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## Opinion

### When will 'Kuwait is different' end?

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

FOR decades, deep states have controlled all of Kuwait's institutions and influenced the legislative authority to control the decision-making processes.

That is why when His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad announced the constitutional measures a few months ago, the support for it was unparalleled. This is because it first worked on treating the cause of significant public grievances. It also limited the interference of those groups and deep states in institutions.

However, we must acknowledge the fact that reform cannot happen overnight. Addressing these issues require going through constitutional and legal stages to prevent a crisis in the future.

On the other hand, this does not prevent the amendment of laws that are harmful to the country in order to limit the influence of stakeholders, especially those who live off people's sufferings, and those controlling the real estate market, who have made the construction chaos an outlet for themselves.

Today we see these ugly cement blocks spread across various areas. However, the original principle of housing care was to ensure stability for the citizens and their families, provided that this does not come at the expense of the environment, society, and the aesthetic view of the region.

That is why government houses in the past were built on these principles, and not jealousy and envy.

Therefore, when someone opposed chaos, he was met with a number of voices from profiteers defending their gains. This opposition does not serve the people. Even though they themselves portray any benefit to them as a popular demand, they are working to enact a law to that effect.

This is contrary to the truth, because it contributed to exacerbating the housing crisis, which the neighboring countries solved in an easy way.

Our neighbors sought the help of international construction companies that are known for their speedy completion, abiding by the international specifications, and for having constructed integrated, self-sufficient housing cities with all necessary services, entertainment places, and others.

For instance, the United Arab Emirates adopted this model approximately 40 years ago, starting with the residential city of Ruwais as its first project. Other cities followed suit, offering affordable prices with installment plans spanning 25 to 30 years.

As for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, many model residential cities were built, taking into account the social and geographical environment, and even the extremely hot climate. The financing was from the companies themselves, which paid loans in installments of over 35 to 40 years, while the state sponsored the land and interest.

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### Embassy takes job orders to supply skilled workers

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: Bassam Al-Shammari, the specialist in domestic labor affairs said the Labor Attaché at the Embassy of the Philippines in Kuwait has actually begun to receive requests from local recruitment companies and offices initial employment contracts, known as job orders, following the issuance of regulations for controls and requirements for the export of this labor, known as the Guide Line, which includes recruitment steps, papers and documents required to be submitted by companies and offices to conclude contracts, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Al-Shammari explained this is available for every company or office to conclude a contractual job order under which it can request only experienced workers who have previously worked in Kuwait, the Gulf states, or any other countries, which means at the current inexperienced job seekers in this category are not being considered.

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## Day by Day

A LONG-TIME resident of Kuwait, who has children studying abroad, had requested them to visit the country. They were granted visas with appreciation and respect, and so he expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Interior and its leader.

When their visas' validity, which was for one month, had expired, the father applied to extend their visit because the children were on school break, and their mother was residing in Kuwait. They wanted their children to remain with them until schools reopened in the country where they were studying. However, the response the father received was, "Extension of the visit is not permitted!"

To His Excellency, the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, we respectfully ask, "What is this situation? Make it easy, do not complicate."

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

# Resident validation becomes obligatory for building owners

PACI strives for true civil information records



Kuwait Fire Force teams successfully extinguished a warehouse blaze in South Amghara on Tuesday afternoon, with no significant injuries reported. Major General Khaled Abdullah Fahad, acting head of the Kuwait Fire Force, was on-site overseeing the operation.

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has mandated property owners and homeowners to verify that no fictitious persons are registered at their residential addresses. This move aims to ensure that only legitimate residents are listed, and any incorrect registrations are removed, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Jaber Al-Kandari, Deputy Director General for Registration Affairs at PACI, stated that property owners will need to provide their fingerprints when requesting the removal of any non-residing individuals from their address records. This step is to validate the request and ensure the accuracy of residential data.

Al-Kandari explained the procedure regarding fines for incorrect address registrations. Once an address is deleted and the names are published in the Kuwait Al-Youm (Kuwait Today) newspaper, there is a 30-day period for the concerned person or head of the family to register their new address without incurring a fine. After this period, a reconciliation period of 15 days is allowed, during which a fine of 20 dinars will be imposed for late address changes.

Property owners must visit PACI with proof of property ownership, such as the house document, to request deletions. Similarly, individuals whose addresses have been deleted must submit their new residential address within 30 days, along with relevant documentation, such as the lease contract or house document.

Following the activation of Article 33 of PACI's establishment law, which imposes a fine of 100 dinars for failing to report changes in civil information, the demand for appointments to process "change of residential address" transactions has surged, exceeding a 15-day wait period.

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## NewsWatch

### 12 more people lose citizenship

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: The First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior has issued new decisions to withdraw the Kuwaiti citizenship from 12 people, based on Articles 9, 10 and 11 of Amiri Decree No. 15 of 1959 on the Kuwaiti Nationality Law and its amending laws.

These decisions became effective after their publication in the Kuwait gazette, Kuwait Alwaym.

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WASHINGTON: US and Iraqi officials met Monday at the Pentagon to discuss when and how the mission of the global coalition against the Islamic State in Iraq would end and transition in an orderly manner to an enduring bilateral security partnership.

In a press statement following the meeting, the Pentagon Press Secretary Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said the Joint Security Cooperation Dialogue meetings will continue tomorrow and build upon the work of the Higher Military Commission (HMC), which grew out of an April meeting between President Joe Biden and Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani in Washington. (KUNA)

□ □ □

RAMALLAH, West Bank: Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah signed a declaration in Beijing vowing to form a government together, the groups said Tuesday, in the latest attempt at resolving their long rivalry.

Both sides said the accord, which provided no guarantees or timeline, was only an initial step. Previous such declarations have failed, raising doubt over whether the China-sponsored negotiations might lead to a resolution between Hamas, which has ruled the Gaza Strip for the past 17 years, and Fatah, the main force in the U.S.-backed Palestinian Authority that administers parts of the occupied West Bank. (AP)

### Ways mulled to upgrade Kuwait-Iraq ties

## Envoy: Kuwait takes combating drugs very seriously, joint global efforts vital

BAGHDAD, July 23, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to Iraq Tareq Al-Faraj said on Monday that the participation of First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah in Baghdad International Drug Control Conference reflects Kuwait's seriousness in combating drug trafficking.

In his remarks to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Al-Faraj hailed the First Deputy PM stressing that his speech at the Iraq-hosted conference signifies Kuwait's unwavering determination to eliminate the scourge and coordinate and cooperate with international security agencies towards that goal.

Earlier, Baghdad hosted its 2nd International Conference on Drug Control which saw the participation of interior ministers of nine countries, including Kuwait, as well as representatives from the United Nations, and the Secretary General of the Arab Interior Ministers Council.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani and Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef



Al-Faraj

Saud Al-Sabah met on ways of promoting bilateral ties and broadening cooperation in various domains.

During the meeting, both sides also looked into fruitful economic partnerships that could contribute to serving mutual interests and strengthening regional security and stability, the Iraqi Prime Minister's Media Office said in a press release.

They also underlined that it is essential to keep holding Iraqi-Kuwaiti committee dialogue and meetings that look into an array of joint issues and dossiers, it said.

Furthermore, both sides considered Kuwait's participation in the 2nd Baghdad International Drug Control Conference, held in the Iraqi capital on Monday.

Kuwaiti Interior Minister stressed that establishing communication channels and international coordination between security agencies to combat drug trafficking will have a great impact.

Establishing communication channels would allow information exchange and reviewing legal frameworks to tackle criminal networks effectively, he told the 2nd Baghdad International Drug Control Conference.

Sheikh Fahad Yousef highlighted the importance of sustained efforts and collaborative measures to thwart drug smuggling and distribution.

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### No bonus if private sector jobs refused

By Mohammad Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) has clarified that graduates who refuse a job opportunity will permanently lose their right to the "graduate bonus." This forfeiture applies even if the initial reason for the loss is later resolved.

The Al-Seyassah daily specified certain situations leading to this permanent loss of employment, registration in the Bar Association for law graduates, refusal of a job opportunity in the government sector and refusal of two job opportunities in the private sector.

To maintain eligibility for the graduate bonus, recipients must conduct a monthly periodic review online. PAM emphasized that failure to do so may result in the suspension of disbursement.

The circumstances that trigger the suspension of the bonus include receiving assistance from the Ministry of Social Affairs, nomination by the Civil Service Commission, enrollment in a training course with a monthly stipend and completion of studies.

However, if the reason for the suspension is resolved, the disbursement can resume and to reapply for the graduate bonus, graduates must submit the following documents — academic certificate, equivalency certificate (if the degree is from a private university or

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### Revival of fraud, money-laundering feared

## Real estate brokers criticize new licensing rules

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry's recent decision to streamline the process for obtaining commercial licenses, including home licenses for real estate brokerage, has sparked controversy among real estate professionals.

While the ministry views these changes as a progressive step for entrepreneurs and small business owners, many real estate brokers are concerned that the new regulations could reignite issues of fraud and money laundering in the real estate sector.

Imad Haidar, Head of the Real Estate Brokers Union, expressed strong opposition to the new home licensing rules, arguing that they could lead to an increase in itinerant brokers and fraudsters exploiting the system.

He highlighted concerns that these changes could reverse the progress made between 2017 and 2022 in combating real estate fraud and money laundering.

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### New 'Kashif' service launched, reveals caller name & number

KUWAIT CITY, July 23, (KUNA): The Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) has introduced the "Kashif" service, which reveals the name and number of the caller to the recipient. The goal of this service is to document incoming calls through telecommunications networks in Kuwait, aiming to minimize anonymous calls.

At a press conference on Tuesday, Acting Chairman of CITRA, Abdullah Al-Ajmi, announced the launch of this service. He explained that the authority developed the service in collaboration with local telecommunications companies and relevant government agencies, and it is available only to legal entities.

Al-Ajmi noted that the "Kashif" service implements caller name identification regulations on public telecommunications networks. This initiative is designed to boost users' trust in the telecommunications sector and reduce the number of anonymous calls from both government and private sector entities.

He added that users can now identify the name of the caller,

whether they are using a mobile or landline number within Kuwait. This feature serves as an initial step in identifying the caller. Al-Ajmi also stressed the importance of adhering to guidelines from private entities regarding the protection of personal information such as account numbers and passwords.

In her remarks, Layali Al Mansouri, Director of Information Security and Emergency Response at CITRA, highlighted that this service is part of the authority's ongoing efforts to tackle electronic fraud and prevent the misuse of communication channels.

Al Mansouri further explained that CITRA has been dedicated to various initiatives over the years aimed at safeguarding citizens and enabling them to recognize unknown numbers, which helps them take necessary precautions against suspicious calls.

She emphasized that the new service will foster greater trust and security among users, while also educating them on how to protect themselves from unknown and fraudulent calls.



Photo by Mohammad Morsi

Officials from First Group Company for General Trading and Contracting and the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) gather for a group photo, marking the launch of the infrastructure construction project for West Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City. — See Page 8

## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 03:32    Asr ..... 15:30  
 Sunrise .. 05:03    Maghrib .. 18:46  
 Zohr ..... 11:54    Isha ..... 20:14

# Local

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

## Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

**By Day:** Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-38 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

**By Night:** Hot to rather hot with

## Weather

light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-32 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec			
Kuwait City	47	37	Abdaly	49	31
Kuwait Airport	48	31	Jahra	49	34
			Salmiyah	45	38
			Jal Aliyah	50	30
			Nuwaisib	47	32
			Wafra	48	30

## HH Crown Prince and Prime Minister send similar cables

# HH Amir congratulates Egypt on July 23rd revolution anniversary



KUNA photo  
Pakistan's Federal Minister for Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan during his meeting Kuwait's Ambassador to Pakistan Nassar Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi.

### Ambassador Al-Mutairi meets Minister Khan

## Pakistan and Kuwait agree to boost bilateral trade relations

ISLAMABAD, July 23, (KUNA): Pakistan and Kuwait on Monday agreed for further promoting friendly and bilateral trade relations between the two countries by moving forward in a more integrated manner, besides enhancing business to business and government cooperation.

This came during a meeting between Pakistan's Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan and Ambassador of Kuwait to Pakistan Nassar Abdul Rehman J. Al-Mutairi, held in Islamabad on Monday, according to a press release by the ministry.

During the meeting, it was agreed to further promote friendly and bilateral trade relations between the two countries by moving forward in a more integrated manner, it said.

The minister discussed various proposals regarding the promotion of trade activities from Kuwait and expressed his

willingness to cooperate for various projects on the basis of "Business to Business" and "Government to Government".

The minister added that he wants progress for investment from Kuwait and in the strengthening of Pakistan's economy and projects of mutual cooperation.

The Kuwaiti ambassador to Pakistan assured the minister that his government will provide all possible support in the strengthening of Pakistan's economy and projects of mutual cooperation.

He added that relations with Pakistan are more important for Kuwait and in the coming days they will bring all the bilateral agreements to completion, adding that he is keen to further strengthen the brotherly relations with Pakistan.

In the meeting, various matters of mutual interest were discussed between the federal minister and the ambassador of Kuwait.

KUWAIT CITY, July 23, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Tuesday a cable to President of Egypt Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, congratulating him on the anniversary of the July 23rd revolution.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir praised

the historical and firm relations between Kuwait and Egypt, wishing the Egyptian president good health and wellness and to Egypt and its people progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President El-Sisi, congratulating him

on the anniversary of the July 23rd revolution.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the Egyptian president good health and wellness.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President El-Sisi, congratulating him on the anniversary of the July 23rd revolution.

# MoE affirms integration of Amir's career in the national curriculum

'HH's actions will serve as a guide and beacon for our students'

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Adel Al-Adwani has affirmed the Ministry of Education's commitment to include the distinguished and honorable career of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may Allah protect him, in the curricula in a way that suits every academic stage, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a press statement, Al-Adwani explained this step is based on the royal directives to implement a comprehensive educational vision that instills values like loyalty, patriotism and good citizenship in the hearts and minds of students; in addition to encouraging positive interaction on development in various fields.

He pointed out "the directives and actions of His Highness the Amir will serve as a guide and beacon for our students to work for Kuwait with sincerity and dedication. Education plays a fundamental role in developing and strengthening the values of citizenship among students and society as a whole, in addition to its contribution to instill values and principles for the students to become good citizens and leaders in the future."

He asserted that benefiting from the royal directives is extremely important in strengthening this role: so the Curriculum Development Department in the Education Ministry is keen on including excerpts from the works of His Highness the Amir that aim to maintain international peace and security, as well as supporting and caring for people with special needs in the curricula from fourth to ninth grade.

He stated that the honorable career of His Highness the Amir, his official and honorary positions, and his medals will be included in the history textbook for Grade 10 students in a manner that is consistent with the nature of the subject, scientific content, age of the students and their mental abilities; so these noble works and directives will bear fruit in terms of building a generation fully aware of the core values.

He added the directives and actions of His Highness the Amir embody the highest national and humanitarian values; and establish the concept and importance of hard work, loyalty to the homeland and solidarity to achieve sustainable development, which will contribute to preparing a cognizant and dedicated generation in serving the country with the capability of facing challenges in the future with a sense of responsibility and creativity.

## PART to enhance N. Regional Roads with three new contracts

By Mohammed Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) will soon implement three contracts that are part of the Northern Regional Road Development Project whose design consultancy agreement was completed in February 2017, including five design contracts implemented by local and international consulting firms.

Sources from the authority confirmed that this step will be taken according to the priorities and needs of PART. Sources said two of the five contracts included in the agreement are in the final implementation phase - one is for the development of Abdally Expressway (entrance to South Mutlaa City) and the other is for the development of a road linking South Mutlaa City with Subbiya Expressway.

Sources added the three remaining contracts that will be put forward for implementation include the development of Abdally Expressway to serve Abdally City, a new road linking the regional road and South Mutlaa and Nawaf Al-Ahmad cities to the Sixth Ring Road, and a new road linking Abdally Expressway and Subbiya Expressway (entrance to the Subbiya City).



KU and KOC officials signing the cooperation agreement.

Photo by Rizk Taufiq

### KU, KOC extend research cooperation agreement

Kuwait University and the Kuwait Oil Company have extended their research cooperation agreement, originally signed in 2019, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The extension was formalized in the presence of Acting University Director Dr. Nawaf Al-Mutairi, Acting Vice Chancellor for Research Dr. Nasser Al-Tanak, Assistant Vice Chancellor for External Research Cooperation and Consultations Dr. Nouria Al-Kandari, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research Funding and Implementation Dr. Hanin Al-Ghabra, Dean of the College of Engineering and Petroleum Dr. Khaled Al-Hazza, and Assistant Secretary-Gen-

eral for Facilities Management Affairs Mohammed Al-Sulaiman.

Representatives from the Kuwait Oil Company included Director of the Innovation and Technology Group Hamad Al-Zaabi, Head of the Planning and Support Team Abdullah Al-Otaibi, and Chief Research Programs Engineer Maryam Al-Foudari.

Dr. Nawaf Al-Mutairi emphasized the strong partnership between the university and the company in research, innovation, and development. He highlighted the significant contributions and resource enhancements achieved through their collaboration.

### Al-Mutairi heads 3rd regular session of third term

## Municipal Council okays updated building regulations for the Abdali Economic Zone

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: The Municipal Council, during its third regular session of the third and final term before its summer vacation Sunday, headed by Khaled Mufleh Al-Mutairi, approved the final version of table No. 18 regarding the special requirements and specifications for buildings in the Abdali Economic Zone.

The final version included a number of amendments, the most prominent of which are:

1. The total construction percentage of the building in mixed investment housing plots should not exceed 250 percent.

2. The percentage of commercial part overlooking the main street in the center of the neighborhood should not exceed 60 percent of the plot area.

3. The percentage of the residential investment part in recurring floors should not exceed 190 percent of the plot area, and it should not be exploited for any activity other than housing.

4. Only one mezzanine floor can be created for commercial activity.

5. One or more basements can be created over the entire area of the plot, so that all or part of the first basement is allocated for parking, electrical or mechanical services, or recreational purposes for the building's residents (swimming pool and its services, recreational games, sports fields and their services, etc). It may not be used for commercial or storage purposes.

6. The basements, mezzanine floor, corridors on the ground floor, roofed spaces, the mechanical and electrical services floor, protrusions, cosmetic elements, and skylights of all kinds are not included in the total percentage of the building.

#### Height

Regarding building height and floors, the municipality has agreed that the maximum building height should be 100 meters, measured from the lowest level of the ground floor slab to the level of the roof slab. The ground floor and mezzanine levels shall determine the overall building height.

The maximum height of the entire ground floor and mezzanine is nine meters, provided that the height of the ground floor does not exceed six meters, and the height of none of them is less than three meters. The minimum height of the basement is three meters, the

maximum height of the first basement is six meters, and the maximum height of the rest of the basements is four meters.

The minimum floor height in residential floors is three meters and the maximum is five meters. The maximum height of the parking floor in residential floors is three meters.

During the meeting, the Municipal Council approved a number of requests and proposals.

1. The Public Authority for Housing Welfare's request to amend the boundaries of the housing project in South Khaitan by adding 248 plots and to cancel table No. 15 of the building regulations regarding the requirements and specifications for facilitating the movement of people with special needs inside and outside all buildings in all parts of Kuwait.

This is attached to ministerial Resolution No. 206/2009 regarding the organization of construction works and the attached tables, and replacing it with the Kuwait Accessibility Code according to the general design approved by the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs in accordance with the specific use of the building.

2. Two requests of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) to allocate two water lines for rainwater drainage in South Sabahiya and Fahahel, and a path drawn into the sea in the Nuwaiseeb chalets area.

3. The letter submitted by the Ku-

wait Dairy Company for approval to

license a food canteen to serve the company and its employees within the boundaries of the plot allocated to it with an area of 70,000 square meters in Saliba.

4. The request of the Public Authority for Sports for the allocation of surface parking lots for Jahra Equestrian Club, and the organizational plan for site No. 85 in Abdallah Port.

5. The request of the Ministry of Finance for the creation of a service road parallel to Abdullah Al-Salem Street in Mirqab, Block 1 to serve the ministries building.

6. The requests of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy for the allocation of a main electricity substation site in Qibla area, Plot. 15 to feed the new Palace of Justice project, and the new expansion of Souk Mubarakiya.

#### Transfer

7. It approved the allocation of secondary transfer station site in Abdallah Al-Salem suburb, Block 3, a secondary transfer station in Qortuba, Block 4, a secondary substation site in Qadisiya, Block 5, a secondary substation in Sulai-biya area, and the reallocation of the site of the main electrical substation in Fahahel Block 4.

8. The Municipal Council approved, but with conditions, the request submitted by the Salhia Real Estate Company to develop their property described as Plot No. 72 - the JW Marriott Hotel (formerly the Le Meridien) - located in Kuwait City, Qibla, Block 13.

It was stipulated that the executive body be assigned to amend the building regulations to allow licensing according to the structural plan for mixed uses within the city, prior to licensing.



Photo by Mohammad Morse

Sierra Leone ambassador with PAM's acting director general.

### Ambassador meets with PAM's official

## Kuwait and Sierra Leone enhance bilateral ties in labor recruitment

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: Marzouq Al-Otaibi, Acting Director-General of the Public Authority for Manpower, met on Monday with HE Haja Ishata Thomas, the Ambassador of Sierra Leone to Kuwait, and her accompanying delegation, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Otaibi welcomed the ambassador and highlighted the long-standing and distinguished relations between Kuwait and Sierra Leone. He expressed his commitment to preserving and strengthening these relations.

During the meeting, Al-Otaibi and the Sierra Leonean delegation discussed cooperation mechanisms for recruiting and employing Sierra Leonean workers in Kuwait.

He emphasized that Kuwait's labor market is particularly attractive to workers with specialized skills that align with its needs.

Al-Otaibi assured the delegation that the Public Authority for Manpower is dedicated to refining the recruitment process to benefit both Kuwait's economic and developmental interests and the workers and countries involved.

Al-Otaibi underscored the authority's commitment to providing legal protection and ensuring a conducive work environment that upholds the rights of all workers, including those from Sierra Leone.

In response, the Sierra Leone envoy expressed her gratitude to Kuwait and the Public Authority for Manpower for their ongoing efforts in community and worker-related issues.

She reaffirmed her country's dedication to enhancing bilateral relations in ways that benefit both nations.

## School Health Dept boosts nursing skills

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: In line with the Health Ministry's strategic plan to improve the quality of health services provided to students and ensure a healthy and safe environment for them, the School Health Department at the ministry conducted the second training course for the nursing staff in coordination with the Public Health and Emergency Medical departments and the Child Health Protection Office.

Director of the School Health Department Dr. Wafaa Al-Kandari said the course targeted more than half of the nursing staff in school clinics and health centers affiliated with the department in all health districts - about 700 nurses.

Al-Kandari revealed the course covered several topics including first aid, the basics of administrative laws, infection preven-

tion policies, child protection, a program to combat and prevent overweight and obesity, vaccinations, the most common infectious and non-communicable diseases among students, how to deal with emergency cases, basic school health surveys, emergency plans and communication skills.

She added the course was presented by a selected specialized group of doctors and nurses in a bid to develop the skills and efficiency of the nurses in order to contribute to the development of services provided by the department and its affiliated centers and clinics.

She also affirmed the department's commitment to develop the capabilities of its nursing staff, and provide the best health practices to achieve its goals of promoting public health among students and supporting national efforts in the fields of prevention and health care. She appreciated the efforts of all coordinators, participants and lecturers.

# diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'The impact of Egypt's July Revolution on Arab unity'

"MORE than seventy years have passed since the Egyptian July Revolution, which introduced unprecedented policies in Egypt's history and adopted slogans inspired by the concept of Arab unity, originating in the Levant," columnist, former permanent envoy of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations (UN), the former Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) secretary general **Abdullah Bishara** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"These Arab unity slogans were adapted and clarified, transforming calls for national unity into a framework of diplomatic Arab unity that respected sovereignty while linking collective Arab diplomacy to the Egyptian diplomatic approach. The revolution aimed to make this goal more attractive and acceptable in the Arab world compared to the Arab unity promoted by the Baath Party or Arab nationalists.

"The leaders of the Egyptian revolution understood that promoting the unity of Arab diplomacy was a complex challenge. It required ignoring geographical dictates, overlooking the priorities of national interests, denying the right of other Arab countries to build unique relationships with various nations, and, most critically, opening the doors to interference in the internal affairs of Arab countries.

"However, President Gamal Abdel Nasser embarked on a mission to promote the unity of Arab diplomacy, making it a priority of the Egyptian revolution. This unity aimed to align the Arab position with Egyptian foreign policy, particularly in political confrontations with Western countries like Britain, France, and the United States.

"Nasser's approach often disregarded the special and bilateral relations that some Arab countries had with Western nations for security or economic reasons. The Egyptian leadership ignored these realities and insisted that any country not conforming to their vision would face political, media, and intelligence campaigns, along with humiliating provocations. Those who resisted were met with incitement campaigns urging their people to confront these dissenting Arab leaders.

"Nasser, with his charismatic presence and powerful oratory skills, became a revolutionary figure whose goals resonated with many followers. However, this inevitably led to differences, tense relations, and escalating campaigns.

"The Arab countries distanced themselves diplomatically, while nationalist parties and coup leaders aligned with Egypt's revolutionary stance. This deterioration in Arab-Arab relations led to mutual conspiracies and confrontations, with intelligence operations and covert plots becoming rampant among Arab regimes.

"The Arab media, influenced by Ahmed Said's school from Sawt al-Arab, became polluted with insults and curses, further harming joint Arab efforts.

"This destructive dynamic resulted in interventions that escalated to the use of military force, heightening the instinct for revenge. One of the most significant conflicts was the war in Yemen, which saw the Egyptian army near Saudi territory. Saudi Arabia took measures to protect its borders, and global concern grew over the dangers of that era.

"In August 1966, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, the then Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, visited Alexandria and met with President Gamal Abdel Nasser. Also present at the meeting were Field Marshal Abdel Hakim Amer and Mr. Anwar Sadat.

"I accompanied Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad to this meeting, along with the late Ambassador Hamad Al-Rajeeb. Sheikh Sabah brought with him a historic proposal, inviting President Nasser to meet with King Faisal bin Abdulaziz in Kuwait, under the patronage of its Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem.

"This proposal was imbued with high hopes for a different Arab future characterized by mutual trust, pure intentions, and good behavior, aiming for a collective Arab advancement towards comprehensive development and normal Arab-Arab relations.

"Sheikh Sabah elaborated on the details of his mission, emphasizing the necessity and significance of the meeting, not only for the two countries involved but for the entire Arab world and beyond. President Nasser listened attentively as Sheikh Sabah stressed the importance of the proposed meeting.

"President Nasser then spoke, expressing gratitude and appreciation for Kuwait's efforts and the Amir's dedication. He asked Sheikh Sabah, 'You, Sheikh Sabah, want me to meet with King Faisal in Kuwait?' Sheikh Sabah confirmed this request. However, Nasser declined the proposal, downplaying its benefits. This refusal was a significant moment in history, marking the loss of a rare opportunity to mend the bond between Arab countries and resolve the disagreements that had led to confrontations, particularly between these two pivotal Arab nations.

"The meeting ended, and we returned to Kuwait, with Arab relations continuing to decline, sliding towards confrontations that might draw in ex-

ternal parties. President Abdel Nasser's dry response effectively ended the year-long efforts of Sheikh Sabah, which began in March 1966.

"During that time, Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem, the Amir of Kuwait, visited Cairo and proposed resolving the Saudi-Egyptian dispute over Yemen. President Nasser welcomed this effort, and after the visit, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, the Foreign Minister, took on this responsibility, striving to achieve a high goal in Arab relations. His efforts, spanning from March 1965 to August 1966, ultimately culminated in the closure of the file on Kuwait's good efforts, which believed that a solution could only be found through a meeting between the leaders of the two countries hosted by Kuwait.

"With the closure of this opportunity, Arab relations deteriorated further, leaving the situation on the Saudi-Yemeni border prone to explosion and without any guarantee of containing the escalation in the absence of reconciliation efforts.

"Yemen's reality became one of continuous war between the royalists and the Yemeni revolution, supported by the presence of the Egyptian army, which ensured the revolution's authority in Sana'a. The escalating risks on the Yemeni-Saudi border, combined with Egyptian air raids on Saudi territory, heightened the danger and expanded the confrontation, causing irreparable damage to Arab relations.

"Tensions persisted with no hope for a reasonable solution and the disappearance of peaceful initiatives. This led to increasingly destructive steps, with the Israeli leadership closely monitoring events, particularly Syria's movements, and issuing threats to strike Damascus.

"Egypt's reaction, concerned with Syria's security, resulted in the Egyptian army moving towards the Israeli border, escalating tensions further. Egypt's request to withdraw international forces from the border, stationed there since 1957 to ensure Israel's withdrawal from Egyptian territory, added to the overall tension.

"Egypt's decision to close the Straits of Tiran was a surprising and risky move, leading to an inevitable confrontation with Israel. The United States had pledged to ensure safe passage through the Straits as part of a bilateral agreement recorded in United Nations documents on March 1, 1957.

"This agreement was established through an exchange of understandings, with American representative Cabot Lodge and Israeli Minister Golda Meir formalizing it in their speeches. The June 5, 1967 war resulted in Israel occupying all the territories from which it had withdrawn in 1957, along with the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan Heights.

"This war marked a painful end to the July 1952 Revolution, with Egypt remaining under occupation until the October 1973 War and the subsequent peace treaty. The revolution's slogans faded, and the path of diplomatic Arabism, which the Egyptian revolution had chosen to unify Arab positions, came to an end."

### Also:

"Since the era of Sheikh Sabah -- may God have mercy on him -- Kuwait has been grappling with the challenge of balancing its budget. The persistent issue has been aligning oil revenues with rising expenditures on services and consumption," columnist **Abdul Latif Al-Duaij** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"Despite the various measures taken by successive governments, including efforts to curtail spending and introduce rationalization, the underlying problem remains unresolved.

"Historically, initiatives such as the project or the development of the islands were attempts to address the budget deficit. However, these efforts faced significant resistance from rentier society, which opposed changes that threatened the status quo. As a result, the budget deficit issue continues to be a pressing concern.

"The prevailing strategy has focused primarily on reducing expenditures rather than addressing the need for increased revenue.

"Rationalizing spending has proven inadequate unless accompanied by measures to enhance income and generate new revenue streams. With the growing population and increased consumption demands, mere austerity measures are insufficient.

"To overcome the budget deficit, Kuwait must explore new sources of income. One significant opportunity lies in re-engaging the Kuwaiti citizen. Historically, before the oil boom, the Kuwaiti people contributed through taxes, duties, fees, and donations, supporting the state's obligations.

"Today, however, the citizen has shifted to being a consumer of oil revenues rather than a contributor.

Revitalizing this role can be key to resolving the budget deficit. It is crucial to reawaken the Kuwaiti citizen's sense of responsibility and involvement in supporting the state's financial needs, rather than simply tightening their belts.

"The solutions to Kuwait's fiscal challenges may well lie within its own population, harnessing their potential to contribute to the state's financial stability once again."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes



Firefighters at the site of the accident.

KFF photo

## Firefighters contain tanker chemical leak

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

Monday afternoon, the fire brigade responded to an incident involving a 6,000-litre chemical tanker that overturned on the Doha Link Road, resulting

in a chemical spill.

The leakage was swiftly controlled but the tanker driver sustained injuries and was transferred to the medical emergency department. The site was cordoned off until the concerned authorities brought the situation under control.

# 2 expats referred to State Security Dept

Detention of wife's killer extended

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, July 23:** The detention renewal judge ordered to extend for 15 more days the detention of the Kuwaiti citizen who murdered his wife in Saudi Arabia, and refused to release him.

The accused told the renewal judge that he left his wife in the Abu Hadriyah desert and did not kill her. He denied the allegations leveled against him.

His family reported that he is a drug addict and suffers from psychological illnesses for which he is receiving treatment in a psychiatric hospital.

**2 expats referred to State Security:** Two expatriates were referred to the State Security Department for investigation into the reasons for taking photos and videos inside a restricted facility in Mutlaa, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source revealed the two expatriates were born in 1987, and that one of them had a permit to enter the facility and enabled his compatriot to enter it and take photos and videos as monitored by the facility's security team.

The Interior Ministry's Operations Unit received a wireless signal from the facility, showing that two expatriates were monitored taking photos and videos inside the facility. The State Security Department was immediately notified, and then it dispatched patrol officers to the site.

The two expatriates were escorted for investigation and their mobile devices were confiscated seized. A case was registered against them for entering a restricted facility.

**Man beaten up, KD 120 stolen:** The deputy public prosecutor has instructed the Jahra police officers to arrest a young man accused of using a ring box to beat another young man, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, a young man born in 1991 filed a complaint at Qasr Police Station about a young man who allegedly assaulted him at the end of last month; and that he filed the complaint only now as he was just discharged from the hospital. He submitted a medical report stating he suffered from facial abrasions; double fracture in the face, specifically in the corner of the lower jaw; a double fracture in the lower wisdom tooth and numbness in the facial area.

The victim revealed the assailant is a citizen who did not only beat him, but also robbed him of KD120.

A case of assault, beating and robbery with violence and classified as felony has been registered. The medical report was attached to the case document and investigations are ongoing to arrest the suspect.

**Contractor acquitted of breach of trust:** The Misdemeanor Court has acquitted a contractor of breach of trust by seizing government-subsidized bricks for a citizen's plot in Wafra residential area, reports Al-Anba daily.

Attorney Jassim Al-Tuwaitan appeared in court on behalf of the accused and argued that the elements of the crime of breach of trust were absent. He explained that his client dealt with the agency after its cancellation and that the receipt was issued at an earlier date. He said the complainant refused to pay KD6,000 to his client -- the value of the work on the voucher; as well as KD5,000 for the swimming pool work that was included in the voucher. He added the complainant made the accusation after his client requested for the aforementioned payments.

**Elderly dies inside camel market:** The corpse of an elderly unidentified citizen of a Gulf country has been referred to Forensics to determine the cause of his death inside the camel market in the Kabd area.

A security source said that the son of the deceased, born in 1980, reported that an unknown person called him using his father's phone and reported that the owner of the phone had died inside the camel market. When the son rushed to the spot, he found his father motionless lying on the ground.

## Lt-Gen Al-Refaie's visit

### Ahmadi governor reviews Interior's service centers

**KUWAIT CITY, July 23:** Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad has inspected a number of service centers affiliated with the Ministry of Interior in different parts of the governorate, during which he was briefed on the progress of work and listened to the comments and suggestions of a number of citizens, while appreciating the efforts exerted by the officials and employees in the service centers to provide optimal services to citizens, reports Al-Anba daily.

Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad looked into the procedures followed in providing services to citizens and listened to their comments, as they praised the services in general. He also urged the supervisors and employees in the service centers to intensify their efforts in improving their work to better serve the citizens.

The tour covered Fintas Service Center, Mangaf Service Center for People with Special Need, Sabahiya Service Center and Kuwait Oil Company Service Center.

Director General of the Service Centers General Department Brigadier General Saleh Al-Hamdan Director of the Service Centers Department in the governorate Brigadier General Abdul Mohsen Al-Saeed, Deputy Director Colonel Hifi Al-Haifi, the centers' supervisors and a number of governorate officials were also present during the tour.

**National Guard officer's visit:** Undersecretary of the National Guard Lieutenant General Hashem Abdul Razzaq Al-Refaie recently visited the Colonel Faisal Al-Jareed building at the headquarters of the National Guard, reports Al-Shahed daily.

He studied the procedures related to the registration of the applicants for the student officer training course.

Lieutenant General Al-Refaie stressed the keenness of the National Guard leadership about achieving justice, equal opportunities and transparency for all applicants.

## Case dismissal upheld

### Female court staffer accused of insulting a 24-year-old citizen

**KUWAIT CITY, July 23:** A 24-year-old citizen filed a complaint against a Justice Palace employee for insulting him while he was processing a transaction at Jahra Court, reports Al-Anba daily.

In his statement regarding the case filed under the title, "Allegation of Insult", and classified as a misdemeanor; the complainant revealed he was on the 12th floor of Jahra Court when a female employee insulted him without convincing reasons.

A case was registered and the accused was summoned to verify the complaint.

**Ruling dismissal upheld:** The Court of Cassation upheld the Court of Appeals ruling to dismiss the criminal case against a young Kuwaiti accused of hacking the website of the US Department of Defense (the Pentagon), reports Al-Anba daily.

The accused was referred for trial on charges related to violating the State Security Crimes Law and Combating Information Technology Crimes Law after investigations indicated that he hacked the website of the Pentagon and accessed its security secrets.



One of the mobile grocery carts being removed.

Mol photo

## Cleaning drive held

### KM removes mobile grocery carts & cars

**KUWAIT CITY, July 23:** The Public Relations Department in the Kuwait Municipality said that the Public Cleanliness and Road Occupancy Department in the Jahra Governorate Municipality branch has removed mobile grocery carts and two refrigerator vehicles in the Al-Naseem area, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This is in addition to the removal of 10 abandoned cars from the area and towing them to the Municipality vehicles impounding shed.

Also, Kuwait Municipality during a cleaning campaign has removed 28 abandoned cars from the Shuwaikh Industrial Area, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The operation was conducted by the inspection team from the General Cleaning and Road Occupancy Department in the Capital Governorate.

This initiative aims to improve the area's cleanliness and overall appearance, addressing issues related to abandoned vehicles that may affect public safety and environmental conditions.

**Buildings targeted:** The Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality has announced the launching of a campaign targeting investment and commercial residential buildings to inspect basements and ensure strict compliance with municipal regulations in all governorates, reports Al-Anba daily.

The department confirmed that the supervisory team at the Engineering Audit and Follow-up Department in Farwaniya Governorate carried out the fourth field inspection tour in Khaitan, Farwaniya and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh to take the necessary measures regarding encroachments, violations and closures.

It disclosed that the team took measures as per the municipal regulations and ensured strict compliance with these regulations. After the inspection of 15 properties, 10 violating property owners responded to the warnings issued to them, five violation tickets were issued to violators who did not respond to the warning, and violating structures were removed.



**WEDDINGS, UPTO 140**



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Sheikh Hamoud



Photos during the launching of the 'Executive Directors of Science' program.

### 'Executive Directors of Science' program kicks off

The Kuwait University officially launched the 'Executive Directors of Science' program (Science Generation 2024 Edition) at the College of Life Sciences Theater under the patronage of Dr. Nawaf Al-Mutairi, acting director of the university, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The event, organized by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, will run until early August featuring students from Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar.

The program is designed to in-

roduce young people to various scientific fields, enhance their life skills, and teach them effective management of scientific information.

The program will continue until the beginning of August, with the participation of students from Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar.

Its aim is to raise awareness and introduce young people to various scientific fields, provide them with essential life skills, and teach them how to manage scientific information.

Dr. Al-Mutairi praised the fruitful joint cooperation between the university and scientific progress in supporting science and research, encouraging international cooperation to spread technological knowledge, and exchanging experiences among students in various scientific fields.

During the first week, the program focuses on developing skills and scientific knowledge. In the second week, a project similar to a graduation project will be presented to about 200 participants.

## PAHW seeks approval for South Saad Al-Abdullah City expansion

Authority boosts awareness of e-services

**By Mohammad Al-Musleh**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff  
**KUWAIT CITY, July 23:** The proposal to allocate the eastern expansion of South Saad Al-Abdullah City to the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) is awaiting approval from the Kuwait Municipality and the Municipal Council.

According to sources from PAHW, it had addressed Kuwait Municipality to approve the amended expansion again after a discrepancy appeared in the coordinates provided earlier, which required it to be presented again to the executive body to study the amendment and transfer it to the Municipal Council for approval.

The Municipal Council will soon review the revised expansion plan to expedite the remaining work and finalize the transformation of the site into a residential area.

The sources said the expansion is expected to be sufficient to accommodate at least 3,000 additional plots for the project with an area of 400 square meters.

Meanwhile, PAHW launched its campaign to raise awareness among citizens about electronic services it provides to them.

Deputy Director General for Public

### Contract for Sulaibikhat Social Care complex's development plan signed

**KUWAIT CITY, July 23:** The Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila, confirmed the signing of a contract for the development and renewal of the Sulaibikhat social care homes complex, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The contract, executed by the National Cooperative Projects Committee and represented by its Chairman, Acting Undersecretary Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, involves engi-

neering services for the design of the structural plan and maintenance of the buildings.

The signing ceremony was attended by committee members and representatives from the SSH International engineering consulting company, which will implement the project.

Dr. Al-Huwaila emphasized that this initiative aligns with the political leadership's directives to bolster cooperative societies' contributions to social development projects.

Relations and Development Affairs and the official spokesman for PAHW Omar Al-Ruwaih said, "Based on the directives of the Council of Ministers, PAHW will be launching more electronic services on the Sahel government application and its website. The electronic services provided to citizens are widely accepted, especially since more than 90 percent of the transactions are carried out through automated systems.

The authority is preparing to introduce its services through an awareness campaign targeting citizens in a number of commercial complexes. The campaign tours will start from "The Warehouse" complex in South Sabahiya from July 21 to 25".

He indicated that the PAHW aims to highlight the services it offers through the Citizen Service Department via the Sahel Government application, as well as educate and guide citizens on how to conduct their transactions, track their implementation through PAHW's electronic services, and find solutions to any technical challenges or problems that citizens may face when submitting their transactions.

Al-Ruwaih affirmed the keenness of PAHW to facilitate residential care procedures and services for citizens and increase the volume of electronic services provided in order to develop the digital transformation in which various sectors have achieved significant progress during the last period.

### Textbook printing resumes, revenue boost expected

**KUWAIT CITY, July 23:** Assistant Undersecretary for Press, Publishing and Publications at the Ministry of Information Lafi Al-Subaie said the ministry operates based on procedural guidelines in accordance with a clear media strategy, reports Al-Anba daily.

While confirming that the ministry's strategy has had a positive impact on

its sectors, Al-Subaie revealed the revenues of the government printing press will be maximized through the resumption of the printing of textbooks which stopped in 1975. He added these textbooks will be printed in the government printing press in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

He also affirmed that the ministry

has approved and licensed 24 media activities, disclosing the media entities are being evaluated in terms of media professionalism.

He went on to say that the ministry's services are on 'Sahel' -- the unified government electronic platform; hence, it is no longer necessary to visit the headquarters for the processing of transactions.

### Bank reaffirms commitment to youth

## Ahmadi Governor honors exceptional high school graduates' achievements

**KUWAIT CITY, July 23:** Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Al-Jaber recently celebrated the achievements of high school graduates in a ceremony organized by the Ahmadi Governorate in collaboration with Burgan Bank, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The event honored 12 exceptional students and their families for their academic excellence.

During the ceremony, Sheikh Hamoud Al-Jaber encouraged the graduates to maintain their high standards of excellence as they advance to university and beyond.

He praised their perseverance and the support of their families, emphasizing that their achievements not only reflect their personal dedication but also contribute significantly to the progress and renaissance of Kuwait.

The Governor highlighted that the ceremony was part of a broader initiative to support and motivate students at all educational levels, fostering continued academic and personal growth.

He expressed his appreciation to Burgan Bank for its role in supporting and sponsoring outstanding students, underscoring the importance of social responsibility in the Kuwaiti banking sector.

Hessa Al Najadah, Senior Manager of Communications and Corporate Social Responsibility at Burgan Bank, reiterated the bank's commitment to supporting youth.

She remarked, "We view youth as a dynamic and vital segment of society. Our efforts extend from providing moral and financial support to celebrating their accomplishments. We are proud to partner with Ahmadi



Top & above: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad, Burgan Bank representatives, educational district officials, and the honored students.

### Transfer, secondment ban extended for another year

**KUWAIT CITY, July 23:** Chairman of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Dr. Issam Al-Rubaian recently issued a circular to the ministries and other government agencies on the continuation of the implementation of the decision to suspend the transfer and secondment of employees in the public sector, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily obtained a copy of the circular issued on July 10 stating that: "The CSC decided in its meeting no. 4/2024 on June 6 to continue suspending the transfer and secondment of public sector employees according to the provisions of Circular No. 10/2013 for a period of one year starting from April 17, 2024."

He then affirmed the issuance of Circular No. 7/2024 on the continuation of the implementation of the abovementioned decision.

Governorate in recognizing the success of our distinguished graduates and look forward to celebrating future achievements together."

The collaboration be-

tween Ahmadi Governorate and Burgan Bank underscores a shared commitment to fostering academic excellence and supporting the next generation of leaders.

### Recycling efforts to reach 2 mln cbm/day

## Public Works to boost treated water output for agriculture and Industry

**By Mohammed Ghanem**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 23:** Official spokesman of the Ministry of Public Works Ahmed Al-Saleh confirmed that the ministry has a number of projects aimed at increasing the production of treated water (quaternary and tertiary) to two million cubic meters per day.

He disclosed that the networks of the Sanitary Engineering Sector at the ministry receive wastewater from all areas to direct it to pumping stations, and then to the treatment stations in order to treat it three-way and four-way. He said the tertiary treated water goes to the tanks of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources for cosmetic ag-

riculture purposes, cultivation of Shaheed Park and operating cooling devices at Kuwait University.

He added the quaternary treated water is supplied to Wafra and Abdally farms to support food security efforts; as well as Kuwait Oil Company that uses treated water, instead of fresh water, in extracting oil, which is considered a contribution to the development of the national product.

He pointed out that the advancement of the wastewater recycling system is in compliance with the directive of Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan who is keen on supporting food security and environmental protection efforts in the country.



# JULY

## Room Promotion






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Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
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Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
<b>NOW</b>	<b>NOW</b>
<b>BHD 76.230 net</b>	<b>BHD 170.247 net</b>

Promo period from 23<sup>rd</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024      Terms & conditions apply\*

## Sheikh Abdullah commends committee's role in achieving WHO standards

# Capital Governor highlights health initiative for Qortuba's future

### When will

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait can learn from its neighbors who took the idea of housing welfare from them and developed it to suit their citizens. However, nothing has changed here. Rather, the housing crisis emerged due to interventions by stakeholders, who, whenever this matter was brought up to them, quickly resorted to a naive and flimsy excuse - "Kuwait is different."

What is different about Kuwait? Is it the proliferation of unsightly cement structures, the rise of irregular developments, haphazard construction, economic stagnation, or poor education? Or is it the encroachment on state property, such as neighbors constructing large private facilities or claiming residential rights for rental purposes under the pretext of housing their children?

To solve this crisis, we can seek the help of these companies, which will build the city within two or three years, and save the state and future generations from many of the burdens that used to absorb national wealth to please certain influential individuals and those with temporary interests, while the nation and its people pay the price.

Today, with the measures taken by His Highness, there is an opportunity to dismantle the deep state that has controlled the fate of the country for several decades.

The Council of Ministers must also have a clear plan for the people so that they know its role in development, with the speed of achievement being the test.

Will the ministers prove that they are worthy of the Amiri trust placed on them? Will they live up to people's expectations?

### Resident validation

Continued from Page 1

To address this congestion, PACI is planning to open external centers and possibly call employees to work on weekends. This measure aims to expedite the processing of transactions and allow individuals to reconcile their address changes within the specified period, avoiding the higher fine of 100 dinars.

These steps are part of PACI's ongoing efforts to maintain accurate civil information records and ensure compliance with residency registration regulations.

### Embassy takes

Continued from Page 1

The first batch of workers is expected to arrive from Manila within the next two months after amendments were introduced regarding recruitment prices based on the decision issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Al-Shammari said, "Local recruitment companies and offices are fully prepared to bring in domestic workers from Manila, especially since the market is in dire need of this category of workers, given the scarcity of countries exporting this labor that Kuwait deals with, and the inability of any other nationality to fill the big void left by Filipino workers after the decision went into effect to ban their recruitment."

The sources have pointed out that the number of Filipino domestic workers in the local market is huge, which confirms their importance to most Kuwaiti and expatriate families who prefer to use their services for several reasons, most notably the ease of communication, good care provided to all family members, in addition to the good educational level, and their knowledge of customs.

He revealed that there is a strong trend to introduce amendments to the Minister of Commerce and Industry's Resolution No. 2 of 2024, issued regarding setting the price of recruiting domestic workers, including the travel ticket cost at 750 dinars from Asian countries, 575 from African countries, and 350 for the special passport provided by the sponsor.

The continuation of the decision has negatively affected the quality of workers arriving in Kuwait, as the ages or workers do not suit the employers, unlike the previous employees whose ages were quite

reasonable, and which did not find an appropriate response or acceptance among most Kuwaiti and expatriate families.

### No bonus

Continued from Page 1

outside Kuwait) and IBAN salary transfer certificate. Applications must be submitted online within three months of receiving the academic certificate to avoid losing retroactive benefits. Applications can be submitted through the 'Sahel' platform or the Authority's website.

The Public Authority for Manpower also offers periodic guidance sessions with certified career guidance counselors. These sessions provide insights into job security, advantages of working in the private sector, interview preparation, and how to determine career preferences in the private sector.

### Real estate

Continued from Page 1

Haidar criticized the decision to include real estate brokerage in the special nature activities category, warning that it undermines previous efforts to safeguard the real estate market. He emphasized that real estate transactions often involve substantial sums -- ranging from hundreds of thousands to millions of dinars -- and that such significant deals should not be handled by brokers operating from home. The risk, he argues, is that this could encourage money laundering and other fraudulent activities.

"The decision on special nature licenses is beneficial in many areas, but real estate brokerage should be exempt," Haidar stated. He argued that real estate brokerage requires rigorous oversight and a legal entity with a physical location to ensure the integrity of transactions.

Haidar suggested that the new home licensing rule could be implemented as a transitional phase, allowing brokers to operate from home for a year. If successful, they could then establish an official office. If not, the license could be canceled without significant loss.

This approach, he believes, would balance the needs of emerging entrepreneurs with the need to maintain market integrity.

To improve the real estate sector, Haidar proposed several measures including exempting Real Estate Brokerage from Special Nature Licenses. He advocates for removing real estate brokerage from the list of activities eligible for home licensing.

This is in addition to reinstating educational requirements and activating broker identification and ensuring that real estate brokers are recognized across all government agencies involved in real estate matters.

Haidar's proposals aim to strengthen the real estate market's regulatory framework and ensure that brokers operate with the necessary oversight and legitimacy. He called on decision-makers to reconsider the current approach to licensing, stressing the importance of protecting both investors and the integrity of the Kuwaiti real estate market.

### Envoy: Kuwait

Continued from Page 1

He also outlined the initiatives taken by Kuwait's Interior Ministry in the fight against drug abuse and trafficking, and presented the ministry's comprehensive strategy aimed at fighting drug trafficking, warning of relevant severe security and social implications.

The Kuwaiti minister expressed his gratitude towards Iraq's Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Mohammad Al-Sudani, for sponsoring the conference, and thanked Iraq's Interior Minister Abdulmir Al-Shammari for inviting Kuwait to the gathering.

The Iraq-hosted conference saw the participation from interior ministers of nine countries, including Kuwait, as well as representatives from the United Nations, and the Secretary General of the Arab Interior Ministers Council.

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: During a meeting with the Qortuba Region Coordinating Committee, Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, the Governor of the Capital, underscored the signifi-



Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah with members of the Qortuba Coordination Committee.

cance of implementing the Healthy Cities Initiative across various areas of the Capital governorate, reports Al-Jarida daily.

He described the initiative as a crucial advancement towards improving public health in a comprehensive developmental, economic, and social manner.

The meeting included Dr. Sawasn Al-Bannai, head of the Qortuba Health Center; Dr. Nawal Al-Hamad, Vice-Chairman of the Coordination Committee; and engineer Kholoud Al-Shehab, head of the community committee.

Sheikh Abdullah praised the committee's efforts in registering Qortuba on the Regional Healthy Cities Network, aiming to meet the World Health Organization's standards and paving the way for its inclusion in the network.

He expressed optimism about the community's awareness and engagement at educational, health, and environmental levels, highlighting this as a sign of commitment to sustainable development.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the governor extended his gratitude and appreciation to the committee members for their dedication to achieving the initiative's goals.

# CSC implements new hiring guidelines for non-Kuwaitis

Ministries must finalize lists by Oct 1


KUWAIT CITY, July 23: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has informed ministries, government agencies and departments that a request to hire non-Kuwaitis under contract or to use their expertise will be considered an actual manpower need that will be added to the concerned entity's list of such need, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources said the CSC clarified that the list of manpower needs is covered through the nomination of job seekers registered in the Central Employment System, provided they have the academic specializations matching the manpower needs.

Sources confirmed the implementation of the decision to automatically add manpower needs to the CSC's integrated system in accordance with the regulations. Sources said the government entities have been instructed to be prepared from now on to finalize their manpower needs list, which must be submitted to the CSC on Oct 1.


Sources added the regulations are aimed at appointing nationals who are on the recruitment waiting and are qualified for the vacant posts in accordance with the principles of justice and equal opportunities in terms of appointment to public positions in all government institutions.

Sources also stated that implementing the regulations regarding the mechanism for adding manpower needs requires a comprehensive plan for graduates with the needed qualifications, if any; while taking into consideration the actual manpower needs.



## وزارة التجارة والصناعة

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Model year: 2022-2023  
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This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42,43,44,45,46,47 and 48) of no.27/2015 issuing the executive by laws of law no.39/2014 on Consumer Protection.

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يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ رَجِيئًا إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ رَاضِيَةً مَرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلُوا فِي عِبَادِي وَأَدْخِلُوا جَنَّتِي  
مَدِينَةَ الْغَيْثِ

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GENERAL TRADING & CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L.

**Khalil Bahman & Partners General Trading & Contracting Co. W.L.L.**  
Mourn with great sadness  
the passing away of

**Mrs. Mariam Abul Ali Ashkanani**  
W/o Late Mr. Khalil Bahman

We extend our Heartfelt Sympathies  
to the family members of

**Mr. Louay Bahman and Bahman Families**

We ask God almighty to grant strength  
and peace to the family in this difficult moment  
As a mark of respect our Factory in Ahmadi  
will be closed on Saturday 27th July 2024


اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَسئلكم العفو والرحمة  
واللين في حق الفقيد

## Over 18,000 job seekers 'registered'

By Fares Al-Abdan  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: The number of job seekers who registered at the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) more than six months ago, are not currently working or receiving pension and are not registered with an educational body totaled 18,686.

Sources revealed that 14 of these job seekers hold a doctorate degree; 370 hold a master's degree; 10,337 are university graduates; 3,956 are diploma holders; 1,195 are high school graduates who completed a two-year course or higher; 125 are high school graduates who completed a two-year course or higher; 440 reached high school; 200 reached high school with one year work experience; 199 hold an intermediate certificate in a two-year cycle; 189 hold an intermediate certificate in a one-year cycle; 312 hold an intermediate certificate in a cycle of three years or more; 250 hold an intermediate certificate in a cycle of at least one year; 613 hold an intermediate certificate; 57 have vocational qualification, 333 are below intermediate; 17 are below intermediate in one cycle; and 79 are below intermediate with at least two years work experience.



## JOINT OPERATIONS WAFRA

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

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

Kuwaiti and Saudi Merchants, registered with either Company wishing to participate in any of the under-mentioned Tenders are invited to collect the Tender documents from Purchasing Section, Purchasing & Logistic Division, Administration Building, Ground Floor, Joint Operations, Wafra, during the official working hours from **24 JUL 2024** up to **11 AUG 2024** for a non-refundable fee mentioned against each tender. Tender Fees to be deposited in the National bank of Kuwait (NBK) Account No. 1001132057. Saudi Suppliers can collect the tender documents from Saudi Arabian Chevron office in Al-Khobar Telephone No.: (013) 8645104 - Fax No.: (013) 8985436

The closing date for the following Tenders will be on **Monday, 19 AUG 2024 @ 09:00 AM.**

S.NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS	FEES ( KD )
1	021887	MISCELLANEOUS VALVES	15
2	021999	CONTROL VALVE, CCI OR EQUIVALENT	15
3	022089	RADAR LEVEL TRANSMITTERS	25
4	022092	SAFETY RELIEF VALVE	5
5	022101	PIPES CARBON STEEL, SMLS	15
6	022103	SHUTDOWN VALVE	5
7	022104	CORIOLIS FLOWMETER	25
8	022184	OIL & WATER ANALYZER	25

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

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

## World News Roundup

## Europe

## Journo gets 6-1/2 yrs

## Conservatives launch race for a new leader

LONDON, July 23, (AP) — Britain's defeated Conservatives will spend more than three months picking a new leader to replace former Prime Minister **Rishi Sunak**, the party has announced. Sunak will remain acting leader until his successor is announced on Nov. 2.

The right-of-center party was kicked out by voters in a July 4 election that brought a Labour landslide, ending 14 years in power under five prime ministers. The Conservatives were reduced to 121 seats in the 650-seat House of Commons, their worst-ever result.

The party said nominations will open Wednesday and close five days later. Any Conservative lawmaker can run if they get the support of 10 colleagues.

Conservative lawmakers will narrow the field down through a series of votes to four contenders, who will make pitches to members at the party's annual conference in early October.

Lawmakers will then choose two final candidates, who will be put to an online vote of Conservative members across the country.

"It's in the national interest for us to have a smooth and orderly transition to a new Leader of the Opposition so I will stay in post until Nov. 2 and the result of our leadership election," Sunak said.

"This will allow our party to fulfil its role as the official opposition professionally and effectively. I believe this is what is best for the Conservative Party and, most importantly, our country."

The party's last contested leadership selection, in mid-2022, saw members choose Liz Truss over Sunak. Truss resigned after just 49 days in office when her tax-cutting plans rocked the financial markets and battered the value of the pound. The party then chose Sunak to replace her.

In the wake of its devastating election defeat, which saw it lose votes to parties on both right and left, the party is divided between moderates who want to cleave to the political center and hard-liners who want an even tougher stance on migration and law and order.

**'Plan shocking waste of money':** A scrapped plan by former British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to send some migrants on a one-way trip to Rwanda was the "most shocking waste of taxpayer money I have ever seen," the UK's new home secretary said Monday as she put the cost at 700 million pounds (\$904 million) in public funds.

Sunak's successor Keir Starmer spiked the controversial plan as soon as his Labour government came to power this month. Sunak had made "stopping the boats" a key policy as his Conservative government struggled to stem the flow of asylum-seekers across the English Channel from France, but his plans were stalled by legal challenges and were widely criticized by human rights groups.

Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said the failed plan's costs included 290 million pounds in payments to Rwanda, plus "chartering flights that never took off, detaining hundreds of people and then releasing them and paying for more than a thousand civil servants to work on the scheme."

Rwanda's government has said it was not obligated to refund the money.

"The previous government had planned to spend over 10 billion pounds of taxpayers money on the scheme, they did not tell Parliament that," Home Secretary Yvette Cooper told lawmakers.

**Italy walkway collapse kills 2:** A pedestrian walkway in a massive housing project collapsed in the southern Italian city of Naples, killing two people and injuring a dozen others, Italian media reported Tuesday.

News agency ANSA reported the collapse overnight killed a 29-year-old male and a 35-year-old woman. Seven children ages 2 to 10 were among the injured, two of whom are in intensive care.

The cause was under investigation. Authorities evacuated the building where the collapse occurred and blocked the use of the pedestrian walkways in other sections of the so-called "Blue Sail" housing block.

The building, part of a huge complex of seven housing blocks built between 1962 and 1975, has been slated for 18 million euros (\$19.5 million) in renovations. Four others have been demolished and two more are scheduled for demolition.

**Thousands attend ex-lawmaker funeral:** Several thousand mourners attended the funeral Monday in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv for a former lawmaker best known for her campaign to promote the Ukrainian language who was fatally shot in the street by an unknown assailant.

Iryna Fariou, 60, was shot on Friday and later died from her wounds in a hospital. A search is underway for her attacker, who fled the scene. Ukrainian officials said the attack is being investigated as an assassination.

Her daughter Sofia Semchysyn commented about her killing. "Killed, they killed her near her house during the day, on a sunny day."

Fariou served as a member of the Ukrainian parliament between 2012 and 2014, and was best known for her campaigns to promote the use of the Ukrainian language, urging that Ukrainian officials should not speak Russian. She controversially criticized Russian-speaking members of Ukraine's Azov regiment who defended the port city of Mariupol in the first days of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

**US-Russian journo gets 6-1/2 yrs:** A court has convicted Alsu Kurmasheva, a Russian-American journalist for the US government-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, of spreading false information about the Russian army and sentenced her to 6½ years in prison after a secret trial, court records and officials said Monday.

The conviction in Kazan, the capital of Russia's central region of Tatarstan, came on Friday, the same day that a court in the Russian city of Yekaterinburg convicted Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich of espionage and sentenced him to 16 years in prison in a case that the U.S. called politically motivated.

Kurmasheva, a 47-year-old editor for RFE/RL's Tatar-Bashkir language service, was convicted of "spreading false information" about the military, according to the website of the Supreme Court of Tatarstan. Court spokesperson Natalya Loseva confirmed Kurmasheva's conviction and revealed the sentence to The Associated Press by phone in the case classified as secret.



Sunak



In this handout photo released by Gofa Zone Government Communication Affairs Department, hundreds of people gather at the site of a mudslide in the Kencho Shacha Gozdi district, Gofa Zone, southern Ethiopia on July 22. (AP)

## Death toll in southern Ethiopia mudslides rises to 157 as search operations continue

At least 157 people were killed in mudslides in a remote part of Ethiopia that has been hit with heavy rainfall, many of them as they tried to rescue survivors of an earlier mudslide, local authorities said Tuesday.

Young children and pregnant women were among the victims of the mudslides in the Kencho Shacha Gozdi district of southern Ethiopia, said Dagmawi Ayele, a local administrator.

The death toll rose from 55 late Monday to 157 on Tuesday as search operations continued in the

area, said Kassahun Abayneh, head of the Gofa Zone communications office. Gofa Zone is the administrative area where the mudslides occurred.

Most of the victims were buried in a mudslide on Monday morning as rescue workers searched the steep terrain for survivors of another mudslide the previous day.

At least five people have been pulled alive from the mud, Ayele said.

Another official in Gofa, Markos Melese, said many people remained unaccounted for among the

group that was covered by mud while trying to rescue others.

"We are still searching for the missing," said Melese, director of the disaster response agency in Gofa Zone.

"There are children who are hugging corpses, having lost their entire family, including mother, father, brother and sister, due to the accident," he said.

Landslides are common during Ethiopia's rainy season, which started in July and is expected to last until mid-September. (AP)

## America

## 'Kamala secures enough delegates for nom'

## Vance slams Harris during solo campaign

RADFORD, Virginia, July 23, (AP) — Republican vice presidential nominee JD Vance used his first solo campaign rally Monday to throw fresh barbs at Vice President Kamala Harris a day after President Joe Biden threw the presidential election into upheaval by dropping out and endorsing his second-in-command to lead Democrats against Donald Trump.

The Ohio senator campaigned at his former high school in Middletown before an evening stop in Radford, Virginia, two venues intended to play up his conservative populist appeal across the Rust Belt and small-town America that he said the Biden-Harris administration has forgotten.

"History will remember Joe Biden as not just a quitter, which he is, but as one of the worst presidents in the history of the United States of America," Vance said in Virginia. "But my friends, Kamala Harris is a million times worse and everybody knows it. She signed up for every single one of Joe Biden's failures, and she lied about his mental capacity to serve as president."

## Change

Vance sought to saddle Harris with the administration's record on inflation and immigration, clarifying the lines of attack that the Trump campaign will use even with the change at the top of the Democratic ticket.

"The border crisis is a Kamala Harris crisis," Vance said, accusing Biden and Harris together of rolling back immigration policies that Trump enacted in his White House term. He added Harris is "even more extreme than Biden" because, Vance alleged, she

has designs on abolishing federal immigration enforcement and domestic police forces.

Vance, 39, drew biographical contrasts with Harris, as well, comparing his service in the Marine Corps and small business ownership to Harris "collecting a government paycheck for the last 20 years."

Harris, 59, was a local prosecutor, then California attorney general and a US senator before she ran for president unsuccessfully in 2020 and became Biden's running mate. Vance was elected to the Senate two years ago.

Vance also fulfilled his role as Trump's biggest cheerleader, promising the former president would lead an era of peace and prosperity in a White House encore, while helping Republicans dominate House, Senate and state contests.

## Opportunity

"We've got an opportunity to win races up and down the ballot," he said.

He promised, "You're going to see more and more products stamped with that beautiful logo: 'Made in the USA.'" He also asked the crowd, "Who is sick of sending America's sons and daughters into foreign lands they have no business in?"

The senator carefully stopped short of outright isolationism, however, pledging the US would "punch back hard" when necessary.

Trump's campaign intends to use him heavily across the Rust Belt and swaths of small town America where voters have moved to the right and remain especially frustrated over decades of what Vance called "bad trade deals."

Trump and Vance sat Saturday for a joint interview with Fox News that

was aired Monday evening after the senator's rallies.

## Also:

**WASHINGTON:** US Vice President Kamala Harris has secured the support of enough Democratic delegates to become her party's nominee against Republican **Donald Trump**, according to an Associated Press survey, as top Democrats rallied to her in the aftermath of President **Joe Biden's** decision to drop his bid for reelection.

The quick coalescing behind Harris marked an attempt by the party to put weeks of internecine drama over Biden's political future behind them and to unify behind the task of defeating Trump with just over 100 days until Election Day. Prominent Democratic elected officials, party leaders and political organizations quickly lined up behind Harris in the day after Biden's exit from the race and her campaign set a new 24-hour record for presidential donations on Monday.

Several state delegations met late Monday to confirm their support for Harris, including **Texas** and her home state of **California**. By Monday night, Harris had the support of well more than the 1,976 delegates she'll need to win on a first ballot, according to the AP tally. No other candidate was named by a delegate contacted by the AP.

California state Democratic Chairman **Rusty Hicks** said 75% to 80% of the state's delegation were on a call Tuesday and they unanimously supported Harris.

"I've not heard anyone mentioning or calling for any other candidate," Hicks said. "Tonight's vote was a momentous one."



US Republican vice presidential candidate Sen JD Vance speaks at a campaign rally at Radford University on July 22, in Radford, Va. Vance used his first solo campaign rally Monday to throw fresh barbs at Vice President Kamala Harris. (AP)



Min Aung Hlaing



Lai

## Asia

**Taiwan air force cancels drills:** An approaching typhoon prompted the cancellation of air force drills off Taiwan's east coast on Tuesday, although naval and land exercises were set to continue in other parts of the self-governing island democracy, which China threatens to invade.

The Air Force 5th Tactical Mixed Wing announced the cancellation, citing adverse weather conditions.

According to the Central Weather Bureau, Typhoon Gaemi was heading westward toward the island with sustained winds of 144 kilometers (about 90 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 180 kph (110 mph). Ferries and some domestic flights were canceled Tuesday, Taiwan's Central News Agency said.

This year's drills follow the election of **Lai Cheng-te** as president, who continues the Democratic Progressive Party's near-decade in power. The party rejects Beijing's demands it recognizes Taiwan as a Chinese territory. (AP)

**China falling billboard kills 3:** Three people were killed and seven others injured when a roadside shop billboard collapsed late Monday in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, local emergency management authorities said Tuesday.

A total of 10 people were injured in the accident that occurred at Jinjiang Road in Panlong District at 9:58 p.m., according to the district's emergency management bureau.

Of those injured, three have died despite medical efforts, while the remaining seven are currently receiving treatment in the hospital.

Weather reports indicated that the district experienced showers on Monday, but there were no strong winds. A local resident surnamed Li told Xinhua that it was cloudy

around 10 p.m. with a gentle breeze. (Xinhua)

**Quake hits Fiji Islands region:** An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.1 hit Fiji Islands region at 0745 GMT on Tuesday,



People use umbrellas to avoid the heavy rain brought by typhoon Gaemi in Quezon City, Philippines on July 22. (Xinhua)

the GFZ German Research Center for Geosciences said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 633.4 km, was initially determined to be at 20.93 degrees south latitude and 178.97 degrees west longitude. (Xinhua)

**Manila residential fire kills 1:** A fire at a residential area in the Philippine capital region before dawn Tuesday killed at least one and injured five others, the Bureau of Fire Protection said.

The bureau said the fire that broke out shortly before 4 a.m. local time in Caloocan City trapped a 59-year-old woman resident on the second floor of her house, where rescuers found her charred body under burned debris.

A firefighter at the scene told reporters that the woman tried to escape from her room on the third floor but only made it to the second floor.

Firefighters put out the fire less than two hours later. (Xinhua)

**Junta chief named acting prez:** Senior Gen **Min Aung Hlaing**, the head of Myanmar's military-government, on Monday also took the position of acting president to replace the holder of that post who was unable to perform his duties due to health problems, state media reported.

The announcement of the declaration naming Min Aung Hlaing to replace Myint Swe came four days after his predecessor was publicly reported to be ailing.

It came about a week before the procedures have to be carried out to renew the state of emergency the military originally declared after it seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021. (AP)

		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
↑ DUBAI	- DFMGI	+37.15	4,216.15	SAUDI	- TASI	-69.22	12,105.54
PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	+41.07	6,753.12	↓ JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	-4.61	39,594.39
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+202.90	29,195.24				
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+394.66	79,039.50				

# Business

Earnings per share reached 20.73 fils

## KFH reports net profit attributable to shareholders of KD 341.2 mln for H1 2024, an increase of 2.3% compared to same period last year

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: Chairman of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Hamad Abdulmohsen Al Marzouq announced that KFH achieved a net profit of KD 341.2 million for the first half of 2024 for the Bank shareholders, representing an increase of 2.3% compared to the same period last year. The comparative period included non-recurring revenues and profits from investments amounted to nearly KD 70.0 million.

Earnings per share for the first half of 2024 reached 20.73 fils; an increase of 2.6% compared to the same period last year.

Net financing income for the first half of the year reached KD 558.8 million; an increase of 21.9% compared to the same period last year.

Total operating income for the first half of the year increased, supported by the increase in all core activities to reach KD 823.4 million; an increase of 12.1% compared to the same period last year.

Financing receivables for the first half of 2024 reached KD 19.0 billion, affected by the sale of Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain, as well as the impact of foreign currency fluctuations during the current period.

Total assets as at the end of the first half of the year amounted to KD 36.4 billion. Shareholders' equity amounted to about KD5.3 billion as at the end of the first half of 2024.

Depositors' accounts as at the end of the first half of 2024 amounted to KD 19.5 billion.

In addition, the capital adequacy ratio reached 17.15% which is above the limit required by regulators. This ratio confirms the solid capital base of KFH.

The Board of Directors has agreed to distribute a semi-annual cash dividend of 10% to KFH shareholders.

### Exceptional financial performance

Al Marzouq said that the profits reflect KFH's effective strategy, resulting in exceptional financial performance, noting that KFH has implemented various qualitative initiatives and accomplishments, strengthening KFH's leadership both locally and globally, while reinforcing its reputation as a benchmark in the banking sector.

He stated that the financial statements demonstrated a solid capital base, high liquidity ratios and robust operating performance which drove growth in all key financial indicators.

### Largest market cap

Al Marzouq added that KFH succeeded in attaining the key goals of its strategy, overcoming the challenges of the operational environment. He noted that KFH maintained its long-term credit rating at (A) by Fitch with stable outlook and at A2 by Moody's with stable outlook.

He pointed out that KFH ranked first among the largest listed companies and banks on Boursa Kuwait in terms of a market capitalization which currently exceeded KD 12 billion. Additionally, KFH claimed third place among the top 20 Middle East and Africa Banks by market cap according to the latest S&P Global Intelligence analysis.

### Strategic plans

Al Marzouq explained that KFH currently operates in 12 countries around the world, notably Kuwait, Bahrain, Türkiye, Egypt, UK and Germany through a large international network of 618 branches. He noted that KFH holds the distinction of being the first Islamic bank in Germany and the first licensed under Malaysia's Banking Act. Furthermore, KFH is the second largest Islamic financier in Türkiye. Today, KFH demonstrates a stronger local, regional and global footprint.

He went on to say that KFH implemented strategic steps to strengthen its expansion and solvency, develop its operations, and keep pace with technology and digital banking updates. He mentioned that the most significant initiatives include KFH's acquisition of Ahli United Bank Group - Bahrain, its conversion to a Sharia-compliant bank along with its subsidiaries, and the completion of the merger with Ahli United Bank-Kuwait (AUBK). Additionally, KFH Group completed the agreement with Al Salam Bank to acquire, in return for cash consolidation, the entire share of KFH Group in KFH - Bahrain. Furthermore, the launch of TAM Digital Bank marks another key milestone as the first Sharia-compliant digital



Hamad Al Marzouq



Abdulwahab Al Rushood

- **Al Marzouq:** KFH implemented strategic steps to strengthen its expansion and solvency
- KFH ranked first in Kuwait and the third in the region among the list of top banks by market cap

- **Al Rushood:** KFH tops Kuwaiti banking sector in terms of net profits
- KFH is enhancing its investment in Artificial Intelligence and cloud computing
- KFH's inclusion in FTSE-4Good Index reinforces the Bank's leadership in ESG standards

- Net financing income reached KD 558.8 million; an increase of 21.9%
- Total operating income reached KD 823.4 million, an increase of 12.1%

bank in Kuwait.

### Financing development projects

Al Marzouq said that KFH is the first strategic partner for major development plans. KFH is also one of the most preferred and trusted institutions in the Kuwaiti banking sector for corporate finance thanks to its innovative, flexible and efficient Sharia-compliant financing solutions. The Bank also offers comprehensive financing solutions across various project sectors, with a particular focus on petrochemicals, oil and gas, water and energy, renewable energy, and infrastructure as well as SMEs.

### Strategic social initiatives

Al Marzouq highlighted KFH's prominent role in strategic social initiatives with significant added value. These initiatives include contributing KD 8 million to the reconstruction of Al Mubarakiya. KFH further demonstrated its commitment by participating in the national campaign to help defaulting debtors. The contribution consisted of additional funds amounting to KD 7 million, bringing the total amount aimed to debtors to nearly KD 38 million since 2019. Additionally, KFH partnered with the Kuwait Food Bank, pledging KD 1 million to support underprivileged families in Kuwait, in addition to the many strategic social initiatives.

### Strong financial position

KFH's Acting Group Chief Executive Officer, Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood,

highlighted KFH's strong H1 2024 profits as a confirmation of the Bank's continued leadership in the Kuwaiti banking sector. He further emphasized that all financial indicators for the first half point to the success of KFH's strategy. This strategy prioritizes achieving sustainable profits, solidifying the bank's financial position, maintaining high asset quality, achieving a favorable cost-to-income ratio, maintaining a healthy coverage ratio for non-performing debts, growing operating income, and strengthening both liquidity and capital adequacy ratios.

### Digital financial solutions

Al Rushood stated that KFH is committed to providing top-notch digital financial services and solutions in addition to investing in technological infrastructure and expanding its capabilities in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, cloud computing, Data Engineering, FinTech, Digital Product Design, and cybersecurity controls. Additionally, KFH has successfully transitioned numerous processes and functions from manual systems to automated systems through the use of Robotic Process Automation (RPA). This has led to improved production efficiency, reduced service times for customers and increased their satisfaction levels.

### FTSE Index

Al Rushood emphasized KFH's exceptional dedication towards investing in green finance products and integrating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ESG principles across all its operations. He expressed his pleasure in KFH's recent inclusion in the FTSE4 Good Index Series. Created by the global index and data provider FTSE Russell, the FTSE4 Good Index Series is designed to measure the performance of companies demonstrating strong Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices. Al Rushood indicated that FTSE4 Good Index includes prestigious companies such as Google and Microsoft.

He highlighted KFH's release of the carbon footprint report and sustainability report, the first-of-its-kind in the Kuwaiti banking sector, as well as the ongoing (Keep it Green) campaign, which encompasses numerous sustainability initiatives.

He also added that KFH signed the Global Takaful Alliance agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This alliance aims to provide Takaful insurance to 100 million farmers worldwide. Al Rushood noted that KFH's efforts and outstanding performance in the filed have earned the bank several awards, including Kuwait's Best Bank for Sustainable Finance by Global Finance magazine and Kuwait's Best Bank for ESG by Euromoney.

### Investing in human capital

Al Rushood pointed out that KFH remains committed to investing in its human capital and supporting employees in honing their skills and enriching their experiences. He highlighted the launch of Business Leadership Excellence program in partnership with IE Business School, Forsahh program, in addition to many programs with Harvard University and other esteemed international universities. These programs focus on empowering KFH's talents and leaders to qualify them as well-rounded professionals and sustain KFH's successful journey.

### Global recognition

Al Rushood underlined the many local and global awards KFH has scooped. The awards confirm its reputation, diverse capabilities in the Islamic finance sector, brand excellence, and robust operating performance. These include winning Kuwait's Best Bank, Best Digital Bank in Kuwait for Tam Digital Bank and Kuwait's Best Bank for ESG awards by Euromoney, in addition to Kuwait's Best Bank for Sustainable Finance by Global Finance magazine. KFH also received the His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award under the patronage and presence of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for the category of excellence in digital transformation in technical financial solutions, in addition to winning several awards in different areas.

### Appreciation

Al Rushood thanked shareholders, customers, and the Board of Directors for their trust and support. He acknowledged the role of the Central Bank of Kuwait and regulatory authorities, and praised the efforts of the Executive Management, employees, partners, and all stakeholders. Al Rushood emphasized KFH's commitment in exerting the efforts to strengthen and maintain its position as a leading Islamic bank globally.

## Highest in Kuwait Banking Sector

Praise be to Allah

## Net Profit for ShareHolders H1 of 2024

# 341.2

“KD Million”

	30/06/2024	30/06/2023	%
<b>Net Profit for Shareholders</b> “KD Million”	341.2	333.4	2.3
<b>Earnings per Share</b> “Fils”	20.73	20.21	2.6
<b>Net Financing Income</b> “KD Million”	558.8	458.5	21.9
<b>Total Operating Income</b> “KD Million”	823.4	734.4	12.1
<b>Net Operating Income</b> “KD Million”	525.5	489.1	7.4

	30/06/2024	31/12/2023	%
<b>Total Assets</b> “KD Million”	36,425	38,010	(4.2)
<b>Financing Receivables*</b> “KD Million”	19,002	19,425	(2.2)
<b>Depositors' Accounts*</b> “KD Million”	19,539	21,813	(10.4)
<b>Shareholders' equity</b> “KD Million”	5,346	5,316	0.6

\* Financing receivable and depositors accounts decreased due to the effect of Sale “Kuwait Finance House – Bahrain”, as well as the impact of foreign currency fluctuations during the current period.

The Board of Directors approved distribution of an interim cash dividend of 10% to the Shareholders.

## BUSINESS

Market liquidity rises to KD 35.8 mln

## Boursa Kuwait indices rebound, general market index up 0.64%

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: The Boursa Kuwait saw a significant rebound in its indices, with the general market index climbing by 0.64 percent, or 45.39 points, to close at 7117.62 points, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This resurgence was accompanied by increased liquidity, which rose to 35.8 million dinars from 26.6 million dinars in the previous session.

The trading activity was robust, with 143.5 million shares changing hands through 10,783 transactions. Out of 125 traded shares, 63 gained, 42 lost, and 20 remained unchanged.

The Premier Market Index increased by 0.45 percent, or 34.93 points, closing at 7,756.00 points, with liquidity reaching 28.4 million

dinars.

This segment saw 93.2 million shares traded across 7,052 transactions, with 22 out of 34 traded shares gaining, 7 losing, and 5 remaining unchanged.

In the main market index, a notable gain of 1.58 percent, or 93.16 points, brought the index to 6,006.23 points, with liquidity of 7.3 million dinars.

This market saw 50.3 million shares traded through 3,731 transactions, with 41 of the 91 traded shares gaining, 35 losing, and 15 remaining unchanged.

The session marked a strong rebound after several days of declines and decreased activity. Early focus

was on IFA, Arzan, and Investment House shares, with a significant uptick in liquidity.

Leading stocks like Gulf Insurance provided a boost to the main market index, and buying activity in stocks such as KFH, Watani, and Agility further supported the indices.

The positive session was also supported by growth in US futures market indices and a rise in gold prices. Conversely, GCC market indices displayed mixed performances: Oman, Dubai, and Saudi Arabia saw declines, with Oman experiencing the largest drop of over one percent, while other Gulf indices rose. Oil prices were lower, with Brent crude hovering around \$82 per barrel.

Nation faces KD 26 bln budget deficit by 2029

## Kuwait plans new govt 'bond' market to address fiscal trials

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: In response to Kuwait's fiscal challenges and the need for development funding, preliminary steps are underway to establish a market for trading government bonds, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This initiative aims to provide an additional financing avenue for several key projects, including the Failaka Island development, Al-Shaqaya Renewable Energy Complex, Northern Economic Zone, Digital economy projects, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port expansion, housing projects and renewable energy and other development ventures.

According to the Finance Minister, Kuwait is expected to face a cumulative budget deficit of approximately 26 billion dinars between the fiscal years

2025-2026 and 2028-2029, based on an average oil price of \$76 per barrel.

To address this deficit and fund development projects, there is a push to establish a market for government bonds and sukuk. This initiative is expected to support capital spending and provide a stable investment outlet.

Government development bonds are seen as risk-free obligations from the government, offering a secure investment option. The bonds will be tradable in the Kuwaiti market, with prices determined by supply and demand.

Kuwait has previously issued bonds in 2014 and 2017, and has outstanding local and global debts totaling around 3,040 billion dinars.

This includes 210 million dinars

(80 million dinars in Islamic bonds and 130 million dinars in conventional bonds due between 2024 and 2027); 1,370 billion dinars due on March 20, 2027, from an issuance on March 20, 2017, at a fixed interest rate of 3.5 percent; efforts to create a secondary market for trading these bonds, a move anticipated to enhance liquidity and provide better financing options for development projects and the Capital Markets Authority working to include commercial bonds and instruments on the stock platform, which will facilitate the establishment of this new bond market.

The initiative is part of broader efforts to improve Kuwait's financial situation and diversify its non-oil resources.

Kuwait oil price down to \$84.31 pb

## Oil prices up in Asia amid Fed rate cut speculation

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: Oil prices experienced a rise in Asia Monday morning, driven by investor anticipation of potential interest rate cuts by the United States Federal Reserve, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Here's a summary of the current market situation and oil price movements:

Brent crude -- Up by 32 cents (0.39%), reaching \$82.95 per barrel; West Texas Intermediate (WTI) -- Increased by 34 cents (0.42%), to \$80.47 per barrel.

The following are the key factors influencing prices:

U.S. interest rates -- The Federal Reserve's next Open Market Committee meeting is scheduled for July 30 and 31. Investors are expecting the Fed to maintain current interest rates but are looking for signals about a possible cut in September.

Political developments -- US President Joe Biden's recent announcement of withdrawing from the presidential race has had a minimal impact on oil markets. Biden endorsed Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee for the up-

coming election.

China's economic data -- China reported slower-than-expected economic growth of 4.7% in the second quarter of the year, raising concerns about potential impacts on oil demand. In response, China cut its key short-term interest rates and benchmark lending rates to stimulate the economy.

Despite these measures, analysts have not observed significant structural changes or transformations in China's economic policies that could immediately affect global markets.

Also:

**KUWAIT CITY:** The price of Kuwait oil went down by USD 2.09 to USD 84.31 per barrel on Monday as opposed to USD 86.40 pb last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday.

Globally, the price of Brent crude oil went down by 23 cents to USD 82.40 per barrel, the same occurred with the West Texas Intermediate, which also went down by 35 cents to USD 79.78 pb. (KUNA)

10% profit allocation on agenda

## Burgan Well Drilling to hold general assembly in August

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: Burgan Well Drilling, Trading, and Maintenance Company will hold its General Assembly on August 15, 2024, to address several key agenda items for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Board of Directors has recommended a cash dividend distribution of 5% of the nominal and paid-up capital, equating to 5 fils per 100 shares, excluding treasury shares. The assembly will also consider allocating 10% of the net profits, totaling KWD 331.54 thousand, to the optional reserve account.

Other significant items on the agenda include approval of the Board of Directors' remuneration of KWD 18 thousand for the past fiscal year and authorization for the Board to trade in the company's

treasury shares, with the limit set at 10% of the total shares, in compliance with Law No. 2010/7 and its amendments.

This is in addition to release of the Board of Directors from liability for their actions related to legal, financial, and administrative matters for the fiscal year and appointment or reappointment of auditors, with names to be selected from those registered with the Capital Markets Authority. The assembly will also decide on the auditors' fees.

An alternative date of August 22, 2024, has been set in case the initial meeting does not meet quorum requirements.

The company reported a slight increase in profits for the fiscal year, rising by 0.28% to KWD 3.14 million, compared to KWD 3.13 million in 2022.

## PAHW & First Group collaborate to implement West Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City project

587 houses to be handed over in phase two

By Saeed Mahmood

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 23:** In collaboration with the First Group Company for General Trading and Contracting, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has commenced the infrastructure construction project for the West Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City. This project includes the construction and maintenance of the infrastructure in West Sabah Al-Ahmad City, such as the road, electricity, water, and drainage networks, the public service facilities, and a total of 587 houses.

Chairman of the First Group Company for General Trading and Contracting Engineer Emeel Abdullah explained that the company delivered the completed infrastructures to the respective public institutions including Public Authority for Housing Welfare, Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Interior, and the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources PAAAFR.

These institutions initially received the subsidiary infrastructures, and have a couple of weeks to provide any feedback, which will be addressed accordingly.

The infrastructures that have already been handed over represent the first phase of the project. The second phase, which consists of fully constructed 587 houses, will be delivered on Wednesday, July 24. The third phase, involving the public service facilities, will be handed over on Thursday, July 25.

Abdullah revealed that the project, which was launched on November 7, 2021, was not an easy task, indicating that it was completed as scheduled despite the difficulties and challenges faced by First Group Company for General Trading and Contracting.

He explained that the project began during the time when the COV-



Chairman Emeel Abdullah in the middle of representatives of PAHW and First Group Co senior engineers.



Emeel Abdullah, Chairman of First Group Co.



Eng. Al Sayyed Al Mullah, Director of roads and Infrastructures Department in First Group Co.

ID-19 crisis emerged, during which there was a curfew and a shortage of workers. However, the company managed to overcome those challenges by hiring 600 workers from Nepal to replace the workers who belonged to specific nationalities that were barred from entering Kuwait.

The project involved an average of 2,200 engineers and workers, which would increase to 3,000 during certain periods.

The project spans a total area of 582,000 square meters, and costs a total of KD 68 million. It involves the use of the latest modern styles and incorporates high-quality materials, some of which are being used in Kuwait for the first time. Additionally, sustainable energy adoption was a priority for the company, with the medical center equipped with a

solar energy system and the houses featuring central heaters aimed at reducing traditional energy consumption by nearly 20 percent. The houses are supplied with luxurious finishing touches, including central water filters, suspended ceilings, energy-efficient central air conditioning, fully furnished kitchens and bathrooms, and high-quality wooden doors and windows.

Abdullah pointed out several technical challenges the company faced during the project implementation, including uneven ground levels that required extensive effort to level by filling low areas with sand up to two to four meters high.

He revealed that the company, despite having a grace period beyond the scheduled completion date, did not need to utilize it, as they finished

the project earlier than planned. Abdullah highlighted the keenness of the First Group Company for General Trading and Contracting to be one among the real estate developers in Kuwait to work in line with Kuwait's future strategy, due to its 30 years of experience in this field, particularly in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait where they have executed numerous major projects.

He said, "Currently, the company is involved in several projects in Kuwait, such as constructing three towers in the Hessa Al-Mubarak project, developing public facilities in Al-Mutlaa Residential City and West Abdullah Mubarak City, establishing youth centers for young men and women in Sabah Al-Ahmad City, and completing infrastructure works in the southern part of Sabah Al-Ahmad City." Abdullah expressed appreciation for the cooperation and support received from various public institutions in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the Construction Manager at First Group Company for General Trading and Contracting Engineer Hesham Roshdy affirmed the commitment of the company to implement the most advanced designs, utilize top-quality materials, and hire highly efficient and innovative engineers and most skilful workers.

He expressed the company's readiness to receive feedback from the relevant institutions within the next few weeks, which will be promptly addressed.

93 properties traded, totaling 92 million dinars

## Real estate market sees 14% surge in transactions

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 23:** The Kuwaiti real estate market experienced a notable surge in transactions from July 8 to 11, as highlighted by the latest weekly statistical report from the Real Estate Registration and Documentation Departments at the Ministry of Justice.

The report reveals that 93 properties were traded during this period, with a total value of approximately 92 million dinars. This represents a significant 14% increase, equating to an additional 13 million dinars compared to the previous week's trading value of 79 million dinars.

According to the statistics, 64 private properties were registered this week, totaling around 42 million dinars -- an increase of 16 million dinars from the prior week. In contrast, 24 investment properties were recorded for 24 million dinars, marking a decrease of 19 million dinars compared to the previous week.

Additionally, transactions included a craft property worth 1.29 million dinars, down from 4 craft properties valued at 3.8 million dinars last week. The report also noted registrations for a warehouse property at 2.55 million dinars, a coastal property at 1.6 million dinars, and two commercial properties totaling 21 million dinars.

Regionally, the Hawalli area led the transactions with a total value of 34.7

Real estate fraud risks remain with new home licensing

## Behbehani sees home licenses as market booster & office alternative

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: Khaled Behbehani, a prominent real estate and commercial developer, has voiced support for the recent decision to allow home licenses for real estate brokers, seeing it as a positive development for the industry, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Contrary to some critics, Behbehani views these licenses as a chance to invigorate the market and a beneficial alternative to traditional office spaces, which typically have rental values ranging from 3,000 to 3,600 dinars annually.

Behbehani also addressed concerns about real estate fraud. He pointed out that such fraudulent activities were prevalent in the past through both office-based and home-based brokers. The presence of

the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, records all transactions between buyers and sellers. In case of any issues, this book serves as a reliable reference.

"I have no problem dealing with brokers who hold home licenses," Behbehani stated. "I actually prefer working with young brokers. The important thing is the 'dawal' book, which ensures transparency and accountability in transactions. Whether a broker operates from home or an office, the monitoring standards remain the same."

Behbehani also addressed concerns about real estate fraud. He pointed out that such fraudulent activities were prevalent in the past through both office-based and home-based brokers. The presence of

home licenses, he argued, does not change the nature of potential fraud, as fraudulent intent can exist regardless of the broker's operating location.

He proposed the establishment of an independent authority for contracts to streamline and regulate buying, selling, and leasing processes, akin to practices in many countries worldwide.

This authority could help enhance transparency and efficiency in real estate transactions, contributing to a more robust market.

Overall, Behbehani believes that the new licensing approach will not only diversify the market but also provide a platform for emerging talent in the real estate sector.

million dinars, making it the highest among Kuwait's six governorates. It was followed by Mubarak Al-Kabeer

Governorate with 21 million dinars, the Capital Governorate with 15.1 million dinars, Ahmadi Governorate with

8.3 million dinars, Farwaniya Governorate with 5.7 million dinars, and Jahra Governorate with 2.1 million dinars.



## Bank shares security tips to prevent fraud

## NBK urges verification before sharing sensitive information

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) always seeks to promote financial awareness and inclusion among all sectors of society. In this context, the bank continues to intensify its engagement in the "Let's Be Aware" campaign launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait, in collaboration with local banks and Kuwait Banking Association (KBA).

As NBK is fully committed to protecting its customers and raising financial awareness among all the public, it actively seeks to monitor and combat emerging electronic fraud threats, as well as educate customers on required precautions.

In this context, NBK always calls to verify individual and corporate identities before sharing sensitive information or making transactions using personal or banking information. This is particularly crucial in view of the rapidly evolving fraud schemes, like impersonating relatives or friends on WhatsApp or e-mail to obtain money, or impersonating well-known companies through clone websites using the same logo to trick victims into believing they are credible.

The bank also affirms that it will never ask customers for personal information phone calls, warning them of responding to these calls which are scams to obtain their banking information to steal their money or information.

The bank also calls customers to follow the security tips posted on all its social media platforms and other

digital channels including cautious dealing with links and not saving any confidential information such as: debit/credit card number/PIN on the mobile phone, as well as not to write down the PIN on the card or share it or OTP with any person. It also advises them to log out of the mobile banking app or website once the transaction is completed.

NBK intensifies awareness campaigns by sharing educational and awareness content including video clips, text messages and tips on all its social media platforms and other digital channels, in addition to reposting CBK's related communications to raise awareness among all segments of society on the various fraud techniques and required precautions.

NBK employs its strong customer communication capabilities as well as all its sector-leading digital channels to support the Central Bank's endeavors to protect customers and the national economy.

It is worth mentioning that NBK is a key promoter and participant in all CBK's campaigns and initiatives to increase financial and banking awareness among different segments of society. As the leading financial institution in Kuwait, the bank frequently organizes various activities to raise awareness on all topics related to the banking sector, as well as many training courses for its employees to enhance their knowledge and expertise in the areas of combating fraud and financial crime.



# KIB Group's net profits during H1 '24 reach KD 12 mln

Bank records a NP growth of 103%

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) Chairman Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah revealed the financial results for the first half (H1) of the year, which ended on 30 June 2024. During this period, KIB achieved KD 12 million of net profit attributable to shareholders, (i.e. 103% growth) with earnings per share (EPS) standing at 5.99 fils.

Commenting on the results, Al-Jarrah asserted that KIB delivered an outstanding financial performance during the first six months of 2024. He said: "The financial results reflect the strength of the Bank's financial position, its flexible business model and its ability to achieve sustainable profits. This success is attributed to KIB's effective strategy, its digital infrastructure investments and its efforts to attract the best national talents."

Al-Jarrah added: "The financial results recorded during the first half of the year 2024 confirm that the Bank enjoys a strong and stable capital base, enabling us to pursue further development, enhance our digital capabilities, evolve our innovation-driven operations and expand our financing and investment activities on different levels." He also noted KIB's readiness to participate in financing various development projects in Kuwait.

Delving into the Bank's interim financial statement for H1 2024, Al-Jarrah stated that KIB's total assets grew to reach almost KD 3.50 billion, this growth was the result of an increase in the size of financing portfolio to reach



Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah, Chairman.



Raed Jawad Bukhamseen, Vice Chairman and CEO.

KD 2.52 billion as at 30 June 2024. In addition, he noted that KIB's investment and high-quality Sukuk portfolio stood at KD 405 million.

Al-Jarrah highlighted that depositors' accounts witnessed a growth by

Major Financial results for the 1H 2024			
	1H 2024	1H 2023	
Net Financing Income 'KD Million'	31.0	23.4	33% ↑
Operating Income 'KD Million'	41.9	35.4	19% ↑
Profit attributable to shareholders 'KD Million'	12.0	5.9	103% ↑
EPS 'Fils'	5.99	2.79	115% ↑
Financing Receivables 'KD Billion'	2.52	2.47	2% ↑
Total Assets 'KD Billion'	3.50	3.41	3% ↑
Depositors' Accounts 'KD Billion'	2.12	1.89	12% ↑
Equity attributable to shareholders 'KD Million'	336.3	314.3	7% ↑

12% to reach almost KD 2.12 billion at the end of 30 June 2024. In addition, the shareholder equity, stood at almost KD 336 million (i.e. 7% growth) due to KIB successfully maintaining adequate levels of Basel III total capital adequacy ratio, which was 19.5% at the end of H1 2024.

On his part, KIB Vice Chairman and CEO Raed Jawad Bukhamseen pointed out that KIB has maintained sustainable profit growth and continued to achieve positive financial results thanks to its long-term strategy to keep pace with the banking sector's rapid and continuous advancement, with a core focus on innovation, transformation and agile development. "Our continuous efforts aim to achieve our mission of providing an exceptional banking experience for our customers, ensuring the application of best

responsible banking practices and risk management, while committing to providing added value to our shareholders," he said.

Bukhamseen presented the key financial results for the first half of the year 2024, where financing income increased to reach KD 89 million, compared to almost KD 82 million, with a growth rate of 9% on an annual basis, and net financing income increased to reach a KD 31 million, compared to almost KD 23 million, with a growth rate of 33% on an annual basis, and an increase in fees and commission income to reach KD 7.8 million, compared to an KD 6 million, with a growth rate of 28% on an annual basis, as this contributed to an increase in operating income to reach almost KD 42 million compared to KD 35 million, with a growth rate of 19% on an annual



basis for the period ended 30 June.

Bukhamseen highlighted KIB's notable achievements during the first half of 2024, pointing out that the Bank successfully issued a USD 300 million Additional Tier 1 (AT1) Sukuk at an annual profit rate of 6.625%. The issuance attracted high investor demand, resulting in an oversubscription of over twice the original size of the issued Sukuk. The final pricing represented the tightest spread ever achieved on an AT1 Sukuk globally at the time of issuance, at 195 basis points above US Treasuries. In addition, KIB has fully redeemed the Tier 1 Sukuk issued in 2019 by way of exercising the sukuk Call Option.

Finally, Bukhamseen pointed out that the subsidiaries of the KIB continue to achieve tangible achievements in diversifying and developing products

and services, targeting all companies in their various sectors to provide innovative and advanced services.

In their concluding remarks, both Bukhamseen and Al-Jarrah lauded the role of the Central Bank of Kuwait and its continuous support, and expressed gratitude to the Capital Markets Authority for fostering an attractive and competitive investment environment in the State of Kuwait. They also praised the diligent efforts of all teams at KIB and their contributions to achieving these results, expressing their sincere appreciation to KIB's Board of Directors and its Executive Management for their continuous support and wise guidance towards further strengthening the Bank's financial position and meeting all requirements related to environmental, social and corporate governance.

## The Conversation

A tax expert explains

### How do 9 US states get by with no income tax?

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

□ □ □

By Caroline Bruckner

American University Kogod School of Business

Curious Kids is a series for children of all ages. If you have a question you'd like an expert to answer, send it to [curiouskids@theconversation.com](mailto:curiouskids@theconversation.com).

How can some states get by with no income tax? - Vonnie, age 12, Auburn, Alabama

Right before I was born in the 1970s, my family moved to Texas from Nebraska. A big reason was because Texas was - and still is - considered a low-tax state, and my dad wanted to start his business there.

Texas is also one of nine states that don't have an income tax on the "earned income" of people working there.

That doesn't mean Texas doesn't impose any taxes on its residents - it does. Texas has other taxes to help pay for schools, hospitals, health care, roads, airports, firefighters, business loans, public safety and all kinds of other public services. For example, Texas has some of the highest property tax rates in the United States.

Understanding the kinds of taxes that states can collect can be complicated. As a tax professor and policy expert, it's my job to explain how our tax system is designed and operates.

In general, states have the power to tax their residents. When residents choose to live in a state, they benefit from that state's laws and protections and pay taxes as part of sharing the costs of government.

Like how the U.S. Constitution gives the U.S. government the right to impose federal taxes, every state has its own state constitution and laws that may impose taxes on a range of items. They might tax earned income from wages, money earned from investments, purchases of alcohol, fuel, tobacco or groceries, or any number of other items, industries and activities, such as sports events and hotel stays. There are lots of different kinds of taxes, and every state has unique rules.

Not just politicians decide what and how much tax to collect. Citizens often vote on whether to impose, increase or eliminate state taxes. For example, on Election Day in November 2024, voters in some states will be asked whether they want the state to increase taxes to fund social programs. In Oregon, voters will decide whether to increase taxes on corporations operating there to pay for a new anti-poverty program.

Among the states that do have a personal income tax on wages,

the tax rates can either be the same percentage of everyone's income or they can vary depending on how big the person's paycheck is. In some states, tax rates increase as a taxpayer makes more money.

The nine states that don't have an earned income tax are Alaska, Florida, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. Two of those - New Hampshire and Washington - do tax some income, such as money earned from stocks and other investments, but they don't tax income earned from working.

When a state doesn't impose income taxes, it often imposes other taxes to pay for education, roads, health care and other public services.

In some cases, states will impose higher sales taxes or higher property taxes, such as taxes on a person's home value. Or they may rely on cities and counties to impose those taxes to pay for services. For example, Tennessee has no state income tax, but it has one of the highest combined state and local sales tax rates - 9.548% - of any state.

On the other hand, Alaska is one of the lowest-tax states. It does not have a state income tax or state sales tax. Alaska does, however, have a state property tax, and it is able to impose significant taxes on the oil and gas companies that operate there. Its cities and other local jurisdictions can also impose sales tax at the local level, and they often do.

There are both benefits and drawbacks to living in states that don't impose a state income tax.

You might save money. But that doesn't mean you will pay no taxes, and there are trade-offs to consider. Sometimes, states with no income taxes do not have the best public services.

For example, you may want to move to a state such as Texas to avoid paying income taxes, but you will need to be prepared to pay more for health care. In general, Texas has some of the lowest government spending on health care or public transportation.

When states impose higher property taxes or sales taxes to bring in enough money to make up for the lack of an income tax, that can also affect the overall affordability of living in a no-income-tax state.

This matters the most for lower-income people because state sales taxes have a greater impact on overall affordability. For example, students going to college and working part time may have low incomes. But if they live in a state with a high sales tax instead of an income tax, they will be paying the same high rate as fully employed people with much higher incomes. As a result, the students may struggle more to make ends meet than the full-time worker.

## Beijing lays out roadmap for its future

### China moves to pep up its slowing economy

BANGKOK, July 23, (AP): China's ruling Communist Party released a 50-page roadmap addressing long-term challenges confronting the world's second-largest economy, while the central bank cut key interest rates Monday in a surprise move to pep up the struggling property sector.

The action by the People's Bank of China was a short-term adjustment that appeared to signal a recognition that the economy needs immediate help to complement the party's broader ambitions of following leader Xi Jinping's vision for transforming China into a "high-standard socialist market economy in all respects" by 2035.

"If we are to break new ground in advancing Chinese modernization on the new journey in the new era, we must continue to rely on reform and opening up," Xi said in a written explanation of reforms endorsed last week at a four-day policy-setting meeting.

Overall, the outline of reforms aligns with the ruling party's long-standing ambitions to cement China's status as a leading technology and economic power, while addressing imbalances in its economy, which expanded at a slower-than-expected 4.7% annual pace in the last quarter, down from 5.3% in January-March.

The party's latest plan, 50 pages long in English, contains more than 300 reforms including promises to beef up social welfare such as pensions and health care, improve local government finances and protect private property rights.

It promises a "first-rate business environment" that will protect the rights and interests of foreign investors and make it more convenient for people from elsewhere to live in China. It also pledges equal market access and support for private enterprises and state-owned companies and better "international coordination" of economic policies.

But the reforms also put a higher priority on national security, Xi said. That may prove troubling to foreign companies operating in China that say ever-widening definitions of what might affect national security pose a serious risk to their operations and employees.

The document released Sunday is more detailed than a communique released Thursday after the party meet-

### China cuts interest rates on standing lending facility

BEIJING, July 23, (Xinhua): China's central bank lowered the interest rates on its standing lending facility (SLF) on Monday, aiming to improve the monetary policy transmission mechanism.

According to the People's Bank of China, the overnight rate was cut by 10 basis points to 2.55 percent, and the seven-day and one-month rates were each lowered by 10 basis points to 2.7 percent and 3.05 percent, respectively.

The SLF, introduced by the central bank early in 2013, serves as a channel to meet the liquidity needs of financial institutions. These institutions can take out SLF loans from the central bank, using qualified bonds and other credit assets as collateral.

Earlier on Monday, the central bank lowered the interest rate on seven-day reverse repos, a key short-term policy rate, from 1.8 percent to 1.7 percent amid efforts to strengthen counter-cyclical adjustments and better support the real

economy. But the reforms it promises are laid out in broad strokes, with constant references to developing "mechanisms" to address each and every problem - the word mechanism appears 200 times in the English version and 242 times in Chinese.

Actual laws and regulations for achieving the goals of the policy roadmap will come later.

"We think these measures, if well implemented promptly, should help improve resource allocation, contain financial risks, unleash some growth potential, and underpin investors' confidence, while the actual implementation and policy clarity and sustainability will be the key," UBS economists Nina Zhang and Tao Wang said in a report.

The party has acknowledged some of the thorniest problems that have slowed China's recovery from the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, chief among them weak consumer demand.

A prolonged slump in the property market after regulators cracked down on excessive borrowing by develop-

ers unleashed a chain reaction that has pulled housing sales and prices lower and hit many other parts of the economy, such as construction, building materials and home appliances.

The party's plan includes pledges to provide more affordable housing, reform financing of property development, raise rural incomes and "properly regulate excessive incomes."

Rural migrants should have the same access to public services as long-term city dwellers, and the government will enact more incentives, including subsidies, to encourage Chinese families to have more children, the document says.

As pressures have mounted in the economy and markets, regulators have been fine-tuning policy tools, relaxing restrictions on property purchases and tinkering with monetary policy.

So far, China's leaders have steered clear of the sorts of massive stimulus other major economies deployed during the pandemic. But their latest meeting did promise more government spending to help spur growth, said Julian Evans-

and other aspects of the economy. The official interest rate is the most popular tool by which central banks influence the economy.

Experts suggest that as the level of interest rate marketization continues to rise and the transmission mechanism of interest rates becomes more robust, two policy interest rates are no longer necessary, as the central bank is expected to primarily control the short-term interest rate.

"In the future, it could be considered to clearly designate a short-term operational interest rate of the central bank as the main policy interest rate," Pan Gongsheng, China's central bank governor, said earlier at the Lujiazui Forum held in Shanghai.

The seven-day reverse repo operation rate has essentially taken on this function. Pan said the interest rates of monetary policy tools of other terms can be stripped of their policy interest rate characteristics.

Pritchard of Capital Economics.

"While today's rate cuts offer some reassurance that policymakers are being responsive to the recent loss of economic momentum, the heavy lifting will need to come from fiscal, not monetary, policy," he said in a report.

Early Monday, the central bank cut the five-year loan prime rate, which is a benchmark for mortgages, to 3.85% from 3.95%. The one-year loan prime rate, which affects most business loans, fell to 3.35% from 3.45%. The PBOC also reduced its required collateral for medium-term loans to banks and injected more funds into the banking system.

Investors appear to be hungry for still more aggressive action.

The Shanghai Composite index fell 0.6% on Monday, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng jumped 1.3% on buying of heavyweight technology shares on expectations that policies favoring advanced technology and innovation will favor sectors like electric vehicles, computer chips and new materials. Property stocks mostly fell.

Airlines have large, layered technology systems, and crew-tracking programs are often among the oldest systems. When the outage began Friday, it also affected systems used to check in passengers and make pre-flight calculations about aircraft weight and balance, airlines reported. United and American reported intermittent problems communicating with crews in the air, contributing to their decisions to briefly ground all flights.

Some airlines, including Southwest and Alaska, do not use CrowdStrike, the provider of cybersecurity software whose faulty upgrade to Microsoft Windows triggered the outages. Those carriers saw relatively few cancellations.

## Most airlines except one recovering from the 'CrowdStrike' tech outage

WASHINGTON, July 23, (AP): Delta Air Lines struggled for a fourth straight day to recover from a worldwide technology outage caused by a faulty software update, stranding tens of thousands of passengers and drawing unwanted attention from the federal government.

The airline's chief executive said it would take "another couple days" before "the worst is clearly behind us." Delta's chief information officer said Monday that the airline was still trying to fix a vital crew-scheduling program.

Other carriers were returning to nearly normal levels of service disruptions, intensifying the glare on Delta's relatively weaker response to the outage that hit airlines, hospitals and businesses around the world.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg spoke to Delta CEO Ed Bastian on Sunday about the airline's high number of cancellations since Friday. Buttigieg said his agency had received

"hundreds of complaints" about Delta, and he expects the airline to provide hotels and meals for travelers who are delayed and to issue quick refunds to customers who don't want to be rebooked on a later flight.

"No one should be stranded at an airport overnight or stuck on hold for hours waiting to talk to a customer service agent," Buttigieg said. He vowed to help Delta passengers by enforcing air-travel consumer-protection rules.

Bastian said in a video for employees that he told Buttigieg, "You do not need to remind me. I know, because we do our very best, particularly in tough times, taking care of our customers."

Delta has canceled more than 5,500 flights since the outage started early Friday morning, including at least 700 flights canceled on Monday, according to aviation-data provider Cirium. Delta and its regional affiliates accounted for about two-thirds of all cancellations worldwide Monday, including nearly

all the ones in the United States.

United Airlines was the next-worst performer since the onset of the outage, canceling nearly 1,500 flights. United canceled only 17 Monday flights by late morning, however.

Other airlines that were caught up in the first round of groundings also returned mostly to normal operations by Monday. That included American Airlines, Spirit Airlines, Frontier Airlines and Allegiant Air.

Bastian, the Delta CEO, said in a message to customers Sunday that the airline was continuing to restore operations that were disrupted. One of the tools Delta uses to track crews was affected and could not process the high number of changes triggered by the outage.

"The technology issue occurred on the busiest travel weekend of the summer, with our booked loads exceeding 90%, limiting our re-accommodation capabilities," Bastian wrote. Loads are the percentage of sold seats on each flight.



Ahmadi Governor His Excellency Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah in group photos with Burgan Bank and Ahmadi Governorate representatives and the high school graduates during the honoring ceremony.



## Bank empowering Kuwait's youth through its dedicated social responsibility

# Burgan Bank supports Ahmadi's top graduates honoring ceremony

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: In line with its comprehensive social responsibility strategy, its commitment to the best Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices, and unwavering efforts to support the education sector and encourage Kuwait's most aspiring students, Burgan Bank recently supported the ceremony held under the patronage of Ahmadi Governorate to honor the top-scoring General Secondary Education graduates across the governorate's districts. The event, hosted at the Ahmadi Guest House, was attended by Ahmadi Governor His Excellency Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, representatives from the Ahmadi Governorate and Burgan Bank, in addition to the 12 honorees and their families.

The sponsorship comes as part of the ongoing partnership between Burgan Bank and the Ahmadi Governorate, which aims to develop Ahmadi's community and support its members' growth and success through multiple campaigns and events.

HE Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-



Ahmadi Governor HE Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (center) with Ms. Hessa Hussain Al-Najadah, and Mr. Khaled Al-Mulla.

Ahmad Al-Sabah congratulated the outstanding students, confirming

that, "This honoring ceremony is part of the Governorate's commitment to supporting our sons and daughters of Ahmadi across all stages of education. We must all continue to encourage students to spare no effort to achieve academic excellence and realize their dreams and aspirations within their fields of study and work."

HE the Governor of Ahmadi urged the honorees to uphold their commitment to academic achievement and continue down this path of success throughout their graduate studies, praising their perseverance and their families' unwavering support. HE also expressed confidence in the students' abilities to achieve more success in the future, where they realize more dreams and contribute effectively to their community and the development of Kuwait.

### Contribute

HE the Governor extended his thanks to Burgan Bank, noting the Bank's valuable efforts in supporting and sponsoring outstanding students,

which isn't new to Kuwait's banking sector or Burgan Bank, which continues to contribute proactively to the different events and activities as part of its comprehensive social responsibility strategy.

On this occasion, Ms. Hessa Hussain Al-Najadah, Senior Manager - Corporate and CSR Communications at Burgan Bank, said: "I would like to begin by congratulating the high school graduates on their outstanding academic achievement and extend my regards to their dedicated parents whose support and ongoing encouragement are indispensable to this achievement. Today, we stand before 12 bright, motivated talents who have proved that they have what it takes to excel and make a positive impact that benefits them, first and foremost, their families, and their entire community."

"At Burgan Bank, we consider the youth one of the most vital and influential segments in our community; that's why we spare no effort to be a force of motivation along their journeys, beginning with moral and financial sup-

port and ending with celebrating their triumphs and achievements," added Al-Najadah. "We are very proud to be partners with Ahmadi Governorate in celebrating our outstanding graduates' success, and we are certain that we will celebrate more successes in the future."

During the ceremony, the Ahmadi Governor and Burgan Bank representatives honored the 12 outstanding graduates who completed different streams of study - arts, science, or religious studies - awarding them cash gift cards. The honorees were led by Mariam Erhamah, with an impressive 99.78% score, followed by Hassan Al-Enezi (99.77%), Doha Al-Hajeri (99.75%), and Ghadir Al-Otaibi (99.70%) - holders of the science major. In the arts stream, the top students include Ghazlan Al-Azemi (98.36%), Maha Al-Zoubi (97.79%), Reem Al-Azemi (97.78%), Noha Al-Hajery (97.71%), Raghad Al-Mutairi (97.67%), and Nawwaf Al-Azemi (97.57%). Lastly, in the stream of religious studies, the ceremony awarded

Fawwaz Al-Azemi (97.16%) and Rashed Mishaal (95.91%).

It serves to note that Burgan Bank's dedication to empowering its youth extends to the development of youth-centered banking products and services, which aim to set them up for a future of accomplishment and innovation. The most prominent among these products is Burgan's interest-bearing Youth account, available for customers aged 15-25, which requires no minimum account opening deposit and no minimum amount to earn interest. It also offers customers who transfer their educational allowance to their Youth account a number of benefits that include a KD 100 cash gift, a chance to enter a car draw, a free prepaid VIP Mastercard for the first year, and more.

Burgan Bank also continues to support its aspiring youth in the fields of sports, literature, art, and more through sponsorships and orchestrating high-impact, high-value social and community events that guarantee to inspire the future leaders of Kuwait to develop holistically and aspire for success.



A group photo of the Scientific Center's training program participants during their education tour of Kuwait Airways.

Students learn about aircraft maintenance, flight operations

## Kuwait Airways hosts education tour for youth from the Scientific Center's training program

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: As part of Kuwait Airways' endeavours to implement its social responsibility programs, the company organized an educational field trip for the youth participating in the Scientific Center's training program at the company's various facilities. The trip was organized over a three-day period from 14-16 July 2024, which included a visit to the aircraft hangar facilities at the Engineering department, where participants were introduced to the mechanisms and procedures related to aircraft maintenance and inspection, implemented according to advanced techniques and technology.

The visit was an opportunity for the attendees to interact with the engineers and to inquire about the nature of their work. During the tour, the participants expressed immense interest in understanding aspects related to aircraft maintenance and procedures required for flight operations.

Kuwait Airways stated that the visit



Photos from the education tour.

is a unique opportunity for the future generations to understand about the company, its modern fleet, and the remarkable development it has attained till date in conducting technical maintenance of aircraft and monitoring

their performance with advanced technology and equipment, complying with the best international standards in the air transport sector.

The company added that it is keen to organize such educational trips at

the various facilities to enhance the knowledge and awareness among the younger generation in the field of aviation. The visit is also part of the company's social responsibility programs that aims at enriching the educational experiences of young people in a manner that is both beneficial and enjoyable, to understand more about Kuwait Airways, one of the most leading companies in the region with its legacy in the field of aviation.

The company concluded that it always strives as an integral part of Kuwaiti society to keep pace with the aspirations of the younger generation and welcomes children and youth visiting its facilities to educate them on the importance of the history of the Blue Bird. Moreover, the company spares no effort to be an effective source in inspiring and encouraging the younger generation in highlighting the accomplishments that Kuwait Airways has achieved over the past 70 years.

### 'Win 10 gm gold bar'

## Kalyan Jewellers launches its '25 gold bars' giveaway

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: Kalyan Jewellers, one of the most trusted and leading jewellery brands has recently announced the launch of its '25 Gold Bars' Giveaway offer, wherein patrons stand a chance to take home a 10 gm gold bar every other day for 50 days, on their jewellery purchases from Kalyan Jewellers. With this unique offer, Kalyan Jewellers aims to celebrate the season in a distinctive manner. The offer can be availed till 30th August, 2024 across all their showrooms in Kuwait.

As part of this campaign, customers are entitled to receive 1 raffle coupon on purchase of gold jewellery worth KWD 50 and above, whereas patrons will receive 2 raffle coupons on purchase of diamond jewellery worth KWD 50 and above.

Speaking on the campaign, Mr. Ramesh Kalyanaraman, Executive Director - Kalyan Jewellers said, "At Kalyan Jewellers, we have been taking consistent steps towards creating a holistic ecosystem while catering to the distinct needs of our customers, enhancing their shopping experience. Through this special offer, we aim to provide our patrons with exceptional benefits on their jewellery purchases. We are confident that our customers in the region will continue to show their love and support for the Kalyan Jewellers brand."

All their showrooms stock Kalyan's popular house brands, including Muhurat (Wedding Jewellery Line), Mudhra (Handcrafted Antique Jewellery), Nimah (Temple Jewellery), Glo (Dancing Diamonds), Ziah (Solitaire-like Diamond Jewellery), Anokhi (Uncut Diamonds), Hera (Daily Wear Diamonds), Rang (Precious Stones Jewellery), and the recently launched Lila (Coloured Stones and Diamond Jewellery).

For more information on the brand, its collections and offers, visit <https://www.kalyanjewellers.net/>

Headquartered in Kerala, India, Kalyan Jewellers is one of the largest jewellery retailers in India with a presence in the Middle East. The company has enjoyed a long-standing presence in the Indian market for nearly three decades and has set industry benchmarks in quality, transparency, pricing and innovation. Kalyan offers an array of traditional and contemporary jewellery designs in gold, diamonds and



Kalyan Jewellers launches new '25 gold bars' giveaway campaign in Kuwait.



Kalyan Jewellery designs

precious stones catering to the distinct needs of the customers. Kalyan Jewellers has over 270 showrooms across India and the Middle East.

### Bank awards 10 lucky winners 1,000 KD each

## Warba Bank announces winners of the weekly Sunbula account draw

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: Warba Bank - the best bank in banking services for the corporate sector and banking services for the investment sector in Kuwait - announced the winners of the weekly Sunbula draw. Warba Bank will continue to make draws for 10 weekly winners for the Sunbula account in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees.

As for the lucky customers for the weekly Sunbula draw, 10 winners were chosen from Warba

Bank's customers, each of whom received 1,000 Kuwaiti dinars. The Winners are Mrs. Amal Saad Al-Mutairi, Mr. Mohammad Nasser Al-Mutairi, Mrs. Sheikha Mishari Al-Mutairi, Mr. Abdulrahman Shabib Al-Ajmi, Mr. Mohammad Khaled Al-Kafif, Mrs. Dima Nayef Rakan Al-Harbi, Mr. Mohammad Ahmed Ragheb Tayeh, and Mr. Bader Fahad Nasser Al-Munaikh, Mrs. Makiya Abdullah Mohammad Ahmed, and Mr. Hamid Abd Alhussein Saeed.

The Sunbula account is the perfect choice for all those who wish

to save money and achieve great financial returns on their balances at the same time; in addition to multiple opportunities to win cash prizes throughout the year.

With regards to the conditions for winning the Sunbula, Mr. Abdulaziz Soud Al-Bekheet - Director Region Retail Banking Group stated: "Only 100 KD is required to enter the weekly Sunbula draws and other major draws, whereby the customer still gets one chance per every 10 KD in the account, and the chances are calculated according to the lowest balance in the

account during a month. Therefore, a full month must have passed in the account to qualify for the weekly draw, and two full months for the major draws to calculate the opportunities. There are no restrictions or



Al-Bekheet

limits for withdrawal and deposit, the higher the deposited amount,

the greater the customer's chances of winning".

Notably, in accordance with the terms of its ambitious five-year strategy, Warba Bank has launched its latest banking solutions service "Customer Onboarding". This will enable non-Warba Bank customers to apply for opening an account in an easy digital way through the bank's website without the need to visit any of the bank's branches, and within only five minutes - through the new and unique automated system used to enable this service - new customers will

be able to complete the request to open an account at any time and any place.

It is worth mentioning that Warba Bank is one of the banks that achieved great successes in a short period of time, as it occupied a leading position in the field of digital Islamic banking services for individuals, and it is one of the most local banks in terms of the number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent elements that make the bank close to all members of society.

# Ukraine's largest music festival goes local amid war

KYIV, Ukraine, July 23, (AP) — This year, Ukraine's largest music festival struck a different chord. Gone were the international headliners, the massive performance halls and the hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Instead, beloved local artists graced the stage this past weekend at the Atlas Festival — the first since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022 — for a smaller but still ebullient crowd. The stage was erected in a shopping mall parking lot, the only option with a shelter large enough to contain the 25,000 people expected in the event of an air raid.

Carefree youth danced, romanced and sang along, rubbing shoulders with hardened military commanders as famous singers who crooned lyrics imbued with national pride. Music was the main goal, but so was shattering the illusion that the capital is invulnerable to the bloody battles hundreds of miles away.

"Such kind of festivals can't be separated from the life of the country. The country is at war. The core issues here should relate to the war," said Vsevolod Kozhemyako, a businessman and one of the founders of the 13th "Khartia" Brigade, now a part of Ukraine's National Guard and defending the frontline in Kharkiv.

"People who are still young and who don't join (the fight) should understand that they cannot live in a bubble," he said.

And yet, a bubble is precisely how it feels to be in Kyiv, as the

war approaches its third year. While Ukrainian soldiers are killed and wounded every day along the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) frontline in the east, the capital is a contrast with its busy bars and clubs.

Every so often, Kyiv comes face to face with the war. Two weeks ago, a barrage of Russian missiles destroyed a children's hospital and a private clinic, in one of the deadliest attacks since the full-scale invasion. Residents have grappled with power cuts caused by Moscow's targeted destruction of Ukrainian energy generation at the height of a summer heat wave.

In every corner of the music festival, visitors were confronted with the inescapable reality that theirs is a country trapped in a bloody war of attrition. Festival organizers hoped to raise \$2.2 million (2 million euros) to help soldiers purchase supplies for the front line.

## Donations

In the mall's basement parking lot, various military units, from Khartia to the 3rd Assault, offered interactive games to lure donations and possible recruits. A first-person shooter game offered visitors a chance to improve target practice by gunning down shadowy virtual infantrymen. In another corner, medics bandaged severed plastic limbs and offered emergency medical training.

The festival concluded Sunday with a much-anticipated performance

from Serhii Zhadan and his band Zhadan and Dogs. Zhadan, a celebrated artist dubbed the poet of the Donbas, recently joined Khartia.

"It's just a small break, an opportunity to take a breath," said Zhadan, minutes before he took to the stage for a roaring crowd. "The most important things, they are happening over there, at the frontline."

On stage, Zhadan started with one of his most beloved songs "Malvi" or "Mallow." The crowd sang along, word for word. "But what can you do with my hot blood," they chanted. "Who will come at us."

18-year old Viktoriia Khalis was excited to see his performance. She had been to the Atlas festival once before in 2021. The difference is stark, she said.

"The main thing that has changed, unfortunately, now the festival is connected with donations," she said. But she also felt more connected to her homeland. "I feel this entire crowd is related to me. I feel unity."

She was scared there would be another Russian air attack — a music festival with thousands of attendees would be a prime target — but said she couldn't miss a chance to see her favorite artists.

For Nadiia Dorofeeva, one of Ukraine's most famous singers, every concert feels different. "Before, when I entered a stage I was thinking only about if I looked good, sang well and if the people got what they came for. But now, I dream of having no air alarms, I am seeing how people cry at my concerts."

Music

## Variety



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Joseph Quinn, (left), and Lupita Nyong'o in a scene from 'A Quiet Place: Day One.' (AP)

## Film

A look at breakout actors making their mark this summer

# Rising stars making waves in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES, July 23, (AP) — A breakout moment in Hollywood can happen at any age and stage. This summer at the movies, there are plenty of talents to discover, from the formerly incarcerated man whose story inspired the film he stars in to the "It" bully whose childhood dream of playing an ape in a movie came true.

Here are some actors audiences are sure to be buzzing about this summer.

Clarence Maclin didn't know he had knack for acting until he was in prison, where he found the Rehabilitation Through the Arts Program and an appreciation for Shakespeare. His experience provided the inspiration for "Sing Sing," where he plays himself in a cast that includes Oscar nominees Colman Domingo and Paul Raci as well as a group of formerly incarcerated men.

"It almost was overwhelming when I had to go back and put the greens on again and go back into that mindset of being in prison," Maclin, 58, said. "However the purpose of what we were doing outweighed the apprehension."

After working on the idea for years, he loved being on set and said there were "no butterflies" when it came to acting in front of the camera. Domingo, he said, helped him appreciate the nuance that the camera can capture.

A breakout film from last fall's Toronto Film Festival, more than a few "Sing Sing" reviews have called Maclin's performance starmaking. He's read them and still can't believe it. But mostly, he's excited to take the film on the road and get the message out.

"I've made a lot of mistakes in my life, but luckily I got an opportunity to redirect and try to correct some of those," said Maclin, who was incarcerated for more than 15 years for armed robbery. "I would like to be able to show this in every prison in the country and do a question and answer. Sometimes a little bit of hope is all you need."

Nobody comes out of "Stranger Things" anonymously, but Joseph Quinn, who played Hellfire Club leader Eddie Munson, was a little surprised by the attention. On vacation with friends on a small island in Italy, one looky-loo in the morning multiplied into a big crowd by the end of the day. Still, not everyone knew who he was.

"The manager of the hotel was like 'who are you?'" Quinn recalled, laughing.

But mainly it's led to life-changing opportunities for the 30-year-old British actor who is starring alongside Oscar-winner Lupita Nyong'o in "A Quiet Place: Day One" (June 28) and later this year will be sharing the screen with Denzel Washington and Paul Mescal in "Gladiator II" (Nov. 22). He's also been tapped to help restart the Fantastic Four franchise in the Marvel Cinematic Universe as the Human Torch.

"When you go and you see ancient Rome and you see Denzel Washington inhabit it and watch Ridley Scott make a film, those things have a profound change in you," Quinn said. "It expands your idea of what's possible."

But first up is the highly anticipated "Quiet Place" prequel, which focuses on a new pair of characters in New York on that first day of the invasion.

"The whole experience was great fun," Quinn said. "I learned a lot from Lupita and the way to conduct oneself in an environment like that. She's punctual, brave, fearless and knows exactly what she wants and what she doesn't want."

UK audiences can also see him soon in the independent film "Hoard."

## Breakthroughs

Abbey Lee remembers being in New Mexico when she got an email from her agent saying that Kevin Costner wanted to send her a script and speak with her. The idea that Costner even knew who she was, she said, was shocking.

The project was "Horizon: An American Saga," his Civil War era epic about the Westward expansion in America that Warner Bros. is releasing in two parts this summer (June 28 and Aug. 16). Her character, Mari-gold, is a woman without a family or a home who is fighting for a better life.

The Australia native worked as a model for years before she had a few big acting breakthroughs, notably in "Mad Max: Fury Road." Modeling gave her opportunities to travel, and get a paycheck, but it always felt like a job, she said.

"My passion is the craft of acting," she said. "You get to utilize not just your body, but your brain and your heart and your emotional capacity. And you keep changing and growing: Each role shifts your perspective on the world and your life."

Filming "Horizon," Lee fell in love with riding horses and was overwhelmed by not just the beauty of Utah but also the scope of the film.

"It's such an epic piece," she said.

Izaak Wang had been on some big films before "Didi," including "Good Boys" and "Clifford the Big Red Dog," but it wasn't until he looked at his schedule that he realized just how big of a commitment a leading role was.

"I was like 'wait, I'm working every day?'" Wang laughed. "My mom was like, 'Yeah, you're working every day.'"

In "Didi" he plays a 13-year-old Taiwanese American boy on the summer before high school in the Bay Area in 2008. The film was one of the big discoveries of the Sundance Film Festival, winning the audience award and a special jury award for its ensemble. It's getting a theatrical release from Focus Features on July 26.

Wang was born in Minnesota, moved to Los Angeles with his family when he was 3 and started acting around age 8. While he's thought about giving it up in the past, "Didi" was a turning point because it was such a fun experience. He's considering studying theater in college too.

"I love acting in general because I get to be a goofy, silly, imaginative guy," he said. "I play with my stuffed animals still. I'm 16-years-old, I still do it."

Unlike the other actors on this list, audiences will not see Owen Teague's face on the big screen. Well, not exactly. He's the star of "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes," a new film set many years after Caesar's reign when the apes have become the dominant species. He plays an ape named Noa.

"I've wanted to play a performance capture ape since I was a little kid," Teague said. "This was one of those auditions where I was like 'God, I'd give anything to do this movie.'"

# Features

ARABIC TIMES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024

**LOS ANGELES:** Eminem's latest album, "The Death of Slim Shady (Coup de Grâce)," has debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200, unseating Taylor Swift's "The Tortured Poets Department" after 12 weeks.

In its first week, "The Tortured Poets Department" hit 891.34 million album streams stateside, according to Luminate, the biggest streaming week for an album in history.

Swift's album debuted at No. 1 in April and held the top spot for three months. She is the only woman to have done so; Swift beat the previous record held by Whitney Houston's 1987 album, "Whitney." It spent its first 11 weeks at No. 1.

"The Tortured Poets Department" tied Morgan Wallen's 2023 album "One Thing at a Time," which also debuted at No. 1 and stayed there for 12 consecutive weeks.

The only album to outperform them is Stevie Wonder's 1976 masterpiece, "Songs in the Key of Life." It spent 13 weeks at No. 1 after debuting in the top spot; 14 weeks there in total.

"The Death of Slim Shady (Coup de Grâce)" is Eminem's 12th album and his 11th to hit No. 1. "The Tortured Poets Department" dropped to No. 4 as a result. In the second slot is K-pop boy band ENHYPHEN's "ROMANCE: UNTOLD" and irreverent country Zach Bryan's "The Great American Bar Scene" is at No. 3. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Will Maya Rudolph's "funt," aka Vice President Kamala Harris, be back on "Saturday Night Live?"

Speculation has been running hot since Sunday, when President Joe Biden dropped his election news, but the "SNL" alum is a busy actor these days.

Rudolph earned four Emmy nods last week for her work on three different shows: "Loot," "Big Mouth" on Netflix and two nominations for a hosting stint on "SNL."

She played Harris several times as a guest on "SNL" in 2019, during the 2020 presidential election cycle. Rudolph was a cast member on the NBC show from 2000 to 2007.

The "Bridesmaids" actor won an Emmy for her Harris in December 2019 during a cold open send-up of the PBS Democratic debate soon after Harris dropped out of the presidential race. She debuted the character earlier that year during a town hall bit that had her introducing her Harris as "America's cool aunt. A fun aunt."



Eminem



Rudolph

I call that a 'funt.' Her Emmy-winning turn as Harris referenced Lizzo's "Truth Hurts" with: "I just want to show you how good you could've had it, America. You withheld your donations, and I got tired of waiting, so I walked my fine ass out the door." Rudolph then sang: "You coulda had a bad bitch."

Calls for Rudolph to return to the role have flooded social media since Biden stepped aside. He and Democratic leaders have thrown their support to Harris as their presidential nominee ahead of the Aug. 19 start of the party's convention in Chicago. The 50th season of "SNL" premieres Sept. 28. An NBC

spokesperson said there are no discussions at the moment about a Rudolph return since the show is on hiatus. An email request for comment to Rudolph wasn't immediately returned Monday. Rudolph wasn't the first, or last, person to take on presidents and other names in U.S. politics over at "SNL." (AP)

## People &amp; Places

## Obit

## Smooth, suave

## Abdul 'Duke' Fakir of Four Tops dies at 88

NEW YORK, July 23, (AP): Abdul "Duke" Fakir, the last surviving original member of the beloved Motown group the Four Tops that was known for such hits as "Reach Out, I'll Be There" and "Standing in the Shadows of Love," has died at age 88.

Fakir died Monday of heart failure at his home in Detroit, according to a family spokesperson, with his wife and other loved ones by his side. Motown founder Berry Gordy said in a statement that Fakir helped embody the Tops' "showmanship, class and artistry."

"Duke was first tenor - smooth, suave, and always sharp," Gordy said. "For 70 years, he kept the Four Tops' remarkable legacy intact."

The Four Tops were among Motown's most popular and enduring acts, peaking in the 1960s. Between 1964 and 1967, they had 11 top 20 hits and two No. 1's: "I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch)" and the operatic classic "Reach Out I'll Be There." Other songs, often sagas of romantic pain and bereavement, included "Baby I Need Your Loving," "Standing in the Shadows of Love," "Bernadette" and "Just Ask the Lonely."

Many of Motown's greatest stars, from the Supremes to Stevie Wonder, came of age at the Detroit-based company started by Gordy in the late 1950s. But Fakir, lead singer Levi Stubbs, Renaldo "Obie" Benson and Lawrence Payton had been together for a decade when Gordy signed them up in 1963 (after the group had turned him down a few years earlier) and they already had a polished stage act and versatile vocal style that enabled them to perform anything from country songs to pop standards like "Paper Doll."

They called themselves the Four Aims when they started out, but soon renamed themselves the Four Tops to avoid confusion with the white harmony quartet the Ames Brothers.

## Success

The Tops had recorded for several labels, including the famed Chess Records in Chicago, with little commercial success. But Gordy and A&R man Mickey Stevenson paired them with the songwriting-production team of Eddie Holland, Lamont Dozier and Brian Holland and they quickly caught on, blending tight, haunting harmonies behind Stubbs' urgent, sometimes desperate baritone.

After Holland-Dozier-Holland left Motown in 1967, the Tops had more sporadic success, with hits over the next few years including "Still Water (Love)," and a pair of top 10 songs in the early 1970s for ABC/Dunhill Records, "Keeper of the Castle" and "Ain't No Woman (Like the One I've Got)." They reached the top 20 for the last time in the early 1980s, with the sentimental ballad "When She Was My Girl."

Throughout, they remained a busy concert act and at times toured with latter day members of the Temptations, a friendly rivalry launched when the groups performed together at the all-star 1983 television concert marking Motown's 25th anniversary. While the Temptations and other peers suffered from drug problems, dissension and personnel changes, the Four Tops remained united and intact until Payton died in 1997.

"The things I love about them the most - they are very professional, they have fun with what they do, they are very loving, they have always been gentlemen," Wonder said of them when he helped induct them into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990.

Fakir later toured as the Four Tops with lead vocalist Alexander Morris, Ronnie McNeir and Lawrence "Roquel" Payton Jr., the son of Lawrence Payton.

"As each one of them (the original members) passed a little bit of me left with them," Fakir told UK Music Reviews in 2021. "When Levi left us, I found myself in a quandary as to what I was going to do from that moment on but after a while I realized that the name together with the legacy that they had left us simply had to carry on, and judging by the audience reaction it soon became pretty evident that I did the right thing and I really do feel good about that."

Besides the Rock Hall of Fame, their honors included being voted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1998 and receiving a Grammy lifetime achievement award in 2009. More recently, Fakir had been working on a planned Broadway musical based on their lives and completed the memoir "I'll Be There," published in 2022.

Fakir was married twice, for the last 50 years to Piper Gibson, and had seven children. (Six survive him). In the mid-1960s, he was briefly engaged to Mary Wilson of the Supremes.

A lifelong Detroit resident who stayed home even after Gordy moved the label to Los Angeles in early 1970s, Fakir was of Ethiopian and Bangladeshi descent and grew up in a rough neighborhood where rival Black and white gangs fought often.

He had early dreams of being a professional athlete, but was also a talented singer whose tenor brought him attention as a performer in his church choir. He was in his teens when he befriended Stubbs, and the two first sang with Benson and Payton at a birthday party thrown by a local "girl" group whom Fakir remembered as "high-class, very fine young ladies."

"We told Levi to just pick a song and sing the lead. We'd just back him up. Well, when he started, we all fell in like we'd been rehearsing the song for months! Our blend was incredible. We were just looking at each other as we were singing, and right after we said, 'Man, this is a group! This is a group!'"

## Also:

**ROME:** The daughter of the late Colombian artist **Fernando Botero** has helped to turn the streets and piazzas of the Italian capital into an open-air museum to display eight of her father's famously voluminous, whimsical sculptures.

The exhibition was organized as a tribute to Botero, who died September 15, 2023, at 91 in Monaco, where he kept a studio. The artist also lived for many years in the Italian town of Pietrasanta in the Tuscany region, where he was buried next to his third wife, the artist **Sophia Vari**.

"I am sure my father would be very moved because Italy was always like a second home country for him," his daughter, **Lina Botero**, told private Italian television TV2000.

Botero created all of the statues shown in the exhibition while he was in Italy. His affection for Italy came in part from his artistic affinity for the Renaissance masters.



Fakir



This album cover image released by Nettwerk Music Group shows 'Never Better Out' by Wild Rivers. (AP)



Brianna Hildebrand attends the world premiere of Marvel Studios' 'Deadpool &amp; Wolverine' at the David H. Koch Theater on Monday, July 22, in New York. (AP)

## Variety

**LAS VEGAS:** An ailing and aging former Los Angeles-area gang leader is due to ask a Nevada judge on Tuesday to change her mind and release him from jail to house arrest ahead of his trial in the 1996 killing of music legend **Tupac Shakur**.

**Duane "Keffe D" Davis'** attorney, **Carl Arnold**, said in court filings that he has submitted additional financial records following a June hearing at which Davis' bid for release was denied to show the money was legally obtained.

Arnold also argued that since Davis has not been convicted of a crime it doesn't matter if Davis and Cash "Wack 100" Jones, a hip-hop music figure says he's underwriting Davis' \$750,000 bail, plan to reap profits from selling Davis' life story.

Arnold and a spokesperson did not respond to email messages Monday.

Nevada law prohibits convicted killers from profiting from their crime.

Prosecutors, in new written court filings, accuse Davis, 61, of "scheming ... to obfuscate the source" of the \$112,500 "gift" that Jones testified he put up as a 15% guarantee to obtain Davis' bail bond.

Jones, who has managed artists including **Johnathan "Blueface" Porter** and **Jayceon "The Game" Taylor**, testified by video in June that he was willing to put up money for Davis because Davis was fighting cancer and had "always been a monumental person in our community ... especially the urban community."

Clark County District Court Judge **Carl Kierny** ruled June 26 that she wasn't satisfied that Davis and Jones weren't planning to profit. The judge said also she couldn't determine if Jones wasn't funneling money to a bond guarantee company on behalf of another unnamed person.

Arnold argued in new court filings that Davis hasn't been convicted so he cannot be prevented from profiting. Also, because Davis and Jones have no contract for a "movie, series or any other form of media production," concerns about the source of bail money are "not legally relevant," the defense attorney wrote.

Prosecutors responded that a judge can set any condition deemed necessary to ensure that a defendant returns to court for trial. If Davis is allowed to post a "gift" for release, he'd have no incentive to comply with court orders or appear for trial, set to begin Nov. 4, they said.

Davis has sought to be released from jail since shortly after his arrest last September. He has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder and could be sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison if he's convicted. Kierny in January set bail at \$750,000. He's originally from Compton, California, but now lives in **Henderson**, near Las Vegas. (AP)

**WICHITA, Kan.:** A newly posted video of **Miss Kansas** calling out her domestic violence abuser from the stage the night she

## Music

## 'Never Better' impressive

## Wild Rivers' melodies soar on latest album

NASHVILLE, Tenn., July 23, (AP): Canadian folk-pop trio Wild Rivers takes the name of its new album from the opening cut, "Never Better," but the implied assertion is at least debatable. The band's last full album, "Sidelines," landed in 2022 as a no-skip masterpiece, combining memorable, original hooks with angsty lyrics that made the band's rise to top-tier status seem inevitable.

This album, set for release July 26, doesn't sustain those heights all the way through, but that's a high bar. It does contain enough of the band's secret sauce, the poignant lyrics and elegant harmonies of singers **Khalid Yassein** and **Devan Glover**, to qualify as a worthy follow-up.

Of course, it's never smart for a band to keep doing the same things over again, and Wild Rivers hasn't done that. The trio, whose third member is **Andrew Oliver**, has always operated on the fault line between folk-Americana and pop. "Never Better" probably veers more toward pop than most of its previous work. Produced by **Gabe Wax**, who helped the indie band **Soccer Mommy** develop its appealing jangle-pop sound, the album sometimes allows production to overshadow the band's real strengths.

## Groove

Take the title cut, "Never Better." It's a fine song, but the opening lick and the song's main hook sound a little too much like Coldplay's "A Sky Full of Stars." That's not the worst thing, despite the beating that band has taken from some critics, and the lyrics are compelling enough to sustain the groove. But it does leave you waiting for the moments that have set Wild Rivers apart since they emerged from Queen's University in Ontario less than a decade ago.

And the moments do come. The voices of Yassein and Glover,

blended together, have an uncanny multiplier effect that takes the songs they sing to breathtaking heights.

On "Everywhere I Go," it's Yassein taking the lead as Glover shadows him with understated elegance. On "Dance" and "Backfire," they switch it up and let Glover lead the way. "Backfire," a poignant ballad about the delicate balance between friendship and love, begins with perhaps the rawest moment on the album, when Glover begins: "From the second we met I knew you'd be significant." It's unadorned and vulnerable, and her voice meets the moment. He waits until midway through to come in underneath her, happy to help her soar.

So yeah, Wild Rivers is at its best when Yassein and Glover are allowed to rise above the sound. Both are amazing singers, and it would be hard to find a band with more complementary voices working on each other's behalf.

Never better? Not necessarily. But it's still good enough to keep a really good band flying high.

## Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** Each year, around the world and in the US, **KCON** - a convention that celebrates K-pop, K-drama, K-food, K-beauty, everything under the umbrella of "Hal-lyu," a term used to describe the growing global popularity of Korean popular culture - takes place. It began 12 years ago in **Irvine, California**, and has grown exponentially in the years since. The 2024 Los Angeles KCON returns to the LA Convention Center and Crypto.com Arena, and will take place July 26 through the 28, with a lineup boasting of **NCT 127**, **PIHarmony**, **BOYNEXTDOOR**, **Taemin** and more. For those who can't make it in person: Each night's performances will be streamed live on KCON's official YouTube channel. The concert will also air live on the CW Networks Sunday, July 28 at 8 p.m. ET/PT for the first time ever.

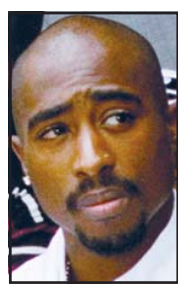
sitting in the audience.

The video Smith posted July 16 has been viewed more than 60,000 times and generated a rash of news stories.

"My vision as the next Miss Kansas is to eliminate unhealthy and abusive relationships," Smith said during the interview portion of the pageant last month. "Matter of fact, some of you in this audience saw me very emotional because my abuser is here today. But that's not going to stop me from being on this Miss Kansas stage and from representing as the next Miss Kansas."

Smith just recently started her reign and began raising concerns about the issue in interviews and social media posts. Her bold pageant statement against domestic abuse and her courage to speak out is being praised online by dozens of people as her video gets shared again and again.

The beauty queen cares deeply about domestic violence issues because not only was she a victim, but so were many of the other women in her family, she has said. (AP)



Shakur



Smith

## Obit

## Powerful voice

## Civil rights icon Reagon is dead

NASHVILLE, Tenn., July 23, (AP): **Bernice Johnson Reagon**, a musician and scholar who used her rich, powerful contralto voice in the service of the American Civil Rights Movement and human rights struggles around the world, died on July 16, according to her daughter's social media post. She was 81.

Reagon was probably best known as the founder of the internationally renowned African American female cappella group **Sweet Honey in the Rock**, which she led from 1973 until her retirement in 2004. The Grammy-nominated group's mission has been to educate and empower as well as entertain. They perform songs from a wide range of genres that include spirituals, children's songs, blues and jazz.

Some of their original compositions honor American civil rights leaders and international freedom movements like the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

"She was incredible," said **Tammy Kernodle**, a distinguished professor of music at Miami University who specializes in African American music. She described Reagon as someone "whose divine energy and intellect and talent all intersect in such a way to initiate change in the atmosphere."

Reagon's musical activism began in the early 1960s when she served as a field secretary for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and became an original member of its **Freedom Singers**, according to an obituary posted on social media by her daughter, musician **Toshi Reagon**. The group reunited and was joined by **Toshi Reagon** to perform for then-President **Barack Obama** in 2010 as part of a White House performance series that was also broadcast nationwide on public television.

## Activist

Born in Dougherty County outside of Albany, Georgia, in 1942, Reagon attended music workshops in the early 1960s at Tennessee's Highlander Folk School, a training ground for activists. At an anniversary gathering in 2007, Reagon explained how the school helped her see her musical heritage as something special.

"From the time I was born, we were always singing," Reagon said. "When you're inside a culture and, quote, 'doing what comes naturally to you,' you don't pay attention to it. ... I think my work as a cultural scholar, singer and composer would be completely different if I had not had someone draw my attention to the people who use songs to stay alive, or to keep themselves together, or to lift up the energy in a movement."

## Demonstration

While a student at Albany State College, Reagon was jailed for attending a civil rights demonstration and expelled. She later graduated from **Spellman College**. She formed **Sweet Honey in the Rock** while a graduate student of history at **Howard University** and vocal director of the **D.C. Black Repertory Company**.

Reagon recorded her first solo album, "Folk Songs: The South," with **Folkways Records** in 1965. In 1966 she became a founding member of the Atlanta-based **Harambee Singers**.

Reagon began working with the **Smithsonian Institution** in 1969, when she was invited to develop and curate a 1970 festival program, **Black Music Through the Languages of the New World**, according to the Smithsonian. She went on to curate the **African Diaspora Program** and to found and direct the Program in **Black American Culture** at the **National Museum of American History**, where she was later a curator emerita. She produced and performed on numerous **Smithsonian Folkways** recordings.

For a decade, beginning in 1993, Reagon served as distinguished professor in history at **American University** in Washington, later becoming a professor emerita.

We assume that music was always a part of civil rights activism, **Kernodle** said, but it was people like Reagon who made music "part of the strategy of nonviolent resistance. ... They took those songs, they took those practices from inside the church to the streets and the jail cells. And they universalized those songs."

"What she also did that was very important was that she historicized how that music functioned in the civil rights movement," **Kernodle** added. "Her dissertation was one of the first real studies of civil rights music."

Reagon received two **George F. Peabody Awards**, including for her work as principal scholar, conceptual producer and host of the **Smithsonian Institution and National Public Radio** series "Wade in the Water: African American Sacred Music Traditions."



Reagon

## Few people know their risk of developing liver disease

## Diabetes, obesity can damage liver to the point of failure

By Madona Azar

UMass Chan Medical School

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

Liver disease is frighteningly common worldwide.

Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease, or MASLD, is an umbrella term describing conditions related to a buildup of fat in the liver. Formerly known as nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, this condition affects 1 in 4 people worldwide. Among those with type 2 diabetes, insulin resistance, obesity or all three, the prevalence of MASLD increases to 3 in 4 people.

As a diabetologist, the possibility of liver disease is on my mind every time I see a patient. Understanding your risk of developing this common yet under-recognized condition is essential to treating it.

MASLD is a complex disorder with both environmental and genetic contributions. In its early stages, liver cells accumulate fat in a process called steatosis. Major sources of this fat include adipose tissue as well as fatty acids the liver makes in response to insulin resistance and excess caloric intake. This fat accumulation can enlarge the liver and interfere with its normal functioning.

Over time, fatty acids activate enzymes, which can produce toxic by-products capable of causing liver cell injury, inflammation and scarring. This condition is better known as MASH, or metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis. Progression to MASH is more common in the presence of other risk factors such as type 2 diabetes, insulin resistance and metabolic syndrome.

## Complications

Left unaddressed, MASLD and MASH can progress to liver scarring, failure and, in some cases, cancer. They also increase risk of death from cardiovascular disease and liver-related complications.

In the US, MASH is the leading cause of liver transplants due to hepatic cancer among women and in those 65 and older. It is also on track to overtake hepatitis B and C as the main reason people develop liver cancer and thus need a liver transplant.

Three out of four people with type 2 diabetes have MASLD. Linking liver disease, type 2 diabetes and obesity is the key role insulin resistance plays in their genesis. Obesity is associated with increased fat deposits around the internal organs and higher levels of fatty acids delivered to the liver. Accumulation of fat in the liver increases its resistance to insulin.

Normally, insulin suppresses glucose production in the liver when blood sugar is high. When the liver becomes resistant to insulin, it produces more glucose despite elevated blood sugar levels, which in turn contributes to the development of type 2 diabetes. A 2015 meta-analysis found that people with MASLD have a nearly twofold greater risk of developing type 2 diabetes than those without the disease. MASLD is also more likely to progress to MASH in the presence of type 2 diabetes.

MASLD disproportionately affects certain ethnic groups. For instance, 1 in 5 people of Hispanic descent in the U.S. have MASLD, with or without diabetes. This is thought to be related to genetic mutations that affect how the liver cells process fat. One particular mutation more common in Hispanic people promotes steatosis by interfering with the cells' ability to clear fat deposits.

The silver lining is that management of obesity and type 2 diabetes - such as through lifestyle changes - is very similar to management of MASLD.

The most critical early interventions for type 2 diabetes can also help with MASLD, and this is not surprising given how closely interrelated these two conditions are.

The best way to reverse the early stages of MASLD is with weight loss through healthy eating habits and regular exercise. The aim is to shed at least 5% to 10% of initial body weight, maintain that weight loss through sustainable and realistic lifestyle choices, and avoid excess alcohol intake to limit additional liver injury.

New medications to treat diabetes, such as GLP-1 receptor agonists like Ozempic and Mounjaro, as well as SGLT2 inhibitors like Jardiance or Invokana, have also shown benefit in early stages of MASLD. These drugs promote weight loss, which in turn improves MASLD. In addition, studies have shown that Ozempic and Mounjaro could reverse MASH, even with inflammation and fibrosis.

Older medications used for diabetes, such as pioglitazone, typically can also help reduce the progression of MASH by reducing insulin resistance.

## Treatments

In people with severe obesity or who have not had success with lifestyle changes and weight loss drugs, bariatric surgery is another highly effective option to treat MASLD, as it is associated with significant and sustained weight loss.

New drugs are also in the pipeline. The Food and Drug Administration recently approved a new medication called resmetirom to treat MASH with advanced liver scarring.

However, a cure for this chronic disease remains elusive. This is why it is essential to diagnose MASLD as early as possible and use proven measures that can be maintained long term. Treatments and lifestyle changes need to be deployed as early as possible, before inflammation and scarring have firmly set in. MASH gets trickier to treat in more advanced stages when liver damage becomes irreversible. For instance, while Ozempic may help treat early MASH, it doesn't benefit patients with more advanced stages of liver scarring.

Very few people are aware of MASLD and its health implications, including those living with it. While roughly over 35% of US adults have MASLD, less than 5% are aware they have liver disease.

MASH can be difficult to diagnose because it either causes no symptoms or can be mistaken for other conditions. Patients may have the condition for years and not be aware that it is slowly and meticulously causing damage. In that sense, MASH is strikingly similar to type 2 diabetes or high cholesterol.

Young people are increasingly being diagnosed with early-onset MASLD. Indeed, MASLD with MASH is the most common pediatric liver condition, affecting nearly 8% of children and adolescents and over 34% of children with obesity in the U.S. These children and adolescents are at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes and have a significantly increased lifetime risk of cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Health care costs for people with type 2 diabetes and MASH are estimated to reach US\$55 billion over the next 20 years, accounting for 65,000 liver transplants, 1.37 million cardiovascular-related deaths and 812,000 liver-related deaths. These grim statistics need not be if MASH is tackled early and aggressively.

If you are one of the millions of Americans with prediabetes or diabetes and are also overweight, you most likely have some degree of MASLD or MASH. Being aware of MASLD and getting checked is the first step to addressing it. (AP)

## Guide to reducing medications

## Too many pills? How to talk to your doctor on reviewing what's needed

NEW YORK, July 23, (AP) - Swallowing a handful of pills is a daily ritual for many people, from young adults coping with anxiety to older adults managing chronic conditions. Overall, 13% of people in the US take five or more prescription drugs. For those 65 and older, that number is 42%.

If you're taking multiple meds, it's smart to be aware of potential problems. One pill can lead to a side effect, leading to another pill and another side effect in what experts call a "prescribing cascade."

Some drugs can cause harm if taken for years. Others stop working or interact badly with a new drug. A drug tolerated well at first can cause side effects later, leading to cognitive decline and injuries from falls.

"Our metabolism changes as we get older," said Dr. Elizabeth Bayliss, who studies deprescribing at Kaiser Permanente's Institute for Health Research in Aurora, Colorado. "Everyone's ability to metabolize the medications they've been taking for a long time may change."

The nonprofit Lown Institute calls the whole situation a medication overload that will cause 4.6 million hospital visits this decade.

If your daily pill routine is getting out of hand, ask for a medication review. Here's how to get started with a process called "deprescribing."

Start with a professional you trust, like a doctor or pharmacist, said Lisa McCarthy, a pharmacist and deprescribing expert at the University of Toronto. If you're asking your doctor, don't wait until the end of a 15-minute visit. Instead, make a dedicated appointment and tell them when booking you want to talk about your medicines. McCarthy said.

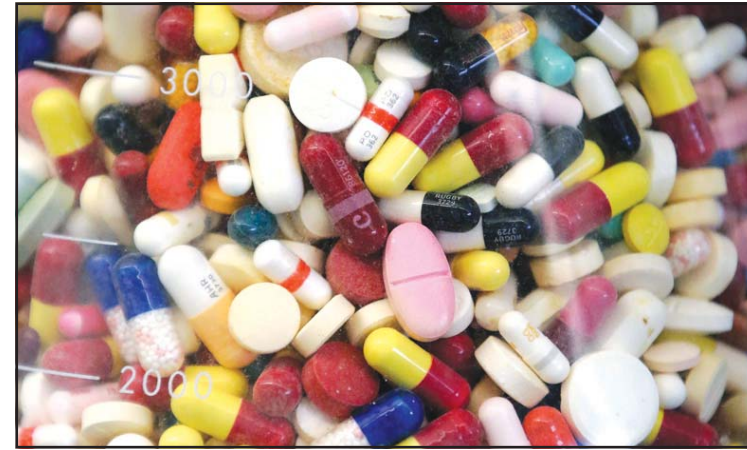
## Medications

Your doctor may not have the full picture of what you're taking if other prescribers are involved, and some doctors hesitate to manage drugs prescribed by others. That's when a pharmacist can help by reviewing everything and writing up suggestions you can share with your doctors, said pharmacist Bradley Phillips of the University of Florida College of Pharmacy. "We've considered the medication experts," Phillips said. Swelling, incontinence, restlessness, insomnia - all are side effects caused by common medications that sometimes get treated with new drugs. McCarthy wants people to ask their doctors a simple question: Could this symptom be related to one of my medications?

"If we could teach the public to ask that question it would be very powerful," McCarthy said. And for a follow-up question, she suggested: Do I still need this medicine?

Pharmacist Barbara Farrell sees dramatic changes in many people she helps at an outpatient geriatric center in Ottawa, Ontario. Some have emerged from a drug-induced dementia after their meds are reduced. A 77-year-old woman was able to leave her wheelchair and walk with a cane after cutting her daily pills from 32 to 17. She had arrived sedated and unable to communicate, and a few months later, she was back to her hobby of knitting.

Some meds can be stopped abruptly but others require a slow taper to prevent uncomfortable withdrawal symptoms - or even life-threatening



Prescription drugs are seen in a glass flask at a state laboratory in Taylorsville, Utah, on July 6, 2017. (AP)

## Income cuts stress

## More money could result in fewer trips to ER: study

NEW YORK, July 23, (AP) - Giving cash to poor people could result in fewer emergency department visits, a new study suggests.

The study published Monday in the Journal of the American Medical Association looked at almost 2,900 low-income people who applied for a lottery in the Boston suburb of Chelsea, Massachusetts. Nearly 1,750 of them got up to \$400 per month from November 2020 to August 2021.

The researchers then looked at health records and found that those who received the money had 27% fewer visits to an emergency room in the nine-month period compared with those who didn't receive the monthly payments.

"We can trust the poor with money," said co-author Dr. Sumit Agarwal, a physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. "There's this narrative out there that you give people cash and they spend it on drugs and alcohol. I think we're one of the first studies to really rigorously and empirically show that's not the case."

The correlation between poverty and poor health outcomes is well-established. But it's still unclear if increasing basic income in the US could improve health outcomes.

## Support

People in the study who received money used the emergency room less for medical issues related to behavioral health and substance use. There were no significant differences between the two groups in regular doctor visits or prescriptions, the researchers found, though people with the added income used more outpatient specialty care.

The cash recipients' financial stability seemed to decrease their stress

seizures. Tapering to progressively lower doses is particularly important with drugs for depression, insomnia and anxiety. After two decades on various pills for these conditions, therapist Molly Bernardi of Spokane, Washington, began tapering down her doses.

levels, which generally improved their health, leading to fewer emergency room trips, Agarwal said.

Prior studies on income support have shown modest - or no - effects on health because they've largely looked at one-time payments, had fewer participants and relied on self-reported data, according to the authors.

In contrast, the Chelsea study uses administrative health data and took into account a longer time frame, which Agarwal said paints a more "complete picture."

Sara Rosenbaum, of George Washington University's School of Public Health and Health Services, was not involved in the study. She said the research appears to be one of the first papers to link the health benefits of higher income over time to a reduction in health care costs and spending.

The lottery was originally intended to ease all-around costs for residents of Chelsea, a densely populated city with many low-income immigrant residents. The city was particularly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, said then-city manager Tom Ambrosino.

"We came up with this plan to just give people money," he said. "Give them a debit card. Load it with cash, and it'll be so much easier and more dignified for people."

Ambrosino figured the program, which he said cost the city about \$700,000 a month, would have positive effects, but he didn't expect the direct impact on health.

"I was kind of pleasantly surprised," he said. "It supports the proposition that universal basic income programs do work and they aren't wasteful. People spend money on the things that we want them to spend money on: essentials."

The 45-year-old suspected the pills were the cause of her worsening problems with digestion, balance, memory, stiff muscles and flickering dots across her field of vision. When scans ruled out other illnesses, she gradually stopped each of four medications.

## Heatstroke deaths

## Singapore dengue cases exceed 10K

SINGAPORE, July 23, (Xinhua) - Singapore registered 236 dengue cases from July 14 to July 20, bringing the total dengue infections to 10,110, according to the latest data released by the National Environment Agency.

Singapore recorded 70 active dengue clusters, including 10 with a red color alert, as of Tuesday.

The city-state reported 9,949 dengue cases in 2023.

Meanwhile, Cambodia reported 7,058 dengue fever cases in the first half of 2024, a year-on-year increase of about 10 percent, a health official said on Tuesday.

Leang Rithea, National Dengue Control Program manager and deputy director of the National Center for Parasitology and Malaria Control, told Xinhua that in response to the dengue situation, the kingdom has prepared more than 160 tonnes of Abate and many liters of mosquito repellent to prevent a large-scale outbreak.

Abate is a chemical substance used to put in water pots to kill larvae.

"Parents should take their sick children to health centers or state hospitals within 48 hours if they suspect that their kids are infected with a dengue virus," he said.

He also urged people not to try to treat the disease by themselves.

Meanwhile, Rithea advised households to fill in puddles around their houses, saying that they are sources of mosquitoes.

Dengue fever is a viral disease transmitted through the bite of an Aedes mosquito. The disease causes an acute illness with symptoms such as headache, high fever of up to 40 degrees Celsius, exhaustion, severe muscle and joint pain, swollen glands, vomiting and rash.

In the Southeast Asian country, the peak of dengue epidemic period is in the rainy season from May to October.

**Heatstroke:** Cyprus announced a new heatstroke death and several additional cases on Monday as the eastern Mediterranean island continues to endure a prolonged heatwave.

According to a state health services spokesman, a 67-year-old woman died from heatstroke at a state hospital in Nicosia on Sunday afternoon. Three other women, aged 25 to 80, are currently being treated at the same hospital.

The increase in heat exhaustion cases is raising concern about the impact on children and young individuals. "The situation has worsened in recent days due to the persisting heatwave," the spokesman said, adding that it is particularly worrying that younger individuals are among the victims.

Last week, medical authorities urgently transferred a young commando conscript to a hospital in France after he collapsed during military training. Another commando conscript is being treated in Cyprus for similar symptoms.

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## Bach highlighted 'narrow self-interests trumping the rule of law'

Ahead of Paris Oly, IOC leaders tout games as multilateral unifier in divided world

## James scores final 11 points for the US in victory over Germany



Germany's forward Daniel Theis, (left), United States' guard Stephen Curry and Germany's Johannes Voigtmann, (right), challenge for the ball during an exhibition basketball game between the United States and Germany at the O2 Arena in London. (AP)

## Pre-Olympic tour ends

**LONDON, July 23, (AP): On Friday, LeBron James will carry the U.S. flag. But first, he carried the U.S. men's basketball team.**

Again. James scored the final 11 points for the Americans down the stretch, and the four-time reigning Olympic gold medalists held off World Cup champion Germany 92-88 in London in their final tune-up before the Paris Games start later this week.

Announced earlier in the day as the male flagbearer for the Americans in Friday night's opening ceremony down the River Seine - the female flagbearer will be revealed Tuesday - James came through time and time again down the stretch, just as he did over the weekend when his layup with 8 seconds left gave the U.S. a 101-100 win over upstart South Sudan.

James had 20 points for the U.S., while Joel Embiid scored 15, Ste-

## BASKETBALL

phen Curry had 13 and Anthony Edwards finished with 11.

"It was a good test for us. And I'm glad we were able to once again, you know, keep our composure, persevere like we did the other day versus South Sudan," James said. "It was a good win for us."

Franz Wagner led Germany with 18 points. Andreas Obst - the hero of last year's German win over the U.S. in the World Cup semifinals - had 14, while Dennis Schroder had a 13-point, 10-assist night. Daniel Theis added 13 for Germany and Moritz Wagner scored 12.

The Americans finished their exhibition slate 5-0, but there was only one game that was a true cakewalk. That was against Serbia, the team that'll face the U.S. on Sunday in the first Olympic game this summer for both teams.

Canada gave the U.S. issues at times. Australia came from way back to make things interesting at the end, South Sudan nearly pulled off an upset as a 43.5-point under-

## Uganda's 3,000 meters steeplechase champ runner Chemutai targets 2nd Olympic gold

KAMPALA, July 23, (Xinhua): Uganda's Peruth Chemutai, defending Olympic champion of women's 3,000m steeplechase has set her eyes on a second gold medal of the event in the upcoming Paris Olympics.

The star runner, who won Olympic gold at the 2020 Tokyo Games, told Xinhua that she is more than determined to shine again in Paris, although she underwent a tough period last year.

Uganda will be represented by a total of 25 athletes at the Paris Olympics.

Knowing well the challenges of topping the podium, Chemutai

said that she is happy to qualify for the Games because not everyone makes it to the Olympics. "It is an honor to qualify for the Games and to be part of Team Uganda. As an athlete, I know it will not be easy in Paris because everyone wants to

## OLYMPICS

win a medal," she said.

"I have been working hard for years now with the focus on the Paris Olympics, and I am determined to go all the way and win yet another medal," added Chemutai. "I know what to expect in Paris,

but I am well prepared and motivated for it." Other Ugandan star athletes to watch in Paris include world champions Joshua Cheptegei and Jacob Kiplimo, who will both compete in the men's 5,000m and 10,000m races.

Dominic Otuchet, President of the Uganda Athletics Federation (UAF) told Xinhua that he is confident Uganda will bag some medals in the track and field events in Paris.

"Our 21 athletes have trained really hard and many of them have now gained experience and know what to do at world events," said Otuchet.

dog and the Germans had the lead over the U.S. with 4 minutes left on Monday.

Then it was James' time. He outscored Germany 11-6 by himself in the final 3:57.

And now, Paris awaits. The games start for real this weekend.

"We've had every experience," Curry said. "Now it's obviously

a matter of showing up when the lights are bright next week. I think we're ready. I think we're prepared. Now we have to perform."

For the second consecutive game, the U.S. got outscored by 21 points from 3-point range. And it nearly burned the Americans again.

Germany was 13 for 45 from beyond the arc, the U.S. was 6 for

17, and that's a 39-18 difference in points from deep.

South Sudan outscored the U.S. 42-21 from deep on Saturday.

Also not helping the U.S. cause on Monday: it had 14 turnovers to Germany's seven.

"I don't think we've played our best offensive game yet," Curry said.

Theis had 26 points, while Schroder and Obst had 24 apiece in Germany's 113-111 win over the U.S. in the World Cup at Manila a year ago.

That trio was fantastic again Monday, combining for 40 points.

It should be noted that the loss to Germany last year was about when some players - James, for example - started seriously thinking about joining the U.S. program for this run to the Paris Games.

Kevin Durant got some pregame shots up again, just as he did Saturday in London. And, again, that was the extent of his game-night action.

The three-time gold medalist did not play while he continues to recover from the calf strain he suffered a few days before the U.S. convened for training camp in Las Vegas.



Germany's Johannes Voigtmann, (right), blocks United States' forward LeBron James during an exhibition basketball game between the United States and Germany at the O2 Arena in London. (AP)

PARIS, July 23, (AP): On the eve of the Paris Olympics, IOC president Thomas Bach touted the games Monday as a unifying force in a world of divisive and "deeply disturbing" trends.

"We are witnessing a new world order in the making," Bach told an audience that included French president Emmanuel Macron, organizers of the Paris Games that open Friday and officials from Olympic sports federations.

The IOC leader highlighted "narrow self-interests trumping the rule of law" among threats to the multilateralism that has shaped global affairs for almost 80 years.

"Historic disruptions are upending the system of international relations

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that has been in place since the second World War," Bach said. "The trends are unfortunately clear: decoupling of economies, beggar-thy-neighbor, narrow self-interests trumping the rule of law, 'Global South' vs. 'Global North.'"

The Olympics is part of a global and multilateral world that Bach suggested "is on the back foot."

"In this new world order, 'cooperation' or 'compromise' are sadly considered disparaging terms," he said. "In this world of division, the athletes personify our shared hope for a better future. The athletes are showing us how to live peacefully together under one roof in the Olympic Village."

Earlier Monday, Bach met with athletes from the Israeli and Palestinian teams now living in the Olympic residences in the Saint-Denis neighborhood north of central Paris.

"In these dark times, our Olympic values matter more than ever," Bach said in his speech. "It is only by living our Olympic values - the values of solidarity, equality, human dignity for all - that we can bring the entire world together in peace."

Bach spoke at a ceremonial opening - hosted by one of the Paris organizers' French sponsors, luxury goods firm LVMH - of the International Olympic Committee's annual meeting. It runs through Wednesday at a conference center near the Arc de Triomphe.

On Tuesday, IOC members are set to confirm a 12-year deal agreed with Saudi Arabia to host Olympic Esports Games in video gaming that are meant to help the governing body better engage with young people.

Bach said the Olympics "must engage with this digitally native generation" to stay relevant with them, while supporting Saudi progress in "the popularization of sport and in particular the participation of girls and women in sport."

Also Tuesday, future Summer Games hosts Los Angeles and Brisbane will update the IOC on their plans for the 2028 and 2032 editions, respectively.

On Wednesday, Salt Lake City should be confirmed as host of the 2034 Winter Games, bringing the event back to Utah after a 32-year gap. The 2030 edition is heading for the French Alps project also centered on coastal city Nice. Final confirmation likely cannot be given this week because of uncertainty in the national government since recent snap elections for parliament called by Macron and which stalled momentum that was building for far-right parties.

## Fiji aims for a three-peat

## Dupont's Games debut to boost France's rugby sevens 'chances'

PARIS, July 23, (AP): Antoine Dupont had one ambition when he switched his focus to what he described as the French Olympic project: a gold medal for the host nation.

The world's premier rugby player will get France's Olympic medal campaign underway Wednesday, two days before the official opening ceremony of the Paris Games, when his team takes on the United States in the first Pool B game of the rugby sevens competition.

Stade de France will be at capacity and most of the attention will be on Dupont when the French kick off in the third game of a three-day men's tournament. It'll be the same on Day 2 when the French meet two-time Olympic champion Fiji, the most formidable force in rugby's condensed sevens format.

The U.S. men face France and Fiji on Wednesday, giving them a unique view of a pair of title favorites.

"When we get in that environment, besides maybe 14 players, give or take 50 friends and family coming in supporting us, the staff and the people watching on TV - we know it's going to be us versus 69,000 people," U.S. captain Kevon Williams said of facing the French. "We're OK with that, we've been preparing for that, we've honed in and said, 'It's just us.' "All we'll see is the French jersey, so we'll be ready." France hosted the Rugby World Cup last year and the national team again failed to lift the title. It has been a finalist three times at the sport's biggest tournament.

With undisputed star of the 15-a-side game joining its ranks, France has peaked in the rugby sevens format in 2024. Dupont helped the French win a spot on the world series for the first time in 19 years, and then capped it with a victory in the series finale in Madrid.

The French evolution has coincided with an unusually lean season for Fiji.

Although Fiji head coach Osea Kolinisau is confident the team's bid for an Olympic three-peat will overshadow the inconsistent world series run by the time the men's sevens medals are awarded Saturday.

"We plan to keep that legacy going,"

Kolinisau said. "We can claim it solely." Kolinisau led Fiji to its first ever Olympic gold medal as captain in 2016 at Rio de Janeiro, where rugby sevens was featured on the Olympic program for the first time.

Kolinisau was rushed into the coaching role earlier this year to resurrect Fiji's men's program, and he reinstated what he calls the "Fijian way" - or instinct - for sevens rugby: "High tempo, high risk." In the series finale, the Fijians posted wins over Ireland, South Africa and New Zealand before losing to France in the semifinals.

For Argentina, a grand final loss to France in Madrid was a setback after it topped the league stage of the world series, winning three of the seven spots.

For the Olympic tournament, Argentina is grouped with Australia, Samoa and Kenya in Pool B. No. 2-ranked Ireland, Tokyo silver medalist New Zea-

## OLYMPICS

land, Rio bronze medalist South Africa and Japan are in a tough Pool A. Uruguay joins France, Fiji and the U.S. in Pool C.

The top two teams in each group and the two best third-place teams advance to the quarterfinals, meaning two-thirds of the 12 starters are still in medal contention when the knockout phase starts.

That's the stage where the Fijians have come into their own at the two previous Olympics.

Jerry Tuwai has been integral in Fiji's first two Olympic runs and the 35-year-old playmaker was recalled by Kolinisau two months ago after almost a year out of the team.

A two-time Olympic champion, Sevens World Cup winner and player of the decade, Tuwai has embraced Kolinisau's approach ahead of the Paris Games.

"Our style of play has been opened up and our teamwork and communication. Our decision making - that's another thing that opened up, too," Tuwai said. "After two Olympic gold medals, these boys have shown they always show up in very big tournaments."

"We have this legacy to defend."

## Can China achieve clean sweep in table tennis?

PARIS, July 23, (Xinhua): For the first time in history, China's table tennis team has named a specific coach for the mixed doubles in this Olympic circle, showing the all-time leading squad's determination to top the event's podium at Paris 2024.

For the first time in history, China's table tennis team has appointed a specific coach for the mixed doubles event, demonstrating the all-time leading squad's determination to top the podium at Paris 2024.

Three years ago in Tokyo, Japan's Jun Mizutani and Mima Ito overcame then-reigning world champions Xu Xin and Liu Shiwen of China in a seven-set thriller to claim the first ever Olympic gold medal in mixed doubles table tennis.

China has won 32 of 37 golds and 60 of 115 total medals since table tennis debuted at Seoul 1988, while the mixed doubles

title claimed at Tokyo 2020 was the first for Japan in table tennis, but barred Chinese paddlers from achieving a fourth straight clean sweep at an Olympics.

In December 2022, veteran coach Xiao Zhan was appointed to lead the mixed doubles coaching group with the aim of preparing for Paris 2024.

"I've made a promise to earn this coaching post, and for me, to nail down the mixed doubles gold in Paris is a must-do task," Xiao, who mentored Zhang Jike to a "fastest" Grand Slam winning of Olympics, World Championships and World Cup in 445 days in 2011 and 2012, told media earlier in 2023.

According to Liu Guoliang, president of the Chinese Table Tennis Association, 56-year-old Xiao will take the on-field advising chair for both the mixed doubles pair of Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha and Wang's men's singles matches at the

upcoming Olympics.

Embarking for Paris on June 15, the Chinese team is pinning their hopes of improving their medal haul on Wang and Sun, who have won twice the mixed doubles world title, in 2021 and 2023.

However, Mizutani and Ito's historic victory in Tokyo not only marked a momentous occasion for Japan, but stirred interest from many other table tennis power-

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houses.

Earlier this year at the Busan 2024 Team Worlds, Athens 2004 champion Ryu Seung-min, now president of the Korea Table Tennis Association, made no secret of his desire for an Olympic gold medal in the mixed doubles at Paris 2024.

"Why not? Japan won the mixed doubles at Tokyo 2020.

The energy from the World Table Tennis Championships in Busan, along with hosting a WTT event in Incheon next month, builds our expectation for a gold medal in Paris since 2004," he said.

Lim Jong-hoon and Shin Yu-bin will carry Ryu and South Korea's hope of ending a 20-year title drought, while Japan's Tomokazu Harimoto and Hina Hayata, who won the WTT Star Challenge in Bangkok early this month, will strive to repeat their predecessors' Tokyo glory. Aside from the mixed doubles, the other four events will all see China launch a title-defending campaign, but this time around, just like the mixed doubles, Paris may crown a new champion in the men's singles.

35-year-old Ma Long is only playing in the men's team event, but will set a new Olympic record if he wins a sixth gold in Paris. His torch passes to Fan Zhendong, the Tokyo 2020 silver medalist, and

current men's singles top seed Wang Chuqin.

Local favorite Felix Lebrun, a rising star at just 17 and the third seed, will stand in their way, alongside South America's sole representative in the seedings, Hugo Calderano of Brazil, Asian youngsters Lin Yun-ju of Chinese Taipei and Harimoto of Japan, as well as German duo Qiu Dang and Dimitrij Ovcharov.

Chen Meng, 30, will try etching her name deeper into Olympic history by retaining her title, but her path to glory will meet a fierce challenge from top-seeded compatriot Sun Yingsha, the reigning world champion and current World Cup title holder.

Standing tall against the Chinese prodigies are Hina Hayata, Shin Yubin, Bernadette Szocs of Romania, Adriana Diaz of Puerto Rico, Prithika Pavade of France, and Tomokazu Harimoto's younger sister Miwa.

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# US favored to top overall medal table

China may challenge for most gold

**PARIS, July 23, (AP):** As the Paris Olympics are set to open this week, the United States goes in as the favorite to win the most medals. China is unlikely to overtake the U.S. in the overall medal haul, but has a chance to win more gold medals than the Americans.

Though the Games highlight great individual athletes, they are also a surrogate for geopolitical influence and national pride.

The United States is projected to win 112 medals overall - 39 gold, 32

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silver, and 41 bronze. China is forecast to win 86 overall - 34 gold, 27 silver, and 25 bronze.

This forecast is by Nielsen's Gracenet e Sports, which supplies statisti-



Australia's goalkeeper Genevieve Longman reaches for a shot during Australia's women's team training at the 2024 Summer Olympics, in Saint-Denis, France. (AP)



Latvia's BMX athlete Ernests Zebolds demonstrates his skills in the Olympic Village at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

cal analysis for sports leagues around the world. It also tracks major competitions involving Olympic sports leading up to the Games.

The United States and China finished 1-2 in both categories in 2021 in the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Olympics.

The International Olympic Committee does not compile medal rankings. Gracenet has calculated its standings on overall medals won, although others focus the rankings on gold totals.

The forecast for the Americans on top is no surprise. This would be the eighth consecutive time the United States has won the most overall medals at the Summer Games. The Unified team topped the overall count in 1992 at Barcelona, composed of athletes from the former Soviet Union just after it broke up as a sovereign state.

The last Summer Olympics in which the United States did not top the gold-medal table was in 2008 in Beijing.

After the United States and China, the next in line with overall totals and gold totals are: Britain (63-17), France (60-27), Australia (54-15), Japan (47-13), Italy (46-11), Germany (35-11), Netherlands (34-16), South Korea (26-9).

The next places 11 to 20 are: Canada (21-7), Hungary (20-7), Brazil (18-8), Spain (18-5), Poland (17-3), Denmark (14-5), Turkey (14-4), New Zealand (14-4), Ukraine (13-2), Ethiopia (12-6).

Countries always get a medal bump being the host nation, and France is expected to almost triple the number of gold medals it won in Tokyo.

This time the medals will be inlaid with a tiny piece of the Eiffel Tower.

Host nations spend more heavily for a home Olympics, and the home crowds also help with athletes competing in familiar surroundings.

Conversely, Japan won a record 58 overall medals three years ago in Tokyo, and 27 gold. It is sure to slip this time.

The unknown factor is the presence of Russian and - to a lesser extent - Belarusian athletes. They have been absent from most international competitions over the last two years because of the war in Ukraine. And, by order of the IOC, any medals those athletes win are not to be included in any medal table.

More than 300 Russian athletes competed three years ago in Tokyo. This time the total may be just a dozen or so.

Three days before the start of the 2024 Olympics, France's interior minister praised law enforcement for their hard work in making the Paris Games safe for thousands of athletes and millions of fans amid security challenges.

Paris is deploying around 30,000 police officers each day for the Olympics, which run Friday to Aug. 11, with a peak of 45,000 for the opening cer-



Archers line up to shoot during a training session at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

emony on the Seine river.

In a handwritten note to tens of thousands of police officers, firefighters, bomb disposal experts, intelligence services agents and private security personnel, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said "the largest global event that a country can organize" is "finally" here after four years of preparation, but he noted that it faced unprecedented security challenges.

"Your task will not be easy," Darmanin said in a letter that was posted on the social platform X late Monday. Paris has repeatedly suffered deadly extremist attacks and international tensions are high because of the wars in Ukraine and Gaza.

Olympic organizers also have cyberattack concerns, while rights campaigners and Games critics are worried about Paris' use of AI-equipped surveillance technology and the broad scope and scale of Olympic security that they fear may remain in place beyond the Olympics.

## 'Match calendar is now beyond saturation'

### European soccer leagues, player unions challenge FIFA in formal legal complaint

**PARIS, July 23, (AP):** European soccer leagues and player unions said on Tuesday they will formally complain to the European Commission about how FIFA adds competitions to congested fixture schedules.

The legal move backs up warnings to FIFA in May by European Leagues and FIFPRO Europe urging a rethink on what they claimed was an "inherently abusive" decision-making process, including to expand the men's World Cup and Club World Cup.

It also follows a European Court of Justice ruling in December which found FIFA and UEFA abused their dominant position as regulator and competition organizer in a case brought by storied clubs that tried to launch a breakaway Super League in 2021.

"Regrettably, FIFA has consistently refused to include national leagues and player unions in its decision-making process," European Leagues and FIFPRO Europe said in a statement.

Soccer's world body hit back suggesting some leagues in Europe were "acting with commercial self-interest, hypocrisy, and without consideration to everyone else in the world."

## SOCCER

The European Commission in Brussels is the executive arm of the 27-nation European Union and can intervene on alleged breaches of competition law.

"FIFA's decisions over the last years have repeatedly favored its own competitions and commercial interests, neglected its responsibilities as a governing body, and harmed the economic interests of national leagues and the welfare of players," European Leagues and FIFPRO Europe said.

"The international match calendar is now beyond saturation and has become unsustainable for national

### Abdullah Al-Awadhi shines at Diamond League in Belgium

**DHOWTLO, Belgium, July 23:** Abdullah Mishari Al-Awadhi, a rider from Al-Masayel Club and member of the Kuwaiti show jumping equestrian team, has continued to excel in international championships currently held in Belgium and the Netherlands during his training camp in Europe.

Al-Awadhi achieved first place in the Diamond League competition in Dhowtlo, Belgium, in the 140 cm event. Riding his horse "Dee

## EQUESTRIAN

Dee," he recorded the fastest time in the second round of the championship, which saw intense competition among top riders.

The event featured two rounds with 100 participants, of whom 20 qualified for the second round. Al-Awadhi achieved the fastest time without errors. Additionally, he secured sixth place in the 120 cm event on his horse "Mega Star."

In a press statement, Al-Awadhi remarked, "I am currently participating in an external preparation camp



Al-Awadhi during the European camp.

in Europe in preparation for the next season. The competition was strong, and my next stop will be the two-star Leer International Championship in Belgium at the beginning of August."

Al-Awadhi also competed in the Dutch International Championship, two-star category, where he achieved third place in the 140 cm event.

leagues and a risk for the health of players."

FIFA manages the calendar of international games and tournaments which mandates when clubs must release their players called up for national teams.

Top-tier leagues, which shut down their weekend programs for national-team fixtures, have long claimed they were not fully consulted on the latest version that runs to 2030.

"FIFA's calendar is the only instrument ensuring that international football can continue to survive, co-exist, and prosper alongside domestic and continental club football," the governing body said.

The complaint to Brussels, joined by Spain's La Liga, will claim "FIFA's conduct infringes EU competition law and notably constitutes an abuse of dominance," their statement said.

"This creates a conflict of interest, which, consistent with recent case law of the EU courts, requires FIFA to exercise its regulatory functions in a way that is transparent, objective, non-discriminatory and proportionate."

The first editions of FIFA's revamped men's competitions will be hosted in the United States.

The men's 2026 World Cup will have 48 teams instead of 32, playing 104 total games instead of 64. Players whose teams reach the semifinals will be involved in eight games in a tournament stretching close to six weeks in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

The U.S. also will host a re-launched Club World Cup next June-July, with 32 teams - 12 from Europe including Real Madrid, Manchester City and Bayern Munich - playing a maximum of seven games.

The Champions League run by UEFA also is adding more teams and more games - 36 each playing at least eight times in a new format - in the next seasons. That will squeeze more midweek fixture options from domestic and cup organizers.

FIFA noted that European leagues' member clubs often take offseason tours "involving extensive global travel."

## Vondrousova, Hurkacz withdraw from Games

### Murray to retire after Paris Olympics

**PARIS, July 23, (Agencies):** Three-time Grand Slam champion and two-time Olympic champion Andy Murray has confirmed on Tuesday that the Paris Olympic Games would be his last competition.

"Arrived in Paris for my last ever tennis tournament," the 37-year-old wrote on social media Tuesday morning. "Competing for Team GB has been by far the most memorable weeks of my career and I'm extremely proud to get to do it one final time!" Murray will make his fifth Olympic appearance in Paris. He won the men's singles gold at the 2012 London Games and defended his title four years later in Rio.

Murray underwent a surgery to deal with a back injury just a few days ahead of the Wimbledon Championships, but was hoping to play his last grass-court Grand Slam as he had already decided to retire later this year at that time.

He withdrew from the singles event a few hours before his first match started, but made his final appearance at Wimbledon to play in the men's doubles event with his brother Jamie Murray.

Meanwhile, Tokyo Olympics tennis silver medalist Marketa Vondrousova withdrew from the Paris Games on Monday because of a hand injury.

Also pulling out of the tennis competition in Paris was Poland's Hubert Hurkacz, who hurt his knee at Wimbledon this month.

Vondrousova, a 25-year-old from the Czech Republic, won Wimbledon last year despite being unseeded and was the runner-up at the French Open - played at Roland Garros, the same site being used for tennis matches at these Summer Games - in 2019.

She is coming off a first-round exit at Wimbledon this month, the first woman since 1994 to lose her opening match a year after winning the title at the All England Club.

Vondrousova posted on social media about pulling out of the Olympics, saying that her focus now is on being ready for the U.S. Open, which starts in late August.

She was the runner-up to Belinda Bencic of Switzerland at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago.

Vondrousova is currently ranked No. 18 in the world and would have

been seeded No. 12 in Paris. She was replaced on the Czech team by Katerina Siniakova in singles and Linda Noskova in doubles; Noskova will pair with 2023 French Open runner-up Karolina Muchova.

Hurkacz, who would have been the No. 7 seed at the Olympics, injured his right knee during his second-round match at Wimbledon on July 4 while diving to hit a shot late in the fourth set against Arthur Fils.

## TENNIS

Play was delayed for several minutes while a trainer examined and taped up Hurkacz's knee; when action resumed, Hurkacz immediately tried to dive for another volley, then had to stop playing.

Hurkacz's best Grand Slam showing was reaching the semifinals at Wimbledon in 2021. His victory over Roger Federer in the quarterfinals turned out to be the last match of Federer's career.

The draw for the Olympics tennis competition is scheduled for Thursday, and matches begin on Saturday.

## Best of the Rest

### Messi, Suárez to miss event:

Inter Miami star Lionel Messi won't play in the MLS All-Star Game while nursing an ankle injury.

The 37-year-old Messi left the July 14 Copa America final win over Colombia with a right ankle injury. His teammate, Luis Suárez, also won't play in the game Wednesday in Columbus, Ohio, with what the team described as "knee discomfort." (AP)

### Braithwaite joins Gremio:

Former Barcelona forward Martin Braithwaite has joined Gremio on a free transfer, the Brazilian Serie A club said on Monday.

The 33-year-old Denmark international, who parted ways with Spain's Espanyol earlier this month, agreed in principle to a deal that runs until December 2025.

(Xinhua)

### Wiley signs for Chelsea:

Chelsea has signed United States left-back Caleb Wiley from Atlanta United on a six-year contract. The 19-year-old Wiley is joining for a fee that is reported to be worth \$11 million.

He has been part of Atlanta's first team since 2022 and made his senior debut for the U.S. national team against Mexico last October. (AP)

### Marseille signs Højbjerg:

Marseille has signed Tottenham midfielder Pierre-Emile Højbjerg on loan for the season with an obligation to buy.

Both clubs announced the deal Monday, with reports saying Marseille will pay 20 million euros (\$21.8 million) to make the deal permanent next year. (AP)



Regis Scott, a polyclinic medical team member, sits in the Olympic rings in the Olympic Village at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)



President of Paris Saint-Germain, Nasser Al-Khelaifi carrying the Olympic torch.

# Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

## Kuwaiti hopefuls ready for Olympic Games challenge

Athletes intensify preparations

PARIS, July 23: Kuwaiti shooters Khaled Al-Mudhaf and Mohammed Al-Daihani are intensively preparing for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, which will take place from July 26 to August 11.

Khaled Al-Mudhaf, who secured Kuwait's first qualifying spot for the Paris 2024 Olympics by winning a bronze medal in individual trap shooting at the World Championship in Azerbaijan, has been in Italy for the past three months for his training camp. Italy is a preferred destination for international shooting champions due to its extensive training facilities, weapons, and ammunition factories.

Meanwhile, Mohammed Al-Daihani, who earned his Olympic qualification with a bronze medal in men's individual skeet shooting at the Kuwait Asian Championship, has been training in Chateauroux, France, for the past month. Chateauroux, just over two hours by train from Paris, is the location for the Olympic shooting events and boasts one of Europe's largest shooting centers, established by the French Federation in 2018.



Mohammed Al-Daihani

National swimming team coach Ayman Al-Enezi has confirmed that preparations for the 2024 Paris Olympics are underway for swimmers Mohammed Al-Zubaid and Lara Dashti, who are attending external training camps.

Lara Dashti began her training early in the United States and has continued her rigorous daily regimen since returning to Kuwait. She aims to enhance her technical skills

and make a strong impression at her second consecutive Olympic appearance, having competed in Tokyo 2020. Lara will compete in the 100m breaststroke, with her events starting on July 28.

Mohammed Al-Zubaid has been rigorously training daily in Kuwait and recently finished a 45-day train-

### OLYMPICS

ing camp in Antalya, Turkey. His dedication and commitment have been outstanding as he gears up for his debut Olympic appearance in the 100m freestyle, set for July 30.

Kuwait will be represented by nine athletes competing in six sports at the Paris 2024 Olympics: archery, fencing, swimming, athletics, rowing, and sailing. The Kuwaiti team includes:

**Archery:** Khaled Al-Mudhaf (trap) and Mohammed Al-Daihani (skeet)

**Fencing:** Yousef Al-Shamlan (saber)

**Athletics:** Yacoub Al-Yawha (110m hurdles) and Amal Al-Roumi (800m)

**Swimming:** Mohammed Al-Zubaid (100m freestyle) and Lara Dashti (100m breaststroke)

**Rowing:** Souad Al-Faqaan

**Sailing:** Amina Shah.



The Kuwait ShinKyokushin Karate team.

## Kuwait ShinKyokushin team shines

TOKYO, July 23, (KUNA): The Kuwait ShinKyokushin Karate team achieved impressive results at the Karate Dream Festival 2024 International Championship in Japan, securing both first and second places.

Karateka Abdulwahab Al-Saleh clinched first place after a series of three bouts, while Eyad Al-Saleh earned second place following four bouts in the tournament held from July 20 to 21 in Tokyo.

In a statement to KUNA, Abdulwahab Al-Saleh expressed his pride in representing Kuwait and achieving first place,

describing participation in the tournament as a long-held dream.

ShinKyokushin branch chief in Kuwait, Sensei Abdul-

### KARATE

lah Al-Banwan, praised the winners' performance and their dedication in showcasing Kuwait on the international stage.



Kuwait youth volleyball team

Blues looking to bounce back vs India

## Tough 'start' for Kuwait volleyball team at Asian U-20 Championship

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

SURABAYA, Indonesia, July 23: In the opening match of the Asian U-20 Championship's third group, held in Surabaya, Indonesia, the Kuwait youth volleyball team lost to Japan with a score of 0-3 (sets 12-25, 14-25, and 15-25). The

### VOLLEYBALL

tournament, which began yesterday, will run until July 31. In another match from the same group, Bangladesh edged out India with a 3-2 victory.

The team is set to face India in its second group match today at 9:00 am followed by a game against Bangladesh tomorrow at 7:00 am, marking the end of the preliminary round.

To prepare for the Asian Championship, the team held an external training camp in Cairo, Egypt, where they played several friendly matches against the Egyptian junior national team, Shabab Al-Sharqiya club, and Heliolido club.

The delegation is led by Jassem Al-Failakawi, a member of the Air Force Federation's Board of Directors, and includes team director Abdulaziz Al-Failakawi, head coach Jassem Al-Tarrawah, assistant coach Osama Madkour, physiotherapist Moataz Ezzedine, and 14 players: Fawaz Al-Mishaal, Ali Dashti, Barak Al-Nasser, Faisal Al-Sarraj, Hamoud Al-Masoud, Ahmed Al-Hamdan, Abdulaziz Al-Enezi, Khaled Bouaraki, Abdulaziz Al-Hashemi, Ahmed Al-Mutairi, Rashid Abdulkarim, Rashid Al-Nuaimi, Mahdi Hassan, and Ahmed Sha.

Marquez named assistant

## Aguirre returns as Mexico coach

MEXICO CITY, July 23, (AP): Javier Aguirre will coach Mexico for the third time.

Rafael Marquez, who played in five World Cups for Mexico and was the coach of Barcelona's reserve team, will be groomed by Aguirre to become the national coach, the Mexican Football Association confirmed on Monday.

"(Aguirre) is without a doubt the Mexican coach with the longest and most recognized career abroad and he also has in-depth knowledge of the processes in national teams," said Duilio Davino, the director of national teams.

Davino added Marquez will be Aguirre's assistant for two years under a plan for him to take over as head coach for the 2030 World Cup.

"Rafa is one of the most important players in Mexican history with a great national and international career who began his coaching career with an emblematic team," Davino said. "We have offered him to be the assistant until 2026 so that he can contribute his

knowledge and then assume the leadership."

The 65-year-old Aguirre led Mexico to the round of 16 at the 2002 and 2010 World Cups. Mexico was knocked out in that round at every World Cup from 1994 to 2018, then was eliminated in the group stage in 2022.

Jaime Lozano was hired last year to replace Diego Cocca and led Mexico to the 2023 Gold Cup title.

### SOCCER

But following Mexico's group-stage exit at the Copa America this month, he was fired.

Aguirre is the only Mexican who has coached at the elite level in Europe. He has led six teams in Spain, including Atlético Madrid and Mallorca, which he took to the final of the Copa del Rey last season.

He has also coached the national teams of Japan and Egypt. Aguirre's first games in charge will be in September when Mexico plays friendlies against New Zealand and Canada in the United States.

The 45-year-old Marquez's last World Cup was in 2018 in Russia. As a player, Marquez won four league titles and two Champions Leagues with Barcelona. He coached Barcelona's reserve team the last two years.



Aguirre

## Tour de France winner cites fatigue

## Pogacar withdraws from Olympics road race

PARIS, July 23, (AP): Three-time Tour de France winner Tadej Pogacar withdrew from the road race at the Paris Olympics late Monday, one day after becoming the first rider to win the Tour and the Giro d'Italia in the same season in nearly three decades.

The Slovenian Olympic Team announced Pogacar had withdrawn from the Aug. 3 road race due to fatigue. His professional teammate, Domen Novak, will replace him

### CYCLING

rather than Primož Roglič, the defending Olympic time trial gold medalist, who was left off the nation's provisional lineup and is likely still recovering from the crash that took him out of the Tour.

"Unfortunately, Tadej Pogacar will not be among (the riders in Paris)," the Slovenian team said in a statement. "He will be replaced by national team colleague Domen Novak. We wish Domen all the best and success."

Novak will be joined in the Slovenian lineup by Jan Tratnik, Matej

Mohoric and Luka Mezgec.

"Once again," the Slovenia team said, "congratulations to the Tour de France winner for his third victory in the world's most prestigious cycling race, and we hope he rests well and prepares for his next races."

The 25-year-old Pogacar has al-

ready said he will not race in the Vuelta a Espana in August, the third of the three Grand Tours. Instead, he is expected to recuperate ahead of the world championships in September in Switzerland.

Pogacar was expected to battle two-time winner Jonas Vingegaard

all the way to Nice, where the three-week Tour ended Sunday rather than with its customary finish on the Champs-Élysées because of the Paris Games. Instead, he pulled on the leader's yellow jersey after winning Stage 4 to Valloire and never let his biggest rivals get anywhere close to him the rest of the way.

Pogacar capped his dominance by winning the time trial Sunday for his 17th career stage win. He finished more than six minutes ahead of Vingegaard overall and more than nine ahead of third-place Remco Evenepoel, one of the Olympic favorites.

It made Pogacar the first rider since Marco Pantani in 1998 to win the Giro and the Tour in the same year.

"To win both together is another level above," Pogacar said after the finish Sunday. "This is the first Grand Tour where I was totally confident every day. Even at the Giro I remember I had one bad day. This year, the Tour was just amazing.

"I'm super happy," he added. "I cannot describe how happy I am after two hard years in the Tour de France."



Tour de France winner Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the twenty-first stage of the Tour de France cycling race, an individual time trial over 33.7 kilometers (20.9 miles) with start in Monaco and finish in Nice, France. (AP)