining matters that violate all international legitimacy resolutions, which confirm the Palestinian people's legal rights, including an independent

statehood on the 1967 border with East Jerusalem being its capital.

It added that as the ICJ's declaration marks a new term of reference added to earlier references that recognize the brotherly Palestinian people's legitimate rights, the State of Kuwait calls on the international community to take on its legal, political, and moral duties to fulfill the Palestinian people's expectations of an independent state and ceasefire.

The Foreign Ministry voiced on Thursday Kuwait's

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Kuwaiti girl chairs fourth Arab child parl't session in Sharjah

ABU DHABI, July 20, (KUNA): Kuwait's Jenan Al-Sharif presided over the fourth session of the Arab child parliament in the UAE's Sharjah during Kuwaiti delegation's participation in the session titled "Societal responsibility of MPs".

During the session, the conferees discussed societal responsibility and MP's key role in raising awareness about the needs of Arab children, and offering initiatives required for sustainable development and social

justice. Fifty-four children from 16 Arab countries took part in the session and spoke about their experiments and views on how to enhance the role of MPs in boosting social rights and duties of children.

Speaking to KUNA, Bader Al-Eenzi, head of Ministry of Education's psychological and social service department and delegation's supervisor,

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Flights resume

By Mohammad Al-Musleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: A small error in an update made by the cybersecurity company, CrowdStrike, to its software to protect against electronic attacks led to a series of malfunctions described as 'the largest in history' that disrupted services relying on information technology systems.

In one moment, it seemed that the entire global system suffered what resembled a cardiac arrest, including banks, telecommunication companies, airports, hospitals and others.

Millions of people and companies around the world on Friday faced the "blue screen of death" on the interface of Windows systems, which appeared after the computer stops working and served as evidence of a defect in the system.

Due to the technical defect, devices running Microsoft's Windows system malfunctioned, air traffic stopped and chaos struck the world's airports amid a state of panic.

In Kuwait, government agencies began establishing an Operations Unit headed by Minister of State for Communications Omar Al-Omar, with the participation of the Central Agency for Information Technology, Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority and the National Cybersecurity Agency. This is in addition to allocating a hotline to follow up problems related to the services of CrowdStrike.

Sources told the newspaper that the Operations Unit laid down its plan to work on two axes: the first is to address the disruptions that occurred in the systems of some government agencies and introduce them to ways to restore the system to its normal state.

The second axis is communicating with all government agencies to ensure their systems are working even if they are not using CrowdStrike.

Sources stated that CrowdStrike provides services to

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Indian family of four dies in apartment fire

— Details Page 3 —

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:29 Asr 15:29
 Sunrise .. 05:01 Maghrib .. 18:47
 Zohr 11:54 Isha 20:16

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 08-35 km/h.
By Night: Hot to rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly

Weather			
wind to light variable	wind, with speeds of 08-32 km/h.	Abdaly	48 31
		Jahra	49 33
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	49	38	39
Kuwait Airport	49	30	31
		Nuwaisib	49 31
		Wafra	49 29

Other Voices

Ambassador Claudia Zampieri: A legacy of strengthening Argentina-Kuwait relations

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

As Ambassador Claudia Zampieri concludes her nearly six-year tenure as the Argentine Ambassador to Kuwait, her dedicated efforts have significantly strengthened the fifty-plus years of friendship between the two nations. Ambassador Zampieri's leadership facilitated numerous high-level visits from Argentina to Kuwait. She also orchestrated various technical missions involving Argentine officials and coordinated efforts with the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, benefiting Argentine provinces through infrastructure loans.

Ambassador Zampieri's tenure is marked by several key achievements that highlight her proactive diplomatic engagement and commitment to fostering economic cooperation and cultural exchange. In December 2018, she organized the official visit of the Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Jorge Faurie, to Kuwait. This visit strengthened diplomatic relations and facilitated high-level discussions on various bilateral and international issues, laying a robust foundation for future cooperation.

In May 2022, Ambassador Zampieri coordinated with the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development to facilitate the visits of the governors of Córdoba and Santa Fe. This collaboration resulted in the signing of a significant loan agreement to build an aqueduct between the two provinces, demonstrating her ability to foster economic development and cooperation between Argentina and Kuwait.

Moreover, her efforts in December 2022 in coordinating political consultations between Argentina and Kuwait were crucial for aligning the foreign policy priorities of both countries and enhancing cooperation on regional and global issues.

In September 2023, she hosted the official visit of the Undersecretary of Bilateral and Multilateral Economic Negotiations, exploring opportunities for economic cooperation, trade relations, and investment.

Ambassador Zampieri's involvement in negotiating bilateral agreements on double taxation and investment protection further showcased her commitment to enhancing the legal framework for economic cooperation and investment protection between the two countries.

Ambassador Zampieri also played a pivotal role in cultural diplomacy, organizing tango, singing, and Spanish language classes at the embassy, attracting many Kuwaiti citizens and expatriates. These initiatives provided a vibrant hub for enthusiasts of Argentine music and language, further deepening the cultural connection between Argentina and Kuwait.

Her diplomatic journey began 40 years ago, with a strong academic background in international relations, political science, languages, and cultural studies. She started as a Consul in Frankfurt, later serving in the Argentine Delegation to UNESCO, Consul General in Montevideo, and as chargé d'affaires in Qatar. Her extensive experience and leadership skills were instrumental in her success as Ambassador to Kuwait.

One of her notable contributions has been spearheading initiatives aimed at fostering collaboration for food security between Argentina and Kuwait. Recognizing Argentina's potential in agriculture and food production, Ambassador Zampieri worked with key Kuwaiti institutions to address local food security challenges, strengthen ties, and promote sustainable agricultural practices. As Ambassador Zampieri retires from her distinguished career, her tenure in Kuwait stands as a testament to her professionalism, strategic thinking, and dedication to enhancing Argentina's global standing. Her legacy serves as an inspiration to aspiring diplomats and underscores the importance of continuous learning and adaptation in the field of international relations. Her contributions have left an enduring impact on Argentina-Kuwait relations, paving the way for continued cooperation and mutual prosperity.



Zampieri



Al-Hajeri



Mol photo

Photo taken during the TRI/LAT drill.

Kuwait concludes Tripartite Naval Exercise with US, Iraq

The Tripartite Naval Exercise (TRI/LAT) concluded with the participation of the State of Kuwait, represented by the General Administration of the Coast Guard, the Police Aviation Wing, and the Naval Force of the General Staff of the Army, along with the US Coast Guard and the Iraqi Naval Force, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Ministry of Interior stated that the aim of the exercise is to enhance joint military cooperation between friendly countries and combat piracy and drug smuggling operations, in addition to testing the readiness of maritime communications, implementing maneuvers and field naval formations, inspecting naval vessels, and protecting territorial and economic waters.

Kuwait & UNODC sign deal to fight human trafficking in GCC

Move aims at exchanging technical views and advice

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice and Vice Chairman of the National Committee for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling Migrants Tariq Al-Asfour has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a press statement after the signing ceremony last week, Al-Asfour affirmed that the MoU was signed after coordinating visions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He explained this is aimed at exchanging technical views and advice on implementing systems and strategies for combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

He stressed that Kuwait spares no effort in combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants through many mechanisms. He said this is in line with Kuwait's vision on strengthening cooperation frameworks and building partnerships with international and regional organizations, especially the United Nations and its agencies.

Confirmed

He confirmed this step will help the two parties achieve common goals in terms of preventing trafficking in persons and smuggling migrants, punishing those involved in such crimes, and intensifying protection for the victims in accordance with international treaties, standards, rules and practices.

The National Committee for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling Migrants was formed as per a Cabinet decision issued on Feb 5, 2018. It is chaired by Minister of Justice, Endowments and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi; while the members are from the concerned parties.

The committee's vision is for Kuwait to be free of human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and for the Kuwaiti society to be fully aware of the dangers of such crimes and strive to eliminate them. Its goals include identifying the victims and those affected by human trafficking crimes, providing protection and support for the victims, organizing specialized training and qualification courses for employees in the agencies concerned with combating human trafficking, raising awareness among different segments of society, promoting religious and moral values, and strengthening regional and international cooperation frameworks in the field of combating trafficking in persons.

The committee urged the citizens and expatriates to report human trafficking crimes by calling the Hotline No. 25589696 or through e-mail.



KUNA photo

The Kuwaiti military attaché in Beijing Real Admiral being honored.

'Aug 1 Medal' for advancing bilateral relations

China honors Kuwait's military attaché

KUWAIT CITY, July 20, (KUNA): Chinese Ministry of Defense's international military cooperation office has granted Kuwait's military attaché in Beijing Real Admiral Nuaman Al-Rashid People's Liberation Army's medal, August 1 Medal.

The honoring took place during a ceremony where Colonel Chen Li, head of West Asia office at the ministry, received Al-Rashid to grant him the medal, in recognition of his endeavors during his tenure at Kuwait's Embassy in China, Kuwait's Ministry of Defense said in a statement

received by KUNA.

Al-Rashid expressed appreciation for this medal, extolling the deep-rooted and distinguished relations between the two countries in all fields, mainly military, it added.

The "August 1 Medal" is the highest honoring of China's army given to Al-Rashid, in recognition of his efforts aimed at boosting military cooperation between the two countries. It is also awarded to military men who made outstanding contributions to the protection of national sovereignty, security and development interests.

Al-Enezi puts forth two proposals

Committee discusses creation of service road in Al-Murqab

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: The Capital Governorate Committee of the Municipal Council held its fourth meeting of the third session recently, chaired by Dr. Hassan Kamal, to discuss various items on its agenda.

Among the key topics is the Ministry of Finance's request to create a service road parallel to Abdullah Al-Salem Street in the Al-Murqab area. This road aims to serve the Ministries Complex building.

The committee will also address the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy's request to allocate a site for a main power transformer station in the Qibla area.

Additionally, a proposal submitted by Chairman Abdullah Al-Mahri and member Fahd Al-Abdul Jader discussed, which involves demolishing Rawdat Al-Quds in Rawdah area, Block 2, and converting it into a public park.

Furthermore, member Abdullah Al-Enezi has put forth two proposals: one for constructing a pedestrian bridge linking the areas of Sulaibikhat and Nahda, and another for a pedestrian bridge in the Granada area, Block 2.

In parallel, the Jahra Governorate Committee, in its second meeting of

the third session, chaired by Abdullah Al-Anzi, approved several requests.

These included the Kuwait Dairy Company's request for a food canteen license within the Sulaibiya Agricultural Area and the Public Authority for Sports' request for surface parking spaces for the Equestrian Club in Jahra.

Moreover, the committee approved the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy's request to allocate a secondary transformer station in the Sulaibiya Agricultural Area, Block 9.

The Jahra committee also referred a letter from the Jahra Governorate regarding the removal of an old landfill and trenches for further study. The committee retained on its agenda the Public Authority for Industry's request to set back the eastern side of plot No. 2A in plot No. "1" located in the Sulaibiya area.

Subsequently, the Capital Governorate Committee will examine a proposal by Dr. Hassan Kamal concerning the design and construction of longitudinal parking lots for the Dasma Cooperative Society branch, Block 5.

These discussions and decisions are part of ongoing efforts to improve infrastructure and public services within the respective governorates.



KUNA photo

Part of the political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait and Spain.

Kuwait, Spain discuss bilateral ties

The fifth round of political consultations between the Kuwaiti and Spanish foreign ministries was held Thursday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Kuwaiti side was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrak Al-Jaber, while the Spanish side was led by Minister of State for Foreign and International Affairs Diego Martinez Bello.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that during the consultations, the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and ways to support cooperation and

coordination were discussed, focusing on the continued implementation of political, economic, and cultural plans and programs that had been agreed upon.

The statement highlighted that both sides affirmed their determination to intensify cooperation and find solutions to pending issues in order to advance their relations to broader horizons.

They also discussed several regional and international issues, particularly the Palestinian issue and international efforts to stop the continued Israeli occupation attacks on the Palestinian people.

'Comply with advertising regulations'

Council's Capital Governorate committee gives nod for key projects, power stations

By Inaas Awadh & Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: In its fourth meeting of the third session held yesterday, the Capital Governorate Committee of the Municipal Council, led by member Dr. Hassan Kamal, made several significant decisions affecting local infrastructure and services.

The committee approved the creation of a service road parallel to Abdullah Al Salem Street in the Al Mirqab area, Block No. 1. This road will serve the Al Mirqab Ministries Complex, enhancing accessibility and connectivity for the complex.

Additionally, the committee granted approval for four new transformer stations for the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy.

These include -- a main transformer station in the Al-Qibla area, Block No. 15, designated to support the new Palace of Justice project and the expansion of Mubarakiya Markets; a secondary transformer station in Block 3 of the Abdullah Al-Salem suburb.

This is in addition to a secondary transformer station in the Cordoba area, Block No. 4, proposed site No. 1 and a secondary transformer station in the Al-Qadisiya area, Block No. 5.

The committee also made decisions regarding land use and project proposals. It refused to allocate plots to an alternative company to the United

Kuwait refutes rumors about outbreak of schistosomiasis

KUWAIT CITY, July 20, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Ministry of Health Saturday denied rumors on social media about the outbreak of cases of schistosomiasis (bilharzia) at some restaurants in the country.

In a press release, the ministry confirmed that no cases have been reported in the country, explaining that schistosomiasis is a parasitic disease transmitted through swimming in pol-

luted freshwater.

Meanwhile, the ministry said that a restaurant has been closed due to a number of food poisoning cases, reassuring that those affected by the food poisoning have already recovered, while some are still recovering.

It added that it is diligently working with the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition to ensure food safety and promote public hygiene.

Real Estate Company in the Qibla area, adhering to regulatory plot laws.

Furthermore, it reserved decisions on several proposals, including a pedestrian bridge proposed by member Abdullah Al-Anzi for the Granada area and the demolition of Rawdat Al-Quds in the Rawdah area, plot 2, to convert it into a public park in coordination with the Agricultural Authority.

Three additional items remain on the committee's agenda for further consideration -- the proposal for longitudinal parking lots at the Dasma Cooperative Society branch, Block 5, submitted by Dr. Hassan Kamal; the Ministry of Justice's request to reallocate the site for the Constitutional Court and the Capital

Markets Court in the Granada area, Block 6 and the Ministry of Communication request to transfer the allocation of the site for the International External Bus Departure Center in the Al-Jiwan area, G1, to the General Authority for Roads and Land Transport.

Advertising regulations: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has underscored the importance of complying with Ministerial Resolutions No. 252 of 2016 and its amendment by Resolution No. 191 of 2016. These resolutions regulate commercial advertisements for marketing, promoting, selling, and buying real estate and lands.

'Occupational therapy role vital in treatment of autism'

"AUTISM is a major neurodevelopmental disorder that typically manifests in early childhood, known as "autism spectrum disorder" (ASD)," columnist Dr. **Abdulaziz Yousef Al-Ahmad** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"It is characterized by a range of diverse symptoms and difficulties related to brain development. Individuals with autism often experience comorbid conditions such as epilepsy, depression, anxiety, and attention deficit disorders.



Dr Al-Ahmad

"Additionally, they may exhibit challenging behaviors, including sleep difficulties and self-harm, with varying levels of professional performance.

"Autistic traits can be detected in early childhood, but diagnosis is often delayed until later stages. Data-driven psychosocial interventions can improve communication skills and social behavior, positively impacting the well-being and quality of life for individuals with autism and their caregivers.

"Researchers assert that children with autism can form friendships with others who share their condition. However, they often face challenges in social interactions, leading them to prefer withdrawal and isolation. They may appear indifferent to their surroundings, including close family members.

"There are several key approaches to effectively support an autistic child. It is essential to adopt a positive approach to help them achieve positive development.

"This involves understanding the medical, behavioral, and psychological factors influencing their growth and skill development. Staying informed about the latest research on autism is also crucial. It is important to involve autistic children in small decisions, encouraging communication and the formation of friendships.

"Regarding autism treatment, occupational therapy plays a vital role in helping children develop daily living skills such as dressing and personal hygiene. Building relationships and social skills training are also important.

"Sensory integration therapy can be beneficial, particularly when parents participate in educational programs and support social and emotional development outside of formal teaching sessions. Psychological and social interventions based on skill data can improve conditions, and psycho-emotional care plays a significant role in mitigating symptoms."

Also:

"With the beginning of the month of Muharram, Husseinias and gatherings commemorating Ahlubayt (peace be upon them) have begun to hold events such as speeches and intellectual seminars to mark the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (peace be upon him)," columnist Prof. Dr. **Bahija Behbehani** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"The preachers at the Husseinias emphasized that the commemoration of Ashura aims to highlight the noble goals, values, and meanings of this event, to stand against oppression, and to preserve the religion.

"They also called for the necessity of following the path of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and his family (peace be upon them) during these commemorations. One preacher stated: "Adhering to the Book of Allah and the path of the Prophet and his family (peace be upon them) is the constitution that Muslims should follow to avoid loss and division."

"On the other hand, the minister of interior emphasized that "security personnel are present at the Husseinias to organize traffic and maintain security. Therefore, volunteers are prohibited from participating in any organizational activities outside the Husseinia boundaries."

"Additionally, setting up tents outside the Husseinias for Ashura ceremonies is not permitted due to the risk of accidents or attempts to set fires by infiltrators. This step is taken to protect the attendees at the Husseinias and the hundreds of people inside those tents.

"What would be their fate? These measures are not directed against any-

one or to prevent anyone from performing their rituals but are rather an enforcement of the law that protects people. Everyone is free to practice their rituals according to the law.

"His Excellency the Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef visited several Husseinias and met with their owners to explain the reasons behind these organizational measures for holding Husseinia rituals.

"With this distinguished governmental care for Husseinia attendees, through the presence of a large number of interior ministry personnel and firefighters, in addition to special security forces in every residential area with Husseinias, organizing the entrances and exits, and communicating with the attendees with respect and kindness, despite the hot weather for several hours, all of this has significantly influenced the cooperation of Husseinia owners, preachers, and all attendees to comply with the Ministry of Interior's orders.

"This is how Kuwait has been since its inception with its children from the Ja'fari sect and others, respecting sects and allowing them to perform their rituals on their special occasions, which is something rare to find in other countries. We thank the Ministry of Interior for their tremendous efforts in providing security and safety during the month of Muharram."

"The current situation is quite heated up on local, regional, and international fronts. Despite the high temperatures, the Council of Ministers seems unaware and it deals with issues frivolously such as the living conditions. The conflicting statements by the minister of finance have increased fear among citizens, especially since the dangers that befall them are ignored. What is particularly troubling is the indifference regarding the imminent dangers to the country's economic policy, especially after the minister asserted that the financial reserve has been depleted, but without providing clarification on the circumstances leading to its depletion," columnist **Salem Al-Wawan** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"To add to this is the confusion over the decisions that were close to harming the pockets of the ordinary citizens, and the random "violation campaigns" held in the homes of some citizens. On the other hand, the violations in chalets, factories, and companies are blatant, but no one approaches them.

"All of this has worsened matters, but until date, the citizens have not heard any statement from His Highness the Prime Minister. It seems as if matters are being managed without his knowledge, and there are suggestions that the ministerial team is not in harmony.

"There is no doubt that people can no longer tolerate this, especially since they have been subjected to restrictions over the past years. This increases the pressure to demand the return of the National Assembly, even though it was one of the reasons behind the delay in the country's development and the harm to the interests of the people.

"What should a citizen do when he sees the Council of Ministers deliberately dividing the people into two classes - a merchant eating the flesh of the poor with government's support, and a poor person who is suffering? Otherwise, how did the minister of finance make those statements and start trading in the issue of retirees? Does he feel His Highness the Prime Minister is not paying any attention?"

"Our role is to provide advice instead of interfering in the general policy pursued by His Highness the Prime Minister with the ministers, as some of them did not realize that the people were more strict and controlled than the National Assembly, so they had to leave. In fact, this has become a popular demand.

"Hence, it would be better for some ministers to focus on tangible accomplishments. Ministers like the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, and Minister of Defense have garnered strong support from the Kuwaiti people. However, His Highness the Prime Minister may not be confident that he will cross safely with some ministers. Therefore, it is imperative for him to bring in others who can effectively carry out the leadership's directives."

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



MOI PHOTO

Kuwait Army commanding officers pose for a photo.

Kuwait Army officers enhance protocol skills

A training course titled 'Etiquette and Protocol' organized at the Saud Al-Nasser Diplomatic Institute by the Mubarak Al-Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College, was designed for commanding officers from the Kuwaiti army, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The course was presented by Dr. Yousef Al-Hasani from July 14 to 18.

The Ministry of Defense said in a press release that the course aimed to enhance the skills of the art of dealing and protocol among the participating commanding officers, enabling them to interact with distinction in international forums and official representation.

The statement also indicated that the Assistant Foreign Minister for

Diplomatic Institute Affairs, Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, Ambassador Nasser Al-Subaihi, the Commander of Mubarak Al-Abdullah College for Command and Staff, Major General Pilot Fahd Fahman, and several senior officials of Mubarak Al-Abdullah College and various army units were present during the event.

PAS launches safety review after incident

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: Following the recent incident at the Sulaibikhat Club's swimming pool where a child had almost drowned, the acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sports Bashar Abdullah has ordered a comprehensive review of all procedures and regulations governing the operation of swimming pools at sports clubs under the authority's supervision, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The acting director of the authority said: "Based on the directives of the Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila, an investigation committee was formed to look into the incident that occurred at the swimming pool of the Sulaibikhat Club.

Four Indian family members perish in Jleeb apartment fire

Mol employee shoots at citizen's vehicle; 2 attempt suicide

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: An apartment in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh witnessed a tragedy when a family of an Asian (Indian) nationality -- father, mother, their two children (son and daughter) -- died due to the fire outbreak in their apartment.

The newspaper found out that the family returned from traveling hours before the disaster and they were sleeping in the apartment when the fire broke out.

Fire brigades arrived at the site quickly, but the victims had already died. The victims' bodies were referred to the Forensic Medicine Department.

Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) announced that the fire brigades extinguished the fire in the apartment. Acting KFF Director Major General Khaled Fahad was present at the site.

Citizen's vehicle shot at: A 30-year-old citizen, who works at the Ministry of Health, has filed a complaint at a police station against a compatriot working in the Interior Ministry; indicating the latter fired at his vehicle while he was driving in Saad Al-Abdullah, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

When asked what could be the motive behind the shooting incident, the victim told police he had no idea what could have prompted the suspect to fire at his vehicle; disclosing the bullets damaged the windshield. He provided police with his telephone number and the type of vehicle he was driving. The concerned authorities inspected the vehicle and they confirmed the discovery of gunshot trances on the windshield.

Officers at the Jahra Investigation Department were instructed to arrest the suspect, confiscate the weapon used in the crime and determine if the weapon belongs to the suspect's employer.

An attempted murder case was registered at Saad Al-Abdullah Police Station and investigations are ongoing.

Two suicide attempts: Officers at the Central Prison Security Department had to use force to remove a razor blade from the mouth of an inmate who tried to commit suicide, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The Sulaibiya Police Station was immediately notified about the incident. A security source disclosed that the cellmates of the inmate reported the suicide attempt and the Central Prison security officers responded quickly. The inmate resisted, so the officers had to handcuff him and then removed the razor blade from his mouth.

A suicide attempt case was registered and the inmate was referred for investigation to determine the circumstances that prompted him to try to end his own life.

On the other hand, officers assigned at Mutlaa Police Station requested for an ambulance to transport an expatriate female inmate from the women's prison to the hospital, as she was suspected of trying to commit suicide; but it turned out she was suffering from severe pain. She was rushed to Jahra Hospital.

Expat employee to be probed: A 40-year-old expatriate, who works at Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), was referred to the Al-Qashaaniyah Investigation Department to interrogate him on the discovery of 145 iron clips inside his vehicle, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

A source from the security sector revealed that the expatriate is a security and safety staff at KOC and he was found to be stealing from the company's headquarters. He was arrested and a thorough search of his private car led to the discovery of several items belonging to the company he works for, specifically Rawdatain field.

The source said the expatriate admitted that he stole the items for his own benefit and investigations are ongoing to shed light on the expatriate's previous thefts.

A theft case was registered against the expatriate.

160 kilos of hashish seized: The Ministry of Interior announced it intercepted a major drug smuggling attempt involving approximately 160 kilograms of hashish, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The operation was foiled at sea, thanks to the coordinated efforts of the Criminal Security Sector.

In a press release, the Public Relations and Security Media Department of the ministry revealed that the smuggling attempt was thwarted as part of the ministry's ongoing efforts to combat drug trafficking and dismantle smuggling networks.

Four suspects were arrested during the operation, who attempted to smuggle the narcotics into the country for trafficking.

The suspects have been handed over to the relevant authorities for further legal proceedings.

The Ministry of Interior continues to emphasize its commitment to targeting and dismantling illegal drug trafficking operations to ensure public safety and security.

5 disregard warnings: The Kuwait Municipality reported that after inspecting 15 investment properties in Khaitan, Farwaniya, and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, 10 property owners responded by correcting their violations, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

However, the five violators who failed to comply and did not adhere to the warning to remove the violations, were punished.

17 kg fish unfit for human consumption seized

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: Efforts by the inspection teams of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) are ongoing to monitor the goods and food items provided to consumers in various governorates of the country.

During an inspection tour of central markets and food stores in Jahra and Hawally Governorates Wednesday, the inspection teams destroyed 61 kilograms of spoiled food items including fish that were unfit for human consumption.

In this regard, Head of the Hawally Inspection Department Hanan Haji revealed that 17 kilograms of spoiled fish were seized during an inspection tour of a fish market in Hawally Governorate, adding that necessary legal measures have been taken.

In a press statement, Haji explained that the tour resulted in the closure of two shops and the issuance of ten various citations. This includes selling food items that are unfit for human consumption, as their natural properties had changed in terms of colour, shape and smell, based on the visual inspection and as stipulated in executive regulation No. 20/2017.

The violations also included opening and managing a food facility without obtaining a health license from PAFN, handling food without meeting the health and technical requirements, storing food in materials that are not food-safe which exposes it to unhealthy conditions, and failure to adhere to the rules and requirements of general hygiene due to the pres-

ence of live insects in abundance inside the facility and the presence of dirt, rust, and other things.

Haji affirmed the continuation of inspection campaigns around the clock to cover all food stores, central markets, warehouses, and all places specialized in the circulation of food items with the aim of preserving the health of individuals and ensuring the safety of food as well as blocking the way for those who violate the rules and regulations of PAFN, and monitoring all violations and taking strict measures against them in accordance with the legal frameworks.

She appealed to all consumers to send their complaints, if any, via the Hotline No. 1807770 or the authority's website so that necessary action can be taken in that regard.

In this context, PAFN revealed about an inspection tour by Jahra Inspection Department, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Interior, headed by the Director of the Jahra Inspection Department Talal Al-Daihani, and in the presence of Head of Taima Food Inspection Department and Head of the Southern Jahra Food Inspection Department.

The inspection tour resulted in the destruction of about 44 kilograms of food items that were unfit for human consumption.

PAFN indicated that 42 citations were issued to record various violations relating to the circulation of adulterated food items, the opening of food establishments without obtaining a health license, and failure to adhere to the rules and requirements of public hygiene while working.

It added that a total of ten food establishments were administratively closed and will be referred to the Public Prosecution.



Al-Daihani



Above: Some of the seized contraband.



Al-Anba photos

Customs seizes chewing tobacco, cigarettes

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: The customs officials at Salmi Customs Administration have thwarted the entry of approximately 36,000 tons of tobacco, various types of cigarettes including electronic, and other prohibited materials into the country, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

According to a statement issued by the General Administration of Customs, the attempt was thwarted after the Deputy Director-General for Customs Ports Affairs, Yousef Al-Kandari, received information about trucks carrying pro-

hibited items. The daily added, when the trucks arrived at the border point, they were redirected to the Customs Administration and the vegetable market in the Sulaibiya area.

Upon inspection, the customs men seized 36,000 tons of chewing tobacco, 66,000 cartons of cigarettes, about 97,000 packs of various cigarettes, 346 packs of molasses, 1,674 electronic cigarettes, as well as 620 cartons of flavored e-cigarettes and 2,025 assorted flavors.

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Dr Souad Al-Sabah's long tenure honored

Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah named honorary President of Kuwait Sea Sports Club

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: The Kuwait Sea Sports Club celebrated last Tuesday evening, the handing over of the honorary presidency of the club to Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, succeeding his honorable mother, Dr. Souad Al-Sabah, after serving a long tenure of contribution and good deeds, serving the club during the last 29 years.

The ceremony was held in the presence of the Club President, Major General Fahd Al-Fahad, Secretary General Khaled Al-Foudari, and members of the Board of Directors, Sheikh Ahmed Al-Yousef, and attended by a large media, Major General Al-Fahd gave a speech in which he expressed his thanks and appreciation on the contributions and achievements by Dr. Souad Al-Sabah providing great and generous services and initiatives to support the club's development, facilities and activities. Granting Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah the honorary presidency based on her desire and keenness to continue the journey in supporting the club's progress, Sheikh Mubarak gave a speech in which he conveyed his mother's thanks and pride in the years in which she worked with the club's boards of directors to achieve sporting and national achievements as an extension of the efforts of his father, the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah to build the renaissance of Kuwait and establish various land and marine sports to encourage youth to participate. Assuming the honorary presidency of the club is a great honor that comes with responsibilities for continuing his mother's journey to serve this prestigious club to achieve more great milestones.

Afterward, honorary gifts and shields were presented by the club to Sheikh Dr. Souad Al-Sabah and to Sheikh Mubarak the honorary presidential shield, followed by taking group photos, then a tour of the club facilities and a meeting



A special celebration of handing over the honorary presidency of the Sea Club to Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

held of the chairman and members of the board of directors, honorary president Sheikh Mubarak

Al-Sabah, discussed the club's needs and future plans were reviewed to enhance its activities.

Al-Mutairi to chair session

Municipal Council to address major proposals during upcoming session

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: The Municipal Council is set to convene its regular session next Monday, chaired by Deputy Chairman Khaled Al-Mutairi, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The session will address several significant proposals and requests before the council members' summer break.

The council will review the final version of Proposal Schedule No. 18, which outlines special requirements and specifications for buildings in the Abdali Economic Zone.

A request from the Public Authority for Housing Welfare to amend the boundaries of the Khaitan Southern housing project will be discussed, including the addition of 248 vouchers.

The council is considering canceling Schedule No. 15 of the Building Regulations, which pertains to accessibility requirements for individuals with special needs. This schedule, attached to Ministerial Resolution No. 206 of 2009, will potentially be replaced with

the Kuwait Code for Accessibility, as approved by the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs.

The council will review the development project for the Darwazat Al-Abdul Razzaq Tunnel.

A letter from the Kuwaiti Dairy Company requesting approval for a food canteen license on their 70,000 square meter plot in Sulabiya will be discussed.

The council will consider the General Sports Authority's request for surface parking allocation for the Equestrian Club in the Jahra area.

The Ministry has requested the allocation of a secondary substation in Sulabiya and the reallocation of a main electrical substation in Fahaheel, Block 4.

Approval of organizational planning for Site 85 in Mina Abdullah and the Public Authority for Roads and Transport's requests for water lines and a seawater drainage path in South Sabahiya, Fahaheel, and Nuwaiseeb chalets area will also be reviewed.

CSC announces new job nominations

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: The Civil Service Commission has announced the nomination of 1,958 male and female Kuwaiti citizens for various positions across ministries, agencies, and state institutions, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This announcement marks the addition of a new batch of candidates to the existing pool of nominees, bringing the total number of nominations to 8,858.

This batch specifically includes all registered individuals with a specialization in Political Sci-

ence and those holding a secondary school certificate. Notably, 988 candidates have been nominated for teaching positions.

The CSC emphasized its commitment to addressing previous stagnations in certain specializations and ensuring that all registered individuals have the opportunity to be considered for employment.

The CSC also assured that it will continue to issue new batches of candidates in alignment with the evolving job requirements and needs of various sectors.

Kuwaitization committee starts interviews for 'supervisory positions' in cooperatives

Candidates must achieve 80 percent score to qualify

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: The quartet committee responsible for the Kuwaitization initiative

will commence personal interviews for the third batch of Kuwaiti citizens seeking employment in cooperative societies starting Sunday.

This step is part of the ongoing effort to fill 12 supervisory positions across seven cooperative associations.

The committee, chaired by Ahmed Al-Frej, Assistant Undersecretary for Cooperation Sector Affairs, will conduct interviews for roles in financial, administrative, and commercial affairs within the following cooperatives -- Al-Wafra Residential, Hadiya, Khaitan, Abdullah Al-Salem, Abdullah Al-Mubarak, Al-Andalus and Union of Cooperative Societies.

The interviews, expected to span about a month, are governed by Ministerial Resolution No. 68/2023, which outlines the criteria and procedures for assigning supervisory positions to Kuwaiti citizens.

To expedite the Kuwaitization process, the committee aims to interview as many

qualified candidates as possible, ensuring they meet the required 80 percent score to be considered for these positions.

Candidates who meet the criteria will be selected, and in the event of ties, a lottery will be used to make final decisions. The Kuwaitization initiative receives strong support from the Council of Ministers and is closely monitored by the Minister of Social Affairs.

The Ministry is committed to enforcing compliance with these decisions and will impose legal measures on cooperatives that fail to adhere. Penalties could include judicial police involvement and restrictions on bank credits for non-compliance.

In addition, a comprehensive rotation of financial and administrative controllers within cooperatives is underway to ensure transparency and prevent undue influence or favoritism. The Ministry aims to minimize the duration of controller appointments to avoid any non-professional relationships with board members.



JULY

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Scientific Center officials with the trainees who have been honored.

Nurturing future innovators

Scientific Center honors outstanding trainees

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: The Scientific Center held a ceremony to honor the trainees of its Field Training Program, celebrating the program's impact on nurturing future innovators in science and environmental conservation, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Deputy Director General for Institutional Support, Nasser Al Hilali, said he is proud of the program's achievements.

He emphasized that the initiative was designed to sharpen the skills of young people and develop their potential in crucial areas that influence our future. "We believe in the vital role of youth in advancing and evolving our societies."

Al Hilali stated, "Our aim is to create an educational environment that empowers them with the experiences and skills needed to make a meaningful impact across various fields."

The Field Training Program offers participants organized summer training, focusing on scientific communication and community interaction.

It includes practical experiences in a range of disciplines, helping trainees develop essential skills such as leadership, classroom management, and animal interaction. This comprehensive training aims to enhance their professional profiles and prepare them for future challenges.

Kuwaiti delegation to join China workshop

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: A Kuwaiti delegation will participate in the eighth edition of the "Youth Rehabilitation Camp and Teachers' Workshop," organized by the Regional Office of the International Organization for Science and Technology (MILSET Asia). The event will take place in the People's Republic of China from July 22 to July 28, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Dawood Al-Ahmad, Regional Director of the MILSET Asia office, announced that the Kuwaiti delegation comprises teacher Tariq Shahab and student Abdullah Al-Otaibi.

They were selected by the MILSET office to join educators and youth from around the world in this prestigious event.

Al-Ahmad emphasized that the camp features separate workshops for youth and teachers. These workshops offer a comprehensive program that integrates technology, culture, and visits to museums and scientific centers, tailored to enhance participants' learning experiences.

He highlighted that this year's camp is part of the cultural dimension of the "Green Belt" initiative. Sponsored by the China Science and Technology Association and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, the camp aims to foster cultural exchange, develop the capabilities of youth and teachers, and inspire innovation among younger generations.

The event receives additional support from the International Organization for Quality in Science in the Public Sector, the National Academies Science Education Program (IAP SEP), the Environmental Science Foundation (ECOSF), the African Academies of Science Network (NASA), and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO).

Crown Prince, PM extend wishes

Kuwait's HH Amir congratulates Colombia on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, July 20, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Saturday a cable to President Gustavo Petro of Colombia, congratulating him on his country's Independence Day. In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished President Petro enduring health and continued progress and prosperity for the friendly nation and its people.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Petro, extending his congratulations and wishing him everlasting health.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable to President Petro, offering his congratulations on Colombia's Independence Day.

PAHW awards tenders for construction of girls centers in Sabah Al-Ahmad, Saad Al-Abdullah

Authority sees 93.8% digital use

By Mohammed Al Musleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare has awarded two tenders for the construction of girls' centers in Sabah Al-Ahmad and Saad Al-Abdullah cities, worth approximately 17 million dinars.

The tender for the Sabah Al-Ahmad City center was awarded to the lowest bid of about 8.2 million dinars, while the Saad Al-Abdullah City center tender was awarded for approximately 8.8 million dinars.

The contracting committee meticulously evaluated the submitted offers from legal, procedural, and financial perspectives.

In a related development, Omar Al-Ruwaihi, Deputy Director General for Public Relations and Development Affairs and official spokesperson for the Public Institution for Housing Welfare, highlighted the institution's progress in digital services.

During the first half of the year, the institution provided 328,037 services to citizens both electronically and at reception centers.

Al-Ruwaihi reported that 93.8% of these services were accessed electronically via various channels, including the Sahal application, Chatbot service, and the institution's website.

Specifically, 152,838 transactions were conducted through the Sahal application, with 46.5% reviewed in the first six months of the year.

The Chatbot service on WhatsApp successfully handled 154,906 services, while the Citi-



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Ambassador to Nigeria Salem Al-Muzain submits credentials to Nigerian President Bola Tinubu.

Kuwaiti envoy to Nigeria submits 'credentials' to President Tinubu

KUWAIT CITY, July 20, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to Nigeria Salem Al-Muzain submitted on Thursday a copy of his credentials to Nigerian President Bola Tinubu during a ceremony that was held in the capital Abuja.

Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) received a statement from Kuwait's embassy in Abuja saying that ambassador Al-Muzain delivered the kindest regards of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the

Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, wishing Nigeria further prosperity.

On his part, President Tinubu expressed his utmost respects to His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince, the statement continued.

The ambassador praised the bilateral relations between the two friendly nations, affirming the Kuwaiti leadership's keenness on developing and bolstering bilateral cooperation across all fields.

zen Service Department addressed 14,193 telephone inquiries. Additionally, 5,947 services were pro-

vided through reception and external centers, and 153 services were processed via the website.



Group photo with the Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait, alongside distinguished academics and intellectuals.



Dr. Alanoud Al-Sabah and Sara Akbar



Dr. Ali Al-Tarrah and Manaf Alhajri

Reconnaissance Research welcomes Spain's State Secretary for Foreign and Global Affairs

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: Reconnaissance Research received His Excellency Diego Martinez Belio, the esteemed State Secretary for Foreign and Global Affairs of Spain, and the Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait, alongside a distinguished group of academics and intellectuals, for a Chatham House-style discussion.

The event provided a platform for a comprehensive and fruitful exchange of ideas on several issues of bilateral, regional and international affairs both from the Kuwaiti and the Spanish perspective, including the critical situation in Gaza or in other conflict torn areas of the Middle East.

The conversation also delved into the shifting dynamics in Europe and the evolving relationships between Spain and its strategic partners, highlighting the impor-



Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri and His Excellency Diego Martinez Belio



Reconnaissance Research logo

tance and the opportunity of fostering stronger diplomatic and economic ties between Europe and the Gulf Region.

Reconnaissance Research Founder and CEO Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri remarked, "Beyond our inherent respect for Spain and its people, their

firm stance in support of Palestine made this visit more meaningful and heartwarming for us."

This visit underscores Reconnaissance belief in the importance of academic and diplomatic engagements in shaping informed policy decisions.

Al-Ujairi Center says fourth week of July will feature astronomical events

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: Al-Ujairi Scientific Center announced, Friday, that the fourth week of this month will feature several astronomical phenomena visible to the naked eye, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a press statement, the center revealed that starting Sunday, July 21, the moon will reach its full phase, with 100 percent luminosity, marking the full moon of the month of Muharram.

The center also mentioned that on July 22, Mercury will achieve its maximum eastern elongation, making it the best time to observe and photograph the planet as it will be at its highest point above the western horizon im-

mediately after sunset.

Additionally, the center noted that next Wednesday night, the moon will rise in conjunction with Saturn, and they will remain side by side in the sky until sunrise.

This will be followed by Mercury's conjunction with Regulus, the brightest star in the constellation Leo, on Thursday.

Concluding the fourth week of July, on Saturday, July 28, the moon will enter its second quarter phase, rising late after midnight. This date also coincides with the peak of the Delta Aquarids meteor shower, which will last for two days, featuring around 20 meteors per hour.



Photo of the Kuwait City skyline.

KUNA photo

A minister

Continued from Page 1

There are several other funds with money, yet their existence remains largely unknown. They cannot offer citizens loans equivalent to those provided by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. Doesn't it seem that the officials are "playing deaf"?

As we have stated before, and reiterate now, the extent of citizens' loans, amounting to approximately KD 1.9 billion or even two or three billion, reflects a significant challenge for the state and is also a source of various social issues.

As you know, social stability is of great importance to the prosperity of countries, which is why other Gulf countries canceled the debts of their citizens, and also worked to improve employee salaries, and then approved taxes to which no one objected.

Your Highness the Prime Minister, if the minister of the "working in silence" theory is indifferent, this is a disaster. If the Minister who is the guardian of the "Kuwait Development Fund" is bragging, then the disaster is greater.

If there is no media strategy, at least one must be put in place that indicates harmony among the ministers who move like a rudderless ship.

Of course, this does not benefit the country and its people, and arouses anger among them, because if one minister is pleased, another is frustrated, and "all is chaotic."

That is why we beg to say - "O Allah, we do not ask you to reject the decree, but we ask you to be kind to us."

People do not know whom to complain to, so could you help us, Your Highness the Prime Minister?

Kuwaiti girl

Continued from Page 1

said Kuwait's participation was effective through launching initiatives related to the session's topic.

The Arab child parliament is an Arab League institution in which four male and female children of each member country take part.

In 2023, Al-Sharif was elected as the parliament's president of the third session for two years.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Consul General in Dubai and the Northern Emirates Ambassador Ali Al-Thaidi expressed Saturday pride as Kuwaiti Jenan Al-Sharif presided over the fourth session of the Arab child parliament.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Thaidi said this step shows Kuwait's commitment to backing youth and enabling them to be pioneers in building a better future of international and Arab societies.

He expressed deep appreciation for valuable efforts made by the Kuwaiti delegation led by Al-Sharif.

He also extolled the role of Sharjah and its ruler Sheikh Dr. Sultan Al-Qasimi in supporting youth and education initiatives in the region.

The consul affirmed that Sheikh Al-Qasimi is empowering youth and encouraging them to effectively participate in social and cultural action.

During the session, the conferees discussed societal responsibility and MP's key role in raising awareness about the needs of Arab children, and offering initiatives required for sustainable development and social justice.

Fifty-four children from 16 Arab countries took part in the session and spoke about their experiments and views on how to enhance the role of MP in boosting social rights and duties of children.

Kuwait acts

Continued from Page 1

around 15 Kuwaiti government agencies and companies, indicating some of them have been contacted and repairs have been dealt with according to the company's directives.

Sources reiterated that matters were under control and the impact was limited. They affirmed these agencies were not greatly affected, thanks to rapid communication to inform them about the technical procedures to address the problem. They pointed out that all government agencies were provided with technical recommendations and information to deal with technical faults.

Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Communication Affairs Omar Al-Omar announced that under the directives and follow up of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Al-Abdullah, the Operations Unit was established and a hotline was allocated to monitor situation, evaluate it and provide the necessary support to various State agencies immediately in order to ensure the efficiency and continuity of the work of their electronic systems in light of this global situation.

In a press statement, Al-Omar explained that according to official statements by CrowdStrike, the cause of the crisis was a defect in an update to the company's systems, which was found to have led to the failure of some of the services provided by the company and was not due to cyber security attacks.

He added: The Operations Unit that was established to deal with this incident identified the parties benefiting from the company's services and followed up the necessary procedures to be taken by these parties. Communication was also made with all parties to ensure they were not affected by the

existing problem, and direct communication channels were opened with both CrowdStrike and Microsoft.

He stated that the situation in government agencies in Kuwait is stable, and none of the government devices and applications were affected as a result of this stoppage, thanks to the continuous efforts in strengthening and securing government systems and electronic infrastructure.

He stressed that information security and protecting the digital infrastructure are top priorities, and the precautionary measures and advanced security systems being implemented have proven their effectiveness in dealing with such challenges.

He said there is continuous coordination with international and local authorities to understand the extent of the impact of this malfunction and to take the necessary measures to mitigate its impact on the digital infrastructure.

On the other hand, sources at Kuwait International Airport revealed that some flights were rescheduled; but no flight was canceled due to the technical failure, although there was a delay in the arrival of some flights from some international airports due to technical problems at those airports, not in Kuwait.

Sources asserted that passengers departing on some flights were provided with a manual boarding pass stamped by the airlines and approved by the Ministry of Interior to facilitate their journeys until systems were restored for some companies affected by the malfunction.

Meanwhile, the global website FlightRadar24 revealed that the total number of flights delayed to and from Kuwait International Airport reached 70.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) confirmed that it activated a crisis business continuity plan after some flights were affected.

DGCA explained that the technical defect in the global system of the plat-

forms of some international companies contributed to the direct impact on flight operating systems and affected some flights at Kuwait International Airport.

DGCA said coordination was made with Kuwait Airways, Jazeera Airways and the airlines operating at Kuwait International Airport, as they followed the instructions in this regard. After several hours of interruption, all technical systems returned to normal including the systems for airlines operating at Kuwait International Airport.

Kuwait strives

Continued from Page 1

load will hit 20,905 megawatts in 2030 and the expected electricity output would be 155,783 megawatts. On July 11, the load was registered (at 2:30 p.m.) 17,120 megawatts.

The Ministry has set 11 ventures to boost energy security in the coming two decades with a capacity amounting to 22,100 megawatts including 15,000 megawatts with conventional technology and 7,500 megawatts with renewable technology.

The ministry launched in 2021 the "hafez" program to encourage citizens rationalize electricity consumption, offering discounts on the bills. Up to 4,000 nationals joined the program in the first week of March.

According to the program, a client that rationalizes consumption by less than 20 percent earns a double proportion in the form of sums in his/her account. The offer reaches 40 percent of the bill value if the save reaches 30 percent and above.

As to the water bill, the rationing at 25 percent is rewarded with double the percentage and 50 percent if it reaches 25 percent and higher.

The value of the sums paid to the clients who benefited from "hafez," in

February 2004, reached KD 121,000 (USD 400,000).

Moreover, the ministry signed last Tuesday a deal to buy 500,000 digital meters from the telecommunication company, STC, at a value of KD 9.979 million (USD 32 million.)

The establishment of the smart meters will enable the ministry to enhance the level of rationing and have a clear and more specific reading of consumption.

Israeli occupation

Continued from Page 1

strong commendation and denunciation of Israeli National Security Minister's storming into Al-Aqsa Mosque and preventing Muslims from getting into it.

In a statement, the Ministry also condemned the Knesset's resolution rejecting setting up a Palestinian state, saying that the move is a blatant violation of international legitimacy resolutions.

The step also undermines efforts made by the international community to revive the peace process in the Middle East and implement the two-state solution, it stated.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) also welcomed the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) advisory opinion on the unlawful Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories.

In a press statement, OIC stressed the need to follow-up on the implementation of the ICJ's advisory opinion, which ruled that Israel's decades-long occupation and settler-colonialism of the Palestinian territories is "unlawful" and should be brought to an end "as rapidly as possible".

OIC expressed appreciation for the positions of the states that have supported and joined the ICJ's procedures to ensure justice and international protection of the Palestinian people and defend the Palestinians' legitimate rights.

World News Roundup

Europe

Russia convicts journo

Belarus prez marks 30 years in 'power'

TALLINN, Estonia, July 20, (AP): For three decades, European leaders have come and gone by the dozens, but **Alexander Lukashenko** remains in absolute control of Belarus.

His longevity is due to a mixture of harshly silencing all dissent, reverting to Soviet-style economic controls and methods, and cozying up to Russia, even as he sometimes flirted with the West.

Lukashenko, 69, was dubbed "Europe's last dictator" early in his tenure, and he has lived up to that nickname.

On Saturday, he marks 30 years in power - one of the world's longest-serving and most ruthless leaders.

As head of the country sandwiched between Russia, Ukraine and NATO members Poland, Lithuania and Latvia, Lukashenko was elected to his sixth term in office in 2020, in balloting widely seen at home and abroad as rigged.

Months of mass protests that followed were harshly suppressed in a violent crackdown that sent tens of thousands to jail amid allegations of beatings and torture. Many political opponents remain imprisoned or have fled the nation of 9.5 million.

But the strongman shrugged off Western sanctions and isolation that followed, and now he says he will run for a seventh five-year term next year.

Lukashenko owes his political longevity to a mixture of guile, brutality and staunch political and economic support from his main ally, Russia.



Lukashenko

But the strongman shrugged off Western sanctions and isolation that followed, and now he says he will run for a seventh five-year term next year.

Lukashenko owes his political longevity to a mixture of guile, brutality and staunch political and economic support from his main ally, Russia.

German sentenced to death: A Belarusian human rights group said Friday that a German citizen has been sentenced to death for terrorism and other charges connected to an explosion intended to undermine public order.

Belarus is the only country in Europe that still executes prisoners and has come under wide criticism. Reports say that convicts are informed that their appeals have been rejected, then made to kneel and are shot in the back of the head minutes later.

The respected human rights group Viasna, whose imprisoned founder is a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, identified the man sentenced as a German Red Cross medical worker named Rico Krieger.

'Release Nobel Peace laureate': A United Nations panel of human rights experts called on Belarus to release the Nobel Peace Prize-winning founder of the country's most respected rights group, who has been behind bars for three years.

Ales Bialiatski's imprisonment came amid a widespread harsh crackdown on opponents of authoritarian President **Alexander Lukashenko** after large and persistent protest demonstrations arose in 2020. The protests were sparked by an election whose allegedly manipulated results gave Lukashenko a sixth term in office.

More than 35,000 people were detained in the crackdown, many of them beaten by police, and prominent opposition either fled the country or were sentenced to prison.

Russia convicts US journo: Wall Street Journal reporter **Evan Gershkovich** was convicted Friday of espionage and sentenced to 16 years in a maximum-security prison on charges that his employer and the U.S. government have rejected as fabricated.

The swift conclusion of the secretive trial in Russia's highly politicized legal system could potentially clear the way for a prisoner swap between Moscow and Washington.

Gershkovich, his head shaved and looking thin in a dark T-shirt, was calm as he stood in a glass defendants' cage in the Sverdlovsk Regional Court. He listened impassively to the verdict but gave an occasional smile. When Judge **Andrei Mineyev** asked him if he had any questions about the verdict, he replied "No, your honor."

Help Ukraine forces - Zelenskyy: Ukraine's President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** urged Britain's new government to help Ukrainian forces attack deeper inside Russia to stop deadly missile strikes on his country, as he gave a rare address by a foreign leader to a UK Cabinet meeting.

Zelenskyy said "long-range capability" to destroy sites where Russian weapons are concentrated is key to Ukraine's defense.

"I ask you to show your leadership" in lifting restrictions on Ukraine's use of Western weapons, Zelenskyy told Prime Minister **Keir Starmer**.

Russia has deployed devastating firepower as it pursues a summer offensive in eastern Ukraine, reducing villages to rubble and pushing back Ukrainian troops in places. It has also launched missile and drone attacks across Ukraine, killing dozens and hitting targets including a Kyiv children's hospital.

Orbán releases letter to EU leaders: Hungarian Prime Minister **Viktor Orbán** released a letter he addressed to the heads of European Union countries where he presented his impressions from a recent series of visits with some of the bloc's biggest adversaries that angered many of his allies.

The letter, which Orbán sent to European Council Chairman **Charles Michel** on July 12, outlines his assessment of meetings he held under the auspices of a self-declared "peace mission" that included trips this month to both Moscow and Beijing, visits he cast as an attempt to broker an end to Russia's war in Ukraine.

Those visits garnered major backlash among EU leaders, who rebuked Orbán for holding meetings with Russia's **Vladimir Putin** and China's **Xi Jinping** without first consulting his European partners.

Order restored in UK city: Officials in the northern English city of Leeds say order has been restored after a night of unrest that began when police and local government workers intervened in a "family incident" and residents poured into the streets in protest.

Rioters set a bus on fire and tipped over a police car in what police described as a "serious disorder incident" that began at about 5 pm on Thursday in the city's Harehills area. A large number of officers were deployed to the area and the "full weight of the law" will be used against those responsible, West Yorkshire Police said in a statement.

Tom Riordan, chief executive of the Leeds City Council, said calm was restored by about 1 a.m. and authorities have already begun to clean up the damage.



Balloons fall after the nomination of Republican presidential candidate former president Donald Trump and vice presidential candidate Sen. JD Vance, at the Republican National Convention on July 18 in Milwaukee. Inset: (From left to right) Donald Trump, Melania Trump, Vance and his wife Usha Vance together on stage at the end of the Republican National Convention. (AP)

Politics

GOP emerges from confab thrilled with Trump

US President Biden pushes party unity

WASHINGTON, July 20, (AP): A rapidly growing chorus of Democratic lawmakers has called for US President **Joe Biden** to drop his reelection bid, even as the president insisted he's ready to return to the campaign trail next week to counter what he called a "dark vision" laid out by Republican **Donald Trump**.

As more Democratic members of Congress urged him to drop out - bringing the total since his disastrous debate against Trump to nearly three dozen - Biden remained isolated at his beach house in Delaware after being diagnosed with COVID-19. The president, who has insisted he can beat Trump, was huddling with family and relying on a few longtime aides as he resisted efforts to shove him aside.

Late Friday, Ohio Sen **Sherrod Brown**, a Democrat who is in a tough race for reelection, called for Biden to step aside.

Brown said in a statement that he agrees with "the many Ohioans" who have reached out to him. "I think the president should end his campaign," he said.

And in a statement later Friday, Rep. **Morgan McGarvey**, D-Ky., also called on Biden to drop out while saying, "there is no joy in the recognition he should not be our nominee in November. But the stakes of this election are too high."

Move

Biden said Trump's acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention showcased a "dark vision for the future." The president, seeking to move the political conversation away from his fate and onto his rival's agenda, said Friday he was planning to return to the campaign trail next week and insisted he has a path to victory over Trump, despite the worries of some of his party's most eminent members.

"Together, as a party and as a country, we can and will defeat him at the ballot box," Biden said. "The stakes are high, and the choice is clear. Together, we will win."

Earlier in the day, his campaign chair, **Jen O'Malley Dillion**, acknowl-

edged "slippage" in support for the president but insisted he's "absolutely" remaining in the race and the campaign sees "multiple paths" to beating Trump.

"We have a lot of work to do to reassure the American people that, yes, he's old, but he can win," she told MSNBC's "Morning Joe" show. She said voters concerned about Biden's fitness to lead aren't switching to vote for Trump.

Meanwhile, the Democratic National Committee's rulemaking arm held a meeting Friday, pressing ahead with plans for a virtual roll call before Aug. 7 to nominate the presidential pick, ahead of the party's convention later in the month in Chicago.

"President Biden deserves the respect to have important family conversations with members of the caucus and colleagues in the House and Senate and Democratic leadership and not be battling leaks and press statements," Sen. **Chris Coons** of Delaware, Biden's closest friend in Congress and his campaign co-chair, told The Associated Press.

Extraordinary

It's a pivotal few days for the president and his party: Trump has wrapped up an enthusiastic Republican National Convention in Milwaukee on Thursday. And Democrats, racing time, are considering the extraordinary possibility of Biden stepping aside for a new presidential nominee before their own convention.

Among the democrats expressing worries to allies about Biden's chances were former President **Barack Obama** and Speaker Emerita **Nancy Pelosi**, who has privately told Biden the party could lose the ability to seize control of the House if he doesn't step aside.

New Mexico Sen. **Martin Heinrich** called on Biden to exit the race, making him the third Senate Democrat to do so.

"By passing the torch, he would secure his legacy as one of our nation's greatest leaders and allow us to unite behind a candidate who can best defeat Donald Trump and safeguard the future of our democracy," said Heinrich,

who's up for reelection.

And Reps. **Jared Huffman**, **Mark Veasey**, **Chuy Garcia** and **Mark Pocan**, representing a wide swath of the caucus, together called on Biden to step aside.

Separately, Rep **Sean Casten** of Illinois wrote in an op-ed that with "a heavy heart and much personal reflection" he, too, was calling on Biden to "pass the torch to a new generation."

Campaign officials said Biden was even more committed to staying in the race. And senior West Wing aides have had no internal discussions or conversations with the president about dropping out.

Also:

MILWAUKEE: The last time Republicans gathered for a full convention, they were plagued by internal division and fear. Morale was near rock bottom. And the party's presidential nominee showed little desire, or capacity, to add new voters to his political coalition.

What a difference eight years make. The Republican officials, strategists and activists who packed Milwaukee for the Republican National Convention this week expressed a collective confidence at levels not seen in decades. Boos and infighting marred **Donald Trump's** first convention in 2016, but this one was defined by overwhelming displays of unity as GOP leaders - Trump skeptics among them - reveled in what most view as an all but certain victory come November.

Trump's survival after nearly being assassinated at a Pennsylvania rally over the weekend, they said, was the last piece to bring everyone together in spite of the former president's extraordinary personal and political baggage.

"It feels like 1980," said a smiling **New York GOP Chair Ed Cox** on the convention's red-carpeted floor this week, referring to **Ronald Reagan's** landslide presidential victory. Cox pointed to a sense of inevitability building around Trump and the GOP. "We finally came completely together."

For Democrats, it is the worst of times.



Wall Street Journal reporter **Evan Gershkovich** stands listening to the verdict in a glass cage of a courtroom inside the building of 'Palace of Justice,' in Yekaterinburg, Russia, on July 19. A Russian court convicted Gershkovich on espionage charges that his employer and the US have rejected as fabricated. He was sentenced to 16 years in prison after a secretive and rapid trial in the country's highly politicized legal system. (AP)



Lee



Santos

America

Longtime Rep Lee dies: Longtime US Rep **Sheila Jackson Lee** of Texas, who helped lead federal efforts to protect women from domestic violence and recognize Juneteenth as a national holiday, has died. She was 74.

Lillie Conley, her chief of staff, confirmed that Jackson Lee, who had pancreatic cancer, died in Houston Friday night with her family around her.

The Democrat had represented her Houston-based district and the nation's fourth-largest city since 1995. She had previously had breast cancer and announced the pancreatic cancer diagnosis on June 2.

"The road ahead will not be easy, but I stand in faith that God will strengthen me," Jackson Lee said in a statement then.

Bishop **James Dixon**, a longtime friend in Houston who visited Jackson Lee earlier this week, said he will remember her as a fighter.

Jackson Lee quickly established herself as fierce advocate for women and minorities, and a leader for House Democrats on many social justice issues, from policing reform to reparations for descendants of enslaved people. (AP)

Arrest made in Trump threat: A Florida man accused of making threats against former president Donald Trump, US Sen **JD Vance** and their families on social media was arrested on Friday, police said.

The Jupiter Police Department said in a news release that officers arrested **Michael W. Wiseman** on charges of written threats to kill.

Wiseman was in custody at the facility on Friday night, a jail employee confirmed. The employee said she didn't have information about whether Wiseman had an attorney to contact for comment on his behalf.

Detectives said Wiseman had made multiple written threats on Facebook against Trump and Vance, who became the Republican presidential and vice presidential nominees, respectively, this week. Threats were also made "concerning bodily harm" against members of the Trump and Vance families, according to police. (AP)

Judge rejects Santos' request: Former US Rep **George Santos** on Friday lost a bid to get rid of part of the criminal case against him as he heads toward trial on charges that include defrauding campaign donors.

US District **Joanna Seybert** turned down

Santos' request to dismiss charges of aggravated identity theft and theft of public money - in all, three of the 23 charges against the New York Republican. Prosecutors and Santos' lawyers declined to comment.

Prosecutors have accused Santos of a range of crimes - among them lying to



A man poses for photos with a piano among lavender blossoms at a lavender field in Milton, Ontario, Canada, on July 19. (Xinhua)

Congress about his wealth, collecting unemployment benefits while actually working, and using campaign contributions to pay for such personal expenses as designer clothing. He pleaded not guilty to a revised indictment in October.

The aggravated identity theft charges pertain to allegations that Santos used campaign donors' credit card information to make repeated contributions they hadn't authorized. Prosecutors say he also tried to hide the true source of the money - and evade campaign contribution limits - by listing the donations as coming from some of his relatives and associates, without their consent. (AP)

Woman's conviction overturned: A woman whose murder conviction was overturned after she served 43 years of a life sentence was released Friday, despite attempts in the last month by Missouri's attorney general to keep her behind bars.

Sandra Hemme, 64, left a prison in Chillicothe, hours after a judge threatened to hold the attorney general's office in contempt if they continued to fight against her release. She reunited with her family at a nearby park, where she hugged her sister, daughter and granddaughter.

"You were just a baby when your mom sent me a picture of you," she said. "You looked just like your mamma when you were little and you still look like her."

Her granddaughter laughed. "I get that a lot." (AP)

Africa

Mining activities banned

Tunisia's president to run for 2nd term

TUNIS, Tunisia, July 20. (Agencies): Tunisia's President **Kais Saied** said Friday that he will run for a second term, making a long-expected announcement while many of his potential opponents languish in prison on charges their attorneys have described as politicized.

The announcement about Saied's candidacy in the October election was published on the presidency's Facebook page after a busy week during which critics of Saied and his government have continued to face arrest, gag orders and other restrictions.

The repressive measures have raised fears about the trajectory of the North African nation 13 years after protestors toppled its longtime dictator in the first of the regional uprisings that later became known as the Arab Spring.

Saied, a 66-year-old former law professor, rose to power in 2019, capitalizing on anger against politicians who failed to fulfill the promises of the revolution and make Tunisia more economically prosperous. Two years after winning election, Saied sacked the prime minister, suspended Tunisia's parliament and had the constitution rewritten to consolidate his own power.

Tunisia has since imprisoned dozens of his critics from business and political spheres, including Rached Ghannouchi, the leader of the political party Ennahda that ascended to power after last decade's revolution.

Meanwhile, a Tunisian court on Friday sentenced a presidential candidate Lotfi Mraïhi to eight months in prison and banned him from contesting elections for life, in the latest move to stifle opponents of Saied in the upcoming October election which critics call a sham.

The court found Mraïhi guilty of vote-buying during the 2019 election, adding him to the list of government critics prosecuted for alleged wrongdoing in that contest.



Saied

□ □ □

Algeria looks into candidates' files: Algeria's electoral authority announced Friday the start of looking into the documents of hopeful presidential candidates running for the election slated for September 7.

The nominations include some outstanding candidates, including current President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, head of Movement for the Society of Peace (MSP) Abdelali Cherif, head of Socialist Forces Front and others.

Under the electoral law, the candidate should submit a list of 600 signatures of municipal, state or parliamentary members in at least 29 states, or a list of 50,000 signatures of eligible voters in at least 29 states, and the minimum signatures in each state should be 1,200.

The Constitutional Court will approve the final list of candidates within seven days of the date of sending the last decision of the independent electoral authority.

Once candidates' documents are accepted, they can start their programs during the electoral campaigning which starts 23 days before the voting process and ends three days before it.

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South Kivu bans mining activities: The governor of the South Kivu province in eastern Congo on Friday ordered the suspension of all mining activities to "restore order" in the mineral-rich region, which is plagued by violence from armed groups.

Mining activities are suspended until further notice because of "the disorder caused by mining operators," Gov. Jean-Jacques Purusi Sadiki said in a statement, without providing further details.

The statement said the aim of the decision was to "restore order to mining throughout the Province and to preserve not only human lives, but also the traceability of mineral production in these sites."

The local authorities gave 72 hours to "all mining companies, businesses and cooperatives to leave the sites and places of exploitation," the statement added.

It was difficult to immediately assess whether the decision would be respected, as certain mining areas are under the control or influence of armed groups.

Many Chinese companies mine gold and other minerals in South Kivu, one of the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo that have been plagued by violence from armed groups for nearly three decades.

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Ruto retains 6 ex-ministers: Kenyan President William Ruto on Friday appointed the first 11 members of his Cabinet, retaining six former ministers in the key portfolios of defense and interior.

Last week, Ruto dismissed all but one minister and said he would form a broad-based government that would help him address issues that led to monthlong protests. The protests started as calls for legislators to vote against a finance bill that was proposing new taxes and later morphed to calls for the president's resignation over bad governance.

The president on Friday retained the former ministers in interior and defense, but he has yet to appoint a finance minister, under whose area of responsibility the contentious budget falls. The country's public debt has been increasing and Ruto defended the proposed taxes as a way to repay debt and increase internal revenue collection.

Demonstrators have been calling for a fresh start accusing the former ministers of incompetence, corruption and displays of opulence amid the high cost of living.

The interior ministry, under which the police falls, has been often criticized for the shooting and killings of protesters on June 25 as they stormed parliament.

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'New coalition govt united': South African President Cyril Ramaphosa opened a new parliamentary term Thursday, nearly two months after an historic election result reshaped the country's politics and led to the formation of an unprecedented multiparty government coalition.

Ramaphosa's speech to lawmakers at the City Hall in Cape Town - a replacement venue after a fire gutted the Parliament building two years ago - marked the official start of business for the new coalition, which brings at least 10 parties together to govern Africa's most industrialized country.

Ramaphosa said that despite the political differences of his diverse government, it was united in tackling South Africa's three biggest problems: an unemployment crisis, crippling poverty and inequality, and the failure of state institutions that have been eroded by corruption and neglect that's largely been blamed on Ramaphosa's own African National Congress party.



Malaysia's new king Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar (second right) attends the installation ceremony in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on July 20. (Xinhua)

Malaysia honors new king in coronation marked by pomp, cannon fire

Traditional pomp and cannon fire on Saturday marked the coronation of Malaysia's billionaire King Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, who pledged to govern fairly during the five-year term he will serve under a unique rotating monarchy system.

Sultan Ibrahim, 65, was sworn in on Jan 31. Saturday's coronation at the national palace formalized his role as Malaysia's 17th king in a ceremony steeped in Malay culture and pageantry.

Nine ethnic Malay state rulers take turns as Malaysia's king for five-year terms under the

country's rotating monarchy, which began when Malaysia gained independence from Britain in 1957. Malaysia has 13 states but only nine have royal families, some which trace their roots to centuries-old Malay kingdoms that were independent states until they were brought together by the British.

Donned in black and gold traditional ceremonial outfit and headgear, Sultan Ibrahim and Queen Raja Zarith Sofiah were greeted by military salute before they proceeded to the throne. The heads

of the other royal families, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and Bahrain King Hamad Isa al Khalifa were seated on a stage beside the throne.

At the start of the proceedings, a copy of the Quran was presented to the Sultan who kissed it. The monarch received a gold dagger, a symbol of power. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim then pledged his government's loyalty and said the royal institution was a pillar of strength for the nation. He then proclaimed Sultan Ibrahim as Malaysia's new king. (AP)

Asia

Vietnam Communist Party chief Trong dies

SKorea restarts propaganda broadcasts

SEOUL, South Korea, July 20. (AP): South Korea said Friday it has restarted blasting propaganda broadcasts into North Korea to retaliate against the North's latest round of trash-carrying balloon launches, a resumption of Cold War-style tactics that are raising animosities between the rivals.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it used front-line loudspeakers to blare anti-Pyongyang broadcasts over the border between Thursday evening and Friday morning. It said the South Korean military turned on loudspeakers again later Friday as it found out the North was preparing to fly more balloons.

Crackdown

The broadcasts were the first of their kind in about 40 days. The contents of the broadcasts were not immediately known, but previous ones last month reportedly included K-pop songs, weather forecasts and news on Samsung, the biggest South Korean company, as well as outside criticism of the North's missile program and its crackdown on foreign video.

The South Korean broadcasts could trigger an angry response from North Korea because it is extremely sensitive to any outside attempt to undermine its political system. In 2015, when South Korea restarted loudspeaker broadcasts for the first time in 11 years, North Korea fired artillery rounds across the border, prompting the South to return fire, according to South Korean officials. No casualties were reported.

South Korea's military said North Korea must be blamed for heightened tensions because it ignored South Korea's repeated warnings and continued its "despicable" balloon campaigns. The Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that the South Korean military will conduct loudspeaker broadcasts in a fuller manner and other stronger steps if North Korea continues provocations like balloon launches.

South Korea's military earlier said North Korea's launch on Thursday afternoon was its eighth balloon campaign since late May. About 200 North

TAIPEI, Taiwan, July 20. (AP): Chinese authorities say at least 11 people have died and 30 are missing in the partial collapse of a highway bridge in the northwest of the country following heavy storms and flooding. A similar number are missing in the southwest after dozens of houses were destroyed by storms.

The official Xinhua News Agency said five vehicles that fell off the bridge have been recovered after the structure in Shaanxi province crumbled at around 8:40 p.m. Friday. A photo released by Xinhua showed a section of the bridge snapped and folded down at almost a 90-degree angle into the rushing brown water below.

It said rescue operations were still underway Saturday in the province's Zhashui county, with some

20 cars and 30 people still missing.

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5 survive copter crash: Two Australian and three Indonesian nationals survived after a tourist helicopter crashed in the coastal area on the Southern side of Bali, due to being entangled in a kite string, officials said Friday.

The Bell 505 Jet Ranger X helicopter, owned by PT. Whitesky Aviation, came down in Pecatu village in the coastal area on the Southern side of Bali, a statement from Indonesia's transportation ministry said.

Photos circulated by Indonesia's Search and Rescue Agency showed the helicopter with five people on board - including the crew and passengers - crashed on a limestone cliff.

"All victims could be evacuated safely," said a written statement from the agency in Bali Friday. Three of them were taken to a hospital for further treatment.

Trong passed away at 13:38 on July 19, 2024, at the 108 Central Military Hospital due to old age and serious illness," the Nhan Dan newspaper said.

Official media said a state funeral would be held.

Trong had dominated Vietnamese politics since 2011, when he was elected party chief. During his tenure, he worked to consolidate the Communist Party's power in Vietnam's single-party political system. In the decade before he took the top role in Vietnamese politics, the balance of power had shifted more toward the governmental wing led by then-Prime Minister **Nguyen Tan Dung**.

Born in 1944 in Hanoi, Trong was a Marxist-Leninist ideologue who earned a degree in philosophy before becoming a member of the Communist Party at the age of 22. He viewed corruption as the single gravest threat

ico's president called **Donald Trump** "a friend" Friday and said he would write to the former US president to warn him against pledging to close the border or blaming mi-

(Xinhua)

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Obrador calls Trump 'a friend': Mex-



Rescuers drain floodwater in Baoji City, northwest China's Shaanxi Province on July 19. Chinese authorities say at least 11 people have died in the partial collapse of a highway bridge in the northwest following heavy storms and flooding. (Xinhua)



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, beneath a statue of former president Nelson Mandela, arrives for the Opening of Parliament in Cape Town, South Africa, on July 18. Ramaphosa opened a new parliamentary term on Thursday, nearly two months after an historic election result reshaped the country's politics and led to the formation of an unprecedented multiparty government coalition. (AP)



Trump



Obrador

Lat/Am

40 dead in Haiti boat fire: At least 40 migrants died and several others were injured after a boat they were traveling in caught fire off northern Haiti, a UN spokesman said on Friday, quoting the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

"Two days ago, according to the Haitian National Office for Migration, the boat, carrying over 80 people, departed from Labadee en route to the Turks and Caicos Islands, a 250-kilometer journey," said Farhan Haq, the deputy spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, at a daily briefing.

Forty-one surviving migrants on board were rescued by the Haitian Coast Guard and are currently receiving medical care, food, water and psychosocial support, the IOM said in a statement.

Eleven migrants were taken to the nearest hospital for treatment, the statement added.

"This devastating event highlights the risks faced by children, women and men who migrate through irregular routes, demonstrating the crucial need for safe and legal pathways for migration," said Gregoire Goodstein, IOM's chief of mission in Haiti. (Xinhua)

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Brazil vehicle collision kills 6: At least six people were killed in a collision involving two cars and a truck in southern Brazil's Rio Grande do Sul state, local media reported Friday.

The accident occurred at about 11:30 pm on Thursday local time on a highway near the city of Rio Pardo, when a car carrying six people crashed into the back of another vehicle, causing both to collide head-on with a truck, the local fire department was quoted as saying.

The people who died were in the same car, while the drivers of the other vehicle and truck survived the accident, the report said.

The city of Rio Pardo is located some 140 kilometers from Porto Alegre, capital of the Rio Grande do Sul state, in the southern region of the South American country.

grants for bringing drugs into the United States.

President **Andrés Manuel López Obrador** called Trump, president from 2017 to 2021 and again the Republican nominee for this fall's presidential election, "a man of intelligence and vision," despite Trump's repeated calls to close the two countries' border.

Mexicans were offended in 2015 when then-candidate Trump claimed that, in many cases, immigrants arriving in the US illegally included "criminals, drug dealers, rapists."

And Mexico was shocked in 2019 when Trump as president threatened to close the border "for a long time" unless Mexican authorities stopped migrants from crossing. López Obrador said the two countries' economies were so intertwined that they couldn't bear a closure for even a month.

López Obrador said that in a letter he planned to send next week, "I am going to prove to him that migrants don't carry drugs to the United States," adding that "closing the border won't solve anything, and anyway, it can't be done."

"They wouldn't last a month with the border closed," he said, referring to U.S. automakers and manufacturers who depend on a steady, uninterrupted supply of parts and finished products for their plants on both sides of the border. (Agencies)

oil plunges

The price of Kuwaiti oil went down 37 cents to USD 86.40 pb on Friday, compared to USD 86.77 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Saturday.

On a global scale, the price of the Brent crude went down USD 2.48 to USD 82.63 pb, as did the West Texas Intermediate crude, down USD 2.69 to settle at 80.13 pb. (KUNA)

Finance Min. meets with US Amb.

Kuwait's Finance Minister and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs Dr. Anwar Al-Mudhaf discussed Thursday with US Ambassador Karen Sahasara several financial and economic issues of common interest.

In a press statement, Al-Mudhaf stated that Kuwait is keen on establishing distinguished strategic relations in light of the available investment and economic opportunities.

He unveiled that Kuwait intends to execute several mega projects in line with its vision to become a regional and international financial and commercial hub that attracts foreign investments.

He reiterated strong commitment to improving Kuwait's position on global financial and economic indicators through implementing the best practices. (KUNA)

Kuwait, China discuss renewable energy coop.

Kuwait's Finance Minister and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Dr. Anwar Al-Mudhaf, discussed on Friday enhancing cooperation in the electricity and renewable energy with commissioner-general of China's representative office in the Middle East and North Africa.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Finance said during the meeting, held at its headquarters, the two officials discussed

joint efforts and bilateral work to implement the agreements and memorandums of understanding signed during the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the Republic of China in September 2023.

The statement highlighted several energy projects, including the key project to operate and manage the Al-Shagaya renewable energy station (Area

3 + 4) which will be executed by Chinese companies according to the latest standards and technical specifications.

Al-Mudhaf emphasized Kuwait's government commitment, represented by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, to remove all obstacles and support efforts to implement the signed agreements swiftly. (KUNA)

Market Movements

19-07-2024

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
DUBAI - DFMGI	+11.80	4,180.97	JAPAN - Nikkei 225	-62.56	40,063.79
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+86.68	6,791.69	PAKISTAN - KSE 100	-1,956.66	79,908.44
			BRITAIN - FTSE 100	-49.17	8,155.72
			EUROPE - Euro Stoxx 50	-42.88	4,827.24

Business

Other Voices

New oil find on Failaka Island

Kuwait faces challenges in maximizing oil production

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

THE recent announcement by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) came as positive news. The discovery of the new light crude oil adds significant value to Kuwait's existing reserves of medium to heavy crude oils.

This newly found discovery of about three billion barrels is equivalent to roughly one year of Kuwait's current oil production. The discovery site is situated in the eastern part of Kuwait's largest island, Failaka.

It will likely take between five to seven years to commence oil production from this discovery, even though there is potential to expedite this timeline with the assistance of international oil companies. This collaboration aims to accelerate the availability of oil to global markets at the earliest.

The challenge lies in engaging international oil companies to maximize production efficiently without loss of volume, as they are the most efficient operators worldwide.

It is crucial to work with them as soon as possible, as our companies will not be able to reach the target or achieve the maximum potential from our oil discoveries.

The loss of revenues from the northern field can be considered as an example. We were unable to reach the oil well's potential of one million barrels per day, as the current estimates are between 650,000 to 700,000 barrels per day.

In addition to light crude oil, there is also an additional vol-

ume of associated gas accompanying each barrel of crude, which is not free. This discovery is positive news indeed, and we must expedite its production without delay.

Kuwait is desperate for new oil discoveries, as our overall production is on the decline since 2016-2017. Excluding the neutral zone production, we have not achieved three million barrels of crude oil production, and are unable to maintain continuous onstream production. This once again necessitates the experience of foreign oil companies.

Our oil industry executives seem shy about stating the desperate need for assistance and inviting international major oil companies. Why can't the KPC approach the government and have an open and frank discussion about our internal difficulties, lack of experience in deep well developments and water management issues?

In the meantime, we should reconsider the retirement of executives who completed 30 years of service, and welcome expatriates of the same age from oil services companies!

KPC is not under any pressure from the parliament and will operate in harmony with the government. Is it not time to look forward and increase Kuwait oil production to reach 3 to 3.5 million barrels per annum within the next two to three years without any fear of grilling?

More oil discoveries in Kuwait's territorial waters are expected and welcomed, but it also has to expedite ways and means to bring the new discoveries onstream at the earliest.

The challenge lies in bringing these newly discovered barrels into production swiftly and ensuring they are officially registered as fresh oil volumes in international records.

Email: nafitikuwaiti@yahoo.com



Al-Harami

KPC to invest \$22.92 billion in 'Al-Durra' field over five years

Kuwait to reach 3.2 million barrels/day by year-end

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud Al-Sabah the CEO of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), said in a press statement that KPC intends to spend seven billion dinars (\$22.92 billion) on oil production operations over the next five years in the Al-Durra offshore field.

He noted that Kuwait will reach its production capacity of 3.2 million barrels per day before the end of the year, and then increase it to four million by 2035.

This confirms what was published by the Al-Seyassah on March 3 under the title 'Al-Durra on the track of implementation'.

Regarding the Al-Durra gas field, Al-Saud mentioned that the engineering studies will be updated by the end of the summer, and actual work will begin in the field before the end of this year.

He added that KPC is seeking the cheapest financing options for its projects, relying on a combination of self-financing, borrowing, and partnerships with other entities.

In another statement broadcast by CNBC Arabia, Al-Saud explained that production operations in offshore reservoirs typically require seven years, but they expect to start production from the Al-Nukhdha field in a shorter period.

An informed source told Al-Seyassah that KPC will finance its upcoming projects through the profits of its affiliated oil companies and will regulate borrowing from local and international banks as much as possible.

Additionally, the source revealed that the CEO assured the CEOs of KPC's subsidiaries that rumors about changes to the end-of-service bonus are false. The bonus and additional grants will remain unaffected.

Climate negotiations & environmental issues

OAPEC unveils 50th annual report on energy sector

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: The General Secretariat of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) has unveiled the 50th edition of its Secretary-General's annual report for 2023, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This report offers a comprehensive review of key developments in the energy sector, focusing on oil, gas, environmental issues, and sustainable development.

The release of this 50th edition coincides with OAPEC's 55th anniversary, marking a significant milestone since its founding in 1968. The organization has been a pioneer in Arab cooperation in the energy sector.

The 2023 report covers the notable fluctuations in the global

oil market, influenced by factors such as the slow recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, turmoil in the American banking sector, and geopolitical instability in the Middle East.

The Secretary-General M. Jamal Al-Waghani commended the proactive measures taken by OAPEC member states within the OPEC+ framework. These measures have been crucial in stabilizing the oil market and mitigating the negative impacts of market fluctuations.

The daily added, the report highlights the significant role of OAPEC member states in global energy markets such as 54% of global proven oil reserves, 26.2% of global

reserves, 26% of global production, 14% of global production, 10% of the global total, amounting to 96 million b/d, 17.3% of the global total, 29% of global capacity.

The report notes that the share of Arab countries in renewable energy is relatively small such as Wind Energy: 0.5% of global total, Solar Energy: 1.1% of global total, Hydroelectric Energy: 0.5% of global total.

OAPEC continues to monitor international climate negotiations and works with member states and other organizations to address environmental and climate issues. The organization remains actively engaged in discussions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.



Trainees in a group photo with the Acting Chief Human Resources Officer and several members of the Executive Management Team.

Al-Mathkooor highlights internship program's benefits

stc launches '24 internship program for youth

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced the launch of its 2024 internship program that aims to empower youths in a dynamic work environment, and provide them with the necessary tools to hone their skills that will contribute to determining their future career path. stc's internship program comes as an annual initiative organized by the Company to educate aspiring candidates in the community, while attracting local talent to join its growing workforce. The programs also fall under the stc's 'upgrade' initiative which was introduced under the educational pillar of stc's extensive corporate social responsibility (CSR) program.

In a statement by stc, the Company highlighted that its internship programs have proven to be highly effective in attracting candidates who possess the right skill sets and mindset to excel in stc's fast-paced market. Interns are assigned to different departments based on their academic backgrounds, where they are placed in challenging environments that enable them to showcase their true capabilities. stc organizes such programs throughout the years and has achieved a high success rate in hiring interns that have shown outstanding performance throughout their training period.

Abdulaziz Al-Mathkooor, Acting Chief Human Resources Officer

of stc, said, "We are proud to announce the launch of our 2024 internship program for young candidates in Kuwait. stc understands and values the importance of providing students from diverse disciplines with opportunities to gain valuable industry knowledge and hands-on work experience. Our comprehensive internship programs equip students with the skills and practical experience necessary for their professional growth and success within the industry and beyond.

He highlighted that "As a leading digital pioneer and a key player in the communications and information technology sector, we will provide young trainees with a comprehensive and integrated platform in addition to the tools and resources they need to work effectively, to enable them to have a more comprehensive understanding of the work environment in this essential sector. This includes but not limited to training opportunities in key areas such as Communication solutions, fixed and mobile wireless services, 5G networks, ICT, Internet of Things, IT products and services and cybersecurity". Al-Mathkooor then emphasized "As we continue to invest in talent development, we look forward to welcoming a new cohort of interns this summer and supporting their journey towards becoming future leaders."

stc takes great pride in the success stories that have emerged from its internship program. By attracting and nurturing talented individuals, the Company is mak-

ing a significant contribution to the development of Kuwait's workforce. The internship program also aligns with stc's ongoing pursuit of attracting the best talent to drive innovation and growth in the telecommunications and digital solutions sectors.

Al-Mathkooor added, "We are immensely proud of the success we have witnessed since launching our internship programs and are excited to launch our latest 2024 summer internship program. The caliber of talent we have attracted through our programs has been exceptional, showcasing the impressive knowledge and professionalism that young candidates bring, significantly contributing to the development and advancement of the local job market. The internships have provided us with a pool of skilled professionals who bring fresh perspectives and ideas to the table, contributing to our ongoing success in Kuwait's telecom market."

stc's internship programs are open to university students and recent graduates who demonstrate outstanding academic performance and a strong commitment to personal and professional development. The programs provide participants with an opportunity to enhance their competencies, develop effective time management skills, and gain a superior understanding of the job environment. Upon successful completion of the program, interns may have the opportunity to pursue permanent career positions based on their performance.

50 talents selected for Ro'ya's latest edition

Burgan Bank unveils '24 Ro'ya development program

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: Burgan Bank recently launched the 2024 edition of its flagship development program Ro'ya, which 50 select Burgan talents will be attending this year. The launch ceremony was held at "The Rock", the iconic recreational space of Burgan's Head Office, in the presence of the Bank's top management as well as supporting colleagues who came together to cheer their peers on. The program aims to support Burgan's top-performing employees' and new hires' professional and personal growth across various departments and employment grades through tailored development plans that respond to the ever-evolving market and the industry's new-

emerging technologies. Ro'ya marks a notable milestone in the Bank's dedicated human capital development strategy and its committed adherence to the Central Bank of Kuwait's (CBK) mandates and recommendations for developing and advancing Kuwait's aspiring talents.

As part of the ceremony, Mr. Bashar Al-Qattan, Acting Executive Manager - Learning and Talent Development Burgan Bank, said: "In every successful organization, there are driven and innovative talents who continue to show up with an unrelenting eagerness to grow, learn, and find innovative solutions to everyday challenges. Following the great success that our Ro'yachorts have achieved in the first two rounds of the program, we are very proud to announce that 50 exceptional talents were finely selected to enroll in the latest edition of Ro'ya. Judging by their unwavering dedication and sense of ownership, I am certain that our newest Ro'yataleents will excel throughout the program and emerge from this experience with an even stronger drive to contribute to Burgan's steadfast growth and lead their teams toward bigger achieve-



Ro'ya Graduates

ments. On behalf of Burgan's Executive Management and all staff, congratulations to our new Ro'yataleents, and good luck on this exciting journey of growth and development."

Al-Qattan noted that Burgan Bank has revamped its Ro'ya program, which now presents a new curriculum and features new talent streams, such as the "Future Leaders" stream, dedicated to the Bank's fresh graduate hires, as part of the Bank's long-term plan of developing their skills and preparing them for bigger, more strategic responsibilities.

The 50 talents, selected for their high potential for growth and success, will be enrolled in one of four Ro'ya streams - Future Leaders, Rising Leaders, Transformational Leaders, or Visionary Leaders - depending on their level of experience and development needs. In addition to the program's goal to equip its aspiring talents with the necessary knowledge and skills to remain abreast of the banking sector's fast-paced development, it also focuses on creating a steady growth trajectory for its cohorts, enabling them to take on new and bigger responsibilities and preparing them to be Burgan's upcoming leaders.

Similar to the first two rounds, the latest edition of Ro'ya is designed with precision in response to the Bank's dedicated human capital development strategy and the latest technologies shaping the banking and financial industry, the market's evolving needs, and the employees' aspirations for professional advancement and personal growth. To guarantee the utmost benefit for the talents, Ro'ya continues to be developed in collaboration with prestigious international and local educational institutions.

Ro'ya continues to be a hallmark of Burgan Bank's robust human capital development strategy, which centers on numerous programs and channels of growth that cater to the employees' varying needs and learning styles. This comes as part of the Bank's mission to attract and retain the best talents in Kuwait's banking and financial market by offering them several opportunities for personal and professional development. These efforts, among others, have earned Burgan Bank the Great Place to Work® certification and a place on the Best Workplaces in Asia list - a Great Place to Work® Middle East recognizing.

Mohammad Saleh Marafie wins KD 1 million from Gulf Bank



Officials pose for a group photo after the draw.

AIDanah account's 22nd millionaire announced

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: Gulf Bank is thrilled to announce that Mohammad Saleh Marafie has won a grand prize of KD 1,000,000 in the major AIDanah semi-annual draw, held last Thursday at The Avenues Mall. The event was supervised by representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ernst & Young, marking the 22nd millionaire in the history of the AIDanah account draws.

The atmosphere was filled with anticipation and excitement as AIDanah Millionaire account customers eagerly awaited the announcement of the lucky winner. During the grand ceremony attended by a large audience, the winner's name was revealed. They were then contacted and informed of their entry into the exclusive group of millionaires, expressing immense happiness and gratitude to Gulf Bank for this life-changing prize.

In his speech at the ceremony, Mr. Mohamed Al Qattan, General Manager of Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank, welcomed the attendees and congratulated the winner. He extended his best wishes to the other AIDanah Millionaire account customers for future draws, emphasizing that those who did not win the KD 1,000,000 prize still have many opportunities ahead. He highlighted the upcoming grand prize of KD 2,000,000 which will be drawn on January 30, 2025.

Mr. Al Qattan also highlighted the significant advancements in Gulf Bank's banking services, including enhancements to the Gulf Bank mobile application, the introduction of quality products, and the expansion of electronic services. He noted improvements to branches, ATMs, and the Call Center. These innovations make Gulf Bank's services the most efficient, fast, and customer-friendly in the banking sector, utilizing advanced technology that surpasses customer expectations.

He added that alongside these service developments, Gulf Bank is implementing a comprehensive plan to convert its branch network into environmentally-friendly facilities. This initiative aims to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions, with a focus on promoting self-service options. The bank has already opened its first eco-friendly branch in the Sabah Al-Ahmad residential area and plans to soon reopen the renovated Jabriya and Abdullah Al-Salem branches.

Mr. Al Qattan concluded his speech by affirming Gulf Bank's commitment to investing generously to provide an extraordinary customer experience. This commitment is part of Gulf Bank's 2025 strategy, which aims to solidify its position as the bank of the future by building advanced digital capabilities and enhancing employee skills.



A cheque for the amount won signed by Mohammed Al-Qattan.

Mohammed Al-Qattan:

- Congratulations to the winner and best of luck to all AIDanah Millionaire account holders in future draws.
- The bank has achieved significant advancements and unprecedented breakthroughs in various banking services provided to customers.
- We will continue to generously invest to provide an exceptional customer experience and further simplify our user-friendly services.
- We are implementing a comprehensive plan to transform our branch network into environmentally-friendly facilities to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions.

Promoting Savings Culture

Mrs. Najla Al-Eisa, Chief Marketing Officer at Gulf Bank, expressed Gulf Bank's commitment to creating a joyful atmosphere for customers and attendees at the semi-annual draw. This was achieved through a variety of activities and the distribution of cash prizes, aiming to inspire the audience to embrace a culture of saving.

She elaborated, "For over a quarter-century, the AIDanah Millionaire account has helped us build strong customer relationships. We have achieved sig-

nificant milestones in promoting sustainability and organizing impactful initiatives and events that benefit the community."

Mrs. Al-Eisa concluded, "We look forward to continuing to reward our customers for saving through the AIDanah Millionaire account. We encourage everyone to keep depositing into their accounts to increase their chances of winning the grand prize of KD 2 million in the annual draw."

Numerous Prizes

Moreover, Gulf Bank recently decided to distribute the quarterly draw prize of KD 100,000 among

100 winners, each receiving KD 1,000, instead of one winner receiving the full prize amount. This decision is part of the bank's ongoing efforts to reward its customers and promote a savings culture in the community. This initiative has been recognized by the Guinness World Records as the largest cash prize associated with a bank account worldwide.

As a result, the schedule of draws for the AIDanah Millionaire account, which started in 1998 and continues for the 26th consecutive year, has been adjusted. It will now declare two millionaires annually in major draws, with the grand prize for the annual draw being KD 2,000,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 1,000,000.

Furthermore, there will be 10 monthly draw winners receiving KD 1,000 each, in addition to a quarterly draw prize of KD 100,000. The latest draw winner was announced on April 18, 2024, and 100 winners will be announced in the upcoming draw on October 17, 2024, each receiving a prize of KD 1,000. This makes the AIDanah Millionaire account one of the best savings accounts in Kuwait.

Loyalty Rewards and Winning Opportunities

One of the many advantages of the AIDanah account, is being the only account in Kuwait that transfers the customers' chances of winning from the previous year to the next, as part of a program that rewards customers for their loyalty to Gulf Bank.

In order to increase one's chances of winning, customers must maintain a minimum of KD 200 in their accounts, or deposit continuously to increase their chances of winning. AIDanah account holders are eligible to win Gulf Bank's monthly, quarterly, and annual AIDanah draws.

Gulf Bank's vision is to lead



Gulf Bank officials Mohammed Al-Qattan and Najla Al-Eisa.

Najla Al-Eisa:

- We are excited to continue rewarding our customers and encouraging them to save through the AIDanah Millionaire account.
- The bank has achieved many milestones in fulfilling our role in embedding sustainability principles in the community.

in Kuwait by fostering a diverse and inclusive work environment to deliver exceptional customer service, while sustainably serving the community. With a wide network of branches and innovative digital services, the bank empowers customers to choose how and where they conduct their banking transactions, ensuring a seamless and efficient banking experience.

Aligned with Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait," Gulf Bank collaborates with various stakeholders to achieve sustainable developments across environmental, social, and governance levels through strategically selected initiatives both within and outside the bank.

Would You Like to Be the Next

Millionaire?

To enhance your chances of becoming the 23rd millionaire in the AIDanah Millionaire draws, consider increasing your deposits. The deadline for deposits to qualify for the grand annual draw, offering a prize of KD 2 million, is November 30th, 2024. To participate in future monthly, quarterly, and annual AIDanah draws, customers must maintain a minimum balance of KD 200.

Empowering Kuwaiti Youth Talents

As part of its commitment to supporting Kuwaiti youth talents and its continuous efforts to empower women, Gulf Bank enlisted calligrapher Shaima Al-Azmi to inscribe the name of the grand prize winner on the check.



The Gulf Bank draw in progress at the Avenues Mall.



Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Gulf Bank officials who supervised the draw.



MC for the program.



Group photo of the participants, organizers, and partners.

In its ninth edition under strategic partnership with LOYAC

Zain continues support for KON Social Entrepreneurship Program

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: Zain announces the continuation of its support for the KON Social Entrepreneurship Program, now in its ninth edition. This step is part of the strategic partnership with the leading non-profit organization LOYAC, a collaboration that spans 20 years and has empowered thousands of ambitious young people in Kuwait.

The KON program, which comes in collaboration with Babson College, a leading U.S. academic institution for business and entrepreneurship, targets young individuals aged 12-16. The program is designed to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with the skills and knowledge needed to launch and manage their own businesses in the future. It also aims to enhance the local innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems, aligning perfectly with Zain's commitment to investing in youth and fostering an encouraging environment that grows their passions.

Zain recently participated in the program's launch ceremony and orientation session at the American University of Kuwait. During this event, the 53 participants were introduced to KON's objectives and the schedule for upcoming workshops and training sessions. Zain took the opportunity to engage with the participants up close and share its expertise to enrich their learning experience.

The KON program features interactive workshops, field trips, training, mentoring sessions, and more. These activities provide the students with a hands-on understanding of business and entrepreneurship, while also



Zain strives to empower Kuwait's future entrepreneurs.

deepening their awareness of social and environmental challenges. Under the guidance of experienced entrepreneurs, activists, and industry professionals, the students develop innovative solutions to these challenges.

Throughout the program, participants will work in teams to plan and develop a business idea, identify their target audience, conduct market research, and present a business pitch to a panel of judges. This panel includes experts and executives from Zain and other private sector companies across various industries.

The program aims to cultivate a mindset that views challenges as opportunities, while also enhancing leadership, critical thinking, and communication skills. These skills are invaluable not only for high school and university but also for other areas of life. Additionally, KON helps students better understand local issues related to human rights, the environment, arts and culture, and health and fitness.

Zain continues to support this unique educational program, recognizing the significant value it offers to the local entrepreneurial community. Each year, the program attracts many enthusiastic young people who use their summer vacation to learn new business skills, develop their talents, and pursue their dreams.

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

Al-Bader highlights security & convenience of new WAMD service

KIB launches WAMD service for instant payments

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the launch of the new WAMD service, designed to provide a more efficient, secure and convenient experience for customers when making instant payments and money transfers via the KIB Mobile app. The new instant payment system, powered by KNET under the authority and supervision of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK), enables straightforward account-to-account money transfers using a valid number, eliminating the need to share sensitive banking information. This launch is part of KIB's commitment to enhancing its range of digital banking solutions and continuously improving the level of financial services and products, in line with its comprehensive digital transformation strategy.



Fahad Al-Bader

Commenting on the new service, Fahad Al-Bader, General Manager of the Operations Department at KIB, said: "At KIB, we continuously stay abreast of new and innovative digital banking services and products. Today, we are witnessing a significant leap forward in this field by providing a secure feature on the Bank's app, which saves time while maintaining the security and privacy of our customers." He added: "This innovative system will play a major role in facilitating instant payments and money transfers among customers registered to the WAMD service within the Bank or any other local bank. Launching the new service reaffirms KIB's commitment to developing its digital banking infrastructure to meet customers' expectations and cater to their growing needs."

The WAMD service joins the suite of banking solutions supported and provided by KNET. It will be at the forefront of digital payment and transfer methods available to individual customers as a secure alternative to cash, ensuring the highest levels of efficiency and accuracy. All KIB Mobile app users can access and benefit from this service. It features a seamless mechanism, enabling both the sender and



WAMD KIB

the beneficiary to transfer and receive money instantly and at any time, simply by registering for the service using the phone number linked to their bank account. The daily limit of instant transfers via the WAMD service is up to KD 3,000, while the monthly limit is up to KD 20,000.

It is worth noting that KIB continues to develop its banking solutions to meet customer needs, achieve their satisfaction, and enhance their trust. The Bank spares no effort in monitoring changes and studying digital developments in the market to provide the latest services and products in Kuwait and the region. This aligns with its strategic objectives and helps maintain its leading position among the most advanced financial institutions in offering innovative digital banking solutions, embodying its main slogan, "Bank for Life".

Program offers hands-on PR experience

KFH kicks off KFH PR Academy

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched the inaugural edition of the KFH PR Academy. This program equips undergraduate students and recent graduates with the latest trends in public relations and media, helping them develop practical skills in this vital field.

KFH Deputy General Manager Public Relations and Media, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh, said that the KFH PR Academy is designed to provide trainees with a well-rounded experience in a world leading Islamic financial institution. "To be selected for the one-month program held in August, candidates will undergo personal interviews conducted by the HR department at KFH," he added.

Al-Ruwaieh added in a press release that the program covers a broad range of public relations topics. Trainees will participate in various intensive courses to learn about the roles and tasks of different departments, including sustainability and social responsibility, media relations, journalistic writing skills, communication with the media, event management, social media channels, strategies for public communication, preparing and implementing media campaigns, government relations and communication with official bodies, content creation



Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh

Al-Ruwaieh: program designed to provide trainees with a well-rounded experience in a world leading Islamic financial institution

using mobile phones, photography, as well as video editing.

Al-Ruwaieh pointed out that the program will include field courses and workshops across more than one entity. These will cover the basics of investment and trading, presented by KFH Capital, and a first-aid course, offered in collaboration with the bank's strategic partner, Al-Salam Hospital.

In line with KFH's leadership in environmental and sustainability issues, the "Keep It Green" initiative will offer a course on the principles of sustainability, greening practices,

and tree planting.

Al-Ruwaieh emphasized the fundamental role that public relations plays in the success of all institutions. He also stressed its importance in developing effective communication channels with both the public and employees internally. Public relations department also builds and strengthens the institution's reputation, fostering a positive image that leads to increased loyalty and trust between the institution and its customers. Moreover, Public relations plays a vital role in supporting the strategic and marketing goals of the institution.

He said that the launch of KFH PR Academy reflects KFH's commitment to supporting students and youth. The academy aims to equip them with practical and technical skills, preparing them to enter the labor market with high efficiency. This initiative further strengthens KFH's pioneering role in fostering the professional development of young national talent and enhancing their capabilities across various fields.

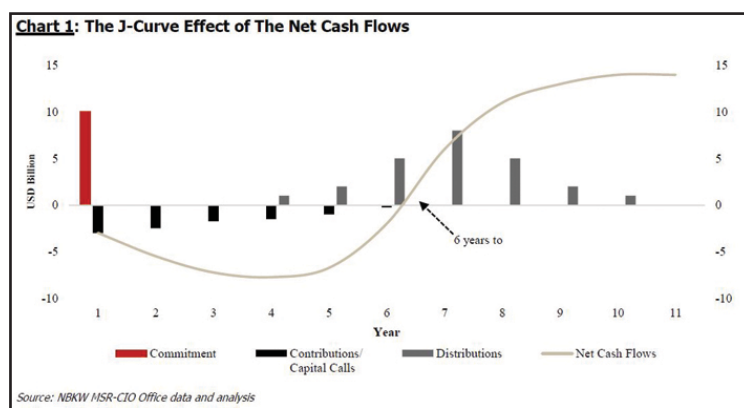
Al-Ruwaieh emphasized KFH's commitment to societal development by supporting and empowering students and youth. These high-quality initiatives contribute to building the capabilities of young people, ultimately shaping a brighter future for both them and society as a whole.

PE firms enhance company value through strategic investments

NBK Wealth highlights private equity investing for professionals

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: Private Equity (PE) is an illiquid alternative asset class that involves investing in privately held companies. When investors pool their capital into a fund, the goal is to enhance the companies' value and realize profits when exiting investments. This can be achieved through methods like initial public offerings (IPOs) or mergers and acquisitions (M&A). The funds are managed by PE firms that structure them as Limited Partnerships, with General Partners raising capital from Limited Partners. Private equity investments are illiquid and require several years before yielding positive returns, following what is known as the J-curve effect.

Private equity firms are actively engaged in acquiring companies, improving their performance, and delivering returns to investors. They use various strategies such as buyouts, venture capital, and growth equity to target companies at different development stages. Through close collaboration with management

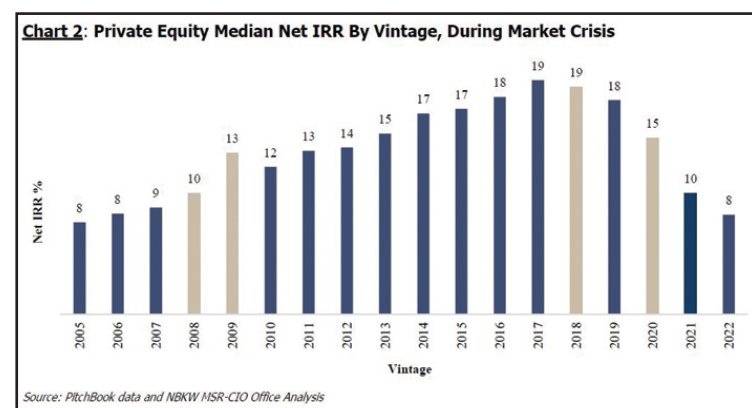


teams, these firms implement initiatives to enhance the value of the invested companies over time, distinguishing private equity from other investment vehicles and positively impacting job creation and economic growth.

The industry has evolved significantly, attracting a wider range of investors seeking diversification and market opportunities. The combination of smart acquisitions and liquid credit markets fueled private equity

successes in the early 2000s. Following the Global Financial Crisis (GFC), the recovery of private equity funds was swift, solidifying the industry as a popular choice among investors.

Private equity investments are critical in injecting capital into private companies or converting public entities into private entities. Primary investments involve capital infusion at various development stages, while secondary investments entail



purchasing existing stakes in private equity funds. Co-investments allow investors to participate alongside private equity firms in specific deals, providing lower fees and greater control over investment decisions.

Private equity fee structures include management fees, calculated as a percentage of committed capital, and performance fees, aligning LPs and GPs interests by sharing profits after achieving specific return lev-

els. Investors should assess their risk tolerance, financial obligations, and expected returns before investing in PE funds. Private equity investments typically aim to provide higher risk-adjusted returns but require a long-term (10-15 years) commitment due to the illiquid nature of the investments, thus investors in PE funds typically expect potential higher enhanced returns or "illiquidity premium", to compensate for the risk profile, illiquidity, and long duration

of such investments.

There are various private equity strategies, such as venture capital, growth capital, leveraged buyouts, and distressed funds, each targeting companies at different lifecycle stages. Private equity performance is evaluated using metrics like Internal Rate of Return (IRR) and investment multiples to measure the fund's success. The Net Asset Value (NAV) plays a crucial role in valuing private equity funds, as they are not publicly traded, relying on estimates made by general partners.

Private equity investments offer attractive returns, create long-term value, and contribute to portfolio diversification. They demonstrate resilience against market cycles, with historical data showing positive performance over the years. By including private equity in a diversified portfolio, investors can potentially enhance returns and reduce risk. Ultimately, private equity presents opportunities for investors to participate in the transformative journey of companies across various industries and sectors.

Moon fests, moon film mark Apollo 11 55th anniversary

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., July 20, (AP) — The cosmos is providing a full moon for the 55th anniversary of the first lunar landing this weekend, and plenty of other events honor Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin's giant leap.

Aldrin, 94, the last surviving member of the Apollo 11 crew, headlines a gala at the San Diego Air and Space Museum on Saturday night. He'll be joined by astronaut Charlie Duke, who was the voice inside Mission Control for the July 20, 1969 moon landing.

Museum President Jim Kidrick couldn't resist throwing a bash "55 years to the day of one of the most historic moments in not only the history of America, but in the history of the world."

Can't make it to San Diego, Cape Canaveral or Houston? There are plenty of other ways to celebrate the moon landing, including the new film "Fly Me to the Moon," a light-hearted lookback starring Scarlett Johansson.

And you can explore all things Apollo 11 on a special website by the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum. If nothing else, soak in the full moon Saturday night into Sunday morning.

Here's a rundown of some Apollo 11 tributes:

NASA's Kennedy Space Center is holding a moon fest at its tourist stop, just a few miles from where the Saturn V rocket thundered away with Armstrong, Aldrin and Michael Collins on July 16, 1969. Houston's Johnson Space Center, home to Mission Control, is also getting into the act. Four days after they left Earth, Armstrong and Aldrin, in their lunar module, Eagle, settled onto the Sea of Tranquility at 4:17 p.m. Eastern with barely any

fuel remaining. "Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed," Armstrong radioed from 240,000 miles (386,000 kilometers) away. "No moment united the country quite like when the Eagle landed, as all of planet Earth watched from below," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said Friday in an anniversary message.

Tribute

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," Armstrong proclaimed as he became the first person to step on the moon. Armstrong grew up in northwestern Ohio's Wapakoneta, now home to the Armstrong Air and Space Museum. The museum's tribute Saturday begins with a pair of "Run to the Moon" races, followed by model rocket launches and wind tunnel demos. John Glenn, the first American to orbit Earth, hailed from New Concord on the opposite side of the state, some 150 miles (240 kilometers) away. The John and Annie Glenn Museum will be open there Saturday for your astronaut fix.

Aldrin followed Armstrong outside on the moon, uttering "Magnificent desolation." They spent just over two hours treading the dusty surface, before returning to their lunar module and blasting off to link back up with Collins, the command module pilot who had remained in lunar orbit. Armstrong's spacesuit for the moonshot was restored in time for the 50th anniversary in 2019. It's on display at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, along with their return capsule. Aldrin and

Collins' spacesuits from Apollo 11 are also part of the Smithsonian collection and currently in storage. Collins died in 2021, less than a year after the 50th anniversary; Armstrong died in 2012.

The capsule holding Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins - dubbed Columbia - splashed down in the Pacific on July 24, 1969. They were recovered by the USS Hornet, a Navy aircraft carrier that repeated the job for Apollo 12 four months later. The Hornet is now part of a museum in Alameda, California, with a splashdown party planned aboard the ship on Saturday. Some of the original recovery crew will be there. The Apollo 11 astronauts immediately went into quarantine aboard the Hornet and, along with 48 pounds (22 kilograms) of moon rocks and soil, remained off-limits for weeks as they were moved to Houston. Scientists feared the astronauts might have brought back moon germs. Most of the rocks remain locked up inside a restricted lab at Houston's Johnson Space Center. The Apollo program landed 12 astronauts on the moon from 1969 through 1972.

NASA aims to send four astronauts around the moon next year - part of a new moon program named Artemis after Apollo's twin sister in Greek mythology. The SLS rocket for that flyaround - short for Space Launch System - is due at Kennedy Space Center next week. It's arriving by barge from NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. This core stage will get a pair of strap-on boosters at Kennedy before blasting off in September 2025 - at the earliest - with three US astronauts and one Canadian.

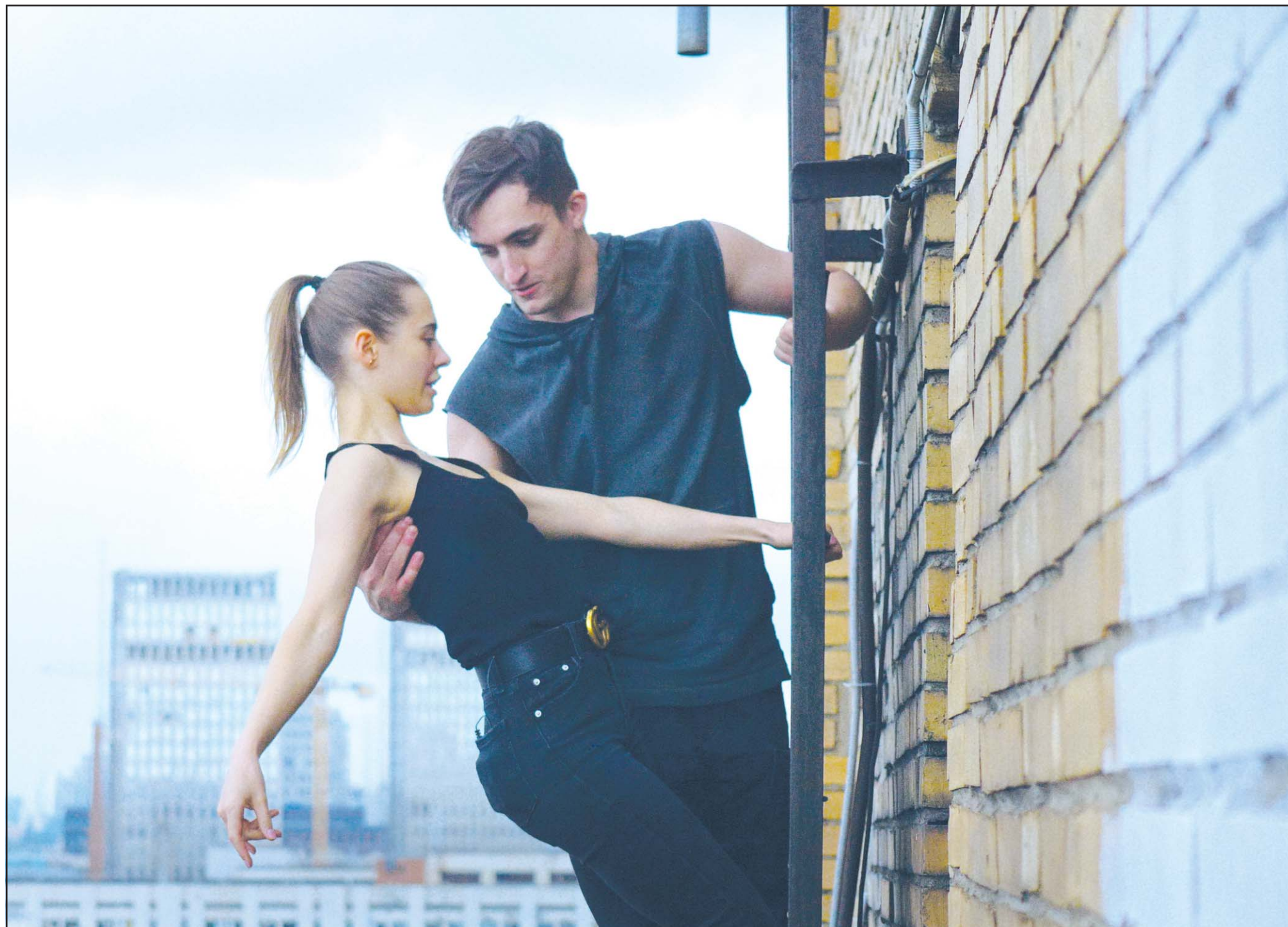
Apollo

Variety

Features

ARABIC TIMES

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024



This image released by Netflix shows Ivan Beerkus, (right), and Angela Nikolau in a scene from 'Skywalkers: A Love Story.' (AP)

Film

Sundance narrows down host cities for future years

A high-rise love story in 'Skywalkers'

By Jake Coyle

The force is not strong in "Skywalkers: A Love Story," a shallow "Man on Wire" for social media influencers about a pair of Russian daredevils who stealthily scale urban heights to attain the precious treasure of a much-liked Instagram post.

There's a novel thrill to the high-wire relationship of Angela Nikolau and Ivan Beerkus, a Moscow couple who squabble atop skyscraper spires the way others might at the grocery store check-out line. But in this polished, self-promotional documentary, few of their interactions don't feel self-consciously calculated for public consumption.

"Skywalkers: A Love Story," which debuted Friday on Netflix, comes with an ominous warning: "This film contains extremely dangerous and illegal activities. Do not attempt to imitate."

The same, of course, could have been said before the worm riding of "Dune: Part Two" or much of what transpires in "Cocaine Bear." But in the case of "Skywalkers: A Love Story," the caution label feels warranted. Nikolau and Beerkus each have backgrounds in athletics (Nikolau was an acrobat). But not much makes them "rooftoppers" besides that one day that started climbing cranes and haven't looked back since.

"Skywalkers," directed by Jeff Zimbalist and co-directed by Maria Bukhonina, follows Nikolau and Beerkus through a relationship that begins with an invite to climb something in China. Beerkus, the more experienced of the two, is looking for a new angle to appeal to his sponsors. As they continue to travel the world together, their social-media fame grows. Soon, they're in love, too, and their photos kissing perched high on skylines only help their viral numbers. They claim to aspire to "art," but the images they create look more like screensavers.

Along the way, they've learned some helpful tips. Never to stay on top for more than 15 minutes - a lesson they picked up after their lingering atop Notre Dame caused a commotion. Mostly, they sneak into sites that are under construction by posing as workers. The way up can be tricky. On the way down, they notice, no one ever asks them questions.

The big mission that bookends "Skywalkers" is their attempt to rooftop Malaysia's Merdeka super-skyscraper, which proves to be an especially daunting task. In that way, the movie is similarly structured to a host of other documentaries, especially James Marsh's "Man on Wire," about Philippe Petit's high wire stunt between the Twin Towers in 1974.

But "Skywalkers" bears none of the romance of "Man on Wire," a film as much about its poignant location as its daredevil protagonist. We never get a much deeper sense of either Nikolau or Beerkus, either; even their most personal interactions feel scripted. There's also something a touch less poetic about their day-to-day enterprise: auctioning an NFT in Kuala Lumpur or trying to get "a drone guy" on the phone. For more modern majesty at great heights, you'd be better off returning to Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin's "Free Solo," about Alex Honnold's climb of El Capitan in Yosemite.

Just as Petit was compelled by his passion for the Twin Towers, Honnold's motivation came out of reverence for El Capitan. Insane as their climbs might be, you couldn't doubt their genuine fervor. The object of real adoration in "Skywalkers," though, might be a selfie stick.

"Skywalkers: A Love Story," a Netflix release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for language. Running time: 100 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

The Sundance Institute on Friday announced six finalists in its search for a new host location for the influential film festival.

After 40 years in Park City, Utah, the festival is eyeing locations across the country for festivals starting in 2027 when its existing contract will be up for renewal. The snowy mountain town, along with Salt Lake City, will still be home to the 2025 and 2026 festivals, and the Utah cities are one of the six options for future festivals.

The other five finalists are Atlanta; Cincinnati; Boulder, Colorado; Louisville, Kentucky, and Santa Fe, New Mexico. These cities are moving along in the selection process after a competitive request for proposal

phase that started in May and saw submissions from across the country.

The potential host cities were selected for their ability to support the film festival's growth and they will continue to be evaluated on each city's infrastructure, accessibility, event venues and logistical capabilities, as well as their alignment with Sundance's values.

"As we very carefully consider this important decision for our Festival, we believe these six finalists allow us the best opportunity to not only secure a sustainable future for our Festival, but also to build upon its legacy while continuing to support the next generation of storytellers and highlight bold new works of art," said Ebs Burnough, Sundance Institute board chair, and Amanda Kelso, Sundance Institute acting CEO, in a joint statement.

"We are grateful to all the communities who have expressed interest and been a part of the process, and we have valued the opportunity to learn about the uniqueness of each location," the statement continued. "We look forward to the site visits in each of the finalist cities."

Sundance has long been a launching pad for independent filmmakers and has supported the early careers of Christopher Nolan, Quentin Tarantino and more. Festival winners often become some of the year's most acclaimed films. Last year's festival produced Celine Song's "Past Lives," nominated for best picture and best screenplay. Other Sundance titles to reach the Oscars include 2022 best picture winner "CODA," "Summer of Soul (...Or, When The Revolution Could Not Be Televised)" and "Minari."

The Sundance Institute noted that each of the finalist cities have strong arts communities with varied cultural backgrounds and potential for growth. The Robert Redford-founded festival has grown significantly since its inception.

Redford, who stepped back from the Sundance spotlight years ago, expressed concern in 2016 that the festival as it existed might have outgrown Park City and was thinking about ways to evolve. He and his daughter, Amy Redford, who is on the board, have been involved in the process according to an April announcement about the location search.

MIAMI: Rapper and singer Sean Kingston and his mother have been indicted in South Florida on federal charges of committing more than \$1 million worth of fraud.

Kingston, 34, and his mother, 61-year-old Janice Turner, made their first appearances Friday in federal court, according to court records. A Miami grand jury returned an indictment earlier this month accusing Kingston and his mother of participating in a scheme to defraud victims of high-end specialty vehicles, jewelry and other goods through the use of fraudulent documents.

Kingston was booked into the Broward County jail on similar state charges last month following a May 23 arrest at Fort Irwin, an Army training base in California's Mojave Desert where he was performing. Turner was arrested the same day as her son, when a SWAT team raided his rented mansion in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

According to the federal indictment, Kingston and Turner falsely claimed that they had executed bank wire or other monetary payment transfers for high-end items when no such transfers had taken place. Investigators said Kingston and Turner then kept over \$1 million worth of fraudulently purchased items despite not paying for them.

The warrants for the state charges say that from October to March, they stole almost \$500,000 in jewelry, more than \$200,000 from Bank of America, \$160,000 from a Cadillac Escalade dealer, more than \$100,000 from First Republic Bank and \$86,000 from the maker of customized beds.

Kingston, whose legal name is Kisean Anderson, was already serving a two-year probation sentence for trafficking stolen property.

His mother pleaded guilty in 2006 to bank fraud for stealing over \$160,000 and served nearly 1.5 years in prison, according to federal court records. (AP)

NEW YORK: A judge on Friday tentatively scheduled Harvey Weinstein's planned retrial on rape and sexual assault charges to begin on Nov. 12.

Weinstein wore an American

flag pin on his jacket during a brief court appearance in Manhattan that was delayed by more than 90 minutes due to a disruption that affected computers around the world, according to Judge Curtis Farber.

Besides the setting of the trial date, the hearing addressed issues related to evidence in the



Kingston



Weinstein

case against the former Hollywood movie mogul, particularly information from phones that will be reviewed by a former judge to determine whether materials were relevant to the case and should be turned over to defense lawyers.

At a hearing last week, prosecutors said they anticipated a November retrial. They told Farber that

they were still actively pursuing new claims against Weinstein, though they conceded that they hadn't yet brought any findings to a grand jury.

Weinstein denies that he sexually assaulted anyone.

His lawyers told Farber that they'd prefer an earlier trial date.

"He is anxious to go to trial and prove his innocence," one

of Weinstein's attorneys, Diana Fabi Samson, said outside the courthouse.

Weinstein, 72, is jailed on Rikers Island. One of his attorneys, Arthur Aidala, has complained that Weinstein hasn't been getting proper care in jail for diabetes, macular degeneration and fluid in his lungs and heart. (AP)

People & Places

Obits

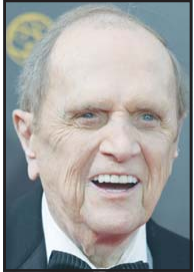
TV host Dobbs dead

Deadpan comedy icon Bob Newhart passes away at 94

LOS ANGELES, July 20, (AP): **Bob Newhart**, the deadpan accountant-turned-comedian who became one of the most popular TV stars of his time after striking gold with a classic comedy album, has died at 94.

Jerry Digney, Newhart's publicist, says the actor died Thursday in Los Angeles after a series of short illnesses.

Newhart, best remembered now as the star of two hit television shows of the 1970s and 1980s that bore his name, *I a u n c h e d* his career as a standup comic in the late 1950s. He gained nationwide fame when his routine was captured on vinyl in 1960 as "The Button-Down Mind of Bob Newhart," which went on to win a Grammy Award as album of the year.



Newhart

While other comedians of the time, including Lenny Bruce, Mort Sahl, Alan King, and Mike Nichols and Elaine May, frequently got laughs with their aggressive attacks on modern mores, Newhart was an anomaly. His outlook was modern, but he rarely raised his voice above a hesitant, almost stammering delivery. His only prop was a telephone, used to pretend to hold a conversation with someone on the other end of the line.

In one memorable skit, he portrayed a Madison Avenue image-maker urging Abraham Lincoln to quit tinkering with the Gettysburg Address and stick with his speechwriters' draft.

"You changed four score and seven to 87?" Newhart asks in disbelief. "Abe, that's meant to be a grabber ... It's sort of like Mark Antony saying, 'Friends, Romans, countrymen, I've got something I wanna tell you.'"

Another favorite was "Merchandising the Wright Brothers," in which he tried to persuade the aviation pioneers to start an airline, although he acknowledged the distance of their maiden flight could limit them.

Awards

Newhart was initially wary of signing on to a weekly TV series, fearing it would overexpose his material. Nevertheless, he accepted an attractive offer from NBC, and "The Bob Newhart Show" premiered on Oct. 11, 1961. Despite Emmy and Peabody awards, the half-hour variety show was canceled after one season, a source for jokes by Newhart for decades after.

He waited 10 years before undertaking another "Bob Newhart Show"

in 1972. This one was a situation comedy with Newhart playing a Chicago psychologist living in a penthouse with his schoolteacher wife, Suzanne Pleshette. Their neighbors and his patients, notably Bill Daily as an airline navigator, were a wacky, neurotic bunch who provided an ideal counterpoint to Newhart's deadpan commentary.

The series, one of the most acclaimed of the 1970s, ran through 1978.

Four years later, the comedian launched another show, simply called "Newhart." This time he was a successful New York writer who decides to reopen a long-closed Vermont inn. Again Newhart was the calm, reasonable man surrounded by a group of eccentric locals. Again the show was a huge hit, lasting eight seasons on CBS.

It bowed out in memorable style in 1990 with Newhart - in his old Chicago psychologist character - waking up in bed with Pleshette, cringing as he tells her about the strange dream he had: "I was an innkeeper in this crazy little town in Vermont. ... The handyman kept missing the point of things, and then there were these three woodsmen, but only one of them talked!"

Also:

NEW YORK: **Lou Dobbs**, the conservative political pundit and veteran cable TV host who was a founding anchor for CNN and later was a nightly presence on Fox Business Network for more than a decade, has died. He was 78.

His death was announced Thursday in a post on his official X account, which called him a "fighter till the very end - fighting for what mattered to him the most, God, his family and the country." No cause of death was given.

"Lou's legacy will forever live on as a patriot and a great American. We ask for your prayers for Lou's wonderful wife **Debi**, children and grandchildren," the post said.

He hosted "Lou Dobbs Tonight" on Fox Business from 2011 to 2021, following two separate stints at CNN.

Fox News Media said in a statement that the network was saddened by Dobbs' passing.

"An incredible business mind with a gift for broadcasting, Lou helped pioneer cable news into a successful and influential industry," the statement said. "We are immensely grateful for his many contributions and send our heartfelt condolences to his family."

Dobbs was an early and vocal supporter of **Donald Trump** during his candidacy for the White House and throughout his presidency. After his death was announced Thursday, Trump wrote on his media platform Truth Social that Dobbs was a friend and a "truly incredible Journalist, Reporter, and Talent."



Comedian Bob Newhart pretends to speak on an antique telephone at his home in the Bel Air Estates community of Los Angeles, June 25, 2003. Newhart, the deadpan master of sitcoms and telephone monologues, died in Los Angeles on Thursday, July 18, 2024. He was 94. (AP)

Honors

2024 Kennedy Center Honors recipients announced

Grateful Dead, Coppola lead tributes

WASHINGTON, July 20, (AP): An iconic filmmaker legend and one of the world's most enduring musical acts headline this year's crop of Kennedy Center Honors recipients.

Director Francis Ford Coppola and the Grateful Dead will be honored for lifetime achievement in the arts, along with jazz trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, blues legend Bonnie Raitt and the legendary Harlem theater The Apollo, which has launched generations of Black artists.

This 47th Kennedy Center class will be honored with an evening of tributes, testimonials and performances on Dec. 8 at Washington's John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The ceremony will be broadcast on CBS on Dec. 23.

Starting out as a folk-infused quintet in psychedelic-era 1960s San Francisco, the Grateful Dead steadily morphed into a cultural phenomenon and one of the most successful touring acts of all time.

Fueled by the carnival atmosphere of its traveling Deadhead fanbase and an ethos that encouraged tape-trading and emphasized live performance over studio output, the Dead have spanned multiple generations and remain wildly popular. Lead guitarist and founding member Jerry Garcia died in 1995, but the band continues almost nonstop touring in multiple incarnations.

"There's a lot of ingredients that go into it," drummer Mickey Hart said, when asked about the music's longevity. "The fans say that the shows feel like home. It gives them that feeling of connectiveness and community and joy and love for life and the music."

Currently calling themselves Dead and Company with guitarist John Mayer taking Garcia's place, the band is in the midst of a several-month residency at The Sphere in Las Vegas.

Coppola, 85, has established himself as a trailblazing filmmaker, winning five Academy Awards and earning a reputation as a driven artist willing to risk his reputation and finances for his vision. Even after the massive successes of "The Godfather" and a sequel, Coppola drove himself into near bankruptcy while filming "Apoca-

lypse Now," which turned out to be another classic.

At times, he wondered whether he had ruffled too many powerful feathers along the way to ever receive Kennedy Center Honors induction.

"I've been eligible for the past 20 years, so the fact that I never received it made me feel that maybe I never would," said Coppola, who took part in fellow director Martin Scorsese's induction in 2007. "I just assumed I wasn't going to win it, so to hear that I was chosen was a surprise and a delight."

Coppola, who has produced wine from his northern California vineyard for more than 40 years, also made sure to shout out another northern California recipient this year.

"And it's a big treat to be there this year with the Grateful Dead, my San Francisco colleagues," he said. "I'm very delighted and pleased."

Legend

Sandoval, 74, rose to prominence as a musician in his native Cuba, playing piano and percussion but specializing in the trumpet. His work brought him into contact with jazz legend Dizzy Gillespie, who championed his music and personally helped him defect from Cuba while on tour in Europe in 1990. Shortly after his defection, Sandoval performed at his mentor Gillespie's own Kennedy Center Honors induction.

"Modestly apart, I do think I deserve it. I worked so hard for so many years," Sandoval told The Associated Press. "It's a huge honor, and I feel completely overwhelmed. I have to pinch myself sometimes. I'm just a little farmer from Cuba. God has been so good to me."

Raitt's memories of the Kennedy Center Honors go back to the 1970s, when she accompanied her father, Broadway performer John Raitt, who was taking part in a tribute to composer Richard Rogers.

"I got to visit the White House and hang out with the Carters," said Raitt, 74. "I got my first taste of what this weekend really means."

As an adult performer, Raitt experienced

the other side of the Kennedy Center Honors equation: performing as part of tributes to Mavis Staples in 2016 and Buddy Guy in 2012. These performances are frequently kept secret from the honorees themselves, and Raitt said she looks forward to seeing who the planners come up with for her tribute.

"I really, really want to be surprised, and I don't want to know," she said.

Over a 50-year career, Raitt has received a plethora of music awards, including 13 Grammys and induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Rolling Stone magazine named her to its lists of the 100 greatest guitarists and the 100 greatest singers of all time. But Raitt said the Kennedy Center Honors status holds a special place because it extends to all aspects of the performing arts, encompassing all forms of music, dance and performance.

"The thing that puts (Kennedy Center Honors) at the pinnacle is that it's culture-wide," she said. "It's hard for me to even fathom what this means."

It's extremely rare for the Kennedy Center Honors to select a venue, rather than a performer. But The Apollo's nine-decade run as an incubator for generations of Black talent has qualified it as an exception.

"It's not a traditional honoree, for sure," said Michelle Ebanks, the theater's president and CEO, who cited the recent induction of the show "Sesame Street" as a similar out-of-the-box selection. "We're absolutely delighted by the honor."

The Harlem landmark has served as a proving ground for Black performers dating back to Billie Holiday, James Brown and Stevie Wonder and extending into modern performers like Lauryn Hill. This year, the theater has moved events to a new venue down the street, dubbed The Apollo Stages at the Victoria Theater, while the original venue undergoes renovation and expansion.

"It's more than a theater. It's a cultural touchstone ... that's rooted in the Harlem community," Ebanks said. "It really is a recognition of a collective passion. ... Over the decades, The Apollo has never stood still."

Variety

WASHINGTON: David Letterman will headline a fundraiser with President Joe Biden in 10 days at the home of Hawaii Gov. Josh Green, a person familiar with the plans told The Associated Press, a sign that his campaign is forging ahead despite continued calls for the president to bow out of the 2024 race.

The fundraiser on July 29 will feature the longtime late-night host, plus Biden and first lady Jill Biden, said the person, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to discuss plans that had not yet been made public. The campaign has at least 10 other fundraising events over the last 10 days of July.

Letterman helmed CBS' "Late Show" for 22 seasons. The event comes as other celebrities like George Clooney, director Rob Reiner and Stephen King have called on Biden to drop out of the 2024 race, following his disastrous debate performance on June 27. There's also been growing concern over continued fundraising support after anxious donors expressed serious worries about his performance and the future of the party. (AP)

HONG KONG: Cheng Pei-pei, a Chinese-born martial arts film actor who starred in Ang Lee's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," has died, her family announced Friday. She was 78.

Cheng, who had been diagnosed with a rare illness with symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease, passed away Wednesday at home surrounded by her loved ones, her family wrote on Facebook. They said current medical treatment could not slow the progression of the disease, called neurodegenerative atypical parkinsonism

syndrome, and that she had donated her brain for medical research.

Cheng loved being an actor and knew how fortunate she was to have the career she had, they said.

The entertainment publication Variety reported that she died in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The Shanghai-born film star became a household name in Hong Kong, once dubbed the Hollywood of the Far East, for her performances in martial arts movies in the 1960s. One of her most famous films was "Come Drink with Me," directed by King Hu and released in 1966. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Shannen Doherty finalized her split with husband, Kurt Iswarienko, just hours before her death at age 53, and she was granted a rare posthumous divorce two days later.

Doherty, the star of "Beverly Hills, 90210" and "Charmed," died Saturday after years with breast cancer, her publicist said. Los Angeles County court documents showed that Doherty and her lawyer Laura Wasser, who handled the divorces



Cheng



Doherty

of Kim Kardashian, Britney Spears, Ariana Grande and many others, worked to finish the details of hers before she died.

In a stipulated agreement with Iswarienko filed Friday, Doherty got to keep the couple's Malibu, California, home, a Salvador Dali painting, several cars and all earnings from her acting.

A judge signed off on the agreement and declared the couple divorced on Monday.

Doherty had no children, and it is not yet clear to whom her assets will go. (AP)

MAYVILLE, N.Y.: Author Salman Rushdie does not have to turn over private notes about his stabbing to the man charged with attacking him, a judge ruled Thursday, rejecting the alleged assailant's contention that he is entitled to the material as he prepares for trial.

Hadi Matar's lawyers in February subpoenaed Rushdie and publisher Penguin Random House for all source material related to Rushdie's recently published memoir: "Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder," which details the 2022 attack at the Chautauqua Institution. Public Defender Nathaniel Barone said the material he sought contained information not available anywhere else.

"You could obtain it from the book," Chautauqua County Judge David Foley told Barone during arguments Thursday, before ruling the request too broad and burdensome. Additionally, the judge said, Rushdie and the publisher are covered by New York's Shield law, which protects journalists from being forced to disclose confidential sources or material.

Requiring Rushdie to hand over personal materials "would have the net effect of victimizing Mr. Rushdie a second time," Elizabeth McNamara, an attorney for Penguin Random House, said in asking that the subpoenas be quashed. (AP)

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY



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Virus threatens thousands of people, especially children

New health crisis looms in Gaza as poliovirus detected in sewage water

GAZA, July 20, (Agencies): Poliovirus was detected in samples of sewage water in the war-ravaged Gaza Strip, raising alarms of a potential health catastrophe, Gaza health authorities warned Thursday.

In a press statement, the health authorities said the tests on sewage samples were conducted in collaboration with UNICEF.

Authorities stressed that the presence of this virus poses a significant health threat, endangering thousands of people, especially children.

The risk of polio infection is heightened due to extensive infrastructure damage, lack of hygiene, and sanitation facilities in residential areas and makeshift shelters, they argued. Discovering the poliovirus in Gaza environmental samples is deeply concerning but it's a relief that no cases of the paralyzing disease have been reported, UN humanitarianism said on Friday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is also deeply concerned over the spread of infectious diseases due to severe overcrowding of shelter spaces, dire shortages of clean water and abysmal

US reports 2 more bird flu cases, no asymptomatic infections found

Largest outbreak of human bird flu infections in US history

NEW YORK, July 20, (AP): US health officials on Friday announced two more bird flu cases among farmworkers, but they also said a new study in Michigan suggested the virus is not causing silent infections in people.

Last month, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services launched a study of workers who were around cows sickened by the bird flu. The researchers drew blood from 35 people.

One goal was to determine if there were people who never had any symptoms but did have evidence of past infections. None of the blood testing showed antibodies that would indicate such infections,

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported on Friday.

Meanwhile, two more infections tied to a Colorado poultry farm were reported, bringing the total to six. It's the largest outbreak of human bird flu infections in US history, and accounts for most of the 11 cases reported to date. Ten of those cases occurred this year, all among farmworkers and all with mild symptoms.

A bird flu virus has been spreading since 2020 among mammals - including dogs, cats, skunks, bears and even seals and porpoises - in scores of countries. Earlier this year the virus, known as H5N1, was detected in U.S. livestock, and is now circulating in cattle in several states.

Health officials continue to characterize the threat to the general public as low, and the virus has not spread between people. But officials are keeping careful watch, because earlier versions of the same virus have been deadly.

Earlier last week four new human cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza, or bird flu, infection in the state of Colorado have been confirmed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), bringing the total cases to nine since 2022.

The four presumptive-positive cases were reported by the state on Friday, and the CDC confirmed the infection on Sunday, according to a

press release.

All new cases were in farm workers who were involved in the depopulation of poultry at a commercial egg facility experiencing an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 virus.

These workers reported symptoms after being exposed to infected poultry. The CDC said they reported "mild illness," including conjunctivitis and eye tearing, as well as fever, chills, coughing, sore throat and runny nose.

These are the first cases of bird flu infection in poultry workers since 2022 when the first-ever U.S. case of H5 in a poultry worker was reported in Colorado, said the CDC.

sanitation and hygiene conditions in Gaza.

"In a particularly worrying development, the World Health Organization

(WHO) reports that six environmental samples of variant poliovirus type 2 have been detected in Khan Younis and Deir al Balah," OCHA said. "No para-

lytic cases have been detected."

The office said polio can cause paralysis and death, especially among unvaccinated children.

WHO head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said his agency, UNICEF, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Long-term vaping rises among UK adults

US approves best-selling e-cigarette Vuse Alto, but only in tobacco flavor

WASHINGTON, July 20, (Agencies): Federal health officials on Thursday authorized sales of the best-selling e-cigarette in the US, Vuse Alto, allowing manufacturer Reynolds American to keep the vaping brand on the market for years to come.

The Food and Drug Administration decision only applies to several tobacco-flavored versions of the reusable product, which takes cartridges filled with liquid nicotine. The FDA previously rejected Reynolds' application for its more popular menthol flavor, but the company is challenging that decision in court.

Last month, the FDA granted competitor Njoy the first authorization for a menthol-flavored e-cigarette. The vaping brand, which is not a big seller, is controlled by tobacco giant Altria, which also sells Marlboro cigarettes.

Thursday's announcement is not an approval or endorsement, and the FDA reiterated that people who do not smoke should not use Vuse or any other e-cigarettes. The FDA determination indicates that smokers who switch completely to Vuse can reduce their exposure to deadly carcinogens and other chemicals found in traditional tobacco.

"All tobacco products are harmful and potentially addictive," the FDA said in a statement. "Those who do not use tobacco products, especially young people, should not start."

Like other tobacco companies, Reynolds makes most of its income from traditional cigarettes, including Camels and Newport.

Vuse made up 40% of U.S. vaping sales in the past year, according to retail data from Nielsen. Most company sales are for menthol products, which remain available under a court order while Reynolds' challenges the FDA's negative ruling.

Juul Labs is now a distant second in the e-cigarettes market, accounting for less than a quarter of retail sales. The company was forced to drastically cut back its marketing and promotions following legal settlements with states, local governments and families that blamed the brand's small, discreet e-cigarettes for hooking children on nicotine.

The FDA is wrapping up a sweeping regulatory review intended to clean up

Hope for treatment

New therapeutic target for 'ovarian cancer' identified

WUHAN, July 20, (Xinhua): Researchers have recently identified eTreg cells as a new immunotherapy target for high-grade serous ovarian cancer (HGSOC), paving the way for new precision treatment strategies.

Ovarian cancer has long ranked among the top ten malignant tumors in women, with HGSOC accounting for nearly 70 percent of cases. For clinically challenging cases where complete surgical removal is difficult, the standard treatment strategy remains platinum-based neoadjuvant chemotherapy.

This approach initially achieves high response rates but often leads to drug resistance over time. As a result, the five-year survival rate for patients has stagnated around 30 percent, highlighting the persistent challenges in improving outcomes for HGSOC.

Homologous recombination deficiency (HRD) refers to a condition

where cells have impaired ability to repair DNA double-strand breaks through the homologous recombination pathway.

HRD is often associated with an increased risk of genomic instability and cancer development. The presence of HRD in HGSOC not only contributes to its development but also impacts treatment strategies.

Researchers from Tongji Hospital in China and the MD Anderson Cancer Center in the United States initiated a clinical trial of the neoadjuvant PARP inhibitor niraparib for HRD-positive HGSOC based on the concept of reverse translational medicine.

PARP represents a family of enzymes involved in DNA repair. PARP inhibitors block these enzymes, preventing cancer cells, especially those with HRD, from repairing DNA damage, leading to cell death.

the multibillion-dollar vaping industry after years of delays.

Also:

LONDON: The number of adults in England who report vaping for more than six months has "increased substantially" from 2013 to 2023, a new study led by researchers from University College London (UCL) showed.

The recently published study surveyed more than 179,000 adults and found that the proportion of those reporting vaping for more than six months, who are also considered long-term vapers, increased from 1.3 percent in October 2013 to 10 percent in October 2023.

It also found that much of this increase occurred since 2021, coinciding with the rise in popularity of disposable electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes). It noted that half of long-term vapers now "mainly or exclusively" use disposable

devices.

The study's lead author Sarah Jackson from the UCL Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care said that there has been "an exceptionally steep rise" in the number of young adults reporting long-term vaping since "new disposable e-cigarettes were introduced to the market."

According to the study, the prevalence of long-term vaping increased more rapidly among young adults than older adults after 2019, resulting in a strong inverse age gradient in long-term vaping, with 22.7 percent of 18-year-olds vaping compared to 4.3 percent of 65-year-olds.

The study also found that the growth in long-term vapers was mainly among people with a history of regular smoking, but an increase also occurred among people who never regularly smoked.

'A faulty update, not cyberattack'

A massive tech outage causing global disruptions. Facts so far

NEW YORK, July 20, (AP): Much of the world faced online disarray Friday as a widespread technology outage affected companies and services across industries - grounding flights, knocking banks and hospital systems offline and media outlets off air.

At the heart of the massive disruption is CrowdStrike, a cybersecurity firm that provides software to scores of companies worldwide. The company says the problem occurred when it deployed a faulty update to computers running Microsoft Windows, noting that the issue behind the outage was not a security incident or cyberattack.

CrowdStrike has said a fix is on the way. Still, chaos deepened hours after the problem was first detected.

Here's what you need to know.

Friday's disruptions began when a faulty update was pushed out from CrowdStrike for one of its tools, "Falcon." In a statement about the ongoing situation, the company said the defect was found "in a single content update for Windows hosts" - noting that Mac and Linux systems were not impacted.

Inconvenience

But, because scores of companies rely on CrowdStrike for their security needs with Windows as their operating system, the consequences of this kind of technical problem have been far-reaching. As a result, affected computer after computer showed the "blue screen of death" error message.

Long lines formed at airports in the US, Europe and Asia as airlines lost access to check-in and booking services during peak summer travel - disrupting thousands of flights. Banks in South Africa and New Zealand reported outages impacting payments. Some news stations, particularly in Australia, were unable to broadcast for hours. And hospitals had problems with their appointment systems, leading to delays and sometimes cancellations for critical care, while officials in some US states warned of 911 problems in their areas.

Elsewhere, people experienced more minor inconveniences, including trouble ordering ahead at Starbucks, causing long lines at some of the coffee chain's stores. Some billboards in New York City's famous Times Square also



Screens show a blue error message at a departure floor of LaGuardia Airport in New York on Friday, July 19, after a faulty CrowdStrike update caused a major internet outage for computers running Microsoft Windows. (AP)

went dark.

Experts stress that Friday's disruptions underscore the vulnerability of worldwide dependence on software that comes from only a handful of providers.

"It is an 'all our eggs are in one basket' situation," Craig Shue, professor and computer science department head at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, said in emailed commentary. "This lets us make sure our 'basket' is high quality: the software provider tries to identify threats and respond to them quickly. But at the same time, if anything goes wrong and the basket fails, we have a lot of broken eggs."

CrowdStrike is a US cybersecurity company that provides software to companies around the world and across industries. It bills itself as being the globe's most advanced cloud-based security technology provider.

"We stop breaches," the cybersecurity company says on its website.

According to its website, CrowdStrike was founded in 2011 and launched in early 2012. It listed on the Nasdaq exchange five years ago. Last month, the Austin, Texas, company reported that its revenue rose 33% in the latest quarter from the same quarter a year earlier - logging a net profit

(UNRWA) and the Gaza health ministry are conducting risk assessments to understand the scope of the poliovirus spread and the necessary response, including through prompt vaccination campaigns.

He warned that the decimation of Gaza's health system, shortages of medical supplies, constant displacement of the population, weakened sanitation services, poor water quality, ongoing access obstructions and a lack of security are increasing the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases, including polio.

WHO reported that other infectious diseases in Gaza are surging and that as of July 7, nearly 1 million cases of acute respiratory infections were recorded since the start of the conflict on Oct. 7. Nearly 575,000 cases of acute watery diarrhea and more than 100,000 cases of jaundice were also documented. However, WHO says the actual number of infections is likely far higher.

"About 90 percent of Gaza's population has been displaced at least once since October of last year, with many living in appalling conditions," OCHA said.

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Alisha tops hometown favorite Sophie at WNBA All-Star

Gray becomes 1st player to win both 3-pt & skills competition

Wallabies score 4 1st-half tries to top Georgia and stay perfect



Fiji's Lekima Tagitagivalu, (left), and teammate Semi Radradra, (right), tackle New Zealand's Wallace Sititi during the second half of a rugby test match in San Diego. (AP)

All Blacks beat Fiji 47-5 in return to San Diego after 44 yrs

SYDNEY, July 20, (AP): Australia scored four first-half tries Saturday and hung on to beat Georgia 40-29 to win its third consecutive match to start the season.

The Wallabies led 26-10 at half-time to keep Joe Schmidt's record perfect in his start as head coach. Schmidt was named to the position in January, replacing Eddie Jones, who now is in his second stint as coach of Japan.

The Wallabies started their season with consecutive wins over Wales.

On Saturday, Georgia, playing its first test match in Australia, took a 3-0 lead on a penalty goal in the second minute, but that lead lasted only three minutes before the Wallabies scored their first try by center Hunter Paisami.

RUGBY

In the second half, with Wallabies winger Filipo Daugunu off for a red card, Davit Niniashvili took advantage of a perfect bounce and the full-back regained his own grubber that ricocheted off Tom Wright for a try to make the score to 26-17.

Five minutes later, Georgia closed to within two points - 26-24 - when Aka Tabutsandze kicked from his own line and re-gathered the ball to go 110 metres for the try.

But that was as close as the visitors got.

The Wallabies came right back with a try to take a 33-24 lead and with Georgia playing a man short when Niniashvili was sent off for a foul. The Wallabies had a try called back for obstruction but went ahead 40-24 on Fraser McReight's second try of the afternoon to all but clinch the match.

Allan Ala'alatoa led the Wallabies - the third captain in three weeks for Australia. Liam Wright suffered a shoulder injury in his first match as captain in the first test against Wales and was replaced by James Slipper last week. Slipper was rested for the Georgie match.

Alex Hodgman, a 31-year-old Reds prop who played four test matches for the All Blacks in 2020, came off the reserves bench with 20 minutes to go. He qualified for

a switch on residency and family grounds and became the fourth player to represent both Australia and New Zealand, and the first in 50 years.

The Wallabies won the only two previous encounters against Georgia at Rugby World Cup tournaments, including a 35-15 win in Paris last year.

Before the Australia match, Georgia had wins over Six Nations regulars Wales and Italy in 2022 and was coming off an upset 25-23 win last weekend over Japan, a week after a 21-12 loss to Fiji.

Australia next plays top-ranked South Africa in its Rugby Championship opener on Aug. 10 at Brisbane.

New Zealand's All Blacks scored seven tries in a 47-5 win over Fiji in their first rugby match in San Diego in 44 years.

The New Zealand and Fiji players were acting in part as emissaries for the game of rugby in the United States, trying to sell a game to American sports fans who, if they are aware of it at all, see it as football without pads.

In that sense the game was a success. A crowd of 30,000 packed Snapdragon Stadium, the largest crowd for a game of rugby in San Diego. When the All Blacks last

played in the city in 1980, beating the United States 53-6, they attracted 10,000 to the former San Diego Chargers' NFL stadium.

Fans on Friday saw an fast-paced match with plenty of movement and eight tries in total.

The field, home to the San Diego State Aztecs football team, was harder than usual for a rugby match which led to some unusual bounce from kicks.

Both teams lost a scrumhalf to injuries suffered when they were thrown heavily to the ground. Fiji's Frank Lomani left with a dislocated shoulder and the All Blacks' Cortez Ratima, after scoring a try in his starting debut, suffered an apparent concussion.

The All Blacks team contained six new caps and 11 changes from last weekend's second-test win over England. It took a while to gel but when it did it produced some excellent backline tries.

The new midfield combination of Anton Lienert-Brown and Billy Proctor functioned well and created opportunities for the back three of Caleb Clarke, Sevu Reece and Beauden Barrett.

Lienert-Brown was one of the standout players of the match and might have booked a place at inside

center for the Rugby Championship. Flyhalf Damian McKenzie had more space than he was allowed in the All Blacks' two recent wins over England and was able to take advantage of that space, though his kicking game was out of tune at first. Ardie Savea carried the ball strongly from the back of the scrum.

Play loosened up in the second half as both teams ran their benches and Fiji troubled the All Blacks defense at times but couldn't finish.

For Fiji, flyhalf Isaiah Armstrong-Ravula was composed on debut while flanker Kitione Salawa ran strongly.

New Zealand had four tries and led 26-5 at halftime. Hooker George Bell scored on debut in the 78th minute and McKenzie landed his sixth conversion from seven attempts.

Friday's match was part of an effort by New Zealand and World Rugby to establish rugby in the U.S. sports market and build the sport's profile ahead of the 2031 men's and 2033 women's World Cups which the U.S. will host.

The All Blacks have played several matches in the United States in the last decade, notably against Ireland at Chicago's Soldier Field in 2016, a 40-29 win by Ireland.



Australia's Isaac Kailea, (center), juggles the ball as Georgia's Sandro Todua, (left), and Demur Tapladze look to make the tackle during their rugby union test match in Sydney. (AP)

PHOENIX, July 20, (AP): Alisha Gray turned WNBA All-Star weekend's opening night into her own show.

The Atlanta Dream guard had a historic evening, becoming the first player to win both the 3-point and skills competition in the same year Friday.

"It's very cool. Now I'm glad I accepted the call when they asked me to play in both of them," Gray said. "Now I get another 55K in my pocket."

Gray received \$2,575 from the league for each victory, per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, but also got \$110,000 from Aflac as part of a partnership between with the WNBPA.

She topped hometown favorite Sophie Cunningham by just over 2 seconds in the final of the skills competition. Then she edged Jonquel Jones by one point in the 3-point shootout about 45 minutes later.

BASKETBALL

"I felt like I was warmed up after the skills challenge, running all over the court," Gray said. "I was a little fatigued from the skills challenge, but I was locked in because I knew another 55K was on the line."

Jones was looking to become the first post-player to win the 3-point contest. She also made the finals in 2021 before losing to four-time champion Allie Quigley. Jones had a chance to win the contest, but her last shot - the two-point money ball - fell short. She held her head in disappointment.

"(Jones) had me nervous, I'm not going to lie," Gray admitted.

She scored 25 points in the opening round - tops amongst the five competitors. Gray had 23 points.

Neither defending champion Sabrina Ionescu or sensational rookie Caitlin Clark competed in the 3-point contest this year. Ionescu is playing for the U.S. at

the Olympics and is focused on getting ready for the Paris Games. After virtually playing non-stop for nine months between college and the WNBA, Clark just wanted to take some time to relax.

"I think the biggest thing was for me, it's just like I need a break," she said. "I'm going to take some time for myself to enjoy what I want to do, and at times that can be in the tough position I'm in, but I think it was the healthiest for myself."

Brittney Griner was the only member of the U.S. Olympic Team who participated in either competition. She finished the obstacle course in 46.3 seconds.

There was also a 3-on-3 exhibition game between the U.S. team headed to the Paris Olympics and an under-23 team featuring top college players.

The Olympic team won the tight contest 19-16 as Rhyne Howard scored the final eight points for the victors, hitting four 2-point shots. She finished the game scoring 12 of the team's 19 points.

The game is played with one and two-point baskets for 10 minutes or until a team scores 21 points.

Marina Mabrey, who was traded from Chicago to Connecticut on Wednesday wore a Sun jersey for the first time. She and Gray participated in both the skills competition and 3-point shootout. Mabrey just missed making the finals of the skills contest.

She finished in fifth in the 3-point contest with 19 points.

Ionescu and Becky Hammon have also won both the skills challenge and 3-point contest. Ionescu won the skills in 2022 and the 3-point contest last year. Hammon won the skills in 2007 and the 3-point in 2009.

342 athletes to compete in Paris

China seeks to repeat Tokyo glory

BEIJING, July 20, (Xinhua): The shooting events at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games will produce a total of 15 gold medals. Powerhouses including China, India, the United States and South Korea are gearing up for the final sprint in their preparations with the Games just a week away.

A total of 342 athletes from 82 teams will compete in the Olympic shooting events in Chateauroux, 250 kilometers south of Paris. Nino Salukvadze, a female 25m pistol shooter from Georgia, will be participating in her 10th consecutive Olympics since 1988.

Despite her experience, Salukvadze is not the oldest shooter at the Paris Olympics. That distinction falls to 60-year-old Leonel Martinez of Venezuela, who will compete in men's trap, and against the youngest shooter of Paris 2024, Iran's 15-year-old Mohammad Beravan.

On the entry list are also two athletes from the IOC Refugee Team, Edilio Centro Nieves (women's 10m air pistol) and Luna Solomon (women's 10m air rifle), who also participated in the Tokyo Olympics.

Winning a total of 26 Olympic gold medals, including four in Tokyo, China will send 21 top shooters to Paris 2024 in hope of repeating its glory from three years ago. Rifle and pistol events are the medal pool for China, who secured full quotas early on in the qualifications, while seven shotgun shooters will seek breakthroughs, with the last Olympic gold in the discipline won by Zhang Shan in 1992.

The 10m air rifle mixed team event could potentially see China win its first gold at the Paris Olympics. All four shooters in this event - Huang Yuting, Sheng Lihao, Han Jiayu and Du Linshu - are born after 2000. Apart from Sheng, who took silver at the Tokyo Olympics, the other three will be making their Olympic debuts, yet Huang and Han are both world champions. Liu Yukun, world record holder of men's rifle 3 positions, is also among the favorites in Paris.

The air pistol events will be led by Olympic champion Jiang Ranxin and world champion Zhang Bowen, both of whom competed at the Tokyo Olympics. In the men's 25m rapid fire pistol, 34-year-old Li Yuehong will be hoping third time's a charm, after taking bronze medals at the previ-

ous two Olympics.

Also fielding 21 shooters is India, who had a disappointing trip to Tokyo. As India boasts young talents in rifle and pistol events just as China does, the Chateauroux Shooting Center will likely witness several showdowns between the two nations.

Another traditional powerhouse, the United States, will send 17 shooters, including the legendary Vincent Hancock. Born in 1989, Hancock rose to fame at a young age, winning his first Olympic title in the men's skeet at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. He successfully defended his title in the 2012 London Olympics, becoming the first male skeet shooter to achieve back-to-back victories in Olympic history. Three years ago, Hancock won his third Olympic gold in Tokyo. This time, he is aiming for his fourth Olympic title.

South Korea, with 16 shooters, is highly competitive in pistol events, particularly in the wom-

OLYMPICS

en's 25m pistol as Yang Ji-in and Kim Ye-ji have set world records.

As the host nation, France will have 15 athletes competing in shooting events, including reigning men's 25m rapid fire pistol Olympic champion Jean Quinquempoix and Rio silver medalist Clement Bessagnet. Italy will also have 15 athletes competing, with a strong presence in the skeet event where multiple athletes have the potential to compete for medals. Additionally, teams such as Britain, Germany and Serbia also have the capability to win medals in certain events.

Speaking of the upcoming Paris Olympics, president of the International Shooting Sport Federation Luciano Rossi said: "We want to showcase how shooting sports combine tradition with innovation, providing an inclusive and diverse environment where athletes from all backgrounds can excel. Our goal is to inspire the next generation of shooters and elevate the sport's global profile." Shooting events were one of the nine competitions at the first modern Olympics in 1896. Except in 1904 and 1928, shooting events have been featured at every Summer Olympics. At this year's Paris Olympics, shooting events will make their 28th appearance at the Olympic Games.

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Messi-less Argentina eye Olympic men's gold

BEIJING, July 20, (Xinhua): Argentina, despite being without talisman Lionel Messi, are considered to stand a good chance of winning a record-equaling third men's football gold medal at the upcoming Paris Olympics.

Argentina head coach Javier Mascherano, who won gold as a player in 2004 and 2008, is aiming for glory, as he called up four World Cup winners to his squad, including striker Julian Alvarez and defender Nicolas Otamendi.

Olympic men's football is an under-23 tournament, but each team is allowed up to three overage players.

Messi, 37, who helped the South American side win gold at the

2008 Beijing Olympics, will not play in the Paris edition, citing a heavy workload.

Clubs are not required to release their players to compete at the Olympic Games, as unlike other major international football tournaments, the Games take place outside the official FIFA international window.

In 2008, Barcelona won an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport to prevent Messi from playing in Beijing. It was reported that after Pep Guardiola, then-head coach of Barcelona, intervened, the La Liga club eventually gave the green light, and Messi went on to win gold with Argentina in his only Olympic campaign.

Youth volleyball team commences training in Indonesia

Kuwait volleyball coach Alvarez reveals preliminary squad for Arab Champ'ship

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: Kuwait's national volleyball team coach, Julian Alvarez, has selected a preliminary squad of 20 players for the upcoming 22nd Arab Championship for men's teams, scheduled for November in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The last championship took place in 2018, with Egypt emerging as the victor.

Today marks the start of the second phase of training at Al-Ittihad Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex. This phase is overseen by Alvarez, his assistant Zaid Al-Kazemi, and Argentine fitness coach Jerome.

The players on the list preparing for the Arab Championship include:

Youssef Mandil, Saud Al-Duwaisan (Burgan), Muhammad Suwayd, Abdullah Fares (Al-Arabi)

Rashid Anbar, Fahd Saad Yaqoub, Ahmed Al-Muneis, Ibrahim Mandil

(Al-Qadisiya)

Abdul Rahman Al-Mutawa, Ali Saadoun, Mishaal Al-Omar, Abdullah Al-Failakawi (Kazma)

Abdullah Bouftin, Athbi Malik, Abdul Rahman Muhammad Kamel, Nawaf Al-Sanea, Omar Al-Anzi, Abdulaziz Najm, Muhammad Al-Dhafiri, Abdul Rahman Al-Otaibi (Kuwait SC)

VOLLEYBALL

Assistant coach Zaid Al-Kazemi emphasized that the team will undergo daily training for five weeks. The focus will be on enhancing physical fitness and refining individual and collective skills to elevate the overall technical and physical standards of the players.

He added, "The technical staff has devised a long-term plan that will progress in stages up to the next Arab Championship."

Simultaneously, the youth volleyball team commenced training in Indonesia, having arrived there yesterday. It is preparing for the 22nd Asian Under-20 Championship, which will be held from July 23-31.

The delegation is led by Jassem Al-Failakawi, a member of the Kuwait Volleyball Association Board of Directors. The team includes Abdulaziz Al-Failakawi, the national team director, and a technical staff headed by national coach Jassem Al-Tarrawah, his Egyptian assistant Osama Madkour, and physiotherapist Moataz Ezz El-Din. The 12 players on the youth team are:

Fawaz Al-Mishaal, Ali Dashti, Barak Al-Nasser, Faisal Al-Sarraj, Hammoud Al-Masoud, Ahmed Al-Hamdan

Abdulaziz Al-Anazi, Abdulaziz Al-Hashemi, Ahmed Al-Mutairi, Rashid Abdulkarim, Rashid Al-Nuaimi, Mahdi Hassan



Players huddle together for a team talk.

Nadal reaches first final since 2022 French Open

Rafa rallies past Ajdukovic in Sweden

BASTAD, Sweden, July 20, (AP): Rafael Nadal reached his first final since the 2022 French Open by rallying to beat Duje Ajdukovic 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 Saturday at the clay-court Nordea Open. Nadal will play Nuno Borges, who beat Thiago Agustín Tirante 6-3, 6-4 to reach his first four-level final.

After needing four hours to beat the 36th-ranked Mariano Navone in Friday's quarterfinals, Nadal had a slow start against Ajdukovic and was a break down in the second set before turning things around.

TENNIS

"My opponent had one of the best backhands that I played against," Nadal said. "It was very, very difficult, honestly, but I found a way to survive and be through to that final after a long time without being in a final. So that's great news and I'm very happy with that."

Nadal is playing at the tournament in Sweden for the first time since he won the title as a 19-year-old in 2005 as he prepares for the Olympic tournament on clay at Roland Garros in Paris.

The 38-year-old Nadal skipped Wimbledon as he didn't want to switch surface to grass and then back to clay and risk injury. He has been dealing with hip and abdominal injuries over the past 1 1/2 years.

The International Tennis Hall of Fame will move its enshrinement ceremony to August starting next year to better capture the attention of the tennis world on the eve of the U.S. Open.

The Newport facility also announced it will host a new combined men's and women's 125-level tournament in 2025, with equal prize money, to replace the men's 250-level event

that is being dropped from the ATP schedule after this week.

The combined Hall of Fame Open scheduled for July 6-13 will be the only grass-court women's tournament outside of Europe. It's the first time the hall will host a women's pro tournament since the 1990 Virginia Slims of Newport.

"We... are thrilled to provide fans with double the tennis starting next summer," tournament director Brewer Rowe said.

The hall for decades has hosted a men's tournament the week after Wimbledon, with the Hall of Fame inductions held on Saturday along with the semifinals.



Spain's Rafael Nadal plays a backhand during his semi-final men's singles match against Croatia's Duje Ajdukovic in the Nordea pen in Bastad, Sweden. (AP)

Athletes are eager to compete

For Palestinian athletes, Oly is about more than sports

PARIS, July 20, (AP): Most of the athletes representing the Palestinian territories at the Paris Olympics were born elsewhere - Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Germany, Chile and the United States - yet they care deeply about the politics of their parents' and grandparents' homeland.

They are eager to compete but say their presence at the Games isn't only, or even primarily, about sports. With Israel and Hamas locked in a brutal war that has killed tens of thousands in Gaza, these eight athletes - two of whom hail from the West Bank - carry heavier burdens.

Yazan Al Bawwab, a 24-year-old swimmer who was born in Saudi Arabia and lives in Dubai, said he doesn't expect recognition for his performance in the pool. He uses swimming, he said, as a "tool for Palestine."

"Unfortunately, nobody has ever asked me about my races. Nobody cares," said al Bawwab, whose parents come from Jerusalem and Lod, a city

that today is in central Israel. "I'm going to be plain and honest: France does not recognize Palestine as a country. But I'm over there, raising my flag. That's my role."

Omar Ismail, who was born in Dubai to parents who come from the West Bank town of Jenin, has loftier athletic ambitions. Shortly after earning his spot on the team at a taekwondo qualification tournament in China, the 18-year-old said he aims to win a gold medal in Paris.

But even if he does not earn a medal, Ismail - who has visited relatives in Jenin - believes his mere participation symbolizes something larger than himself.

"I represent the identity of the people in Palestine, their steadfastness," Ismail said. "I'd like to inspire the children of Palestine, show them that each of them can achieve their goals, give them hope."

Even under the best of circumstances, it is difficult to maintain a vibrant

Olympics training program in Gaza, the West Bank and east Jerusalem. Nine months of war between Israel and Hamas has made that challenge next to impossible.

Much of the country's sporting infrastructure, clubs and institutions have been demolished, said Nader Jayousi, the technical director at the Palestine Olympic Committee.

OLYMPICS

"Do you know how many approved pools there are in Palestine? Zero," said al Bawwab, who noted that the Palestinian economy is too small and fragile to consistently support the development of elite athletes. "There is no sports in Palestine. We are a country right now that does not have enough food or shelter, and we are trying to figure out how to stay alive. We are not a sports country yet."

The Palestinian diaspora has always

played an important role at the Olympics and other international competitions, Jayousi said.

Jayousi said it's not the first time that most of the athletes representing the POC come from abroad. He said the Palestinian diaspora is always represented at any big international sporting competition and Olympics.

More than 38,000 people have been killed in Gaza since the war between Israel and Hamas began, according to local health officials. Among those who died were about 300 athletes, referees, coaches and others working in Gaza's sports sector, according to Jayousi.

Perhaps the most prominent Palestinian athlete to die in the war was long-distance runner Majed Abu Marahel, who in 1996 in Atlanta became the first Palestinian to compete in the Olympics. He died of kidney failure earlier this year after he was unable to be treated in Gaza and could not be evacuated to Egypt, Palestinian officials said.

Only one Palestinian athlete, Ismail, qualified for the Paris Games in his own right. The seven others gained their spots under a wild-card system delivered as part of the universality quota places. Backed by the International Olympic Committee, it allows athletes who represent poorer nations with less-established sports programs to compete, even though they did not meet the sporting criteria.

"We had very high hopes that we would go to Paris 2024 with qualified athletes," Jayousi, the team's technical director, said. "We lost lots of these chances because of the complete stoppage of every single activity in the country."

Palestinian athletes will compete in boxing, judo, swimming, shooting, track and field and taekwondo.

There is a chance Palestinian athletes could compete against Israelis in Paris. The Israel Olympic Committee said it is sending 88 athletes to Paris, and that they would compete against athletes from anywhere.

Jayousi declined to say whether clear guidelines have been issued to Palestinian athletes about whether they would be expected - as a form of protest against the war in Gaza - to drop out of competition rather than face Israelis.

"Let's see what the draws will put our athletes against," he said. "We know what we want to do, but we don't have to say everything that we want to do."

Beni Suef deny playing friendly against Kazma 'amidst' impersonation scandal

Hassan Musa

Al-Seaysasah/Arab Times Staff

ALEXANDRIA, July 20: The recent friendly match between Kazma and Telephone Beni Suef has garnered significant attention over the past few days. The incident unfolded during Kazma's training camp in Alexandria, Egypt, and various Arab media outlets have reported on the controversy surrounding the match.

Kazma announced its victory over the Egyptian team with a score of 7-1 last Thursday. However, the Telephone Beni Suef Club issued a surprising statement, asserting that it had not played any friendly matches and had not yet begun its preparation period.

The third division Beni Suef team warned against dealing with an agent named Sayed Riad, who allegedly impersonated a club representative. The club stated that legal action is being taken against this individual, as he holds no official status within the club.

SOCCER

In response, Kazma issued a statement clarifying that the responsibility for organizing the training camp and its friendly matches lies with the company contracted for this purpose. It emphasized that no future friendly matches would be held without official approval from both clubs. Kazma held the organizing company legally accountable for the error and expected an official apology and a pledge to prevent such mistakes in the future.

The Egyptian Football Association (EFA) also released a statement regarding the crisis. It noted the lack of prior coordination between the Kuwaiti side and the EFA but assured that it would collaborate with the Kuwaiti Football Association to investigate the matter and take necessary legal actions.



Exchange of shields between officials.



Players challenge for the ball.

Best of the Rest

Adams has back surgery: United States captain Tyler Adams will miss the start of the Premier League season while he recovers from back surgery, Bournemouth manager Andoni Iraola said. Adams missed most of last season because of a hamstring problem, and after a brief return he ended his debut Bournemouth campaign with back spasms.

The 25-year-old Adams played a full game for the U.S. in its 1-0 loss to Uruguay at the Copa America on July 1. Iraola told the BBC that the defensive midfielder had surgery two days later.

"He is out for some time," Iraola said. "It is difficult to say how long but he won't be fit for the start of the season. But September? October? I don't know."

Iraola was asked why Bournemouth didn't stop Adams from going on international duty.

"It was not our choice. It is a decision for the nations, who are allowed to select players, and he wanted to play thinking the injury would get better but he felt it was getting worse," the BBC quoted him saying.

Adams joined Bournemouth last summer on a transfer from Leeds.

Bournemouth will play an exhibition match against Wrexham on Saturday in Santa Barbara. The Cherries begin their Premier League season on Aug. 17 at Nottingham Forest. (AP)

Boyd out for season: Nashville midfielder Tyler Boyd has been placed on the season-ending injury list and will undergo knee surgery, the club announced. Boyd needs anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction surgery. He is expected to have the procedure in the coming weeks.

Boyd went down with a non-contact injury in Wednesday night's 3-0 home loss to Orlando City. He was stretched off the field and did not return.

The 29-year-old Boyd has two goals and three assists in 21 matches this season. Nashville is 6-10-8.

Per MLS rules, once a player is placed on the season-ending injury list, he is not eligible to play for the club in any remaining competition during that MLS season. (AP)

Simon out for 4-5 months: Athletic Club Bilbao's Spain international goalkeeper, Unai Simon could be out of action until Christmas after having a wrist operation, it was confirmed.

The 27-year-old last season won the 'Zamora' trophy in La Liga for the best goalkeeper record of the campaign, played in all but one of Spain's matches in their triumphant European Championship campaign.

Simon has been playing with pain for several months after a domestic accident, and the operation aims to finally end the problems in his wrist. However, the surgeon who carried out the operation advised on Spanish radio network, Cadena Ser, that he may not play again in 2024.

"He will be out for four or five months, because he has to be immobilized for two months, as that is the time it takes for the ligament to stick," explained Dr Francisco Pinal.

The doctor added that sportsmen such as Simon recover quickly "but even after four or five months, he's not going to be back to his top level." (Xinhua)

Cesc appointed head coach: Serie A newcomer Como appointed Cesc Fabregas as its head coach on Friday after the former Spain midfielder helped the club earn promotion last season as an assistant.

Como said Friday that Fabregas signed a four-year contract and that "the appointment comes after a successful campaign last season as interim and assistant coach culminating in the promotion back to Serie A."

Fabregas and his former Arsenal teammate Thierry Henry are minority shareholders in the club, located in Italy's Lombardy region, and the Spaniard joined Como as a player in 2022 before becoming interim manager in November last year. He then served as an assistant to former Wales manager Osian Roberts as he did not have the required coaching license yet to take charge of the team on a permanent basis.

"I am so happy to be starting this season as head coach and I thank the ownership group for trusting me with this position," Fabregas said in a club statement. "I share the ambitions of the group and believe this is just the start of where this club can go. It's going to be a tough and important season but myself and the rest of the coaching staff are ready and we all believe." (AP)



Omar Ismail, who was born in Dubai and will be competing for the Palestinian territories at the Paris Olympics, practises taekwondo in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. (AP)



Ali Al Marri and Fatima Hayat address the media on eve of Kuwait delegation departure for Olympic Games in Paris.

Sports

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Kuwaiti delegation heads to Paris for Oly

Fatima Hayat highlights gender milestone for Kuwait

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: The official delegation of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee will depart for France this afternoon to participate in the 33rd Olympic Games, "Paris 2024," which will be held from July 26 to August 11. The nine athletes representing Kuwait will travel to Paris in phases according to their competition schedules.

Kuwait will be represented at "Paris 2024" by nine athletes: Khaled Al-Mudhaf and Muhammad Al-Daihani (archery), Yousef Al-Shamlan (fencing), Amina Shah (sailing), Suad Al-Faqan (rowing), Yaqoub Al-Yawha and Amal Al-Rumi (athletics), and Lara Dashti and Muhammad Sabet (swimming).

OLYMPICS

Fatima Hayat, a member of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee and head of women's sports, highlighted that Kuwaiti athletes will compete in rowing, swimming, fencing, and shooting. She extended her best wishes for their success.

Hayat expressed pride in Kuwait's participation in the world's largest sporting event, noting the historic achievement of gender equality in the competition. She emphasized that 48 percent of the Kuwaiti delegation are women, with four out of nine athletes being female, marking a significant accomplishment for Kuwaiti sports.



Judo champions honored upon their return to the country.

Kuwait judo team returns with 32 medals from Amman Champ'ship

KUWAIT, July 20. (KUNA): Kuwaiti judo team returned from Amman with an impressive haul of 32 medals, showcasing its dominance at the West Asian Judo Championship for Youth and Juniors.

Kuwait excelled in the junior individual and team events as well as in the youth team competitions, securing the top spot in these categories. Additionally, Kuwaiti athletes earned second place in the youth individual rankings. The medal tally included 24 gold, 2 silver, and 6 bronze medals.

Upon its return, Faisal Al-Humoud, Secretary of the

Kuwait Judo Association, expressed pride in the athletes' efforts to elevate Kuwait's status at the championship. Manwar Al-Enezi, Vice-President of the association and

JUDO

head of Kuwait's delegation, praised the players for their outstanding performances, which garnered admiration from both peers and spectators.

Verstappen to start from 3rd

Norris takes pole ahead of Piastri at Hungarian GP

BUDAPEST, July 20. (AP): McLaren pair Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri locked out the front row for the Hungarian Grand Prix ahead of points leader Max Verstappen after a stellar qualifying session for the British team on Saturday.

Norris scored his third career pole position, and will have his teammate starting right behind him as he aims for a second win of the season. Norris won in Miami in May and has come close to another victory with four podium finishes since then. He took pole in Spain last month and in Russia in 2021.

"We've come into this weekend and the last few confident we can fight for pole and that's exactly what we've done," Norris said. "We are in the best position for whatever the conditions throw at us."

Verstappen, who will start from third on the grid, is trying to claim a fourth straight Formula One title. The Dutchman leads the driver's race with 255 points, with Norris in second with 171. The Hungarian GP marks the start of the second half of the season.

Verstappen has won at the Hungaroring the past two years despite not starting from pole, including a win from a 10th-place start in 2022. But the Dutchman had no problem acknowledging that McLaren is providing Red Bull with its stiffest test of the past three seasons. Norris topped practice on Friday and earlier on Saturday before showing his dominance when it mattered.

"I tried. The whole weekend we have been a little bit behind and that was the case in qualifying. It just wasn't enough, and it is difficult to pinpoint why," Verstappen said. "I love competition, but I would like to be on top of the competition. But at the moment I feel we are chasing, and I don't back out of a fight, but



McLaren driver Lando Norris of Britain steers his car during the qualifying ahead of Sunday's Formula One Hungarian Grand Prix auto race, at the Hungaroring racetrack in Mogyorod, near Budapest, Hungary. (AP)

it's trickier." It was the first one-two finish in qualifying for McLaren in 12 years. "It's an amazing result for the



Winner Noah Lyles, (centre), competes at the Men's 100m final during the Diamond League London Athletics Meet in London, England. (AP)

Azerbaijan camp canceled

Villar joins Al-Nasr Club

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: Al-Nasr Club has finalized its roster of foreign players for the first team by signing Brazilian Bernardo Villar, Iraqi Karrar Amer, Moroccan Zakaria Al-Wardi, Dominican Carlos Ventura, and Nigerian Onanuga Babatunde Olawale.

Bernardo Villar, a Brazilian de-

fender, stands out as Al-Nasr's most notable acquisition. Villar has a history of playing for several European clubs, most recently with Sheriff Tiraspol in Moldova. Two years ago, Villar posted a picture on social media from Camp Nou stadium, expressing his dream of playing in one of the world's most iconic stadiums. Al-Nasr responded to this on its social media platform "X" by announcing, "He will play soon at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium. Always pursue your dreams."

SOCCER

Dominican striker Carlos Ventura previously played for Bolivian Oriente, while Zakaria El Wardi has experience with Egyptian Zamalek and Moroccan Raja Casablanca.

Iraqi Karrar Amer, aged 29, who has represented the Iraqi national team, also played for Al-Shorta and Najaf in Iraq. He joins Al-Nasr to replace his compatriot Saad Nateq, who withdrew from Al-Annabi due to commitments with the Olympic team.

In a related development, Al-Nasr canceled its planned training camp in Azerbaijan because coach Zاهر Al-Adwani and four players – Youssef Muhammad, Muhammad Abdel-Hadi, Muhammad Ajaj, and Ibrahim Al-Dhafiri – were unable to attend.

team," Piastri said, before adding that the main goal is to keep both the papaya-colored cars at the front come the race's finish.

"Of course I want to get into the

MOTOR RACING

lead, but we have both cars on the front row and we are trying to win this championship as a team, and we will be smart," the Australian said. "We want to keep it one-two and we will fight it amongst ourselves to see who gets one."

Lyles 'warms' up for Oly by setting personal best of 9.81

LONDON, July 20. (AP): Heading into the Paris Olympics, Noah Lyles has never been faster.

The American world champion warmed up for the Paris Games by setting a personal best in the 100 meters at Saturday's Diamond League meet in London, clocking 9.81 seconds to beat a strong field in the last major meet before the Olympics.

ATHLETICS

Lyles trailed his rivals at the start before powering past the field over the last 50 meters. Akani Simbine of South Africa was second in 9.86 and Letsile Tebogo of Botswana was third in 9.88, with the top five finishers all breaking the 10-second mark.

"I could have had a better start. I've been having a lot better starts in practice," Lyles said. "I wanted to drop under 9.80, but I'll take a PR every day of the week."

Lyles' previous best was the 9.83 he clocked at last year's world championships in Budapest - where he won the 100, 200 and the 4x100 relay - and then matched in the U.S. Olympic trials last month.

Saturday's result further underlines him as the favorite for the gold medal in Paris, where he can cement his status as the world's fastest man.

And Lyles isn't shy about his goal at the Olympics.

"I'm going to win," he said. "That's what I always do."

Other notable results at the London Stadium - which hosted the 2012 Olympics - included Matt Hudson-Smith of Britain setting a world-leading time of 43.74 in the men's 400 and world champion Femke Bol taking the women's 400 hurdles in 51.30, her second fastest time ever.

In the women's 200, Gabrielle Thomas came from behind to pass Julien Alfred and Dina Asher-Smith to win in 21.82.