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Kuwait Amir condoles Saudi King over royal's passing

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of condolences to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud over the demise of Princess Jawaher Bint Masaaed bin Saud Al-Saud.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed his sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy, and prayed to the

Almighty Allah to bestow mercy on Princess Jawaher, and grant solace and patience to her family.

Likewise, His Highness the Crown Prince of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, sent a similar cable to King Salman, offering his deepest condolences and sympathy following the passing of Princess Jawaher, and

praying for strength and solace for her family.

His Highness the Prime Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, also conveyed his condolences to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, expressing his heartfelt sympathy and prayers for Princess Jawaher, while wishing comfort and strength to her grieving family.



HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

The king's sons' journey to rule: Their trial with a sheep

Father: Each one is tasked to transport his sheep to the village

Whoever accomplishes his task will demonstrate his preparedness for the throne

Thieves tricked the eldest son and took his sheep

He was so confident that they asked him: Why are you leading a dog on a leash?

The rich man deceived the younger son of money, so he did not complete his task

He did not care about the hungry and the tired because he wanted glory

A true king does not deceive his people or neglect the needy

Father to his middle son: Compassion is the bedrock of true leadership

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KUNA photo
The Minister of Justice during his inspection of the new Palace of Justice accompanied by senior officials of the ministry.

Justice gets tech jolt

Courts to go fully digital: Al-Sumait

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6, (KUNA): Justice Minister Nasser Al-Sumait said on Wednesday the Ministry of Justice is weeks away from a comprehensive digital transformation, which is designed to reduce bureaucracy, speed up casework and deliver streamlined judicial services to citizens and residents alike.

Touring the new Palace of Justice on Wednesday, Al-Sumait told KUNA that enabling legislation was in its final stages, paving the way for every ministry service to migrate online.

Technology heavyweights Google and Microsoft have been contracted to build the infrastructure, he pointed out.

The initiative will introduce end-to-end electronic filing, notifications and fee payments while overhauling court procedures to trim long-standing backlogs, Al-Sumait mentioned.

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Kuwait Visa shift ignites optimism

Experts see economic uptick ahead

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The statements made by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah to the daily regarding the expansion of visit visas of various types were warmly welcomed by economic, security, commercial, and real estate sectors, who viewed them as a hopeful sign for revitalizing markets and overcoming the



Al-Surai'a

recession.

Economic experts described these measures as a qualitative shift toward a more open policy, enhancing Kuwait's potential to reclaim its position on the Gulf's map of attractive destinations, especially amid intensifying regional competition for tourism and investment.

Observers noted that the impact extends beyond the economic sphere to social and humanitarian aspects by easing psychological stress on residents and enabling families to reunite, which will naturally contribute to greater security stability and reduced crime rates.

Security expert Major General Eng. Hamad Al-Surai'a confirmed that extending the visit period to three months, combined with new measures, most notably the availability of electronic visas through the "Kuwait Visa" platform, will boost tourism and strengthen Kuwait's competitive position in the region.

Continued on Page 5



Al-Hammadi



Hamed



Al-Ghanim



Bourseli



Kuwait Customs photo
Authorities showcase seized psychotropic pills and marijuana uncovered from a suspicious shipment arriving from Iran.

Customs intercepts drugs concealed in animal feed

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Inspectors from the Northern Ports Customs Department and Failaka Island, Doha Port, in cooperation with the Customs and Investigation Department and the Tracking Unit, successfully thwarted an attempt to smuggle a large quantity of narcotics that were professionally concealed inside a shipment arriving from Iran, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to details of the operation, the authorities acted on precise intelligence analysis that raised suspicion about one of the arriving ships, prompting a thorough inspection of the shipment.

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Ahmadi to rise as medical city

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6, (KUNA): The Cabinet was briefed on Tuesday through a visual presentation by Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi and some senior officials on a plan to transform Ahmadi health area into an integrated medical city.

The announcement was made during the Cabinet weekly meeting held in Bayan Palace, under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Abdullah Al-Mousherji said in a statement after the meeting.

Continued on Page 5



KUNA photo
KNG Chief Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Australian Ambassador to Kuwait Melissa Kelly.

KNG, Australia boost defense dialogue

Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Chief Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Australian Ambassador to Kuwait Melissa Kelly met on Wednesday, discussing ways to strengthen cooperation on various levels.

The KNG said in a statement that Sheikh Mubarak Al-Humoud expressed a strong desire to explore all venues of cooperation with Australia during his reception of the Ambassador. (KUNA)

Kuwait adds 1,982 buildings in 6 months as vacancy rate dips

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Reflecting both population growth and urban expansion, statistics issued by the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) revealed a 0.9 percent increase in the number of buildings in Kuwait during the first half of 2025, which is an addition of 1,982 buildings compared to the end of 2024.

Therefore, the total number of buildings reached 224,615 as of the

end of June 2025, up from 222,633 in December 2024.

The data also showed a 1.1 percent decrease in vacant buildings, dropping by 253 to 17,767, compared to 18,020 at the end of last year.

These vacant buildings include 5,654 residential buildings, 50 commercial buildings, 2,823 marginal structures, 8,421 traditional buildings, and 805 buildings under construction.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait, Nepal eye more flights

President of Kuwait's Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah discussed on Tuesday with Nepal's Ambassador Ghana Shyam Lamsal means of boosting bilateral collaboration in civil aviation domain.

The meeting focused on ways to develop air connectivity between Kuwait and Nepal in a way that serves common interest, facilitates passengers' movement and

boosts coordination between the two sides, Sheikh Humoud told KUNA in a statement.

They stressed the need of updating the number of flights agreed-upon, he said, referring that the number of Nepalese people has doubled reaching 160,000.

The next period requires increasing flights between the two sides to keep pace with the developments of the market in Kuwait, he stated. (KUNA)



KUNA photo
PACA President Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah receives Nepal's Ambassador to Kuwait Ghana Shyam Lamsal.

Kuwait humanitarian push nets over \$21 mln for Gaza

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6, (KUNA): The Ministry of Social Affairs announced on Wednesday the conclusion of the emergency relief campaign to support the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, with total donations of KD 6,546,078 (approximately USD 21.4 million).

The campaign was organized over three days in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the participation of Kuwait Red Crescent Society as well as a number of Kuwaiti charities and foundations.

Ministry spokesperson Youssef Saif told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) the campaign witnessed significant contributions from various entities, most notably the Secretariat General of Awqaf with KD 500,000 (approx. USD 1.6 million), and Insan Charity Society with KD 1.5 million (approx. USD 4.9 million).

Regarding online donations, Saif noted that the "Kuwait Beside You"

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Newswatch

Don't tap traps

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6, (KUNA): The Public Authority for Civil Identification (PACI) on Wednesday urged citizens and residents using the Kuwait Mobile ID application to authorize transactions only if they initiated them personally.

A statement by PACI indicated that users must review data provided by service providers before authorizing any transaction to prevent data breaches and help ensure the security of their information.

Kuwait Mobile ID application a digital identification app developed by the PACI for citizens and residents of Kuwait.

NEW YORK: WhatsApp has taken down 6.8 million accounts that were "linked to criminal scam centers" targeting people online around that world, its parent company Meta said this week.

The account deletions, which Meta said took place over the first six months of the year, arrive as part of wider company efforts to crack down on scams. (AP)



8 Markaz records total revenue of KD 14.45 mln for H1-2025

8 Agility KSCP supports summer learning for 227 female students in Kuwait



9 CINET joins Arab Credit Info Committee Meeting

Day by Day

SETTING end of August as the deadline for rectifying the legal status of women whose citizenships were withdrawn based on Article 8 has led to overwhelming congestion at several embassies, particularly of Gulf countries. These diplomatic missions are finding it difficult to complete the procedures before the month ends.

We do not know how this issue will be resolved, especially given that embassy staff are insufficient in number to process such a large volume of cases in such a short period.

We leave it to the embassies concerned to manage the status rectification process for these women.

We also leave it to the government, which is entrusted with the authority to do everything it can to ensure these women do not suffer harm.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:43	Asr	15:30
Sunrise ..	05:11	Maghrib ..	18:37
Zohr	11:54	Isha	20:01

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Very hot and humid over coastal areas with light to moderate northwesterly wind changing to southeasterly wind, with speeds of 10-35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear and a chance for drizzle.

By Night: Hot to rather hot and

Weather

humid over coastal areas with light to moderate variable wind to south-easterly wind, with speeds of 08-32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear with a slight chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	47	34

Kuwait Airport	47	36
Abdaly	47	33
Jahra	48	36
Salmiyah	42	32
Ahmadi	40	29
Nuwaisib	42	30
Wafra	48	33
Salmiyah	46	31
Managish	48	36



HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince



HH the Prime Minister

Amir congratulates Jamaica & Bolivia on their Nat'l Days

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent, on Wednesday, a congratulatory cable to the Governor-General of Jamaica, Patrick Linton Allen, on occasion of his country's National Day.

In cable, His Highness the Amir wished the Jamaican leader good health and wellness, and the people of Jamaica further progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince

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Prime Minister

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BOLIVIA

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Wednesday to the President of Bolivia, Luis Alberto Arce Catacora, on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the President of Bolivia good health and wellbeing, and more progress and prosperity for Bolivia and the Bolivian people.

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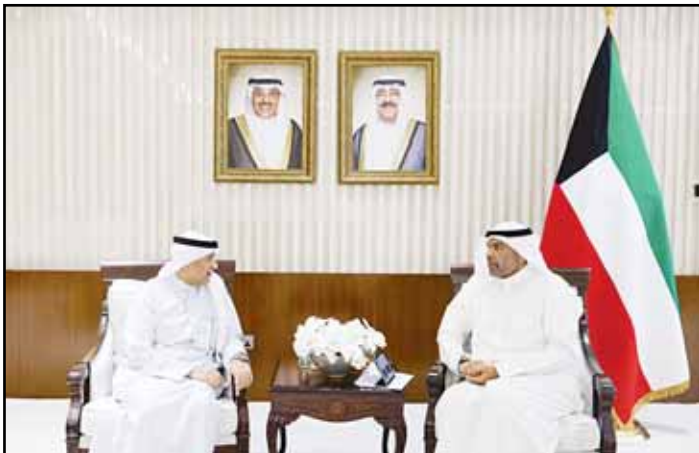
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Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya receives Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud.



KUNA photos
Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya meets Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassem Al-Budaiwi.

Kuwait FM, GCC chief call for stronger inter-Gulf ties

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6, (KUNA): Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya met on Wednesday with Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassem Al-Budaiwi.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed strengthening Gulf cooperation, reviewed upcoming priorities, and exchanged views on regional and international developments.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received Wednesday a letter from Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud, on boosting bilateral ties and expanding cooperation across various fields.

This came during Minister Al-Yahya's meeting with the Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud.

Kuwait, Netherlands back dialogue for int'l stability

Kuwaiti tourist numbers on rise: Ambassador Westhoff

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Dutch Ambassador to Kuwait Laurens Westhoff described his five-year diplomatic experience in the country as "rich and full of opportunities."

Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, Westhoff reflected on his tenure, which began during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. He revealed "I arrived in Kuwait at a difficult time -- during the COVID-19 pandemic. Direct communication is vital in diplomacy, and that was initially a challenge. However, I was impressed by the Kuwaiti government's efficiency in managing the health crisis."

Throughout his tenure, Westhoff worked towards strengthening the longstanding ties between the Netherlands and Kuwait. "Over the past five years, I have sought to strengthen the relationship between our two countries, which dates back more than 60 years. In 2024, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Netherlands and Kuwait," he added.

He pointed out the emergence of new areas of bilateral cooperation, particularly in the energy transition sector. "We launched an important initiative on transitioning from oil dependency to alternative energy sources, such as solar and hydrogen. This is in collaboration with Kuwait University, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), along with Dutch experts," he disclosed.

He also expounded on the shared geopolitical realities of the two nations. "Both the Netherlands and Kuwait are relatively small countries surrounded by larger neighbors -- by Britain, Germany, and France; you by Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Iran. This compels us to rely on dialogue, diplomacy and mutual understanding to ensure stability and cooperation," he stated.



Photo by Mohammad Morsi
Laurens Westhoff

He confirmed that trade relations between the two countries have remained robust. He said "in 2024, Dutch exports to Kuwait reached approximately €845 million, while imports -- primarily crude oil -- totaled around €1.6 billion through the Port of Rotterdam. This brings the overall volume of bilateral trade to roughly €2.4 billion. The Netherlands also holds a leading position among European countries in terms of direct investments in Kuwait. Dutch investments amount to KD488 million; mostly channeled through companies and investment funds in various like oil, airport infrastructure, information technology, energy and agriculture."

He praised the growing appreciation among Kuwaitis for the Netherlands as a travel destination.

"Around 14,000 Kuwaiti tourists visit the Netherlands annually. This year, the number reached 7,000 by mid-year alone. Despite our not-so-ideal weather, Kuwaitis seem to enjoy the cold and rain," he said.

He also highlighted the appeal of the Netherlands' compact size, cultural offerings and ease of travel.

"Although our country is only twice the size of Kuwait, it offers a unique tourism experience -- with world-class museums and artworks by Van Gogh, Rembrandt and Vermeer -- all within short distances," he elaborated.

On educational, Westhoff acknowledged the room for growth. He stated that the number of Kuwaiti students in the Netherlands is modest compared to countries like Canada, due to language and education system differences. "Nevertheless, we are working hard to develop this aspect. Every Kuwaiti who studies in the Netherlands becomes a cultural ambassador for our bilateral relations," he asserted.

On defense ties, he revealed that training programs for the Kuwaiti naval forces occasionally take place in the Netherlands. There have also been high-level reciprocal visits, including a visit by Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah, two years ago. He added that the Dutch Foreign Minister is scheduled to meet with his Kuwaiti counterpart this October.

On air travel between the two nations, Westhoff commented on KLM's service suspension. He explained that "KLM's decision was not related to Kuwait, but rather due to operational challenges at Schiphol Airport. Meanwhile, Kuwait Airways continues to operate three weekly flights to Amsterdam, maintaining strong connectivity."

He also clarified the current visa processing issues. He said the recent changes in visa appointment procedures were introduced by VFS, not the embassy, indicating these adjustments aim to curb the selling of appointments by intermediaries and to ensure transparency.

He then revealed that his successor, Veeresh Ramsukh, will assume duties in early September. "He is a seasoned diplomat of Indian origin, born in Suriname and raised in the Netherlands. Like me, he does not speak Arabic, but that has not been a barrier; as Kuwaitis are proficient in English," he asserted.

In his closing remarks, Westhoff expressed heartfelt appreciation for Kuwait and its people. "I will miss Kuwait deeply. This experience has enriched my life, and I hope I have contributed to strengthening the ties between our two countries. The Diwan-ya is a wonderful idea -- welcoming people spontaneously and without formality. My wife and I are even considering starting a similar tradition in our hometown in eastern Holland: opening our home at specific times to friends and neighbors, with coffee and food, just like in Kuwait."

KFF efforts hailed

Safety of patients, staff top priority, says MoH

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi praised the outstanding efforts of the medical, administrative, and engineering teams in managing the fire that broke out early Monday morning in one of the basement rooms at Jahra Hospital, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement issued after his inspection visit to the hospital on Tuesday, the minister reaffirmed the ongoing commitment to closely monitor operations, ensure the stability of healthcare services, and assess the condition of the emergency, radiology, and several ward departments after the minor fire incident, which caused no injuries.

Dr. Al-Awadhi commended the quick response of Kuwait Fire Force, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Electricity and Water, and the coordinated efforts of all involved entities in strengthening the safety system and protecting lives and facilities.

He insisted on the quick completion of repair works and the verification of the operational efficiency of all hospital departments and facilities to ensure a gradual and safe return to normal operations. A: The minister affirmed that "the safety of patients and staff is the ministry's top priority." A: During the visit, Dr. Al-Awadhi received a detailed briefing from Head of the Medical Authority Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Shammari, Head of the Emergency Department Dr. Ali Jawad, and other medical, technical, nursing, engineering, and administrative staff about the incident, the activation of the approved emergency plan, and the immediate coordination with the Council of Emergency Departments in hospitals affiliated with the ministry, which contributed to managing the situation quickly and efficiently.



Al-Seyassah photo
The Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi during his visit to the Al-Jahra Hospital.

87% of financial challenges in 2024/2025 dev. plan resolved

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The 2024/2025 annual plan follow-up report identified 97 financial challenges that hindered several major development projects, noting that 87 percent of these issues have been resolved, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Issued recently by the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, the report revealed that these financial challenges accounted for about 13 percent of the total 733 recurring challenges faced by the plan's projects.

The most prominent issues included delayed budget allocations (31 percent), lack of budget (27 percent), and budget insufficiency (22 percent).

The report also highlighted other challenges such as delayed approval of a 13 percent budget increase and a 7 percent reduction in allocated funds.

The report indicated that implementing agencies face one or more financial challenges in their dealings with the Ministry of Finance on several projects.

It emphasized the importance of determining project budgets early during the annual plan preparation, along with accurately identifying the cash flow requirements for each project.

This would help prevent projects from being included in the annual plan without adequate funding.

It is worth noting that government agencies begin by preparing their projects and obtaining approval from the Ministry of Finance, followed by approval from the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development to include the projects in the development plan, with budgets allocated as funding is needed.

Other Voices

'Maraadem' organizations

"Maraadem" is the plural of "mardem", a bird known as the Great Reed Warbler that can be easily caught due to its lack of caution. It has become a metaphor for submissiveness and calm.

□ □ □

By Ahmad alsarraf

About ten years ago, an accountant at a charitable organization embezzled approximately one and a half million dinars from its funds. When his scheme was uncovered, he fled to his home country, which does not extradite its citizens, even if they are fugitives.

What's strange about this case is not just the amount stolen or that he stole for four years, but the fact that no one on the religiously devout board of directors or the organization's auditors noticed a thing.

I have previously written several articles about such incidents, and how this incident could not have gone unnoticed for so long without the involvement, or at least the negligence, of internal parties.

I also highlighted that the organization's board of directors was unlikely to make a serious effort to bring the perpetrator to justice.

Similar thefts have occurred both before and after this case, often following the same pattern and frequently involving individuals affiliated with religious political groups.

The most recent case involved another "mardem", an organization whose accountant committed a money laundering offense amounting to half a million dinars between 2018 and 2022.

He invested the embezzled funds in establishing and operating a dermatology and plastic surgery clinic, generating over KD 413,000 in revenue.

He manipulated the organization's



alsarraf

bank statements, falsified the names of staff members, including teachers, and altered official documents.

Further, he was convicted of tampering with financial reports submitted to the board of directors and the association's auditor.

Among his forgeries was his own salary certificate, which he gradually inflated from KD 600 to KD 2,447.

He fraudulently registered himself as an employee at both the organization's health club and restaurant, enabling him to receive multiple salaries and bonuses each month.

In addition, he successfully forged a contract between his own company and the organization, valued at KD 410,000.

Through this forged contract, he was able to siphon funds directly from the organization's bank accounts.

He also appointed himself as the manager of the organization's printing press and teacher service center, allocating 3 percent of the total revenues from both entities to himself.

In addition, he took part in the illegal practice of human medicine without obtaining the required licenses and committed several other serious violations, all without any of the organization's board members, the so-called "Maraadem", noticing the suspicious activities unfolding under their watch.

For all this, the Court of Cassation sentenced him to ten years in prison and imposed a fine of one million dinars.

But the bird flew from the cage, never to return, as has happened in many similar cases!

This raises a number of recurring questions - Why do fraud cases continue to rise in organizations often run by those perceived as the most religiously committed? On what basis does the government continue to grant these organizations annual financial aid of KD 100,000, despite their already substantial resources? And why do calls for austerity seem to vanish when it comes to fully politicized organizations?

□ □ □

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Farwaniya Governor and acting Capital Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah with maintenance staff at one of the road projects.

Gov. lauds as road projects throughout Kuwait on track

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Farwaniya Governor and acting Capital Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah conducted a field tour to inspect road maintenance works and follow up the implementation of asphalt projects.

Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Works Eng. Eid Al-Rashidi, Director of Farwaniya Governorate Security Directorate Brigadier General Mohammed Mutlaq Al-Mutairi, acting Assistant Undersecretary for the Maintenance Engineering Affairs Sector Eng. Fawaz Al-Shammari, and a number of officials from relevant authorities accompanied Sheikh Athbi Nasser during the inspection tour.

The Governor praised the efforts of the Ministry of Public Works in implementing infrastructure projects, stressing the importance of adhering to approved timetables

and technical specifications.

He also confirmed that his office is closely monitoring the progress of vital projects to ensure quality, and that they meet the needs of the population.

On the other hand, acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Works Eng. Eid Al-Rashidi affirmed that work is proceeding as planned. He underscored the importance of coordination between relevant authorities to expedite completion and improve traffic flow.

Towards the end of the inspection tour, he stressed the need to continue the implementation of such projects in accordance with the approved specifications; in addition to the continuous field monitoring to realize the aspirations of citizens and expatriates for improved infrastructure and public services in the governorate.

HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



The king’s sons’ journey to rule: Their trial with a sheep

A WISE and just king, advanced in years, had to choose a successor from his three sons. Having governed his people with wisdom for many years, he devised a test to determine the most worthy to inherit the throne.

He gathered the three sons and announced, “I am entrusting each of you with a sheep. Your task is to transport it to a designated village – a journey of about one-day walk. Whoever accomplishes this intelligently and assiduously will demonstrate their preparedness for the throne.”

“Is this the test?” The eldest son confidently chuckled. “It is incredibly simple. I will prove my worthiness for the throne.” He then set off with his sheep. Along the road, four thieves meticulously planned to steal the sheep and positioned themselves strategically. The first thief, sitting at the start of the road, greeted the king’s son as he passed, “Sir,” the thief began, “why are you leading this dog on a leash?”

“That is not a dog; it is a sheep,” the man confidently declared before continuing on his way – a flicker of surprise at the thief’s question beginning to register.

A short distance later, a second thief approached him. “Man, why are you leading this dog tied up?” he inquired. The man paused, then replied, “it is a sheep, not a dog.” Despite his assertion, doubt began to creep in and he started to feel the animal with his hands.

Halfway down the road, the third thief approached him. “Sir,” he remarked, “do you truly intend to lead a dog tied up like this for the entire journey? Does it not strike you as odd?” The king’s son stood there, dumbfounded, unable to formulate a reply.

He gazed at the sheep, his doubts escalating. How could three different individuals utter the exact same words? As he continued on his way, the fourth thief appeared. This thief smiled, greeted him and then inquired, “What is the matter, friend? Why are you leading that dog tied up behind you?”

He eventually realized he was leading a dog, not a sheep. Convinced by the thief’s statement, he thought, “It is impossible that all four of them are lying.” He then told the thief, “I was in a rush and mistook this dog for a sheep. I tied it up, believing it would be suitable for sale at the market. I only just discovered it is a dog.”

The king’s son quickly untied the sheep, setting it free, and returned to the palace to find his real sheep. Upon learning of this, the king laughed and said, “You have failed your mission; thieves have deceived you.”

“I shall be king!” the younger brother excitedly declared, leading his sheep as he departed. Midway to his destination, he encountered a group of fatigued, famished individuals by the roadside. He inquired about their predicament, and one replied, “We are hungry and without shelter. Can you help us?”

He regarded them with indifference. “I am unconcerned with your plight. I am on the way to become king,” he stated before confidently proceeding on his

- 🔹 **Father: Each one is tasked to transport his sheep to the village**
- 🔹 **Whoever accomplishes his task will demonstrate his preparedness for the throne**
- 🔹 **Thieves tricked the eldest son and took his sheep**
- 🔹 **He was so confident that they asked him: Why are you leading a dog on a leash?**
- 🔹 **The rich man deceived the younger son of money, so he did not complete his task**
- 🔹 **He did not care about the hungry and the tired because he wanted glory**
- 🔹 **A true king does not deceive his people or neglect the needy**
- 🔹 **Father to his middle son : Compassion is the bedrock of true leadership**

journey.

Soon after, he encountered a man of apparent wealth and success. The man expressed his admiration, “What a remarkable sheep you are leading! I will purchase it from you for a substantial sum.” The king’s son paused, his eyes gleaming at the offered amount. “I shall transport this sheep to the city and sell it to you there,” he responded.

The rich man agreed, and they continued their journey. Upon arrival in the city, the prince sold the sheep to the wealthy man and returned to the palace with a broad smile.

When he faced his father, he confidently stated, “I

have successfully delivered the sheep to the city.” He feigned faithful completion of the task, believing his father would not discover his deception. However, the king had been aware of his plan all along.

The king looked at his son and, with a sly smile, said, “You did well selling the sheep. But do you think a true king deceives his people or neglects the needy? You must learn that a king is not just someone who collects money, but also someone who thinks and considers others.”

Then the younger brother felt ashamed. He realized that money is not everything, and that the throne requires wisdom and compassion before power and greed.

Next, the middle son began his journey with the sheep, focused on his goal. Along the way, he encountered a poor man who requested some wool to clothe his son, suffering from the cold. The son considered the plea, deciding to help, believing the wool would regrow. He sheared some wool for the man and continued on his way.

Further down the road, he found a blind, tired and hungry old woman. She weakly asked for food. He felt conflicted, knowing the sheep was his only means to reach the city and become king. Nevertheless, compassion quickly prevailed. He could not leave her hungry, sensing this might be a true test. He decided to slaughter the sheep and prepare a meal for the old woman. As she ate, she offered him blessings and well wishes.

Finishing her meal, she declared, “You have proven you possess a compassionate heart, and that is what makes a person worthy of leadership.”

The middle brother returned to the palace without the sheep, but he felt content and relieved that he had chosen goodness over personal ambition.

The father met with his three sons and told them that the time had come to choose who was worthy of being king. Then he looked at the youngest brother and said, “Money is not everything; wealth does not make a wise ruler.” Then he turned to the eldest brother and said, “A king is not just ambition; true leadership requires more than just the desire for power.”

Finally, he turned to his middle son and declared, “Compassion is the bedrock of true leadership. Your actions have proven you possess this quality, making you worthy of leading this nation.”

He continued, “Delivering the sheep to the city was merely a test. I intentionally placed obstacles on your path to observe how you would navigate challenges and what values would guide your decisions. I needed to see if you would prioritize money or ambition over compassion.”

The story’s moral is that genuine leadership is not solely about wealth or personal ambition; but deeply rooted in human values, such as compassion and humility.

The wise Arabs said: People are like the Arabic grammatical syntax. Some deserve to be lifted, some deserve to be placed in the accusative case, some deserve to be broken, some deserve to be negated, some deserve to be placed in the genitive case, and some have no place in the sentence.



The children of Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis deserve appreciation, especially those with important professions. The fathers of some of them have passed away or their fathers are Bedouns (stateless) and have lived in Kuwait for many years -- even before 1960. Kuwait and its rulers are people of compassion and love.



You will be told things that are not true for you, things you do not like, and things you did not do. You will find no one to protect you from harm, so do not despair. Seek forgiveness, command what is right, and turn away from the ignorant.



KFF photo

A KFF inspector seals a workshop.

KFF tours Shuwaikh

161 shops violating fire safety rules shut down

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), in coordination with several government agencies, conducted a comprehensive inspection campaign in Shuwaikh Industrial Area Block 2 recently.

Participating agencies included the Ministry of Electricity and Water, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Public Authority for Industry (PAI) and Environment Public Authority (EPA).

The joint campaign focused on identifying and addressing violations of fire safety and prevention regulations, as well as other infractions.

During the campaign, 161 industrial facilities and commercial shops were administratively closed due to serious violations.

In addition, 221 notifications and warnings were issued to other establishments for failing to meet the safety and regulatory standards set by KFF and the participating authorities.

Jleeb expat arrested in buy-bust cop operation

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh investigation officers referred an expatriate to the Public Prosecution for drug trafficking with 20 bags of shabu in his possession, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source revealed that detectives received information about the suspect’s illegal activities and set up an entrapment. They lured him into selling three packs of shabu for KD75. The man was arrested while handing over the drugs, in accordance with a warrant issued by the Public Prosecution.

A thorough search of his residence — a single room in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh — led to the discovery of 17 more packs of shabu and drug paraphernalia.

During interrogation, the suspect confessed to trafficking drugs on behalf of another expatriate, whose arrest is now underway based on vital information provided by the accused. He also admitted to using shabu for more than two years.

Indian duo caught with foreign booze

Download app ... savings perish

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: In a successful joint operation, the Ministry of Interior and the General Administration of Customs thwarted an attempt to smuggle alcoholic beverages through Shuaiba Port, and arrested two Indian nationals, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Interior, the case began when customs officers at Shuaiba Port grew suspicious of a container that arrived from a Gulf country. Although the shipment was declared as empty, a thorough inspection revealed secret compartments built into the floor of the container, concealing a professionally packed quantity of liquor bottles.

Immediately after the discovery, coordination was established with the Drug Control General Department, which took over the field investigation. Authorities allowed the container to leave the port under strict surveillance, tracking its movement until it reached a warehouse in Ahmadi.

A security team then carried out a carefully planned ambush, and arrested two Indian nationals as they prepared to receive the shipment.

During initial interrogations, the suspects confessed to acting under instructions from an individual residing in India, who had directed them to distribute the illicit cargo.

Download app ... all gone: A Kuwaiti woman lost KD2,730 from four of her bank accounts after downloading a fake discount application recommended by an anonymous caller, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, the victim, born in 1968, filed a complaint at Saad Al-Abdullah Police Station after discovering unauthorized withdrawals from her accounts. She explained that an international caller told her she had an account on a well-known platform and persuaded her to install an application on her phone. Immediately after downloading the app, she found her account balances were drained.

As per the directive of the Deputy Public Prosecutor, the Jahra Security

Directorate registered a felony case under the title “Bank Fraud.” The case was referred to the Commercial Affairs Prosecution and the Electronic Investigations Department, which are working hard to identify the scammers.

The security source stressed the importance of caution when downloading mobile applications and warned against clicking on links or responding to messages from unknown senders. He pointed out that cybercriminals often use fake apps, malicious websites, and harmful games to infiltrate victims’ devices and steal sensitive data.

He urged citizens and expatriates to install only verified applications, download genuine antivirus software, and cover device cameras when not in use.

He also called for strict adherence to age restrictions for opening social media and gaming accounts to protect children from cyberbullying and online exploitation.

Expat couple drug dealers: Officers from the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) at the Ministry of Interior arrested an expatriate suspected of drug trafficking, along with his girlfriend who is of the same nationality, during a raid in his apartment in Block Two in Jahra, reports Al-Anba daily.

The arrest was made after the Operations Unit at the ministry received information that the suspect was using his residence as a base to deliver drugs to addicts. A patrol was dispatched to verify the information, and upon knocking on the door, the expatriate emerged while a woman was spotted inside.

When asked for identification, the woman admitted she had none; saying her documents are with her sponsor, from whom she absconded. She then revealed that her boyfriend is a drug dealer and voluntarily handed over a large bag of heroin to the officers.

A thorough search of the apartment led to the discovery of two necklaces, a bracelet, two rings and KD500 in cash; which the suspect admitted were proceeds of his drug trafficking.

Both the suspect and his girlfriend, who have no official relationship, were referred to the Public Prosecution along with the seized drugs and items.

63 boys driving without license

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The General Traffic Department announced the referral of 63 juveniles to the Juvenile Prosecution for driving without a license; in addition to the issuance of 26,168 traffic violation citations.

The weekly statistics released by the department stated the impoundment of 29 vehicles, arrest of 121 individuals who violated the Residency and Labor laws, 24 who failed

to present valid identification documents and 45 wanted by law for absconding and evading arrest; while 39 vehicles wanted by the judiciary were impounded and 1,052 traffic accidents were dealt with.

A security source said the traffic campaigns are ongoing throughout the country to apprehend wanted persons and violators of traffic laws in order to ensure safety on the roads.

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Kuwait-led unified Gulf building code takes major step forward

GCC adopts 13 new codes, aligns with Saudi model

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Mohammad Al-Mutairi -- Director of the Capital Governorate Kuwait Municipality branch, Chairman of the Building Regulations Committee at the Municipality and Chairman of the Gulf Building Code Committee for the current session -- said the fourth meeting of the Gulf Building Code Committee held recently at the headquarters of the Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is considered a milestone in the process of unifying technical and legislative regulations in the construction sector in the Gulf states.

Al-Mutairi explained that the adoption of the Saudi Building Code 2024 as the basis for the unified Gulf code is due to the comprehensiveness and high technical standards of the Saudi code, which is consistent with international best practices. He affirmed this greatly contributes to achieving legislative and engineering integration among the GCC states, and enhances the quality and safety of construction projects.

He revealed that the committee approved the proposed addition of 13 technical codes, bringing the total number of approved codes in the Gulf Code to 29 to cover various construction and building specializations and fields. "This is a qualitative leap towards developing a unified and integrated Gulf Code," he stressed.

He stated that the meeting touched on several important organizational initiatives; including the formation of a technical review



Al-Seyassah photo
Director of the Capital Governorate Kuwait Municipality branch, Mohammad Al-Mutairi chairs the 4th GCC Building Code Committee meeting at the GCC Secretariat in Riyadh.

committee to evaluate the work of other technical committees, a technical committee for fuel gas, and a team specialized in intellectual property rights and publishing whose members include the Secretariat General of the GCC, the Standardization Organization and the Saudi Building Code Center. He clarified that the aim is to regulate copyright and ensure the protection of the technical outputs of the Gulf Code.

He also confirmed that the restructuring of the Construction Technical Committee was discussed, with a proposal to divide it into two specialized committees for concrete and steel codes.

He added the committee asked the relevant authorities to create a unified organizational structure for all committees; in addition to a comprehensive manual for work mechanism and governance, including the tasks, mem-

bership, communication and review.

He emphasized that these outcomes reflect the committee's commitment to unify and intensify efforts in the areas of construction and technical organization, in line with the aspirations of the GCC countries toward sustainable development and the safety of lives and facilities; while consolidating the path of Gulf integration in one of the most vital sectors.

"In an initiative aimed at promoting the concepts of comprehensive design, the Architectural Technical Committee was assigned to make a benchmark comparison of the universal access codes (for people of determination and people with disabilities) applied in the GCC countries. This is in preparation for the development of a comprehensive Gulf code in the field," he added.

KIA board holds 1st meeting, appoints managing director

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem, the Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Acting Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, as well as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), announced that in line with Decree No. 140/2025, the Board of Directors of KIA



Sheikh Saud

held its first meeting on Tuesday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the meeting, Sheikh Saud Salem Abdulaziz Al-Sabah was nominated as Managing Director, and all Board committees were formed to carry out their responsibilities in accordance with the law establishing the authority.

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem explained that the Board will focus on continuing the development process, strengthening governance, and managing state funds with high efficiency. These efforts aim to enhance KIA's standing and its strategic role in supporting the national economy and reinforcing Kuwait's position on the global investment map.

CAPT to oversee bid process

MEWRE set to issue tender for next-gen data center upgrade

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah and Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy intends to issue a public tender for the supply, operation and transfer of a redefine data center within the current fiscal year.

Sources from the ministry stated that the tender aims to provide redefine data center services and transfer the current data center in the basement of the main building to another one that complies with international standards and specifications. "This will ensure business continuity in emergency situations and prevent the loss of important data," sources explained.

Sources indicated that the tender is in line with the policy of the ministry to fully digitalize its services and operations in compliance with the

directive of the Council of Ministers in this regard. They affirmed that the tender will be offered through the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to specialized companies in accordance with the established frameworks.

In a related development, the ministry will issue two tenders during the current fiscal year to install a main transformer station for Jaber Bridge, along with its feeders and accessories, in addition to expansion work for the project's feeder; as well as a tender for the design and installation of an overhead line to feed the bridge station.

Sources said the second station is part of the efforts of the ministry to provide energy for the expansion of high-voltage and ultra-high-voltage electrical networks due to the increased demand for electrical energy and ensure its continuous provision.

More than 1,900 students accepted

PAAET admits students below HS level

By Abdul Rahman Al-Shammari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam has approved the admission results for Kuwaiti applicants holding qualifications lower than a high school diploma for the 2025/2026 academic year.

He congratulated the newly accepted students and wished them success in their educational journey.

Meanwhile, Dr. Fawzi Al-Dokhi, Dean of Admissions and Registration at PAAET, confirmed that all Kuwaiti applicants who met the admission requirements were accepted.

A total of 1,841 students with intermediate certificates (Grade Nine), 33 students with elementary certificates (Grade Five), and 40 students from special education programs with less than a high school diploma have been admitted.

Al-Dokhi clarified that students in these categories are not required to take any immediate action and should prepare to begin their studies on Sept 14, 2025 – the official start of the semester.

He said an exception applies to students accepted into the Nursing Institute,

as they must undergo the mandatory medical examination to ensure they are free of communicable diseases. "Examination forms will be distributed after the final announcement of accepted students into the colleges and institutes of the authority at the end of August," he added.

He pointed out that all students accepted into the Nursing Institute must pass a personal interview, which will be conducted at the beginning of the semester in September.

He encouraged all accepted students to regularly monitor the official website of the authority (www.paaet.edu.kw) and its social media platforms for updates, instructions and important dates.

He also stated that students can check the courses they have been accepted into through the website of the authority or the Sahel government application. "SMS notifications have also been sent to the mobile phone numbers registered in the application forms," he concluded.



Dr. Al-Fajjam



KUNA photo

High school students participating in the environmental summer camp.

'Blue Pioneer' sparks youth green awareness

EPA launches first summer camp

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Environment Public Authority (EPA) has launched its first-ever summer camp for high school students, titled "Blue Pioneer," as part of a wider initiative to raise environmental awareness among youths, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Sheikha Al-Ibrahim, Director of the Public Relations and Media Department at EPA, stated that the camp aims to educate young participants about the environmental challenges and encourage their active involvement in environmental protection efforts.

Al-Ibrahim revealed "the Blue Pioneer summer camp will raise awareness and educate high school students about environmental issues. EPA's involvement in the program – organized by the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) – reflects its commitment to empower the youths and expand their role in protecting the environment. Our collaboration with ROPME falls in part of ongoing efforts to

promote environmental cooperation and contribute to building a generation that is environmentally aware and responsible."

As part of the camp program, EPA will host students at its headquarters for two days of field-based activities focused on biodiversity. Participants will gain firsthand insight into the country's natural ecosystems and the importance of preserving them.

In addition, the camp includes interactive sessions introducing students to the role of judicial officers in enforcing the Environmental Protection Law. These sessions will explain how environmental violations are issued and handled, highlight common infractions, and underscore the legal and ecological consequences of such violations.

Al-Ibrahim stressed the importance of educating young people on the legal framework that governs environmental protection, indicating that fostering legal literacy is crucial in developing responsible future leaders in sustainability.



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Financing aims to boost out-of-school children’s access to education in Kaduna State

Kuwait Fund and Nigeria seal KD3.85 million loan agreement

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: A Loan Agreement was signed today in Abuja between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. The Fund will make a loan of Kuwaiti Dinars 3,850,000 to assist in financing of Reaching Out-of-School Children Project in Kaduna State Project in Nigeria.

Her Excellency Dr. Doris Aneti, Minister of State for Finance, signed the Loan Agreement on behalf of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, whereas Mr. Waleed Al-Bahar, Acting Director General, signed the Loan Agreement on behalf of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

The Project aims at contributing to the economic and social development of Kaduna State by increasing access to learning opportunities, improving enrollment and ensuring active participation and completion of quality primary education of all children, particularly children with disabilities, girls and adolescents.

The Project consists of construction and rehabilitation works, furnishing and equipping 102 schools, including 71 primary schools and 31 secondary schools in various areas within the State, and rehabilitation, furnishing and equipping of 107 existing schools including 119 primary schools and 51 secondary schools in 23 local government areas. The Project will contribute in achieving many of the Government’s goals and implementing its economic plan in the medium term. The Project also will contribute in strengthening of teachers’ capabilities, improving educational outcomes, strengthening the capabilities of the administrative staff, support for the Project Implementation Unit, consultancy services for the review of the detailed engineering designs and tender documents and supervision of construction. The implementation of the



KFAED photo
Acting Director General of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Waleed Al-Bahar, and the Minister of State for Financial Affairs of the Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Doris Aneti, in a group photo after signing the agreement.

Project is expected to be completed in four years by the end of December 2028.

The total cost of the Project is

contribute to the financing of the Project by providing two loans, the first of which is amounting to KD 3.85 million during the financial year (2024/2025). The loan shall cover about 18.7% of the total Project cost. The Project will also be financed with a loan from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in an amount of 10.5 million, equivalent to about K.D. 3.281 million, or about 16% of the total cost, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), with a Grant of U.S.\$ 15.452 million US dollars, equivalent to about K.D. 4.828 million, or equivalent to about 23.4% of the total cost, the Education Above All (EAA) with a grant of U.S.\$ 10 million, equivalent to about K.D. 3.125 million, or equivalent to about 15.15% of total cost, and Save the Children International Fund (SCI) with a grant of U.S.\$ 0.5 million, equivalent to about K.D. 156 thousand,

or about 0.75% of total cost, while the Nigerian Government will provide the necessary funds to cover the remaining costs and any future increases thereon from its own resources.

The term of the Loan is 21 years, including a grace period of 5 years. The Loan is to be amortized in 32 semi-annual installments, the first of which will be due on the first date on which interest or other charges on the loan will be due, in accordance with the Loan Agreement, after the expiry of the above-mentioned grace period. The Loan bears interest at the rate of 1% per annum in addition to a service charge of 0.5% per annum for meeting administrative costs and the expenses of implementing the Loan Agreement.

It is worth mentioning that by extending this loan, the Fund and the Federal Republic of Nigeria will mark the start of their development cooperation.

MoE, MEW join forces to promote sustainability in ‘Wafer’ campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the Ministry of Electricity and Water, held an awareness lecture for the “Wafer” campaign at the Ministry of Education Theater in the ministry’s headquarters Tuesday morning, in the presence of several officials from both ministries, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and the acting Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Facilities and Planning, Mohammed Al-Khalidi, affirmed the ministry’s commitment to supporting conservation efforts.

He expressed hope that the “Wafer” campaign would succeed in raising awareness among all segments of society.

Al-Khalidi explained that the ministry launched the “Rasdi” campaign to monitor electricity and water consumption in educational institutions, based on the recommendations of the Minister of Education Dr. Jalal Al-Tabtabaei.

The campaign aims to support the national campaign with accurate data



Mohammed Al-Khalidi, acting Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Facilities and Planning at the Ministry of Education



Khadija Abdul Redha, head of the Media and Awareness Team for Rationalization at the Ministry of Electricity and Water

and effective implementation strategies to enhance usage efficiency and promote rationalization of consumption.

Al-Khalidi stressed that the campaign has proven effective in reducing consumption rates, which reflects the positive impact of these joint efforts.

He highlighted the importance of continued cooperation between government agencies to achieve the goals of sustainable development.

Meanwhile, Khadija Abdul Redha, head of the Media and Awareness Team for Rationalization at the Ministry of Electricity and Water, highlighted that the “Wafer” campaign, launched by the ministry in June 2025, aims to raise awareness about the importance of rationalizing electricity and water consumption, promote sustainability concepts among different segments of society, and increase awareness of rationalization practices.

She said the lecture, held under the title “Towards Sustainability... Save”, highlighted a variety of practical methods and applications for rationalizing consumption.



Photos by Mohammad Morsi

Participants of the awareness lecture for the ‘Wafer’ campaign.

MoSA advances full digital oversight for cooperatives

Data flow now reaches 100%

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Financial, Administrative and Cooperative Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Sayed Essa disclosed that the development of the cooperative work system and electronic linking of cooperative societies are in line with ongoing efforts to consolidate governance and oversight, as per the vision of the government to achieve comprehensive digital transformation in all State institutions.

In an interview with Kuwait TV, Essa confirmed that the ministry has started the first phase of the project by electronically linking the data of 76 cooperatives to include strategic inventory, financial and administrative reports and all vital information. He indicated that the percentage of accurate data flow from participating cooperatives currently ranges from 95 percent to 100 percent.

He affirmed that financial oversight is now real-time, monitoring all operations within the cooperatives like salaries, suppliers and payments; such that any incoming or outgoing funds are monitored immediately and directly.

He explained that administrative

oversight also covers data related to employee appointments, vacation and attendance; as well as information about suppliers, sales and shareholders. He said the smart system develops automatically in parallel with each cooperative based on consumer behavior, warehouse activity, and the types and quantities of materials traded therein.

He stated that the ministry trains financial and administrative controllers to read and analyze data and monitor any abnormal activity immediately upon its occurrence, enabling the relevant authorities to take immediate action and request clarification from the concerned cooperative. He emphasized that each cooperative retains full powers, but it is obligated to adhere to the regulations governing its work. “Any violation will be detected through the automated system. If the cooperative’s compliance is proven and its system complies with the regulations, its reports can then be digitally approved without the need for manual review,” he added.

Regarding the distribution of supervisors, Essa indicated that a large number of financial and administrative supervisors are needed to ensure coverage of all cooperatives. He pointed out that the automated connectivity will contribute to the completion of work and save time and effort. He said access to cooperative data is restricted to the relevant

oversight authorities, given the sensitivity and confidentiality of such information. “No employee in the cooperative sector has the right to access it unless he is part of the team authorized to oversee financial and administrative matters,” he stressed.

He believes that comprehensive oversight will reduce waste and manipulation, positively impacting the quality of services provided, increasing sales and profits, and enhancing dividends distributed to shareholders. “It will also enable cooperatives to provide more social services; such as Umrah trips, festivals, chalets and beauty services,” he asserted.

He also talked about the second phase of the project, which includes the adoption of an electronic inventory system; indicating it will replace traditional methods that sometimes lead to emptying shelves before inventory and disrupting work on inventory day. He explained ‘the new system will maintain the smooth flow of goods. He affirmed that all cooperative employees will be trained on this system.

He pointed out that the ministry has a central control room that monitors its systems in real-time, with the work of cooperative societies to be added later, including linking security cameras within cooperatives. “This will pave the way for integration with the Ministry of Commerce to enhance transparency and oversight,” he disclosed.

He added that the third phase of the project includes the introduction of artificial intelligence technologies into cooperative society management; thereby, helping the boards of directors make informed decisions to increase revenues and improve administrative performance.



Dr. Essa

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait Visa

He stressed that offering visas online reduces opportunities for manipulation, as only applications that meet all requirements are accepted, improving the accuracy and speed of processing.

Major General Al-Surai’a highlighted the professionalism and sophistication of security personnel at airports, noting that complaints are minimal, and emphasizing that staff of the Ministry of Interior perform their duties efficiently while upholding the country’s reputation.

Meanwhile, former acting Director of the General Department of Immigration, Bader Al-Hammadi, said the facilities announced by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef regarding visit visas represent a qualitative shift toward greater tourism openness.

He explained that the cancellation of the national carrier and educational qualification requirements, along with allowing multiple visa issuances per year and renewals for up to six months or more, will position Kuwait competitively on the Gulf tourism map, especially given the country’s favorable weather during spring, fall, and mild winter seasons.

Allowing expatriate workers to bring their families through family visit visas contributes to enhancing psychological stability and reducing negative behaviors such as harassment or loitering. Expanding these facilities will have a direct positive impact on the clothing, gifts, real estate, and food markets, thereby stimulating the local economy.

Al-Hammadi highlighted the importance of promoting a culture of good reception at border crossings, noting that airport officers generally exhibit professionalism and respect. However, he warned that even rare instances of poor behavior can leave a negative impression on visitors, emphasizing that a smile is an essential part of Kuwait’s image to arrivals.

In the same context, real estate expert Qais Al-Ghanim said the government is currently undergoing a phase of reforms that are beginning to yield positive results on multiple levels, creating an encouraging environment for investors and visitors to come to Kuwait.

He pointed out that expanding the range of facilities for family, business, and tourist visits will help revitalize all economic sectors, particularly the real estate sector, while also boosting retail and service activities.

Al-Ghanim affirmed that this step primarily benefits expatriate workers by providing them with a greater sense of family connection and psychological stability.

Al-Ghanim noted that concerns about the

impact of increased visits on security are no longer justified, especially given the Ministry of Interior’s great efforts, which have resulted in a marked decrease in crime rates and traffic violations.

Furthermore, Director of the Three Pyramids Travel and Tourism Company Ahmed Hamed expects an official decision within days to cancel the requirement for visitors on visit visas to travel via the national carrier.

He believes this step, along with extending family visit visas to three months, marks a major shift in facilitating visitor entry and boosting airport activity.

Hamed highlighted that the decision will help stimulate various economic sectors, particularly real estate and rentals, due to increased demand for apartments and higher visitor spending, which will positively impact the national economy.

He explained that granting visitors the freedom to choose their airline enhances travel flexibility and aligns with global trends. The “visit visa” facilities are among the most successful measures to stimulate the tourism and real estate markets. Kuwait has real potential to become a prominent regional destination due to its moderate climate, stable security, and comprehensive services.

In addition, economic expert and former head of the Kuwait Contracting Companies Union, Dr. Salah Bourseli, confirmed that the statements made by Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef to the Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah have been widely circulated in all social media platforms.

He explained that the facilities accompanying business, family, and tourist visits must be complemented by important measures to boost tourism in Kuwait, such as developing recreational villages, parks, and gardens to keep pace with tourism activities in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, especially given Kuwait’s historical reputation as the “Pearl of the Gulf.”

Dr. Bourseli emphasized the importance of opening the door for permanent work visas to stimulate the labor market in contracting companies, noting that the labor shortage has contributed to increased salaries for construction workers.

Dr. Salah Bourseli said, “Notifying applicants of any security restrictions by specifying the type of restriction through the Visa Kuwait platform facilitates the visit visa process. This allows expatriates to resolve security issues and then resubmit their visa applications online. This procedure also reduces congestion at immigration departments and eases the process for applicants.”

He added that the platform eliminates bureaucracy and red tape, removes the need for intermediaries, and ensures that all transactions are conducted legally, preventing any manipulation.

Ahmadi to

This is part of the ministry’s plan on healthcare, which also includes the expansion of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital, and finding suggested solutions to address administrative and technical challenges, Al-Mousherji.

The ministers further were apprised of a visual presentation by Minister of State for Communication Affairs Omar Al-Omar on Kuwait’s international indicator of communication and information technology.

The minister informed the Cabinet that Kuwait came first globally in information development index for 2024 for the second year in a row, according to the statement.

This shows Kuwait’s advanced digital infrastructure and its leading role in keeping pace with digital developments, it noted.

In addition, the ministers were informed about the letters sent to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah from some heads of sisterly and friendly countries on means of boosting relations with Kuwait in all domain.

They were briefed on the decree No. 149 of 2025 regarding the acceptance of Minister of Finance, and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Nora Al-Fassam’s resignation on Monday, and the decree No 150 on appointing Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Resources Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeen for Al-Fassam’s post.

The Cabinet expressed thanks to Al-Fassam for her sincere efforts made since she came to office.

Courts to

Just as crucial, a new digital platform will enforce judgments promptly after they are issued, he added.

Accompanied by senior officials, the minister said his visit aimed to spot and resolve bottlenecks hampering litigants and court staff.

He vowed regular field inspections to keep the reforms on track, echoing His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah’s directive for faster, more accessible justice.

Customs intercepts

The inspection revealed that the declared cargo was animal feed. However, after a thorough examination, approximately 4,550 pills suspected to be psychotropic substances were seized, along with about 5.2 kilograms of marijuana.

An official report was filed on the incident, and the seized items were confiscated and handed over to the competent authorities to take the necessary legal measures.

Kuwait adds

In the same context, the number of buildings designated for both work and housing increased, while residential, vacant, and work-specific buildings saw a slight decline during the same period.

The total number of residential buildings reached approximately 146,500, representing 65.2 percent of the country’s total buildings, marking a slight decrease of 0.07 percent compared to 146,600 buildings recorded in 2024.

Statistical data also showed a decline in the number of workers’ accommodations, dropping by 29 buildings, or 0.2 percent, during the first half of the year, with the total reaching 13,821 buildings, compared to 13,850 last December.

Work buildings included 1,137 houses, 881 buildings, 294 marginal buildings, 11,504 traditional buildings, and 3 buildings under construction.

Meanwhile, residential and work buildings saw a growth of 3.6 percent in the first half of 2025, with an increase of 1,413 buildings, bringing the total to 38,973, compared to 37,560 buildings in December 2024.

These buildings comprised 17,056 homes, 10,431 buildings, 159 marginal buildings, 11,325 traditional buildings, and 2 buildings under construction.

Kuwait humanitarian

platform operated by the Ministry of Social Affairs collected KD 2,515,795 (approx. USD 8.2 million), Direct Aid Society raised KD 1,318,854 (approx. USD 4.3 million).

The Patient Helping Fund Society collected KD 476,012 (approx. USD 1.5 million), while the Revival of Islamic Heritage Society gathered KD 235,443 (approx. USD 770.3).

CITRA reports KD110m net profit, up 8% in FY 2024-25

By Mohammed Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) announced the approval of its final accounts for the FY 2024-2025, reporting net profits of KD 110 million, marking an eight percent growth compared to the previous year. In a statement, CITRA affirmed its commitment to applying the highest accounting and regulatory standards to enhance transparency and financial efficiency, and pointed out its efforts to achieve financial sustainability.

It highlighted that these results reflect its ongoing efforts to develop digital infrastructure, improve service quality, and support innovation and technology in line with Kuwait’s digital vision.

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M3,M4
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Florida plans to build second immigration detention center to join ‘Alligator Alcatraz’

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Aug 6, (AP): Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration is apparently preparing to build a second immigration detention center, awarding at least one contract for what’s labeled in state records as the “North Detention Facility.”

The site would add to the capacity at the state’s first detention facility, built at an isolated airfield in the Florida Everglades and dubbed “Alligator Alcatraz.” Already, state officials have inked more than \$245 million in contracts for that facility, which officially opened July 1.

Florida plans to build a second detention center at a Florida National Guard training center called Camp Blanding, about 27 miles (43 kilometers) southwest of downtown Jacksonville, though DeSantis has said the state is waiting for federal officials to ramp up deportations from the South Florida facility before building out the Camp Blanding site.

“We look forward to the increased cadence,” of deportations, DeSantis said last month, calling the state “ready, willing and able” to expand its operations.

Civil rights advocates and environmental groups have filed lawsuits



A sign marks the entrance to Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, a site used by the Florida National Guard, near Starke, Fla. on July 15. (AP)

against the Everglades facility, where detainees allege they’ve been forced to go without adequate food and medical care, and been barred from meeting with their attorneys, held without any charges and unable to get a federal immigration court to hear their cases.

President Donald Trump has touted the facility’s harshness and remoteness as fit for the “worst of the worst,” while Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem has said

the South Florida detention center can serve as a model for other state-run holding facilities for immigrants.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management, the state agency that built the Everglades facility, has awarded a \$39,000 contract for a portable emergency response weather station and two lightning sirens for what’s been dubbed the “North Detention Facility,” according to records in the state’s public contract database.

Thurmond running for Georgia gov

Michigan governor makes another WH visit

WASHINGTON, Aug 6, (AP): Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer met with President Donald Trump at the White House on Tuesday to discuss the toll tariffs are taking on the auto industry and the potential effects of his tax and spending bill on Medicaid.

It’s the latest in a string of meetings between the Democratic governor and the Republican president after the two frequently clashed during his first term. In his second term, Whitmer has adopted a more diplomatic approach, drawing some backlash from fellow Democrats. But it’s also resulted in multiple wins for Whitmer’s state, including Trump’s approving \$50 million in storm relief and awarding a new fighter jet mission for an Air National Guard base in the state.

“I’ve always said that I’ll work with anyone to get things done for Michigan,” Whitmer, a potential 2028 presidential candidate, said in a statement Tuesday. “That’s why I’ve continued to go to Washington, D.C., to make sure that Michiganders are front and center when critical decisions are being made.”

The private meeting between Trump and Whitmer - her third trip to the White House this year, in addition to a dinner in February where she sat next to Trump - marks a rare cordial relationship between the president and a leading Democratic figure. A White



Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer speaks with former television journalist Gretchen Carlson, not shown, at an event on April 9, in Washington. (AP)

House official would not confirm the meeting but did stress Trump’s continued focus on Michigan.

In recent weeks, Trump attacked Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, telling him to “go to hell,” while also taking aim at other high-profile Democratic governors who

have pushed back on some of his policies, including California’s Gavin Newsom and Illinois’ JB Pritzker, also considered possible 2028 candidates.

Pritzker has aided Texas Democrats in leaving their state for Illinois to block Republicans from their needed quorum to pass a new congressional map backed by Trump. Early Tuesday, Trump called Pritzker “probably the dumbest of all governors” in a television interview.

Also:

ATLANTA: Democrat **Michael Thurmond** has a long resume of public service, and now he wants to add governor of **Georgia** to the list.

Thurmond announced his 2026 bid for the state’s highest office Wednesday, saying he’s “going to fight for the people of Georgia every day,” but also pitching himself as someone who can bridge racial and political divides to become the first Democrat to win the state’s top office in 28 years.

Thurmond promised in an interview Tuesday to be a leader who “will focus on the everyday issues that most Georgians are concerned about - i.e. the cost of groceries or rent or paying the mortgage, access to health care and quite frankly ending divisiveness that has prevented us from progressing more in this state.”

‘Opting for study in Asia has been a trend since easing of COVID-19’

College applications rise outside US as Trump cracks down on international students

LONDON, Aug 6, (AP): In China, wait times for US visa interviews are so long that some students have given up. Universities in Hong Kong are fielding transfer inquiries from foreign students in the U.S., and international applications for British undergraduate programs have surged.

President Donald Trump’s administration has been pressuring US colleges to reduce their dependence on international enrollment while adding new layers of scrutiny for foreign students as part of its crackdown on immigration.

The US government has sought to deport foreign students for participating in pro-Palestinian activism. In the spring, it abruptly revoked the legal status of thousands of international students, including some whose only brush with law enforcement was a traffic ticket. After reversing course, the government paused new appointments for student visas while rolling out a process for screening applicants’ social media accounts.

The US remains the first choice for many international students, but institutions elsewhere are recognizing opportunity in the upheaval, and applicants are considering destinations they might have otherwise overlooked. The impact on US universities - and the nation’s economy - may be significant.

New international enrollment in the US could drop by 30% to 40% this fall, according to an analysis of visa and enrollment data by NAFSA, an agency that promotes international education.

That would deprive the US economy of \$7 billion in spending, according to the analysis. Many international students pay full price, so their absence would also hurt college budgets.

As the second most popular destination for international students, Britain is positioned to benefit.

The country’s new Labour government has vowed to cut migration, and officials have imposed time limits on post-study visas allowing graduates to stay and work. But admissions consultants say the United Kingdom is still seen as the most welcoming of the traditional “big four” English-speaking destinations in higher education - the US, UK, Canada and Australia.

After declining last year, the number of international applications for undergraduate study in the UK this fall grew by 2.2%, official figures show. A record number of applications came from China, up 10% compared with the previous year. Applications from the US also reached nearly 8,000 students - an increase of 14% and a 20-year high.

Acceptances of international students for graduate programs in the UK grew an estimated 10% from last year,



An Emirati student arrives at the building of the University of Wollongong in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Dec. 28, 2009. (AP)

driven by demand for business and management courses in particular, according to data from UniQuest, which works with many British universities on admissions.

Data showing the extent of any impact will not be available until fall, said Mike Henniger, CEO of Illume Student Advisory Services, a consultancy that works with colleges in the US, Canada and Europe. “But the

“Opting for study in Asia has been a trend since the easing of COVID-19,” Kwong said. “But obviously it’s been exacerbated by the change of administration in the US.”

Some Asian families have told him the US is no longer their clear first choice because of political turbulence and visa difficulties, many are still waiting for US visa interviews and will likely miss the start of the fall term, Kwong said.

Chinese college student Alisa, who is studying data science, plans to attend an exchange program this fall at the University of California, Berkeley. She hopes to pursue a master’s degree in the US.

But she is also looking into other options “just so I could still go to school if the extreme scenario occurs,” said Alisa, who spoke on condition of partial anonymity out of fear of being targeted.

Hong Kong will welcome any students who are denied entry to the US, the city’s leader John Lee has said. Last year, the Chinese territory decided to allow international students to work part-time.

Hong Kong University said it has received over 500 inquiries from students in the US and is processing around 200 applications for transfer. At another school, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technol-

ogy, international undergraduate applications have surged by 40% from last year, said Alison Lloyd, associate provost on institutional data and research.

Countries including the United Arab Emirates have invested heavily in attracting international students by partnering with universities elsewhere to host branch campuses. These arrangements could appeal to students who fear being denied access to the US.

Dubai, which has designs on becoming a global education hub, hosts dozens of international institutions’ satellite campuses. It saw international student numbers grow by a third in 2024-2025.

Lisa Johnson, principal of Dubai’s private American Academy for Girls, said her mostly Emirati student body is increasingly looking away from the US for college.

“Every student wants and dreams to go to Harvard,” she said. “But as college options increase in the United Arab Emirates, more and more students are staying.”

Kazakhstan has similar ambitions, said Daniel Palm, who has helped US universities set up campuses abroad.

Illinois Tech and the University of Arizona are among colleges offering degree programs in the Central Asian country, drawing students mostly from China and Russia.

Nawrocki assumes Polish presidency and could steer more nationalist course

WARSAW, Poland, Aug 6, (AP): Conservative Karol Nawrocki was inaugurated Wednesday as Poland’s new president, which could set the country on a more nationalist course and cast doubt on the viability of the centrist government of Prime Minister Donald Tusk.

Most day-to-day power in Poland rests with the prime minister, chosen by the parliament. However, the president holds the power to influence foreign policy and veto laws.

Nawrocki, who was supported by US President Donald Trump ahead of a narrow victory in a runoff election in June, is a 42-year-old historian who had no political experience prior to campaigning. He was not even a political party member until being approached by the conservative Law and Justice party that governed Poland from 2015 to 2023.

Welcomed to the Sejm, Poland’s parliament, by uproarious chants of “Karol, Karol” and rhythmic clapping Wednesday, Nawrocki raised his right hand and took the oath of office to kick off a five-year term.

“The free choice of a nation has put me before you today,” Nawrocki said



Poland’s new president Karol Nawrocki, (right), arrives at the inauguration ceremony with his wife Marta Nawrocka, (left), in Warsaw, Poland on Aug 6. (AP)

in a raspy, deep voice during his inauguration speech.

He lashed out at “electoral propaganda” and “lies” during the campaign that culminated in the June 1 runoff vote, but added: “As a Christian, I forgive with peace of mind and from the

bottom of my heart all this contempt, and what happened during the elections.”

He alluded to Poland’s membership in the 27-member European Union and Poland’s role in NATO as an indication of his international agenda. Poland has strongly supported Ukraine in its defense against Russia since President Vladimir Putin ordered his troops to invade its southern neighbor 3 1/2 years ago.

“I will of course support relations within the European Union, but I will never agree to the European Union taking competences away from Poland, especially in matters that are not enshrined in the European treaties,” he said.

Nawrocki said he would “strive to make the Polish army the largest NATO force in the European Union” and said Poles were “responsible for building the strength of NATO’s eastern flank.”

Nawrocki’s supporters describe him as the embodiment of traditional, patriotic values.

Many of them oppose abortion and say Nawrocki reflects the values they grew up with.



A fast-moving wildfire in a Mediterranean region of France near the Spanish border is pictured on Aug 5. (AP)

France’s biggest wildfire of summer has eclipsed size of Paris

France’s biggest wildfire this summer was spreading quickly Wednesday in a Mediterranean region near the Spanish border after leaving one person dead, authorities said.

About 2,000 firefighters and several water bomber aircraft battled the blaze that broke out Tuesday afternoon in the village of Ribaute in the Aude region, a rural, wooded area that is home to wineries.

The wildfire remained “very active” on Wednesday and weather

conditions were unfavorable, the local administration said in a statement.

One person died in their home, nine others were injured, including seven firefighters, and at least one person was missing, the statement said.

The interior ministry said the fire had spread over 13,000 hectares (32,000 acres), an area larger than the French capital.

Jacques Piraux, mayor of the village of Jorquieres, said all resi-

dents have been evacuated.

“It’s a scene of sadness and desolation,” he told broadcaster BFM TV after he visited Wednesday morning to assess the damage. “It looks like a lunar landscape, everything is burned. More than half or three-quarters of the village has burned down. It’s hellish.”

Residents and tourists in nearby areas were requested to remain in their homes unless told to evacuate by firefighters. Two campsites were evacuated as a precaution. (AP)

Trump envoy Witkoff meets Putin ahead of Russia-Ukraine peace deadline, says Kremlin

MOSCOW, Aug 6, (AP): Russian President Vladimir Putin held talks with US President Donald Trump’s special envoy Steve Witkoff in Moscow on Wednesday, the Kremlin said, days before the White House’s deadline for Russia to reach a peace deal with Ukraine or potentially face severe economic penalties that could also hit countries buying its oil.

The meeting between Putin and Witkoff lasted about three hours. Neither side gave an immediate readout of the talks.

Earlier, Witkoff took an early morning stroll through Zaryadye Park, a stone’s throw from the Kremlin, with Kirill Dmitriev, the Russian president’s envoy for investment and economic cooperation, footage aired by TASS showed.

Dmitriev played a key role in three rounds of direct talks between delegations from Russia and Ukraine in Istanbul in recent months, as well as discussions between Russian and US officials. The negotiations made no progress on ending the three-year war following Russia’s invasion of its neighbor.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, (left), and US President Donald Trump’s special envoy Steve Witkoff, (right), shake hands during their meeting in Moscow, Russia, on Aug. 6. (AP)

Trump’s deadline for Putin ends on Friday. Washington has threatened “severe tariffs” and other economic penalties if the killing doesn’t stop.

Trump has expressed increasing frustration with Putin over Russia’s

escalating strikes on civilian areas of Ukraine, intended to erode morale and public appetite for the war. The intensified attacks have occurred even as Trump has urged the Russian leader in recent months to relent.

Separatist Bosnian Serb leader removed from office by election authorities

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Aug 6, (AP): Bosnia’s electoral authorities on Wednesday stripped separatist Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik from his position as president of the Serb entity in Bosnia, following an appeals court verdict that sentences him to one year in jail and six years ban on all political activities.

The Central Electoral Commission said that Dodik has the right to appeal, with an early presidential election to be held 90 days after the decision. The last Bosnian Serb presidential vote was held in 2022. Dodik’s lawyers have announced that they will seek a temporary measure postponing the implementation of the verdict, and announced an appeal to the Constitutional Court of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The appeals court in Bosnia-Herzegovina confirmed Friday an earlier court ruling that sentenced the pro-Russia Bosnian Serb leader to one year in prison and handed a six-year ban on political activ-



Members of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina, prepare for a session discussing the potential removal of separatist Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik from his position as president of the Serb entity in Bosnia, following an appeals court verdict, in Sarajevo, Bosnia on Aug 6. (AP)

ity. As a result, his mandate as Bosnian Serb president was revoked.

Dodik rejected the court ruling and added that he will continue to act as Bosnian Serb president as long as he

has the support of the Bosnian Serb parliament. He also received support from populist Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic as well as Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

Aging survivors worry about nuke threat

Hiroshima marks 80 years since A-bombing

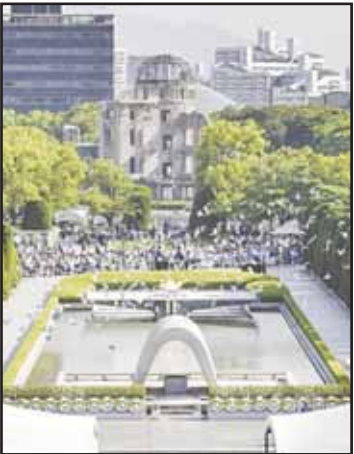
HIROSHIMA, Japan, Aug 6, (AP): Hiroshima on Wednesday marked the 80th anniversary of the US atomic bombing of the western Japanese city, with many aging survivors expressing frustration about the growing support of global leaders for nuclear weapons as a deterrence.

With the number of survivors rapidly declining and their average age now exceeding 86, the anniversary is considered the last milestone event for many of them.

“There will be nobody left to pass on this sad and painful experience in 10 years or 20 years,” Minoru Suzuto, a 94-year-old survivor, said after he kneeled down to pray at the cenotaph. “That’s why I want to share (my story) as much as I can.”

The bombing of Hiroshima on Aug 6, 1945, destroyed the city and killed 140,000 people. A second bomb dropped three days later on Nagasaki killed 70,000. Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, ending World War II and Japan’s nearly half-century of aggression in Asia.

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui warned against a growing acceptance of military buildups and of using nuclear weapons for national security during Russia’s war in Ukraine and conflicts in the Mideast, with the Unit-



Doves fly over the cenotaph dedicated to the victims of the atomic bombing at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park during a ceremony to mark the 80th anniversary of the bombing in Hiroshima, western Japan on Aug 6. (AP)

ed States and Russia possessing most of the world’s nuclear warheads.

“These developments flagrantly disregard the lessons the international community should have learned from the tragedies of history,” he said.

“They threaten to topple the peace-building frameworks so many have worked so hard to construct.”

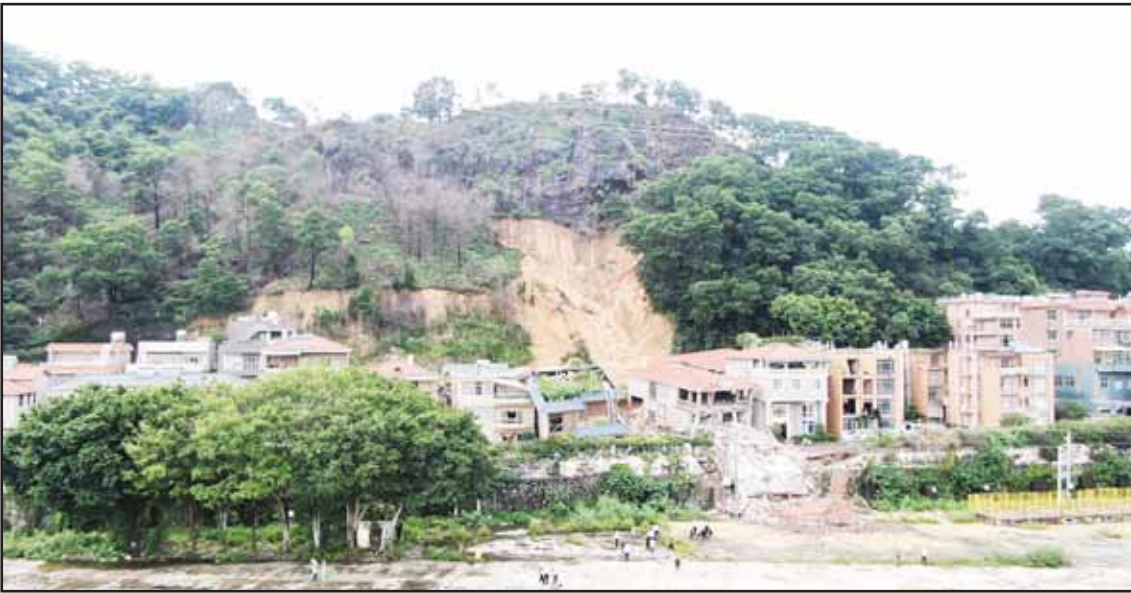
He urged younger generations to recognize that such “misguided policies” could cause “utterly inhumane” consequences for their future.

“We don’t have much time left, while we face a greater nuclear threat than ever,” said Nihon Hidankyo, a Japanese grassroots organization of survivors that won the Nobel Peace Prize last year for its pursuit of nuclear abolishment.

“Our biggest challenge now is to change, even just a little, nuclear weapons states that give us the cold shoulder,” the organization said in its statement.

About 55,000 people, including representatives from a record 120 countries and regions, including Russia and Belarus, attended the ceremony. A minute of silence was held while a peace bell rang out at 8:15 am, the time when a US B-29 dropped the bomb on the city.

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, the city’s mayor and other officials laid flowers at the cenotaph. Dozens of white doves, a symbol of peace, were released after the mayor’s speech.



This photo shows the site of a rain-triggered landslide at Dayuan Village, Baiyun District of Guangzhou, south China’s Guangdong Province on Aug 6. (Xinhua)

Landslide leaves 7 missing in China’s Guangzhou

Rain-triggered landslide left seven people missing in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province, on Wednesday morning, local authorities said.

A total of 14 people were trapped in the landslide that occurred at about 8:30 a.m. in Dayuan Village in the city’s Baiyun District, with multiple houses damaged.

As of noon, rescuers had pulled seven of them from the debris, all in stable condition.

Nearby residents have been evacuated and further search and rescue work is underway.

Meanwhile, China has allocated disaster relief funds totaling 1.015 billion yuan (about 142 million US dollars) to multiple provincial-level regions, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) said on Tuesday. The funds were allocated by the MOF, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and the Ministry of Water Resources.

Funds were channeled in multiple forms to support flood relief efforts in regions such as Beijing, Hebei, Inner Mongolia and Guangdong, including subsidies for crop replanting and the repair of agricultural facilities. (Xinhua)

Thailand legal action against Cambodia baseless, politically motivated: Sounry

PHNOM PENH, Aug 6, (Xinhua): Thailand’s legal action against Cambodia for using military forces and weapons to violate its sovereignty is baseless and politically motivated and lacks incredible basis, a Cambodian Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Wednesday.

Cambodian Foreign Ministry’s Secretary of State and Spokesperson Chum Sounry said this legal measure is entirely baseless and represents a deliberate attempt to divert both domestic and international public attention from Thailand’s hostile policy against Cambodia.

“The accusations forming the basis of legal action are unfounded, politically motivated, and lack incredible basis,” he in a press briefing.

Sounry said Cambodia strongly rejects these claims and reaffirms that the country did not start hostilities.

Cambodia remains committed to peace, the spokesperson said, adding that despite continued provocation, Cambodia remains fully committed to the ceasefire agreement.

“Cambodia urges Thailand to halt its disinformation campaign and/or hostile actions and return to constructive dialogue in the spirit of peaceful co-existence and ASEAN solidarity,” he said.

The reaction came after Thai acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai on Tuesday ordered



Evacuees return to Oddar Meanchey province, Cambodia on July 31. (Xinhua)

relevant departments to draft legal documents to initiate criminal and civil lawsuits domestically and internationally against Cambodia.

He accused Cambodia of using military forces and weapons to violate Thailand’s sovereignty, resulting in significant loss of life and property among Thai civilians and military personnel.

Armed clashes broke out between soldiers of Cambodia and Thailand along their disputed border on July 24. The two ASEAN member states agreed to a ceasefire in the afternoon of July 28, taking effect at the midnight of the same day. Enditem

Meanwhile, China will continue to support ASEAN in promoting talks for peace and play a constructive role in its own way for the turnaround of Cambodia-Thailand relations, foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said Tuesday.

In response to a media query, Guo said that since the informal consultation among China, Cambodia and Thailand was successfully held on July 30, there has been no fighting along the Cambodia-Thailand border, the situation on the ground has been deescalating, and the ceasefire has been gradually implemented by Cambodia and Thailand.

Wife of South Korea’s ex-prez Yoon appears for questioning over corruption allegations

SEOUL, South Korea, Aug 6, (AP): The wife of South Korea’s ousted former President Yoon Suk Yeol appeared for questioning by a special prosecutor Wednesday, as investigators expanded a probe into suspicions of stock manipulation, bribery, and interference in party nominations.

The investigation into Kim Keon Hee is one of three separate special prosecutor probes launched under Seoul’s new liberal government targeting the presidency of Yoon, who was removed from office in April and rearrested last month over his brief imposition of martial law in December.

The conservative’s abrupt and poorly planned power grab on Dec. 3 came during a seemingly routine standoff with the liberals, whom he described as “anti-state” forces abusing their legislative majority to obstruct his agenda. Some political opponents have questioned whether Yoon’s actions were at least partly motivated by growing allegations against his wife, which hurt his approval ratings and gave political ammunition to his rivals.

“I apologize for causing concern to the people, even though I am someone insignificant,” Kim told reporters as she arrived for questioning. She added that she would sincerely cooperate with the investigation, before walking away without responding to specific questions about the allegations.

The team of investigators led by Special Prosecutor Min Joong-ki said



Kim Keon Hee, the wife of South Korea’s ousted former President Yoon Suk Yeol, arrives at the special prosecutor’s office in Seoul, South Korea on Aug 6. (AP)

Kim was questioned for about seven hours until Wednesday afternoon, but they didn’t specify whether she will be summoned again. Investigators said they haven’t decided whether they would seek her arrest.

Through a heavy police presence, dozens of Yoon’s supporters gathered outside the special prosecutor’s office in downtown Seoul, waving South Korean and U.S. flags and banners in light rain.

Yoon, who was sent back to prison last month and faces a high-stakes trial on rebellion and other charges, resisted an attempt by investigators last week to compel him for questioning over his

wife. Investigators said he took off his prison uniform and laid down on the floor of his cell in his underwear before they gave up executing the warrant to detain him. They plan to negotiate with Yoon’s lawyers to arrange a possible questioning.

Yoon and Kim have faced suspicions of exerting undue influence over the conservative People Power Party to nominate a specific candidate for a 2022 parliamentary by-election, allegedly at the request of Myung Taekyun, an election broker and founder of a polling agency who conducted free opinion surveys for Yoon before he became president.

Previous migrant deal with UK collapsed

Rwanda agrees to take deportees from US

KIGALI, Rwanda, Aug 6, (AP): Rwanda became the third African nation to agree to accept deportees from the United States under the Trump administration’s plans to send migrants to countries they have no ties with to get them off American soil.

Rwandan government spokesperson Yolande Makolo told The Associated Press in a statement that the East African country would accept up to 250 deportees from the US, with “the ability to approve each individual proposed for resettlement” under the agreement.

Makolo didn’t provide a timeline for any deportees to arrive in Rwanda or say if they would arrive at once or in several batches. She said details were still being worked out.

The State Department said the US “works with Rwanda on a range of mutual priorities” but wouldn’t comment on details of the deportation deal and what it called diplomatic conversations with other governments.

The US sent 13 men it described as dangerous criminals who were in the US illegally to South Sudan and Eswatini in Africa last month and has said it is seeking more agreements with African nations. It said those deportees’ home countries refused to take them back.

The US has also deported hundreds of Venezuelans and others to Costa Rica, Panama and El Salvador under President Donald Trump’s plans to expel people who he says entered the US illegally.

In March, using an 18th-century wartime law, the US deported more



US President Donald Trump listens as Rwanda’s Foreign Minister Oliver Nduhungirehe speaks during an event with Congo’s Foreign Minister Therese Kayikwamba Wagner on June 27, in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, as Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio watch. (AP)

than 200 Venezuelan immigrants to El Salvador, where they were immediately transferred to a mega-prison known as the Terrorism Confinement Center, or CECOT, which was built to hold alleged gang members. Human rights groups have documented hundreds of deaths as well as cases of torture inside its walls.

Rwanda attracted international attention and some outrage when it struck a deal in 2022 with the UK to accept migrants who had arrived in the

UK to seek asylum. Under that proposed deal, their claims would have been processed in Rwanda and, if successful, they would have stayed there.

The contentious agreement was criticized by rights groups and others as being unethical and unworkable and was ultimately scrapped when Britain’s new Labour government took over. Britain’s Supreme Court ruled in 2023 that the deal was unlawful because Rwanda was not a safe third country for migrants.

Trump’s politically motivated sanctions against Brazil strain ties among old allies

SAO PAULO, Aug 6, (AP): US President Donald Trump has made clear who his new Latin America priority is: former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, a personal and political ally.

In doing so, he has damaged one of the Western hemisphere’s most important and long-standing relationships, by levying 50% tariffs taking effect on Wednesday on the largest Latin America economy, sanctioning its main justice and bringing relations between the two countries to the lowest point in decades.

The White House has appeared to embrace a narrative pushed by Bolsonaro allies in the US, that the former Brazilian president’s prosecution for attempting to overturn his 2022 election loss is part of a “deliberate breakdown in the rule of law,” with the government engaging in “politically motivated intimidation” and committing “human rights abuses,” according to Trump’s statement announcing the tariffs.

The message was clear earlier,



when Trump described Bolsonaro’s prosecution by Brazil’s Supreme Court as a “witch hunt” - using the same phrase he has employed for the numerous investigations he has

People take part in a demonstration to protest Brazil’s former president Jair Bolsonaro’s Supreme Court trial where he faces charges for alleged involvement in a 2022 coup attempt, at Copacabana Beach, in Rio de Janeiro on Aug 3. (AP)

faced since his first term. Bolsonaro faces charges of orchestrating a coup attempt to stay in power after losing the 2022 election to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Lat/Am

Mexican authorities arrest activist: Authorities arrested an outspoken activist and immigration advocate in southern Mexico on Tuesday, a day before a group of migrants was planning to march to the country’s capital to protest their treatment.

According to a federal official, **Luis García Villagrán** was arrested in Tapachula, in the state of Chiapas, for alleged crimes related to his work with migrants. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the case.

García Villagrán’s relatives who were waiting outside the Attorney General offices in the southern city of Tapachula, near the border with Guatemala, declined to comment. (AP)



Villagrán

US won’t seek death penalty for drug lords: US

prosecutors said Tuesday they won’t seek the death penalty in their cases against Mexican cartel kingpin Ismael “El Mayo” Zambada and Rafael Caro Quintero, the drug lord charged with orchestrating the 1985 killing of a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent.

Caro Quintero, 72, and Zambada, 75, have pleaded not guilty to an array of drug trafficking charges. The prosecutions are separate, but they similarly target two of Mexico’s most notorious narcoes. It is unclear whether taking the death penalty off the table signals any possibility of a plea deal with either or both men. Their lawyers welcomed the decision but were circumspect about what happens next. (AP)

□ □ □

Quake hits Dominican Republic: A 5.7 magnitude earthquake struck off the southeast coast of the Dominican Republic early Tuesday, jolting residents awake in the Caribbean country and in neighboring Puerto Rico.

The quake occurred 24 miles (38 kilometers) southeast of Boca de Yuma at a depth of 104 miles (168 kilometers), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. No damage was reported.

Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic are located in a high seismic activity zone, given that the North American Plate and the northeast corner of the Caribbean Plate meet in that area. (AP)

Kuwaiti crude drops 82 cents to \$71.65 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti crude oil dropped 82 cents to USD 71.65 per barrel (pb) on Tuesday, compared to USD 72.47 pb on Monday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Wednesday.

Globally, the price of Brent crude dropped USD 1.12 to USD 67.64 pb, and West Texas Intermediate crude went down USD 1.13 to USD 65.16 pb.

Business

Assets under management of KD 1.56 bln

Markaz records total revenue of KD 14.45 mln for H1-2025

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Kuwait Financial Centre “Markaz” (KSE: Markaz, Reuters: MARKZ.KW, Bloomberg: MARKAZ: KK) reported its financial results for H1-2025 with a Total Revenue of KD 14.45 million with an increase of 65%, as compared to KD 8.76 million in H1-2024. The net profit attributable to shareholders of Markaz was KD 6.41million, compared to KD1.79 million in the same period last year, and earnings per share was 13 Fils for H1-2025.

Mr. Diraar Yusuf Alghanim, Markaz’s Chairman, stated: “Kuwait demonstrated robust performance during the second quarter of 2025, with non-oil GDP growth estimated at around 2.5%, supported by steady expansion in real estate, manufacturing, and hospitality, while inflation remained contained near 2.3% alongside a private sector PMI of 53.9 in May. Across the GCC, economic prospects were reinforced by ongoing diversification initiatives and rising credit activity in the UAE, which helped sustain regional growth. Regional oil revenues also benefited from periodic price increases amid geopolitical tensions, supporting fiscal balances. On the global front, the IMF revised growth expectations



downward due to weaker demand and continued geopolitical friction, although oil market movements offered some support to regional fiscal positions. In recognition of its institutional strength and innovative investment capabilities during this period, Markaz was honoured with five prestigious awards from EMEA Finance, Euromoney, and MEED. We remain positive on the region’s outlook, supported by improving financial conditions, ongoing structural reforms, and steady demand trends. Our priority continues to be the creation of long-term value for our stakeholders through disciplined execution, strategic growth, and prudent risk management.

Mr. Ali H. Khalil, Markaz’s CEO, stated: Markaz’s Asset Management fees for H1-2025 were KD 3.94million as compared to KD 3.46million for the same period last year, reflecting an increase of 14%. Investment Banking and Advisory fees for H1-2025 were KD 0.52million



Diraar Yusuf Alghanim, Chairman

as compared to KD 0.63million for H1-2024. This performance reflects the strength of our diversified portfoliosand disciplined focus on consistent execution across business verticals.

In asset management, our equity mutual funds continued to deliver stable returns amid heightened market volatility. MIDAF, Mumtaz, the Markaz Islamic Fund, and Forsa recorded returns of 8.65%, 10.45%, 18.05%, and 12.31% respectively, supported by prudent investment strategies and active portfolio management.

Within investment banking,



Ali H. Khalil, CEO

Markaz continues to reinforce its capital markets expertise and deepen long-term client relationships. The team maintains a robust transaction pipeline, with multiple active M&A mandates currently underway.

Our regional and international real estate investments have remained resilient, supported by stable occupancy levels, reliable rental income, and steady collection rates. During the year, Markaz exited industrial real estate projects exceeding USD 100 million in the US and Europe, highlighting its disciplined investment approach, partnerships, and leadership in global real estate and credit



Abdullahatif W. Al-Nusif, Managing Director, Wealth Management and Business Development

strategies. Markaz also released the first annual report for its Shariah-compliant Markaz Real Estate Fund (MREF), strengthening transparency and highlighting its market leadership.

Favorable demographic dynamics, sustained infrastructure spending, and broader economic diversification across the GCC continue to create attractive opportunities. Markaz is focused on providing differentiated investment offerings and maintaining strategic agility to deliver long-term value for stakeholders.

Mr. Abdullahatif W. Al-Nusif, Managing Director, Wealth Manage-

ment and Business Development at Markaz, stated: “Markaz continued to strengthen its wealth management services during the second quarter of 2025. Assets Under Management (AUM) reached approximately KD 1.56 billion as of 30June 2025, reflecting an [increase] of 13.14% compared to KD 1.38 billion in Q2 2024. This growth is underpinned by our disciplined execution and client-focused strategy. In May 2025, Markaz successfully engaged professional and qualified investors through an exclusive private markets event with BlackRock, strengthening client access to global strategies and highlighting private credit as a strategic income-focused asset class.

Expanding capabilities across private markets, alternative assets, and tailored advisory services remains central to addressing clients’ evolving requirements. Enhanced digital initiatives continue to strengthen the client experience and drive greater efficiency. Supported by strong relationships with institutional and high net worth clients, and solutions aligned with market dynamics, Markaz is positioned to deliver consistent investment outcomes and uphold its leadership in wealth creation.

All Share Index sheds 22.24 points

Boursa Kuwait closes lower

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Wednesday’s trading session with the All Share Index down by 22.24 points, or 0.26 percent, closing at 8,561.27 points. A total of 321.7 million shares changed hands through 24,530 transactions, with an overall value of KD 77.4 million (USD 236 million).

The Main Market Index bucked the overall trend, rising by 8.80 points, or 0.12 percent, to close at 7,631.24 points. This came as 189 million shares were traded across 16,754 transactions, amounting to

KD 32.5 million (USD 99 million) in value.

The Premier Market Index declined by 31.09 points, or 0.34 percent, settling at 9,216.34 points, with 132.7 million shares traded through 7,776 deals worth KD 44.9 million (USD 136.9 million).

Meanwhile, the Main 50 Index dropped 29.40 points, or 0.39 percent, to end at 7,558.58 points. Trading activity on this index involved 103.2 million shares through 6,402 transactions, with a total value of KD 16.8 million (about USD 51.2 million).

As part of Diraya campaign

KFH warns clients against AI-powered fraud attempts

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: As part of its ongoing support to Diraya campaign, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has encouraged customers to remain alert of the new means of fraud that take advantage of AI technologies.

KFH noted that new scam attempts involve the use of advanced AI tools to replicate the voices of real individuals with a high degree of accuracy. These voice imitations are used to contact friends or family members through phone calls or social media, often accompanied by urgent requests to transfer money. The lifelike nature of these interactions may give the impression of authenticity and credibility.

KFH advises verifying the identity of any person requesting a financial transaction. The Bank also highlighted that fraudsters may use psychological tactics to create a sense of urgency or fear. For example, some may send messages claiming suspicious activity or potential account breaches, prompting recipients to share sensitive information such as OTPs or card numbers.

KFH stressed the importance of continued proactive caution to safeguard personal information and prevent victims falling to such crimes. KFH also encourages customers to treat any request to share banking details via phone or social me-



dia with care, as these attempts are fraudulent means targeting customers banking data. Additionally, KFH urges customers to check the authenticity of websites before entering any personal information.

KFH reaffirmed its commitment to promoting financial literacy under the Diraya campaign, launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) in cooperation with Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) and local banks. These efforts are evident through providing guidance, tips, and educational content to help customers avoid phishing and online fraud, protect their personal information, enhance their financial literacy, and make well-informed investment decisions.



Group photo of the participants in the 'Data Champion' bootcamp.

Reaffirming its commitment to a data-driven culture & talent development

Burgan Bank launches Data Champion bootcamp in partnership with CODED

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: As part of its ongoing investment in human capital and commitment to fostering a culture of continuous learning, Burgan Bank announced the launch of its latest Learning and Talent Development (LTD) endeavor: the Data Champion bootcamp. Developed in strategic partnership with CODED – the region’s first dedicated coding academy – the program is the first of its kind in Kuwait, designed to build data fluency across the Bank and deepen its digital transformation efforts.

This intensive, month-long internal bootcamp aims to upskill employees from across Burgan Bank’s departments with essential data analytics capabilities, enabling them to extract insights, drive smarter decisions, and accelerate customer-centric innovation.

“In today’s fast-moving digital banking landscape, digital transformation and data literacy is more than a competitive edge – it’s a business imperative,” said Ms. Fatma Ahmad, Senior Manager – Learning and Development at Burgan Bank. “A true transformation lies in embedding data thinking into every part of the Bank’s operations. Through this program, we’re empowering our Employees



Ms. Fatma Ahmad, Senior Manager – Learning and Development

with the tools and mindset to harness data effectively – and ultimately deliver a smarter, more seamless banking experience.”

For his part, Mr. Hashim Behbehani, Co-Founder and Chief Operations Officer of CODED, said: “We are proud to host Burgan Bank’s Data Champion Program, which marks a truly forward-thinking initiative from Burgan Bank that invests in the technical upskilling of its employees. This program was specifically designed around real bank-

ing scenarios. It is meant to be practical and intensive, to deliver direct impact not only on the performance of participants – but also the various Burgan Bank departments they serve.”

He added: “This collaboration reflects Burgan Bank’s deep-rooted belief in the importance of investing in national talent, which echoes CODED’s vision to place Kuwait on the global technology map. We are grateful Burgan Bank for their ongoing trust and look forward to seeing the tangible results of this program.”

To ensure the organizational alignment on adopting a data-driven mindset, 12 employees representing different departments within the Bank – will be selected to attend the bootcamp. Throughout the program, participants will receive hands-on training in Power BI, Excel Dashboards, and Data Storytelling, in addition to modules on data management, data analytics, and data modeling, supported by real-world case studies tailored to banking scenarios.

This initiative also aligns closely with Burgan Bank’s sustainability strategy, particularly in the areas of human capital development, digital transformation, and national talent empow-

erment. By equipping employees with cutting-edge data skills and fostering a culture of innovation, the Bank reinforces its long-term commitment to responsible growth and inclusive progress. The program further supports Kuwait’s Vision 2035 by nurturing local talent in partnership with a home-grown tech institution, CODED, while also enhancing employee engagement and organizational resilience hallmarks of Burgan’s sustainable development vision.

The bootcamp will culminate in a collaborative capstone project, where participants will demonstrate their ability to apply data concepts to real business challenges. Graduates will be formally recognized upon completing the requirements of “Data Champions Bootcamp”.

It serves to note that Burgan Bank, a certified Great Place to Work® with a mission of becoming an employer of choice on the national level, currently houses one of the most robust and comprehensive LTD programs within the sector. A dynamic program with an expansive vision, Burgan Bank’s LTD strategy offers employees year-round opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Agility KSCP supports summer learning for 227 female students in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Agility KSCP, a supply chain services, infrastructure and innovation company, has announced the successful conclusion of the July Cohort of the 2025 edition of “Academy X” as part of its ongoing strategic partnership with CODED Academy.

Launched as a pilot under the “Kuwait Codes” initiative in 2023 and officially rolled out in 2024, “Academy X” returns for its second year in 2025. The July cohort is a free, six-day program targeting 227 high school and university-level female students, offering hands-on training in business development and AI-powered app design. It also includes modules on public speaking and communication to help participants lead confidently in both technical and business environments.

Agility continues to invest in youth development through partnerships with leading non-profits that expand access to technical and vocational education. Its collaboration with CODED Academy is a standout example. Since launching as a pilot in 2023, “Academy X” has grown steadily, equipping more than 500 young women with coding and entrepreneurship skills to date. The broader partnership with CODED, which began in 2022, has reached over 2,450 female students. Agility’s support underscores the private sector’s role in advancing digital literacy, innovation, and inclusive growth. More broadly, Agility’s 2025 CSR program aims to reach over 5,000 individuals across Kuwait through initiatives focused on education, technology, and entrepreneurship, building on two decades of collaboration that have reached over 51,000 people across the country.



Students of the July 2025 session of the Academy X program.



July 2025 ‘Academy X’ Cohort session.

As part of the Bank’s social responsibility program and its efforts to transfer practical experience to students

KIB delivers a workshop on the fundamentals of investment and real estate appraisal at Kuwait University for 3rd consecutive year

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Kuwait International Bank (KIB), represented by its Real Estate Department, announced the delivery of its fifth specialized workshop on the fundamentals of investment and real estate appraisal at Kuwait University. Running for the third consecutive year, the workshop is part of a series of training events organized by the Bank in collaboration with the College of Business Administration at Kuwait University, under the framework of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the two parties.

This initiative comes as part of the Bank’s comprehensive corporate social responsibility program, which focuses on supporting education, transferring practical knowledge, and expanding collaboration with academic institutions. It also reflects the Bank’s commitment to implementing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles to enhance its effective contribution to community development.

This important event featured the participation of Mishari Al-Boulayyan, Head of the Real Estate Appraisal Department at KIB, and Engineer Basel Salem, Real Estate Consultant in the Real Estate Advisory Department, along with a number of university faculty members and a group of students.

Commenting on the event, Al-Boulayyan said: “The organization of these workshops reflects the Bank’s commitment to contributing to the development of qualified national talent with strong skills that meet the demands of the real estate market.” He highlighted that KIB will continue to launch more educational and training initiatives as part of implementing the memorandum of understanding signed with Kuwait University, which aims to integrate practical studies into the university’s academic curriculum.

From his side, Salem stated: “Our participation in such initiatives stems from KIB’s position as a specialized in-



Photo during the workshop.

stitution in real estate financing and appraisal since its establishment. Through this workshop, the Real Estate Department aimed to provide comprehensive educational content covering all aspects of real estate investment and appraisal, including international real estate

valuation standards and the key factors that influence appraisal. These include the cost approach, the income capitalization approach, and the market sales comparison approach.”

These workshops represent a valuable opportunity to

directly engage with students and share expertise and knowledge that enrich their academic journey. They also reaffirm the Bank’s commitment to its comprehensive corporate social responsibility strategy, which embraces the implementation of ESG principles.

It is worth noting that the Real Estate Department at KIB provides integrated real estate services, backed by extensive and pioneering experience in the field since the Bank’s establishment. It also serves as a trusted reference for leading government entities, banking institutions, as well as investment and real estate companies in Kuwait.

About KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari’ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: “Bank for Life”.

Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait, KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and activities.

Today, KIB has taken concrete steps in implementing its new strategic objectives. The Bank has cemented its role as a key player in the local banking industry and has continued to maintain its strong financial performance; enabling it to be globally recognized for its strong credit rating and financial position.

Iraq receives 80,000 bpd from Kurdistan for export

IBRIL, Aug 6, (KUNA): Iraqi Oil Minister Hayyan Abdul Ghani announced, Wednesday, that Baghdad has begun receiving 80,000 barrels of oil per day from the Kurdistan Region to be consolidated and exported through Turkiye’s Ceyhan port.

The oil shipments are expected to resume Wednesday or Thursday after being suspended since March 2023.

Speaking during a visit to North Oil Company in Kirkuk, Abdul Ghani said negotiations with the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) are ongoing, and coordination with the region’s Ministry of Natural Resources allows State Oil Marketing Organization (SOMO) to manage the exports.

He noted that Kurdistan’s fields

currently produce about 130,000 barrels daily, with 50,000 barrels used for local consumption and the remaining 80,000 allocated for export.

The minister also revealed plans to raise Kirkuk’s oil production to 600,000 barrels per day, with support from a development contract with the British multinational oil and gas company, BP, for the province’s four main fields. Current production exceeds 350,000 barrels daily.

The export resumption follows a recent agreement between the KRG and the federal government under which the region will deliver 230,000 barrels per day to SOMO and transfer 120 billion dinars in monthly revenue to Baghdad in exchange for public sector salary payments.

‘Oil demand set to rise in H2’

Saudi oil giant Aramco reports \$48.7 bln net profit in H1 2025

RIYADH, Aug 6, (Xinhua): Saudi Arabian Oil Company, commonly known as Saudi Aramco, announced Tuesday a net profit of 48.7 billion U.S. dollars for the first half of the year.

In a press release, the company said the net profit was supported by robust cash flows, consistent shareholder payouts, and exceptional supply reliability.

For the second quarter, Saudi Aramco registered a net profit of 22.7 billion dollars, it said, adding that the company also recorded a base dividend of 21.1 billion dollars, and a performance-linked dividend of 219 million dollars, both scheduled for payment in the third quarter.

“Aramco’s resilience was proven once again in the first half of 2025,” the press release quoted Aramco President and CEO Amin H. Nasser as saying.

“Market fundamentals remain strong and we anticipate oil demand in the second half of 2025 to be more than two million barrels per day higher than the first half,” he added.

Index covers HMS 1&2 scrap

Fastmarkets launches Saudi-Arabia steel scrap price index

LONDON, Aug 6, (PR Newswire): Fastmarkets, a leading provider of pricing data, news and market intelligence for global commodity markets, is proud to announce the launch of a tonnage-weighted steel scrap price index for the Saudi Arabia domestic market.

This first-of-its-kind initiative marks a milestone in the global metals industry by providing a transparent and reliable price benchmark for Saudi Arabian steel scrap. In doing so, it addresses a long-standing gap in the market, empowering industry participants with enhanced tools for commercial transactions, risk management and market insights.

Set to be published weekly, the new scrap benchmark responds directly to demand for an independent reference price from market participants in Saudi Arabia, across Gulf Cooperation Council nations and beyond. It is designed to support the region’s dynamic industrial growth and its ambitious steel-intensive megaprojects, such as NEOM, the Mukaab and the Red Sea Project - critical components of Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030, the kingdom’s bold blueprint to diversify its economy and reduce its reliance on oil through massive investment, reform and innovation.

The launch of this weekly index is aimed at offering greater clarity and enabling well-informed decision-making across Saudi Arabia’s steel scrap value chain.

The index, using Fastmarkets’ proprietary tonnage-weighted calcu-

lation models, will incorporate prices for HMS 1&2 ferrous scrap from key markets in the east, centre and west of the Kingdom to produce a composite price index denominated in Saudi Arabian riyals per metric tonne on a delivered basis.

Alongside the roll-out of the national index, Fastmarkets will also calculate regional scrap prices for the key eastern, central and western markets, and will report on these region-specific prices in its regular market reports.

“Launching this new and much-requested index underscores Fastmarkets’ commitment to delivering actionable intelligence that empowers markets. By creating a trusted steel scrap price reference tailored for Saudi Arabia, we’re enabling businesses to thrive in an era of unprecedented industrial transformation in the Kingdom,” said Lee Allen, Fastmarkets’ Strategic Markets Editor, Recycled Metals.

The unveiling of this index comes at a pivotal time for the region’s steel sector. With Saudi Arabia cementing its place as a hub for economic growth and development, accurate and independent pricing will be instrumental in supporting the multibillion-dollar investments flowing into infrastructure, technology and innovation.

Fastmarkets’ launch of the Saudi Arabian ferrous scrap index follows launches of an import price for hot rolled coil (HRC) steel CFR Saudi Arabia in 2014 and the launch of a Saudi Arabian domestic price for rebar in October 2023.

Showcases AI credit tools at regional forum

CINET joins Arab Credit Info Committee meeting

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Kuwait Credit Information Network Company (CINET) participated in the 19th meeting of the Arab Committee on Credit Information, organized by the Arab Monetary Fund. The event brought together leaders in the credit information industry across the region to discuss current challenges and best practices in credit reporting and scoring services. CINET’s participation highlighted how it utilizes data science and artificial intelligence in credit evaluation and risk management, offering valuable insights into the role of data analytics in enhancing institutional decision-making.

Representing CINET at the event were Mrs. Mai Bader Al-Owaish, Chief Executive Officer, and Mr. Fouzan Y. Al-Sumait, Senior Manager of Data and Artificial Intelligence. They delivered a specialized presentation outlining CINET’s experience in data science and analytics, showcasing innovative products that embed advanced analytics into credit information services and demonstrating their impact on financial decision-making and credit stability.

CINET is the first credit company in the region to apply this integrated model, underscoring its leadership in leveraging technology to enhance the efficiency of the financial market. The company continues its efforts to deliver advanced solutions, including the recent launch of its new mobile application, which ena-



Mai Bader Al-Owaish, Chief Executive Officer



Fouzan Y. Al-Sumait, Senior Manager of Data and Artificial Intelligence

bles individuals to access their full credit facilities – including loans and credit cards, and more – in a transparent, fast, and user-friendly manner, empowering individuals and businesses with smarter financial decision-making tools and more effective risk management.

Commenting on the participation, Mrs. Mai B. Al-Owaish said: “Our participation in this meeting reaffirms CINET’s commitment to supporting the development of cutting-edge data solutions that address the evolving needs of financial institutions and provide both individuals and organizations with practical tools for accurate and smarter financial decision-making. This platform

enables us to share experiences with our peers in the Arab region, highlight our success stories, and explore advanced tools that pave the way for a more data-driven and inclusive credit ecosystem”.

Mr. Fouzan Y. Al-Sumait added: “At CINET, we are keen to design data analytics tools that enable financial institutions to understand customer behavior and assess risks accurately, leveraging data science capabilities for strategic growth. We provide precise insights into creditworthiness, credit patterns, and risk exposure. From our experience with financial institutions in Kuwait that use CINET’s credit analytics products, it has become

clear that effective data strategies is a critical factor in mitigating risks, enhancing financial stability, and achieving sustainable growth.”

The Arab Committee on Credit Information, whose secretariat is overseen by the Arab Monetary Fund, operates under the Arab Central Banks and Monetary Authorities’ Governors. It includes directors and officials from credit information units within Arab central banks and monetary authorities, along with executives from licensed national credit information companies.

CINET’s participation reflects its ongoing commitment to innovation and excellence and its vision to reshape the future of credit services in Kuwait and the region through actionable analytics, precision, and cutting-edge innovation.

About CINET

Kuwait Credit Information Network (CINET) seeks to provide inquiry services, credit score, and credit information in an innovative manner and with the highest levels of professionalism and trustworthiness. The company contributes to strengthening the credit system, improving the credit culture, and raising the degree of trust among clients in the credit community.

The activities of the Kuwait Credit Information Network Company are subject to the control and supervision of the Central Bank of Kuwait.

Law No. 9 of 2019 regulates the exchange of credit information.

For NBK Visa credit card and prepaid cardholders

NBK introduces 10% cashback on airline ticket purchases & Marriott Bonvoy Hotels bookings

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: In line with its continuous efforts to reward clients all year round with exclusive offers and benefits tailored to match their needs and expectations, National Bank of Kuwait announced giving up to 10% cashback on airline ticket purchases and Marriott Bonvoy Hotels bookings from August 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025 when using eligible NBK Visa Credit and Prepaid Cards.

With this offer, NBK customers holding these eligible cards can now get 10% cashback on purchases of airline tickets made directly on the application or website of the airlines and Marriott Bonvoy hotels. A wide range of cards are eligible for this offer to guarantee that a wider segment of customers enjoys this rewarding experience, and these cards are:

- NBK KWT Visa Infinite Credit Card
- NBK-Harrods Visa Infinite Credit Card
- NBK-Kuwait Airways (Oasis Club) Visa Infinite Credit Card
- NBK-KPC Visa Infinite Credit Card
- Visa Infinite Credit Card
- Visa Signature Credit Card
- NBK Avios Visa Signature Prepaid Card
- Visa Platinum Credit Card
- 247 Cashback Prepaid Card
- NBK-Kuwait Airways (Oasis Club) Visa Platinum Prepaid Card

For eligible Visa Infinite and Visa Signature Credit and Prepaid Cardholders, customers can enjoy up to KD 100 cashback when spending a minimum amount of KD 500. For eligible Visa Platinum Credit and



Anwar Al-Ballam

Prepaid Cardholders, customers can enjoy up to KD 50 cashback when spending a minimum amount of KD 300 per month.

On this occasion, Anwar Al-Ballam AVP - Cards Services Management said: “We are always keen on giving our customers a real added value by making their travel experience more fun and economical, which is why we strive to provide them with exclusive and exceptional offers that enrich their day-to-day experiences and match their travel and entertainment needs.”

Al-Ballam also added: “Such campaigns reflect our diligence in enriching our cardholders’ travel experience by enabling them to save as much as possible in every trip. Additionally, it highlights our leadership in providing innovative solutions that respond to our customers’ changing needs no matter their segments and ages.”

Al-Ballam:

- We Strive to provide our customers with exclusive and exceptional offers that enrich their day-to-day experiences and match their travel and entertainment needs.
- The offer includes a wide range of NBK Visa Credit and Prepaid Cards to ensure an enjoyable experience for all segments.

10% cashback on airline ticket purchases & Marriott Bonvoy Hotels.

Al-Ballam emphasized that with its leading position and strong ties with the biggest local and international institutions, NBK continues to enrich the banking experience of its customers that not only respond to their needs, but also and more often exceed their expectations.

It is worth noting that NBK’s Visa Credit and Prepaid Cards provide

their holders many benefits all year round, in addition to exclusive offers and discounts that help them build and maintain a unique lifestyle. From a big selection of products and services, NBK customers can select the NBK Visa Credit and Prepaid cards that best suit their lifestyle, meet their different needs, and provide them with several rewards.

USMCA shields Canada, Mexico exports

Canada and Mexico brace for uncertainty in US trade policy

TORONTO, Aug 6, (AP): U.S. President Donald Trump raised the tariffs on Canadian goods to 35% last week, but a key exemption for Canada and Mexico shields the vast majority of goods from the punishing duties.

Goods that comply with the 2020 United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement that Trump negotiated during his first term are excluded from the tariffs.

Here’s a look at Trump’s tariffs on the two countries and their exemptions:

Canada’s central bank says 100% of energy exports and 95% of other exports are compliant with the trade pact, known as USMCA.

The Royal Bank estimated that almost 90% of Canadian exports appear to have accessed the U.S. market duty free in April.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said the commitment of the U.S. to the core of USMCA, reaffirmed again last week, means the U.S. average tariff rate on Canadian goods remains one of its lowest, and over 85% of Canada-U.S. trade continues to be tariff free.

“Canada is better off than any of the trading partners right now because the Americans appear to be relying as a default on USMCA,” said Flavio Volpe, president of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers’ Association. “That gives them the tough tariff headline but also allows them the access to the stuff they need from us. Because of that we’re in a relative better position.”

Canadian and Mexican companies can claim preferential treatment under the USMCA based on where the products are made.

“The headline news is 35% tariffs but it’s somewhat targeted,” said John Manley, Canada’s former industry minister, finance minister, foreign affairs minister and deputy prime minister.

Manley said Canada is doing okay despite the economic uncertainty.

“There is a lot of resilience I’d say. The Canadian economy has done relatively well, better than most of us expected, and remember that there is no tariffs on any of our energy exports,” he said.

Trump said last week he would enter into a 90-day negotiating period with Mexico, also one of America’s largest trading partners. The current 25% tariff rates are staying in place, down from the 30% he had threatened earlier.

But that 25% only applies to the fraction of Mexico’s trade with the U.S. that isn’t covered by the USMCA.

Shortly after speaking with Trump on Thursday, President Claudia Sheinbaum said that within the “new commercial world order,” Mexico was still the best positioned nation because of the free trade agreement.

“What’s within (USMCA) has no tariff, with the exception of what we already know: autos, steel and aluminum; and what is outside the treaty has 25%,” Sheinbaum said.

But Economy Secretary Marcelo Ebrard pointed out that under the USMCA no tariffs were paid on more than 84% of Mexico’s trade with the United States.

Most imports from Canada and Mexico are still protected by the USMCA, but the deal is up for review next year. U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said last month: “I think the president is absolutely going to renegotiate USMCA.”

Preserving the free trade pact will be critical for Canada and Mexico.

“It would be an incredible disruption to lose it especially if you lost it to the levels of tariffs Trump is imposing, 30%, 25% or even 20%. You can absorb a single digit tariff level across the board but you can’t adjust that kind of increase,” Manley said.

More than 75% of Canada’s exports go to the U.S. while more than 80% of Mexico’s exports go there.

Manley said that depending on how the trade war plays out the risk to the USMCA is very high. “Uncertainty in business is the enemy of decision making,” he said.

Carney said in a series of recent agreements with other countries that America is, in effect, charging for access to its economy.

Manley said the investment thesis for Canada is pretty straightforward as Canada is rich in natural resources, has a skilled labor force, is open to immigration and has unfettered access to the U.S. market, the largest economy in the world.

“If that latter point is no longer the case, we’ve still got all the others, but we’ve got to really re-develop the investment thesis for attracting investment to Canada,” Manley said.

Trump has some sector specific tariffs, known as 232 tariffs, that are having an impact. There is a 50% tariff on steel and aluminum imports and a 25% tariff on auto imports, though there is a carve-out for Canadian and Mexican made cars.

“Despite our advantages, certain major Canadian industries are being severely impacted by U.S. trade actions. These strategic sectors include autos, steel, aluminum, copper, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, and of course, softwood lumber,” Carney said on Tuesday as he announced an aid package for the lumber industry as the U.S. ratches up duties.

“It is clear we cannot count or fully rely on what has been our most valued trading relationship for our prosperity,” he added.

Lula unveils contingency plan in response to US tariffs on Brazil

BRASILIA, Aug 6, (Xinhua): Brazil will respond to a steep tariff increase imposed by the United States with a contingency plan and take its case to the World Trade Organization (WTO), President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said Tuesday.

During a meeting of the Council for Sustainable Economic and Social Development held in Brasilia, the president depicted the U.S. trade move as “unjust” and highlighted Brazil’s progress on the international stage.

“The government’s commitment is to the Brazilian people. We will implement a contingency plan to mitigate this unjust attack, and alleviate its economic and social damage,” Lula said.

“We will protect Brazilian workers and companies affected by these measures and will resort to all available mechanisms, including the World Trade Organization, to defend our interests,” Lula told business leaders, union organizers, agricultural representatives and members of civil society.

Brazil continues to pursue negotiations, he said, noting that talks with U.S. authorities have been underway since March.

Brazil will officially announce its response to the tariff increase on Aug. 18, when its foreign ministry files a request with the WTO to challenge the measure adopted by the United States.

Industry leaders praise move to unlock drone potential

New federal rule eases long-distance drone operations

WASHINGTON, Aug 6: A new federal rule proposed Tuesday would make it easier for companies to use drones over longer distances out of the operator’s sight without having to go through a cumbersome waiver process.

The federal government had already approved 657 waivers to allow companies such as Amazon and major utilities to do this in certain circumstances, but the waiver process made it difficult. The rule would establish a clear process for drone operators to seek approval for using drones this way.

The industry has long pressed for the rule because being able to operate drones out of sight opens up a multitude of possibilities for their use. Being able to do this enables more use of drones for deliveries, inspecting infrastructure like bridges and power lines and other uses in agriculture like spraying fertilizer over thousands of acres on large farms.

“This draft rule is a critical step toward enabling drone operations that will enhance safety, transform commercial services, and strengthen public safety with drones as a force multiplier,” Michael Robbins, president & CEO of the Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International trade group, said in a statement.

The rule spells out the circumstances drones can be used. These out of sight flights will only be allowed under 400 feet, and there are precautions to ensure they don’t disrupt aviation and cause problems around airports, Federal Aviation Administration Administrator Bryan Bedford said. The drones will be required to have collision-avoidance technology to keep them away from planes and other drones. And the rule will only allow drones up to 1,320 pounds - including their payloads.

“The issue hasn’t been that America just can’t innovate, America can’t create, America can’t build amazing drone technology. It’s that we’ve had a bureaucracy in place that makes it incredibly incredibly difficult for innovators to actually innovate,” Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said.

The rules are designed to address the way modern drones are being used today.

“While the technology has rapidly advanced over the last decade, our regulatory framework in the United States has failed to keep pace,” said Lisa Ellman, CEO of the Commercial Drone Alliance group. “Drone operators must navigate a labyrinth of ill-suited regulations designed for crewed aircraft.”

President Donald Trump issued executive orders in June directing the Transportation Department to quickly get this rule out. The orders also included restrictions meant to help protect against terrorism, espionage and public safety threats.

Drones are already used in a variety of ways, including bolstering search and rescue operations, applying fertilizer, inspecting power lines and railroad bridges, and even delivering packages.



Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy watches a drone flight demonstration following a news conference on new drone regulations, Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025, in the atrium of the Department of Transportation in Washington. (AP)

Amazon is one of the companies that received a waiver allowing it to use drones this way for some of its deliveries in College Station, Texas, as it develops the technology. This rule should make it easier for Amazon and other companies to get approval to use drones this way in more communities.

Flytrex, a Tel Aviv-based drone delivery company that has operations in Texas and North Carolina, said it was excited to see the proposed rule take shape. Flytrex co-founder and CEO Yariv Bash called the proposed rule “a foundational milestone that paves the way for drone delivery to scale across more communities in the U.S.”

“This rule is a critical step toward unlocking the full potential of drone delivery and ensuring its long-term business viability nationwide,” Bash said.

The war in Ukraine has highlighted how drones could be used in a military or terrorist attack - a concern as the World Cup and Olympics approach in the U.S. There also have been espionage cases where drones

have been used to surveil sensitive sites. And White House officials said drones are being used to smuggle drugs over the border, and there are concerns about the potential for a disastrous collision between a drone and an airliner around an airport.

The rule won’t allow drone flights over large open-air gatherings like concerts or sporting events or crowded parks.

The FAA consulted with the Department of Homeland Security as it developed this rule to make sure security concerns are addressed. The government will accept comments on the new rule over the next 60 days before finalizing the rule likely sometime later this year. Drone operators will have to go through background checks and be certified to operate drones out of their sight.

Duffy and Bedford said they hope having regulations in place can help prevent problems like earlier this year when a small drone collided with a “Super Scooper” plane that was fighting wildfires raging through Southern California. The drone punched a hole in the plane’s left wing, causing enough damage that officials grounded the aircraft for several days to make repairs.

Authorities tracked down the 56-year-old drone operator, who pleaded guilty to a federal charge of recklessly flying his aircraft. The man admitted he launched his DJI quadcopter to observe fire damage over the Pacific Palisades neighborhood, despite the FAA having restricted drone flying in the area, according to court records. The operator lost sight of the drone after it flew about 1.5 miles from where he had launched it. And that’s when it struck the “Super Scooper.”

This rule applies directly to commercial and recreational drone operators who must apply to be able to fly drones out of sight. People who buy drones on their own and don’t get approval would still be prohibited from doing this.

Trump narrows Fed chair list to four

Hassett and Warsh named as top contenders

WASHINGTON, Aug 6, (AP): President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he’s whittled down his list of potential Federal Reserve chair candidates to four as he considers a successor to Jerome Powell - a choice that could reset the path of the U.S. economy.

Asked on CNBC’s “Squawk Box” for a future replacement for Powell, Trump named Kevin Hassett, director of the National Economic Council, and Kevin Warsh, a former member of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

“I think Kevin and Kevin, both Kevins, are very good,” Trump said.

He said two other people were also under consideration, but Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent is not among them.

“I love Scott, but he wants to stay where he is,” Trump said. He did not name his other two top candidates but used the opportunity to disparage Powell, whom he has dubbed “too late” in cutting interest rates.

The news that Trump plans to make a decision on the Fed chair “soon” comes as the Republican president has been highly critical of Powell, whose term ends in May 2026. Trump recently floated having the Fed’s board of governors take full control of the U.S. central bank from Powell, whom he has relentlessly pressured to cut short-term interest rates in ways that raise questions about whether the Fed can remain free from White House politicking.

Trump has openly mused about whether to remove Powell before his tenure as chair ends, but he’s held off on dismissing the Fed chair after a recent Supreme Court ruling suggested he could only do so for cause rather than out of policy disagreements. The president has put pressure on Powell by claiming he mismanaged the Fed’s \$2.5 billion renovation project, but he’s also said that he’s “highly unlikely” to fire Powell.

One of the Fed’s governors, Adriana Kugler, made a surprise announcement last Friday that she would be stepping away from her role. That created an opening for Trump, who called her departure “a pleasant surprise,” to name a new Fed governor. Trump told CNBC it’s “a possibility” that his pick to replace Kugler could also be his choice to replace Powell.

Trump told reporters that he plans to name his pick to join the Fed’s board of governors soon, though he is deciding whether he’ll nominate someone to permanently join the board and possibly succeed Powell or simply serve out the remaining months of Kugler’s term.

“I’ll be making that decision before the end of the week,” Trump said later Tuesday when asked about his Fed governor pick.

Here’s what to know about the two known candidates:

Hassett, director of the White House National Economic Council, has been supportive of the president’s agenda - from his advocacy for income tax cuts and tariffs to his support of the recent firing of BLS Commissioner Erika McEntarfer.

Hassett served in the first Trump administration as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. He has a doctoral degree in economics from

the University of Pennsylvania and worked at the right-leaning American Enterprise Institute before joining the Trump White House in 2017.

As part of Hassett’s farewell announcement in 2019, Trump called him a “true friend” who did a “great job.” Hassett became a fellow at the Hoover Institution, which is located at Stanford University. He later returned to the administration to help deal with the pandemic.

On CNBC on Monday, Hassett said “all over the U.S. government, there have been people who have been resisting Trump everywhere they can.”

A former Fed governor who stepped down in 2011, Warsh is currently a fellow at the Hoover Institution. He has been supportive of cutting interest rates, a key goal of Trump’s.

“The president’s right to be frustrated with Jay Powell and the Federal Reserve,” Warsh said on Fox News’ “Sunday Morning Futures” last month.

Warsh has been increasingly critical of Powell’s Federal Reserve and in July, on CNBC, called for sweeping changes on how the Fed conducts business as well as a new Treasury-Fed accord “like we did in 1951, after another period where we built up our nation’s debt and we were stuck with a central bank that was working at cross purposes with the Treasury.”

He said the Fed’s “hesitancy to cut rates, I think, is actually quite a mark against them.”

“The specter of the miss they made on inflation” after the pandemic, he said, “it has stuck with them. So one of the reasons why the president, I think, is right to be pushing the Fed publicly is we need regime change in the conduct of policy.”

“He’s very highly thought of,” Trump said in June when asked directly about Warsh.

Modi encourages ‘Make in India’ amid US tariff threats

Analysts warn of long-term distrust between India and US

NEW DELHI, Aug. 6, (Xinhua): U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened to “substantially” increase the U.S. tariffs on Indian imports over its “massive” purchase of Russian oil, while India’s foreign ministry vowed to “take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security,” deepening the trade rift between the two countries.

Some Indian experts believe that the recent threats and tariffs from Trump are bargaining measures aimed at securing a trade deal with India that is favorable to the U.S.

In an earlier social media post, Trump said India’s trade barriers were the “most strenuous and obnoxious.” Calling India a “dead economy,” Trump said the U.S. will impose a 25 percent tariff on Indian imports starting from Aug. 1, and warned of additional “penalties” for New Delhi’s purchase of Russian weapons and energy.

India’s Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at a press conference on Friday that the India-Russia relationship is “stable and time-tested” and “should not be viewed through the prism of a third country.”

The New York Times quoted two unnamed senior Indian officials on Saturday as saying there had been no change in Indian government policy regarding oil imports from Russia.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken a defiant stance against Trump’s tariff warnings, encouraging people to buy locally made products. He also said India is positioned to become the world’s third-largest economy, so it must remain vigilant in terms of economic interests.

Head-to-head

India and the U.S. have been locked in negotiations over a trade deal to reduce Trump’s tariffs, but have yet to agree on a pact, even though New

Delhi has cut tariffs on several U.S. imports.

A key sticking point is agriculture and dairy products, where India has long imposed high tariffs to protect its farm sector, which represents about half of the country’s population.

Meanwhile, Trump’s previous pledge to bring the Russia-Ukraine conflict to a quick end has reached an impasse. Recently, the Trump administration has been trying to force Moscow to compromise by restricting Russian oil and gas exports.

Michael Kugelman, a South Asia expert at the U.S.-based Wilson Center, said Trump “also wants India to buy (even) more (and pricier) American oil.”

Experts said the Trump administration’s latest anti-India rant was not surprising, as it has treated U.S. allies such as Japan and Canada with hostility to advance its own interests.

Some pointed out that the U.S. side, by ratcheting up the pressure on India, was also intimidating other trading partners that have not yet reached agreements with the U.S.

For India, Russia has historically been India’s primary weapons supplier, and the two countries have enjoyed a close relationship for decades. In recent years, cheap Russian oil has helped India establish a lucrative business exporting refined products.

Moreover, Modi faces domestic pressure not to concede to Trump’s demands, emphasizing India’s economic priorities and urging citizens to support locally made products, experts said.

Driven by fast growth in recent years, India is on path to become world’s fourth-largest economy in 2025, overtaking Japan, according to data from the International Monetary Fund.

Ties under strain

It was a different picture in February, when Modi was among the first world leaders to visit the

White House after Trump returned to office.

The bonhomie did not last long. Since then, the relationship between India and the U.S. has been on a slippery slope, facing one of its most significant challenges in decades, according to some experts.

Robinder Sachdev, president of the New Delhi-based think tank and research center Imagindia Institute, said that in the past six months, the mentality in India toward the U.S. is changing, with more intense dislikes and worries about the reliability of the U.S. and the Trump administration.

The bromance between the U.S. and Pakistan also raised eyebrows in India. According to a Guardian report, the two countries have recently signed deals on cryptocurrency, mining, and oil. Trump hosted Pakistan’s army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, for lunch in the White House.

Kugelman said U.S. relations with Pakistan have experienced “unexpected resurgence,” adding that the sudden change signalled a serious challenge for New Delhi, given Washington and India had seen a deepening strategic partnership over the last two decades.

“Amid a worsening U.S.-India malaise, it’s worth remembering that there is no U.S. ambassador in New Delhi and no confirmed assistant secretary of state for South Asia in D.C.,” Kugelman said in a post on social media.

Indian political scientist Pratap Bhanu Mehta said suspicions towards the U.S. in New Delhi now resembled those of 1971, one of the lowest points of the India-U.S. relationship due to a major military conflict between India and Pakistan.

“The damage is already done,” said Mehta. “No matter what deal they come to now, distrust of the U.S. is only going to continue to skyrocket.”



Canada’s Prime Minister Mark Carney welcomes Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum to the G7 Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta, June 17, 2025. (AP)

Bruno Mars and Kendrick Lamar among top nominees

Lady Gaga leads 2025 MTV Video Music Awards nominations

NEW YORK, Aug 6, (AP): Abracadabra, feel the beat under your feet - Lady Gaga is back on top.

The "Mayhem" musician tops the 2025 the MTV Video Music Award nominations with 12, ending Taylor Swift's two-year run in the top spot.

Gaga is up for best collaboration, pop, direction, art direction, cinematography, editing, choreography, visual effects as well as song, video, album and artist of the year.

Rounding out the artist of the year category nominees announced Tuesday are Bad Bunny, Kendrick Lamar, Morgan Wallen and The Weeknd as well as Beyoncé and Swift. The latter two are especially noteworthy because the two pop powerhouses are tied for the title of most career total VMAs. Each have 30.

Beyoncé and Swift are only nomi-

nated in the artist of the year category at September's VMAs, so if one of them wins, they will become the most-awarded musician in VMA history.

Gaga is followed closely by Bruno Mars, with 11 nominations. Lamar has 10. Sabrina Carpenter and first-time nominee Blackpink's ROSE are tied with eight; as are Ariana Grande and The Weeknd with seven. Billie Eilish has six. Charli xcx has five.

Bad Bunny, Doechii, Ed Sheeran, Jelly Roll, Miley Cyrus and Tate McRae boast four each.

The top prize of the night, video of the year, sees Gaga and Mars' "Die With A Smile" go up against Grande's "Brighter Days Ahead," Eilish's "Birds of a Feather," Lamar's "Not Like Us," ROSE and Mars' "APT.," Sabrina Carpenter's



Lady Gaga performs during the 67th annual Grammy Awards on Feb. 2, 2025, in Los Angeles. (AP)

"Manchild," and The Weeknd, and Playboi Carti's "Timeless."

The three-hour show will broadcast live on CBS on Sunday,

Sept. 7 at 8 p.m. Eastern and 5 p.m. Pacific, broadcast live from the UBS Arena just outside New York City. It will also simulcast on MTV and be

available to stream on Paramount+. A one-hour, live preshow will air across Paramount Media Networks. CBS is home to a number of award



Bruno Mars performs at the BET Awards at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles on June 25, 2017. (AP)

shows, including the Tony Awards and the American Music Awards. It has aired the Grammys since 1973, though that show will head to ABC in 2027.

This year's Video Music Awards features 33 first-time nominees, which include Alex Warren, Blake Shelton, Brent Faiyaz, Gigi Perez, KATSEYE and Lainey Wilson. Mac Miller also became the first artist to get their first VMA nomination posthumously.

There are also two new categories this year, best country and best pop artist.

Fan voting began online Tuesday across 19 gender neutral categories and ends Sept. 5 at 6 p.m. Eastern.

Voting in the best new artist category will remain active during the show.

People

Perry case

'Osbourne died of heart attack'

LONDON, Aug 6, (AP): **Ozzy Osbourne** died of a heart attack and had coronary artery disease in addition to suffering from Parkinson's disease for years, his death certificate said.

The singer had suffered from coronary artery disease as well as Parkinson's, according to the certificate filed at a register office in London and obtained by The New York



Osbourne

Times on Tuesday. Osbourne died on July 22 at 76.

An email from The Associated Press requesting confirmation from the registry office in Hillingdon Council in northwest London, which covers the district where the Black Sabbath singer was reportedly officially pronounced dead, was not immediately returned. Osbourne's representatives didn't immediately return the AP's emailed requests for comment.

The document was submitted by Osbourne's daughter Aimée Osbourne the New York Times reported. Osbourne died of "(a) Out of hospital cardiac arrest (b) Acute myocardial infarction (c) Coronary artery disease and Parkinson's disease with autonomic dysfunction (Joint Causes)," the certificate states.

Osbourne, also a somewhat unexpected reality TV star, announced in 2020 that he had Parkinson's disease after suffering a fall. In announcing his death, his family asked for privacy and said that he was with relatives when he died.

Fans came out in droves from across the country to mourn his death in his hometown of Birmingham last week. Osbourne had his final show there just weeks before his death, as admirers watched the heavy metal icon perform while seated on a black throne.

"I don't know what to say, man. I've been laid up for like six years. You have no idea how I feel - thank you from the bottom of my heart," Osbourne said during his performance. "You're all ... special. Let's go crazy, come on."

A woman charged with selling Matthew Perry the dose of ketamine that killed him is headed for a September trial.

Jasveen Sangha's trial - the only one forthcoming in the death of the "Friends" star after four other defendants reached plea agreements with prosecutors - is now set to begin Sept. 23 after an order Tuesday from a federal judge in Los Angeles.

The 42-year-old Sangha, who prosecutors say was known to her customers as "The Ketamine Queen," is charged with five counts of ketamine distribution, including one count of distribution resulting in death. She has pleaded not guilty and has been held in federal custody since her arrest last year.

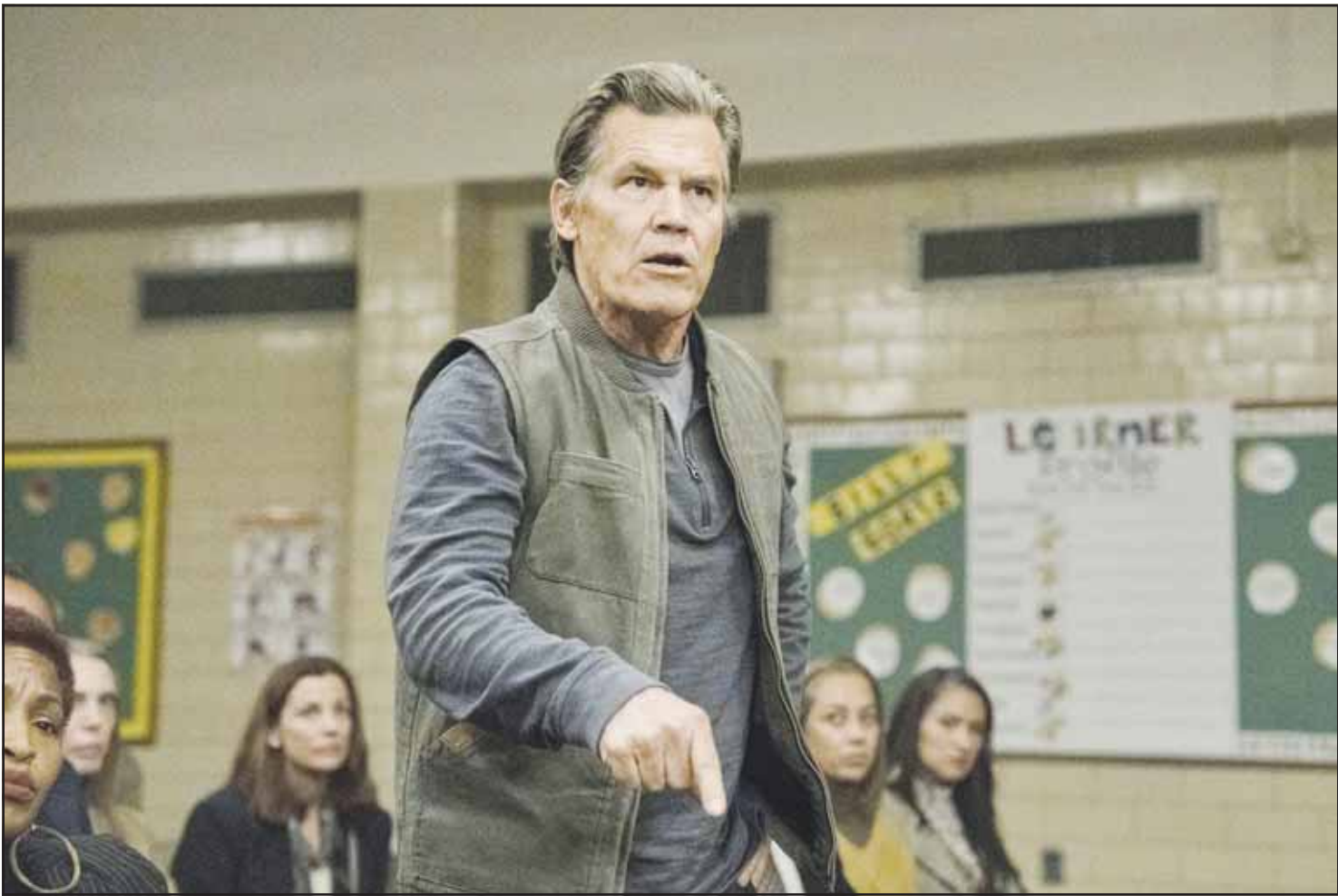
Her trial had been scheduled to start Aug. 19, but the judge postponed it for the fourth time since her April 2024 indictment after both sides agreed it should be moved.

Sangha's lawyers said they needed the time to go through the huge amount of evidence they have received from the prosecution and to finish their own investigation.

Sangha was one of the two biggest targets in the investigation of Perry's death, along with Dr. Salvador Plascencia, who pleaded guilty to ketamine distribution last month. Perry's personal assistant, his friend and another doctor also entered guilty pleas and are cooperating with prosecutors. All are awaiting sentencing.

Perry, who was found dead at age 54 at his home on Oct. 23, 2023, had been getting ketamine from his regular doctor for treatment of depression, an increasingly common off-label use for the surgical anesthetic.

Film



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Josh Brolin in a scene from 'Weapons.' (AP)

Julia Garner faces the witch hunt in Cregger's film

'Weapons,' a haunting tale of vanishing kids

LOS ANGELES, Aug 6, (AP): An enduring image from the new movie "Weapons" comes early: The sight of elementary school students running out of their homes and onto the suburban grass, moving like flying birds with their arms out, to a song by George Harrison.

Except this is happening at night - at 2:17 a.m., to be precise - and there's no glee from the kids. Just running. And the Harrison song being played isn't the cheerful "Here Comes the Sun." It's "Beware the Darkness." Welcome back to another outing by director-writer Zach Cregger, a modern thriller master.

"Weapons" is his sophomore effort and it's more ambitious than his first, "Barbarian." It's told in chapters from the perspective of various interweaving characters - like a horror version of Paul Thomas Anderson's "Magnolia" - and explores the ripple effects from a tragic event. But it often lags and slackens on its way to a gruesome end, with a reliance on sorcery that seems like a cop-out.

"This is a true story," says a child narrator at the start of the movie, only for that technique to disappear shortly afterward. "A lot of people die in a lot of weird ways." Indeed: There's some fork stabbings, an assault with a vegetable peeler and one victim takes so many headbutts that his skull caves in.

The event at the movie's heart is the disappearance of 17 third-graders from a single class in the middle of the night in the leafy town of Maybrook, Illinois. Ring cameras catch them opening their front doors and rushing out, not to be seen again. Only one child from the class showed up the next day at school.

Everyone is baffled and frustrated. Did the kids plan it together? Were they sent a coded



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Cary Christopher in a scene from 'Weapons.' (AP)

message via a video game or social media? Why was one child from the class seemingly spared? And does the teacher know more than what she's letting on?

Julia Garner, who plays the teacher, offers us a fascinating, spiky character, prone to pity parties and self-righteous outbursts. She's also seductive and manipulative and growing reliant on booze to cope with the suspicions leveled at her. At one point, someone scrawls the word "witch" on her Toyota. The town will soon know what that word really means.

Garner - who is doing double duty this summer as the Silver Surfer in "Fantastic Four: First Steps," wow, quite a range - is warned to stay away from the case but refuses, doing her own stakeouts and trying to speak to the only surviving classmate. "We are the only ones left," she says.

Cregger being Cregger, there are lots of misdirections, paranoia and an almost existential sense of humor, usually mocking horror movie conventions (and, in this case, the mov-

ie "Willow"). In "Weapons," he also nicely shows the quiet resilience of kids and their ability to face daily horrors and keep going, trying to help those they love despite creepy awfulness.

The upset parents are represented by Josh Brolin's broken father, whose son was one of the 17 who fled. He sleeps in his son's room, wracked by guilt that he couldn't protect someone so dear. He soon will join forces with the teacher to uncover the secret of what made the children run.

They will also collide into a local drug user/low-level criminal, played superbly by Austin Abrams, whose bumbling, comic relief is welcome. Amy Madigan is unrecognizable and utterly mesmerizing as an oddball aunt of the surviving boy, a splendid Cary Christopher.

"Weapons" is best before the final third, when we learn of an outside force that may have triggered all this misery. Cregger seemed to be on more solid footing mocking suburban life, showing the savagery below the mowed grass pleasantries, the quiet desperation inside marriages and the corruption of small-town police departments.

If "Barbarian" came out of left field three years ago and heralded an exciting new voice in filmmaking, "Weapons" doesn't disappoint but it doesn't have the advantage of surprise. It will, at the very least, make you feel a little dread when the clock hits 2:17 a.m.

"Weapons," a Warner Bros. Pictures release hitting theaters Friday, is rated R for "strong bloody violence and grisly images, language throughout, some sexual content and drug use." Running time: 128 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Russo's classic gets new life

Winfrey picks 'Bridge of Sighs' for her book club

NEW YORK, Aug 6, (AP): Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Richard Russo is the latest author to be welcomed into the inner circle of Oprah Winfrey book club picks.

Winfrey announced Tuesday that she had selected Russo's "Bridge of Sighs," a 2007 novel centered in a rural New York community. Russo has set much of his work in small, Northeastern towns, including "Nobody's Fool," later adapted into a movie of the same name that starred Paul Newman; and "Empire Falls," winner of the Pulitzer in 2002 and the basis for an Emmy-winning HBO series that featured Newman and his wife, Joanne Woodward.

Winfrey often chooses new books for her club, but has at times looked to older releases, from Toni Morrison's "The Bluest Eye" to John Steinbeck's "East of Eden."

"It is, of course, a profound honor to be chosen for Oprah's Book Club," Russo said in a statement. "But to be chosen for a novel written two decades earlier? A book that will introduce a whole new generation of readers to my work? How special is that?"

A conversation between Winfrey and Russo, held recently at a Starbucks in Seattle, can be seen on Winfrey's YouTube channel and on other outlets where podcasts are aired. Starbucks is the current partner for Winfrey's book club, which she founded in 1996.

On Tuesday, Winfrey issued a statement praising "Bridge of Sighs" as a "classic summer read," with "romance, unrequited love, life-long friendships, and of course - epic family drama."

"If you're a fan of Richard Russo or discovering him for the first time, here's your opportunity to read one of America's most beloved writers," she added.

Variety

HARARE: An enthusiastic audience of film lovers gathered on Tuesday at the iconic Westgate Cinemas in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare, for the opening ceremony of the China Film Festival, a vibrant celebration of cultural exchange between China and Zimbabwe.

The inaugural festival kicked off with **Jackie Chan's** action-comedy **Panda Plan**, captivating guests including government officials, filmmakers, and cinephiles.

"It was quite amazing, and the fact that it had my favorite actor, Jackie Chan, made it more special," said Belinda Musemburi, a Zimbabwean film producer.

Ahead of the festival, Zimbabwe's Deputy Minister of Sport, Recreation, Arts, and Culture, Emily Jesaya, emphasized the festival's role in strengthening bilateral relations through cinema.

"This Chinese Film Festival, which we are celebrating today, is a celebration of the relationship between the countries, China and Zimbabwe, and the importance of celebrating the relationship through film festivals is because we respect the role that arts and culture play," Jesaya told Xinhua.

Amid deepening ties between the two countries, Jesaya noted that the festival creates opportunities for co-operation in film production and cultural exchange.

"It is also important for us as a country, as Zimbabwe, because this year we are also working towards a strategy of reviving our film industry. This is an opportunity for us to collaborate with Chinese artists as well, so that we also boost our Zimbabwean artists," she added.

Isaac Madzivanyika, another filmmaker and producer who attended the ceremony, echoed her sentiments, highlighting film as a powerful medium for cross-cultural connection.

"Filming is all about the culture, showing people the culture that you believe in, so having the collaboration of Zimbabwe and China is a good thing. It's very important for us to have collaborations with the Chinese in terms of culture..." he said.

Chinese Ambassador to Zimbabwe Zhou Ding also addressed the gathering, emphasizing cinema's power to transcend borders and foster mutual understanding.

"Today's film festival adds another chapter to our cultural connections. Cinema, the art of light and shadow, is a universal language that transcends borders and speaks directly to the heart. A powerful theme can bridge divides and dissolve differences, allowing us to glimpse into each other's lives, histories, cultures, values, and shared aspirations," he said. (Xinhua)

HARBIN: A Chinese historical drama titled "731," which revisits the horrific World War II-era human experiments conducted by Japan's notorious germ warfare unit 731, is set to premiere on Sept. 18, sources associated with the film have said.

According to the film's director Zhao Linshan, it tells the story of Wang Yongzhang, a local vendor, and others who were imprisoned and lured by false promises of freedom in exchange for cooperation with health checks and disease prevention research.

Instead, they became victims of brutal medical experiments carried out by the occupying Japanese forces -- including frostbite testing, gas exposure and vivisection.

Unit 731, a top-secret biological and chemical warfare research base, was established in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, and served as the nerve center for Japanese biological warfare in China and Southeast Asia during WWII.

"This is a history that must never be forgotten," said Jin Chengmin, a historical adviser for the film and head of the Exhibition Hall of Evidence of Crime Committed by Unit 731 of the Japanese Imperial Army.

"The film reveals the inhumane atrocities committed by the invading Japanese army through the eyes of ordinary civilians, while highlighting the unyielding resistance spirit of the Chinese people in the face of despair," Jin said. "It serves as a powerful reminder to safeguard peace." (Xinhua)



Mick Jagger, (center), Ronnie Wood, (left), and Mick Taylor, of British rock band The Rolling Stones, perform on the Pyramid main stage at Glastonbury, England, June 29, 2013. (AP)

Museum disputes Taylor’s claim

Ex-Rolling Stone says the Met has his stolen guitar

LONDON, Aug 6, (AP): It’s only rock ‘n’ roll, but it’s messy.

A guitar once played by two members of the Rolling Stones is at the center of a dispute between the band’s former guitarist Mick Taylor and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The 1959 Gibson Les Paul was donated to the Met as part of what the New York museum calls “a landmark gift of more than 500 of the finest guitars from the golden age of American guitar making.” The donor is Dirk Ziff, a billionaire investor and guitar collector.

When the Met announced the gift in May, Taylor thought he recognized the guitar, with its distinctive “starburst” finish, as an instrument he last saw in 1971, when the Stones were recording the album “Exile on Main St.” at Keith Richards’ rented villa in the south of France.

In the haze of drugs and rock ‘n’ roll that per-

vaded the sessions, a number of instruments went missing, believed stolen.

Now, Taylor and his team believe it has reappeared. The Met says provenance records show no evidence the guitar ever belonged to Taylor.

“This guitar has a long and well-documented history of ownership,” museum spokesperson Ann Bailis said.

Taylor’s partner and business manager, Marlies Damming, said the Met should make the guitar “available for inspection.”

“An independent guitar expert should be able to ascertain the guitar’s provenance one way or the other,” she said in a statement Tuesday to The Associated Press.

While its ownership is contested, there’s no disputing the instrument’s starring role in rock history. It was owned in the early 1960s by Keith Richards, who played it during the Rolling Stones’ first

appearance on “The Ed Sullivan Show” in 1964. The Met says that performance “ignited interest in this legendary model.”

The guitar - nicknamed the “Keithburst” - was also played by guitar legends Eric Clapton and Jimmy Page. Taylor says he got it from Richards in 1967, two years before he joined the Stones, replacing original member Brian Jones. Jones died in 1969.

Taylor left the band in 1974, reuniting with them for the Stones’ 50th anniversary tour in 2012-2013.

Jeff Allen, who was Taylor’s manager and publicist for decades from the 1990s, said Taylor “told me he got it as a present from Keith,” and also mentioned the theft.

“Mick did tell me that the guitar solo that he became quite famous for, on ‘Can’t You Hear Me Knocking,’ was with the Les Paul that got stolen,” Allen said.

Art



People visit an exhibition called ‘In Women’s Words’ showing some artworks of modern Iranian women artists from the collection of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Iran, Sunday, Aug. 3. (AP)

‘In Women’s Words’ exhibition showcases modern Iranian women artists

Visitors attend an exhibition called ‘In Women’s Words’, which displays works by modern Iranian women artists.



The works are from the collection of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art in Iran. (AP)

Voices amplify climate change message

Pakistan’s rap, folk songs sound climate alarm

UMERKOT, Pakistan, Aug 6, (AP): Villagers hush when Pakistani folk musician Sham Bhai starts singing about climate change, her clear voice rising above the simple squat dwellings.

“We are the people of the south. The winds seem to be blowing from the north. The winds seem cold and warm. My heart is burned from seeing the collapsed houses in the rain. Oh, beloved, come home soon.”

Sham is from Sindh, the Pakistani province worst-hit three years ago by climate-worsened deluges that affected tens of millions of people nationwide and washed away homes, farmland and infrastructure.

She has toured a dozen villages in Sindh during the past two years, teaching people about climate adaptation and resilience through song, a useful medium for sharing information in places where literacy is low and internet is scarce.

“When we give a message through song, it is easy to communicate to people because they understand it,” the 18-year-old singer told The Associated Press. She was performing in Umerkot district, singing in her native tongue and official provincial language, Sindhi, which is more likely to be spoken and understood in places like Umerkot than the official and national language of Pakistan, Urdu.

Sindh recorded more than 1,000 rain-related deaths in a few months in 2022. The damage remains visible. Broken roads and flattened houses that residents never rebuilt. Floods submerged swathes of Sham’s district, Tando Allahyar. News footage showed people wading through waist-deep water.

“The meaning of the song is that poor people’s homes built on mud are



Pakistani folk musician Sham Bhai, second from right, performs with her team members at a village in Umerkot, a district of Pakistan's southeastern Sindh province, July 17, 2025. (AP)

not strong,” Sham explains. “Women and children face hardship during the rains because they are vulnerable in the absence of men who go away to work. The women of the house call on their men to return because the weather is so bad.”

Alternating patches of parched and lush farmland flank the road to Umerkot. Dry and wet spells buffet the province, and local farmers have to adapt. They now focus on winter crops rather than summer ones because the rain is more predictable in the colder months.

“The monsoon season used to come on time, but now it starts late,” farmer Ghulam Mustafa Mahar said. “Sometimes there is no rain. All patterns are off-course due to climate change for the last five years.”

He and others have switched from crops to livestock to survive.

There is little infrastructure away from the center of the district. Children get excited seeing sedans crunch through the dust. The area is mostly poor and very hot.

Sindh’s literacy rate falls to 38% in rural areas. Sham said singing informs those who can’t learn about climate change because they can’t read.

Mindful of their audience, the three singers warm people up with popular tunes to catch their attention before launching into mournful tunes about the wind and rain, their lyrics inspired by writers and poets from Sindh.

“People are acting on our advice; they are planting trees and making their houses strong to face climate change,” said Sham. “ Women and

children suffer a lot during bad conditions, which damage their homes.”

Women and girls of all ages can be seen working outdoors in Sindh, tending to crops or livestock. They gather food and water, along with wood for fuel. They are predominantly restricted to this type of work and other domestic chores because of gender norms and inequalities. When extreme weather strikes, they are often the first to suffer. One villager said when heavy rain battered homes in 2022, it crushed and killed whoever was inside, including children.

People in rural areas have no idea what climate change is, said Urooj Fatima, an activist from the city of Jhuddo. Her stage name is Sindhi Chhokri, and she is known locally for campaigning on issues such as women’s rights.

But she has turned her attention to raising awareness about climate change since flooding devastated her village in 2022 and again in 2024.

“We can engage a lot of audiences through rap. If we go to a village and gather a community, there are a maximum of 50. But everyone listens to songs. Through rap, we can reach out to hundreds of thousands of people through our voice and our message.”

She said hip-hop isn’t common in Pakistan, but the genre resonates because of its tradition as an expression of life, hardship and struggle.

She has yet to finish her latest climate change rap, but wrote one in response to the 2022 flooding in neighboring Balochistan, the country’s poorest and least developed province, because she felt it wasn’t getting enough attention. She performed it at festivals in Pakistan and promoted it across her social media accounts.

Music

Harmony in rural China

From gunfire to strings: Violins strike new chord

ZHENGZHOU, Aug 6, (Xinhua): Braving the sweltering summer afternoon in central China, 12-year-old Chen Yulin steadied her violin beneath her chin and, joined by four classmates, played the patriotic tune “My Motherland and I” with practiced precision.

The students, from Queshan County in Henan Province, were rehearsing for a school performance to mark the 80th anniversary of China’s victory in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-1945), scheduled for early September.

Tucked into the hills of southern Henan, Queshan was once a major stronghold of the Communist Party of China (CPC) during the war. Late Chinese leaders Liu Shaoqi and Li Xiannian, and famed generals including Wang Zhen and Zhang Aiping, worked and fought in Queshan. Many Party and military elites were trained here. Units of CPC-led New Fourth Army fanned out from here to fight the aggressors.

Over the past decade, Queshan, long constrained by its geographical conditions, waged a different kind of battle, spending years lifting itself out of absolute poverty. Today, the county offers something few might expect: free violin lessons in several public schools, an opportunity still rare even in many Chinese cities.

For more than two years, Chen has taken part in such a program at her school, where she and more than 70 classmates receive professional training and instruments entirely free of charge.

What makes this possible is Queshan’s thriving homegrown violin-making industry. According to industry data, 90 percent of the world’s violins are made in China, and 80 percent of the country’s mid- to high-end hand-crafted violin-family instruments come from Queshan.

Today, this rural county produces more than 400,000 violins, violas, cellos and double basses each year, accounting for over 30 percent of China’s total output of the violin family. Most are exported to Europe, North America and other markets.

These remarkable figures reflect how deeply the craft has reshaped not only the local economy but the cultural identity of Queshan.

Just above the students’ rehearsal room in Queshan Violin Industrial Park, rows of craftsmen work diligently, cutting, carving, sanding and varnishing instruments by hand.

“Each violin goes through more than 10 major steps,” explained Jiang Hexi, a production supervisor at Haoyun Musical Instruments, one of the park’s flagship manufacturers. “From selecting the wood to final tuning, it’s all handmade.”

Initiative

Jiang knows the process inside out. In 2001, at 18, he left Queshan to work in a violin-making factory in Beijing, following the path many locals took in search of better income.

They learned quickly. After years of painstaking, repetitive work, Queshan’s migrant workers mastered the craft that originated in 16th-century Italy.

“The hands that once held farming tools are now capable of producing world-class violins,” Jiang said.

In 2015, Jiang returned to Queshan as part of a wave of skilled craftspeople drawn back by a local government initiative to jump-start the industry. The county allocated over 200 mu (about 14 hectares) of land to build the violin industrial park. Authorities offered rent-free factory space, tax breaks and streamlined permits to attract investment and encourage entrepreneurship.

What began with a handful of workshops has grown into a full-fledged industrial cluster of 144 manufacturers and workshops. The county now boasts a complete supply chain, from raw material processing and body assembly to varnishing and component production.

Haoyun, where Jiang now works, employs more than 200 people, most from nearby villages. “New workers go through three months of training before joining the production line,” said general manager Guo Xinshe. “These jobs now pay far more than traditional farming.”

The county’s total annual output of string instruments is valued at around 600 million yuan (about 82 million U.S. dollars).

Zang Yuxia, a local official, noted that Queshan’s transformation is built on a deeper foundation. Her 96-year-old father once served in the New Fourth Army and fought against Japanese aggression in Queshan in the 1940s.

Having grown up with stories of resistance and seen her hometown transform, Zang said, “Back then, the people of Queshan fought for independence with guns. Today, we’re building the future with violins.”

The growth of the violin industry has rippled far beyond the factory floor. Queshan is no longer just a place that makes violins; it’s becoming a place where the instrument’s melodic strings also echo.

On the streets of the county seat, children carrying instrument cases are a common sight after school time. Street lamps shaped like violins now line the roads outside local music schools.

“Developing our own brand, offering high-end custom instruments, and training luthiers with strong musical backgrounds is the future of Queshan’s violin-making industry,” Guo said.

This vision inspired Haoyun’s early support for the free violin training program launched in early 2023 and jointly funded by the government. The company supplies free instruments to participating students, including those at Chen’s school.

The school now offers weekly violin classes starting from second grade, with plans to expand to first graders in the upcoming term.

Jiang is heartened to see more children in Queshan picking up the instrument. For the past eight years, he has driven his son to Zhumadian -- the prefecture-level city that administers Queshan -- every weekend for violin lessons. Now 15, his son has already reached Grade 8 proficiency in the exams of the Central Conservatory of Music, one of China’s most prestigious music academies.



Students perform at Queshan Violin Industrial Park in Queshan County of Zhumadian City, central China’s Henan Province, July 24, 2025. (Xinhua)

Breastfeeding awareness campaign launched across Kuwaiti hospitals

Kuwait aims for 70% exclusive breastfeeding by 2030

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Dr. Mona Al-Sumaie, coordinator of the National Breastfeeding Promotion Program, confirmed that the rate of breastfeeding among Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti mothers has increased to 94 percent.

In a statement to the newspaper, Al-Sumaie disclosed that the rate of exclusive breastfeeding (breast milk only during the first six months of a child's life) among Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti mothers in the country has reached 31 percent.

She said the Ministry of Health collected a random sample of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti mothers to assess the efforts of government and private hospitals to encourage breastfeeding. "The study revealed that efforts are almost at the same level in the public and private health sectors. It showed that 91 percent of mothers received advice and counseling on breastfeeding in private hospitals and 95 percent in public hospitals. The rate of early initiation of breastfeeding within the first hour after birth in the private sector reached 74 percent and 76.4 percent in the public sector. It emphasized the importance of early initiation of breastfeeding within the



Participants in an awareness campaign for World Breastfeeding Week.

KUNA photo

first hour, with skin-to-skin contact for at least one hour immediately after birth in the delivery room, based on the recommendations of the World

Health Organization and UNICEF. Breastfeeding should continue for six months with only breast milk, without any additional food, including water.

Complementary foods should then be gradually introduced, with continued breastfeeding for two years or more." She confirmed that the ministry is

joining all other countries around the world in celebrating World Breastfeeding Week under the slogan, "Prioritizing Breastfeeding by Establishing Sustainable Support Systems," to highlight the environmental and climate changes. She said the campaign affirms the importance of prioritizing breastfeeding by establishing strong and sustainable support systems, which not only benefit families but also significantly reduce the impact of formula feeding on the environment.

She pointed out that this year's Breastfeeding Week aims to connect everyone involved in breastfeeding in order to establish flexible and sustainable support systems, and also highlight the World Health Assembly's 2025 Nutrition Goals.

Meanwhile, the Nutrition and Feeding Department in the Public Health Sector at the ministry has launched an awareness campaign to mark World Breastfeeding Week. The campaign aims to encourage mothers to breastfeed and raise community awareness on its health benefits. This is achieved through educational exhibitions, with the participation of health entities in and outside the ministry, as well as civil society organizations, at the New Maternity, Jaber Al-Ahmad and Al-

Adan hospitals.

The campaign raises awareness on the benefits of breastfeeding for maternal and child health; and highlight the importance of community support for breastfeeding mothers by disseminating educational messages, showing short awareness videos, and organizing field events in various health facilities.

Director of the Nutrition and Feeding Department Dr. Hasnaa Ayyad stated that breastfeeding is the ideal food for infants; as it provides them with complete nutritional elements and natural immunity, contributes to building a strong relationship between mother and child, and reduces the mother's risk of contracting several chronic diseases.

She called on all health authorities and institutions to participate in the campaign, in order contribute to raising awareness, and encourage sound health practices in support of maternal and child health and building a more aware and healthy generation.

She added that Kuwait is keen on raising the rate of exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of a child's life to 70 percent by 2030, in line with national health goals and World Health Organization recommendations.

Early diagnosis critical

Legionnaires' outbreak in NYC kills 2, sickens dozens

NEW YORK, Aug 6, (AP): An outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in New York City has killed two people and sickened 58 since late July.

City health officials link the Central Harlem outbreak to cooling towers, structures containing water and a fan that are used to cool buildings. They said 11 of these towers initially tested positive for a type of bacteria that causes Legionnaires' disease, but the problem has been remedied.

They urged people in the area with flu-like symptoms to contact a health care provider as soon as possible, especially if they are 50 or older, smoke or have chronic lung conditions.

Here's what to know.

It's a type of pneumonia caused by Legionella bacteria, which grow in warm water and spread in building water systems. They can be found in places such as showerheads, hot tubs and cooling towers.

People often get the disease by inhaling aerosols from contaminated water. Hospital patients can also contract it through contaminated water or ice, and babies can be exposed during water births, health officials said. People don't get it from each other.

Symptoms usually develop two days

to two weeks after exposure and include cough, fever, headaches, muscle aches and shortness of breath, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It's important to be diagnosed quickly and treated with the appropriate antibiotics, health officials said.

If untreated, the disease usually worsens during the first week, the World Health Organization said. Complications can include respiratory failure, shock and kidney or multi-organ failure.

People responsible for the safety of buildings and water systems can reduce the threat by taking steps to minimize the growth of the bacteria, the WHO said. For example, they should regularly clean and disinfect cooling towers, maintain an adequate level of chlorine in spa pools and flush unused taps in buildings weekly.

There are also steps people can take to reduce the risk of Legionnaires' disease at home. New York state health officials suggest draining garden hoses; following manufacturers' instructions for cleaning and replacing water filters; checking chlorine levels in pools and hot tubs regularly and flushing hot water heaters twice a year.

Skinks' venom resistance holds key for snakebite treatments

SYDNEY, Aug. 6, (Xinhua): Australian skinks have evolved molecular defenses protecting their muscles from deadly snake venom, offering insights for treating human snakebites, research revealed on Tuesday.

The study's lead author, University of Queensland (UQ) Professor Bryan Fry, described the skinks' adaptations as "evolution at its most ingenious," according to a statement released by UQ, which led the study.

Australian skinks have evolved tiny changes in the nicotinic acetylcholine muscle receptor, preventing neurotox-

ins from blocking nerve-muscle communication causing rapid paralysis and death, Fry said.

Researchers from 10 organizations found 25 independent skink mutations blocking venom from attaching, similar to mutations in venom-resistant mongooses which feed on cobras.

"It's a testament to the massive evolutionary pressure that venomous snakes exerted after their arrival and spread across the Australian continent, when they would have feasted on the defenseless lizards of the day," Fry said.

Severe cases and deaths are rare: WHO

What you need to know about chikungunya, the virus now spreading in southern China



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, residents wade through debris along a flood-hit street after waters from a river overwhelmed towns following days of heavy rain, in Huaiji County, south China's Guangdong Province on June 19, 2025. (AP)

The World Health Organization says severe cases and deaths are rare and mostly occur in babies or elderly people with underlying health conditions.

There is no specific treatment for chikungunya, but health workers can treat the symptoms by giving medicines to lower fevers or ease muscle pain.

Two vaccines have been approved in several regions, including Britain, Brazil, Canada and Europe. Those are mostly targeted at travelers and are not widely available in the countries most affected by chikungunya.

Chikungunya causes regular outbreaks in Africa, Asia and the Americas, with occasional small epidemics in Europe.

As of July, there have been about 240,000 cases of chikungunya, including 90 deaths in 16 countries, according to the European Centres for Disease Prevention and Control. The countries that reported the highest number of infections were Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina and Peru.

An outbreak of chikungunya in Foshan, near Hong Kong, has prompted Chinese authorities to take measures like distributing mosquito nets, having workers spray residential areas, streets and construction sites with insecticide.

People who do not empty bottles, flower pots or other outdoor receptacles, where water might accumulate and allow mosquitoes to breed, can be subject to fines of up to 10,000 yuan (\$1,400) and have their electricity cut off.

The U.S. has issued a travel advisory telling citizens not to visit China's Guangdong province, the location of Donguan and several other business hubs, along with countries such as Bolivia and island nations in the Indian Ocean.

Unusually heavy rains and high temperatures this year have worsened the crisis in China.

China moves swiftly to contain chikungunya virus

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Aug 6, (AP): An outbreak of the chikungunya virus in China has prompted authorities to take preventive measures from mosquito nets and clouds of disinfectant, threatening fines for people who fail to disperse standing water and even deploying drones to hunt down insect breeding grounds.

More than 7,000 cases of the disease have been reported as of Wednesday, focused largely on the manufacturing hub of Foshan near Hong Kong. Numbers of new cases appear to be dropping slowly, according to authorities.

Chikungunya is spread by mosquitoes and causes fever and joint pain, similar to dengue fever, with the young, older people and those with pre-existing medical conditions most at risk.

Chinese state television has shown workers spraying clouds of disinfectant around city streets, residential areas, construction sites and other areas where people may come into contact with virus-bearing mosquitoes that are born in standing water.

Workers sprayed some places before entering office buildings, a throwback to China's controversial

headline tactics used to battle the COVID-19 virus.

People who do not empty bottles, flower pots or other outdoor receptacles can be subject to fines of up to 10,000 yuan (\$1,400) and have their electricity cut off.

The US has issued a travel advisory telling citizens not to visit China's Guangdong province, the location of Donguan and several other business hubs, along with countries such as Bolivia and island nations in the Indian Ocean. Brazil is among the other countries hit hard by the virus.

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Sky snaps eight-game skid

Celtics trade Niang to Jazz, agree to deal with Boucher

Williams’ second-half surge lifts Lynx over Storm

CHICAGO, Aug 6, (AP): Elizabeth Williams had 18 points and 10 rebounds, Kamilla Cardoso added 16 points and 13 boards, and the Chicago Sky beat the Washington Mystics 78-64 to snap an eight-game losing streak.

Chicago (8-21) avoided being swept in the four-game regular-season series. The Sky had lost six straight against the Mystics and five in a row at home in the series.

Shakira Austin made a layup to open the scoring but Chicago ripped off a 14-0 run to take the lead for good. Cardoso had 12 points and 10 rebounds in the first half - the 6-foot-7 center’s seventh consecutive double-double and ninth this season. Cardoso’s layup at the buzzer gave the Sky a 35-28 lead at the end of the second quarter and the Mystics got no closer.

Sonia Citron led Washington (13-16) with 13 points and Kiki Iriafen scored 10.

The Mystics have lost three in a row and six of eight.

Sparks 100, Fever 91

In Los Angeles, Rickea Jackson scored 17 of her 25 points in the second half, Kelsey Plum had 25 points and 11 assists, and the Los Angeles Sparks beat the Indiana Fever for its seventh win in eight games.

Jackson’s 3-pointer with 6:23 remaining in the fourth quarter gave Los Angeles a 90-68 lead. In-

diana answered with a 21-5 run to get within 95-89, but Azura Stevens made her fifth straight 3-pointer with 1:17 left for a nine-point lead to help seal the victory.

Stevens finished with 19 points on 7-for-8 shooting from the field, and Dearica Hamby added 16 points for Los Angeles (13-15). Cameron Brink tied her career high with five blocks in her third game back from an injury.

Caitlin Clark missed her eighth straight game due to a groin strain for Indiana (17-13). Kelsey Mitchell led the Fever with 34 points, including seven 3-pointers. Natasha Howard added 17 points and Aliyah Boston had her streak of double-doubles halted at six by finishing with 15 points and nine rebounds.

The Sparks have won all three games against the Fever this season, with the regular-season finale coming in Los Angeles on Aug. 29.

Lynx 91, Storm 87

In Seattle, Courtney Williams scored 14 of her 20 points in the second half, Jessica Shepard added 13 points and 13 rebounds and Kayla McBride made 6 of 6 from the free-throw line in the final 30 seconds to help the Minnesota Lynx beat the Seattle Storm.

Dijonai Carrington - who was acquired from Dallas on Sunday in exchange for Diamond Miller, Karlie Samuelson and a 2027 second-round pick - made her debut for the Lynx and scored 13 points.

McBride finished with 14 points and Bridget Carleton scored 12 on four second-half 3-pointers.

Nneka Ogumwike led the Storm with 23 points. Ogumwike moved past Lauren Jackson and De-

Wanna Bonner into seventh in WNBA history with 140 career games scoring at least 20 points.

Erica Wheeler scored 19 points, Dominique Malonga added 12 and Skylar Diggins 11 for Seattle.

Gabby Williams had nine points and three steals and broke Seattle’s single-season steals records with 77 this season. Natasha Howard set the previous mark when she led the WNBA with 74 steals in 2019.

Liberty 85, Wings 76

In New York, Jonquel Jones had 15 points and 10 rebounds to lead the New York Liberty to an 85-76 victory over the Dallas Wings.

Leonie Fiebich scored 14 points and Emma Meesseman, playing her first home game for the Liberty since her return to the WNBA, added 13. Chants of “Emma!” broke out at Barclay’s Center following the victory.

Meesseman, a former finals MVP who last played in the league in 2022 before winning the EuroLeague Women’s MVP the last three seasons, scored 11 points in her season debut on Sunday in an 87-78 win over Connecticut.

Paige Bueckers had 21 points, eight rebounds and four assists in the Wings’ first game since Dijonai Carrington was traded to the Lynx. She left the game with 2:37 left in the third quarter and went to the locker room with tightness in her back, she said. The No. 1 pick in the draft returned to the bench at the start of the fourth quarter and played in the final period.

Dallas forward Maddy Siegrist scored 13 points in her first game after missing two months due to a knee injury. Arike Ogunbowale scored 14.



In this file photo, Atlanta Hawks forward Georges Niang, left, drives the ball down court against New York Knicks guard Landry Shamet, during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Atlanta. (AP)

BOSTON, Aug 6, (AP): The Celtics are trading recently acquired forward Georges Niang and two future second-round draft picks to the Utah Jazz in exchange for rookie RJ Luis Jr., ESPN reported.

In a separate deal, power forward Chris Boucher has agreed to a one-year, \$3.3 million deal with the Celtics, his agent Sam Permut confirmed to The Associated Press. Boucher has spent the past seven seasons with Toronto, where he was part of its 2019 championship team.

Niang is headed to Utah just a month after being dealt to Boston as part of a three-team deal that sent Kristaps Porzingis to Atlanta. Niang previously spent four seasons with Utah. He appeared in 79 games split between Atlanta and Cleveland last season when he averaged a career-high 9.9 points, 3.4 rebounds and 1.4 assists per game.

Shedding the final year of Niang’s salary for next season will save Boston \$8 million in luxury taxes, and allow it to stay under the second penalty apron following Boucher’s addition.

Ex-Barca goalkeeper Neto set for Botafogo move

Sampaoli nearing Santos return

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug 6, (Xinhua): Argentine manager Jorge Sampaoli could return for a second spell in charge of struggling Brazilian Serie A giants Santos, according to media reports.

The club has held talks with the 65-year-old as pressure mounts on current manager Cleber Xavier, Argentine news outlet Ole reported.

Xavier took charge of Santos in April, replacing Portuguese coach Pedro Caixinha after a poor start to the season.

But the team’s fortunes have continued to waver under Xavier and Santos currently sits 15th in Brazil’s 20-team Serie A standings with just five wins from 17 games.

Sampaoli has been out of work since parting ways with France’s Stade Rennais in January after just 10 matches.

The former Chile and Argentina national team boss guided Santos to second place in the 2019 Brazilian Serie A.

Former Barcelona goalkeeper Neto arrived in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday ahead of his expected move to Botafogo.

The 36-year-old is set to sign a two-year deal with the reigning Brazilian and South American champions, having parted ways with English Premier League club



Sampaoli

Bournemouth by mutual consent, Globo Esporte reported.

Neto also attracted the interest of Flamengo but chose to enter talks with Botafogo after being promised a regulator starting role, the report said.

Botafogo has prioritized the signing of a new goalkeeper as it negotiates the sale of John Victor to West Ham United.

Neto, who has one Brazil cap, made 63 appearances across all competitions for Bournemouth following his 2022 move from Barcelona. He spent last season on loan at Arsenal, where he played just one match.

Pumas UNAM winger Leonardo Suarez has joined Estudiantes on loan, the Argentine top flight club said.

The deal includes a purchase option at the end of the loan period in December, Estudiantes said on its official website.

Suarez is Estudiantes’ third signing since Argentina’s mid-season transfer window opened last month, joining Fernando Muslera and Leandro Gonzalez Pirez.

The 29-year-old former Boca Juniors and Villarreal player made 31 appearances across all competitions for Pumas, having joined the Mexican club from Liga MX rivals America in February 2024.

Estudiantes currently lead the Argentine Primera Division’s Group A standings with two wins from the first three games of the Clausura season.



In this file photo, England’s Tyler Morton, front, duels for the ball with Spain’s Mateo Joseph during a quarter final soccer match between Spain and England at the European U-21 Championship at the Anton Malatinsky Stadium, in Trnava, Slovakia. (AP)

Lyon signs Morton from Liverpool in \$17 mln deal

LYON, France, Aug 6, (AP): Liverpool sent homegrown midfielder Tyler Morton to French club Lyon for a transfer fee of up to 15 million euros (\$17 million).

The 22-year-old Morton signed a five-year contract with Lyon, which confirmed it paid a fee of 10 million euros with potential bonuses of 5 million euros.

Morton, who joined Liverpool’s youth system at age 7, made only five appearances last season for the Premier League champions. His first-team debut came in 2021 before loans to Blackburn and Hull.

Morton helped England win the Under-21 European Championship last month.

Liverpool has been a big spender this summer - the recent signing of Hugo Ekitike took its outlay to around \$342 million. So, taking in some fees will be helpful for financial sustainability rules. Jarell Quansah’s move to Bayer Leverkusen will bring Liverpool up to \$47 million.

Liverpool had been relegated because of financial problems but the club won its appeal and will remain in Ligue 1 next season.

Jorge Costa, Champions League winning capt of Porto, dies at 53

PORTO, Portugal, Aug 6, (AP): Jorge Costa, who captained Porto to the 2004 Champions League title, died Tuesday of cardiac arrest, the club said. He was 53.

Costa, a central defender who made 50 international appearances for Portugal, was Porto’s director of football at the time of his death.

The club’s said in its announcement that Costa embodied Porto’s values: “dedication, leadership, passion, and an unwavering spirit of conquest.”

Portuguese media reported that Costa sustained cardiac arrest at the club’s training center and was transported to São João Hospital.

Costa’s finest achievement in his playing ca-



In this file photo, Porto’s Jorge Costa celebrates after scoring against Inter Milan during the Champions League soccer match at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy. (AP)

reer was as captain of Jose Mourinho’s Porto team that was a surprise winner of the Champions League in 2004. A year earlier, he lifted the second-tier UEFA Cup.

Costa also helped Porto win eight Portuguese league titles.

Portuguese Prime Minister Luis Montenegro offered his condolences and praised Costa’s “dedication and commitment” to both Porto and the national team.

Mourinho posted a tribute that said “your legacy will stay with us.” The Fenerbahce coach wrote that he could imagine what Costa would

be telling him: “Mister, stop crying, tomorrow you have a match and your boys need you ready and strong.”

Costa spent a short period on loan at English team Charlton in the 2001-02 season.

“To hear of a life taken at 53 is never nice to hear, but he’s a former teammate who had such a great standing in the game and captained a Champions League winning side,” said Steve Brown, chair of Charlton’s ex-players’ association. “He was loved at Charlton, a man mountain of a player and a great guy too.”

\$20 million move sets new MLS standard

Son signs with LAFC after a decade at Tottenham

LOS ANGELES, Aug 6, (AP): Son Heung-min agreed to a contract with Los Angeles FC, finalizing his move to Major League Soccer after a decade at Tottenham Hotspur.

The 33-year-old South Korean superstar forward is joining LAFC three days after he formally announced his decision to leave Tottenham.

Son attended LAFC’s Leagues Cup match against Tigres at BMO Stadium on Tuesday night, watching from a luxury suite. LAFC will formally introduce Son at a news conference Wednesday, but the club showed the forward on the stadium video board late in the first half as he waved to roaring fans thrilled by their team’s landmark acquisition.

LAFC, a deep-pocketed club with significant team success in its first eight seasons of existence, reportedly paid a transfer fee of more than \$20 million, which could end up being the most ever for an MLS move.

Son was a beloved presence at Spurs, scoring 173 goals in 454 competitive appearances for the North London club while rising to global prominence with his combination of speed, playmaking skill



In this file photo, South Korea’s Son Heung-min, left, and his teammates celebrate their advance to the 2026 FIFA World Cup finals after the Asian qualifier group B match for 2026 World Cup between South Korea and Kuwait at Seoul World Cup Stadium in Seoul, South Korea. (AP)

and finishing accuracy.

The captain was given a memorable farewell last week in Seoul during Tottenham’s exhibition match against Newcastle, getting a guard of honor from both teams and tear-

fully exiting in the second half while nearly 65,000 fans roared.

But South Korea’s most popular athlete - and almost certainly the greatest Asian soccer player in history - has chosen an auspicious stage for the next chapter of his groundbreaking career.

Los Angeles has the world’s largest ethnic Korean population outside Korea, with the city’s vibrant Korea town district sitting just a couple of miles from LAFC’s BMO Stadium.

LAFC is undoubtedly hoping to market Son as a soccer counterpart to the Dodgers’ Shohei Ohtani, albeit on a smaller scale. Ohtani, the three-time MLB MVP from Japan who is on a trajectory to become the greatest Asian player in baseball history, draws fans from across the Pacific Rim to Dodger Stadium while attracting millions in sponsorships and partnerships for the Dodgers.

Son’s move to California also puts him in position to make an impact on and off the field at the World Cup, which will be held across North America in 2026. Son, the captain of his national team, already has said he will play in his fourth World Cup.

After leading Tottenham to its first European trophy in decades by winning the Europa League in May in a fitting cap to his English career, Son will go straight into the MLS Cup race when suits up for his new club. LAFC currently sits sixth in the Western Conference at 10-6-6, but with multiple games in hand on every team in front of it because of its participation in the Club World Cup.

Son’s seven Premier League goals last season were his fewest since his Tottenham debut, but he still appears to have the pace and skill necessary to be a difference-maker at any level. He also turned 33 only a month ago, putting him on the younger end of the global stars recently arriving in MLS.

Lionel Messi and Marco Reus were 35 and Luis Suárez was 37 when they went stateside in recent years, while Olivier Giroud and Hugo Lloris were both 37 when they joined LAFC last year.

Son will be reunited in Los Angeles with longtime Tottenham teammate Lloris, who has been outstanding since becoming LAFC’s goalkeeper last season.

Change Name

I, Sat Paul Ram S/O jeet Ram (Current name in Passport), I am a present holder of Indian Passport No.R8112591 having permanent address Village Satiana, P.O. Jonewal, Sub-tehsil koom kalan, District Ludhiana, punjab-141126, India Residing in kuwait at present, I hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under Given Name: Satpal Ram S/O jeet Ram

Best of the Rest

Napheesa Collier out for a few weeks: Napheesa Collier will be sidelined for a few weeks after spraining her right ankle against the Las Vegas Aces , the team announced .

Collier will be reevaluated in the coming weeks.

The MVP frontrunner appeared to step on teammate Alanna Smith’s left foot and immediately went down near Las Vegas’ bench with the Lynx holding a 92-49 lead late in the third quarter.

She attempted to stand but sat back down on the

court, writhing in pain, and was immediately surrounded by Aces starters A’ja Wilson, Chelsea Gray, Jackie Young, NaLyssa Smith and Kierstan Bell, who all held towels to shield her from exposure.

Collier’s teammates, coaches and trainers eventually made their way to the opposite end of the court to tend to the 2025 All-Star MVP.

The Lynx (24-5) have three games this week, including a WNBA Finals rematch in New York on Sunday against the Liberty. New York has its own injury issues with Breanna Stewart out for a few weeks with a bone bruise in her right knee. Minnesota has a 5 1/2 game lead on New York in the standings. (AP)

Change Name

I, HAMJA SAYED, holder of Indian Passport No. R7680470 having permanent address 1/101, Obili, Penagalur, Annamayaia Dist, Andhra Pradesh, India, Pin: 516128 Residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under: Given Name: HAMJA Surname: SHAIK

A gateway to global cricket

Kuwait gears up for DP World ILT20 Development Tournament

DUBAI, Aug 6: In a major boost for cricket in the region, the Kuwait Cricket Board has announced it will host the first-ever DP World ILT20 Development Tournament – Kuwait, scheduled to begin in September 2025 at the scenic Sulaibiya Cricket Ground.

This milestone tournament aims to create a clear pathway for Kuwait’s top cricketing talent to potentially earn a spot in the high-profile DP World ILT20, set to take place in Dubai this December. With the ILT20 already established as a premier franchise league attracting global stars, the Kuwait edition is expected to be a game-changer for aspiring cricketers in the country.

The tournament will feature four competitive teams—Boubyan Warriors, Failaika Guardians, Pearl Strikers, and Kuwait Falcons—comprising a total of 60 players. The squads will include 19 contracted national team players, 10 junior emerging talents, and a selection of high-performing domestic cricketers, all handpicked by the Kuwait Cricket High Performance Committee based on key performance indicators.

Across 14 high-octane matches, players will get the chance to demonstrate their skills, consistency, and readiness

to compete at the franchise league level. Organisers believe the tournament will not only serve as a showcase of local talent but also elevate the overall standard of cricket in Kuwait.

The action kicks off tomorrow with the announcement of the official draft list of selected players on KCC’s social media platforms. The following day, on August 7, the names of the head coaches, captains, and managers for each team will be unveiled.

An official draft event will be held on August 8 at the Sulaibiya Cricket Ground, where each team will select its 15-member squad, guided by the leadership trio of coach, captain, and manager.

Speaking on the launch, a KCC spokesperson said: “This is more than just a tournament. It’s a launchpad for talent, a celebration of cricket, and a bold step forward in Kuwait’s journey on the international cricket map.”

The DP World ILT20 Development Tournament – Kuwait promises to set a new benchmark for domestic cricket in the country, offering young and emerging players a golden opportunity to fast-track their careers and shine on a global stage.

Fifth-tier Spanish club defends kit manager

Everton completes signing of Dewsbury-Hall from Chelsea

LIVERPOOL, England, Aug 6, (AP): Everton completed the signing of Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall from Premier League rival Chelsea on Wednesday.

The 26-year-old midfielder joined for a reported fee of around 25 million pounds (\$33 million) and has signed a five-year contract.

“Everton’s one of the biggest clubs in the country, and I think that in the next couple of years, the future is going to be bright. It was an easy decision in the end to come here and play for this club,” Dewsbury-Hall said.

Everton has been busy in the transfer market this offseason, with Dewsbury-Hall the fifth major signing after Charly Alcaraz, Thierno Barry, Mark Travers and Adam Aznou.

Dewsbury-Hall established himself at Leicester before joining Chelsea in 2024. But he made only two Premier League starts last season, 19 in all competitions.

He said the move to Everton had given him the “motivation and the extra determination to show everybody, to prove a point”.

□ □ □

Fifth-division Spanish club Molinense has defended its kit manager after the announcement of his contract renewal went viral on social media and ignited a series of derogatory messages toward him.

The club on Monday posted online that Pedro García was having his contract renewed for another season after “more than a decade of hard work and passion for our shield.” The message came along with a photo of him wearing a cap and with his long beard and hair.

There were more than 1 million views and tens of thousands of interactions on the post. There were hundreds of comments, many poking fun at his looks, but also some criticizing the derogatory attacks and praising the club and the kit manager.



In this file photo, Chelsea’s Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall during the English Premier League soccer match between Leicester City and Chelsea at King Power Stadium in Leicester, England. (AP)

Molinense on Wednesday put out another post defending García. “Our kit manager has gone viral, and it would have been even more if you knew about his hard work and heart,” the club said. “We denounce some unfortunate comments, and thank the many messages of support that he received. You made the right person go viral.”

A post allegedly made by García thanked the support messages. “Thank you so much to everyone who mentioned me (and) for all of your comments, really,” it said.

Kuwait U-23 wraps up preparations for Myanmar-based Cup qualifiers



Kuwaiti player controls the ball as a teammate and an opponent look on.

Arabi concludes UAE camp

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Kuwait’s Olympic soccer team continues its preparations for the AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualifiers with a final friendly against Fahaheel, scheduled for 7:30 pm. Fahaheel also building toward the start of the Zain Premier League on September 12, where it will open against Al-Jahra.

The Olympic team recently earned a 3–1 win over Kazma in a previous warm-up match. After tonight’s game, the team will travel next week to Thailand for a training camp ahead of the Asian

Cup qualifiers, which will take place in Saudi Arabia in January. Kuwait has been drawn into Group B alongside Japan, Afghanistan, and Myanmar. The group stage matches will be hosted in Myanmar from September 1 to 9.

Arabi Club will conclude its training camp in Abu Dhabi today with a final friendly match against UAE club Al-Wahda at 6:30 pm.

Arabi will head to the Maldives tomorrow to prepare for a crucial AFC Challenge League playoff against Maziya S&RC, set for August 12 on Maldivian soil.

Head coach Marco Alves is expected to field his strongest lineup against Al-Wahda, aiming to test the starting eleven he intends to use against Maziya. The Portuguese coach had used the first two friendlies to

assess his full squad and finalize team selections.

Tadamon Club has finalized its list of foreign signings by adding Congolese forward Folabi to its roster. He joins French players Jonathan Bamba and Zakaria Slimani, Portuguese midfielder Pedro, and Syrian attacker Ahmad Al-Dali.

With the club’s home ground currently under maintenance, Tadamon has relocated its training sessions to the secondary pitch at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium.

Preseason preparations began last Saturday under Portuguese head coach Miguel Leal, as the team looks ahead to its season opener against Kuwait SC on September 12.

Tadamon also boosted its local squad with new signings, including Abdulmohsen Al-Ajmi, Salman Al-Ajmi, Turki Al-Mutairi, and Ali Fadel.

Tennis player Svitolina faces ‘hateful abuse’ after defeat

MONTREAL, Canada, Aug 6, (AP): Ukrainian tennis player Elina Svitolina has spoken out about the deluge of hateful abuse she received online from frustrated gamblers after losing a match in Canada, including messages wishing her death and celebrating Russia killing her compatriots.

Following her straight-sets loss to Naomi Osaka in the quarter-finals of the National Bank Open on Tuesday night, Svitolina posted screenshots of the messages on Instagram.

The abuse was directed at her, while other racial slurs also targeted her husband, the French tennis player Gael Monfils, who is Black. One abuser hoped that Russia “kills all you (expletive) Ukrainians” in the war raging in Svitolina’s country.

“To all the bettors: I’m a mum before I’m an athlete,” Svitolina wrote in her Instagram story.

“The way you talk to women - to mothers - is SHAMEFUL. If your mothers saw your messages, they’d be disgusted.”

Earlier this year, British player Katie Boulter said she received death threats during the French Open targeting her and her family, while the WTA and ITF called on betting companies to do more to stem the flood of online abuse players face on social media.

Boulter told the BBC in an interview that online abuse has become the norm and that she thinks many of the messages are sent by people who are placing bets on tennis matches.

Her comments coincided with the WTA and ITF publishing a first season-wide report into online abuse, showing that 458 tennis players were targeted by more than 8,000 abusive comments and posts on social media in 2024. The report said 40% of the abuse came from “angry gamblers.”



Elina Svitolina, of Ukraine, hits a return to Naomi Osaka, of Japan, during quarterfinal tennis action at the National Bank Open in Montreal. (AP)

A huge boost for Cortina Games

Vonn hires Svindal as coach ahead of Oly season

KENNELBACH, Austria, Aug 6, (AP): Lindsey Vonn has added former ski great Aksel Lund Svindal to her coaching team as she prepares for next year’s Winter Olympics.

The 40-year-old American skier, who won the gold medal in the downhill at the 2010 Games, returned to the sport last year with a new titanium knee and plans on competing at the Milan-Cortina Olympics in Italy from Feb. 6-22.

Vonn had to cut her career short in 2019 due to a series of crashes and injuries, but then she had two titanium pieces inserted into her right knee before her comeback.

Svindal, a two-time Olympic champion, will begin coaching Vonn at a training camp in Chile later this summer, according to a statement released Wednesday by Head, her equipment supplier.

“To have him officially on my team as we push for the Cortina



In this file photo, Lindsey Vonn, of the United States, left, and Norway's Aksel Lund Svindal pose with their trophies of the alpine ski, women's and men's World Cup super-G discipline titles, in Schladming, Austria. (AP)

Games is a huge boost,” said the 82-time World Cup winner. “This comeback is about pushing boundaries and proving what’s possible, and I believe Aksel will help give me the extra edge I will need on this ambitious journey. I am grateful to have him on my team and I couldn’t ask for a better partner.”

Svindal won four Olympic medals and is a five-time world champion. He retired after winning silver in the downhill in his final race at the 2019 world championships. He said he was “a bit surprised when Lindsey called me, but mostly honored.”

Vonn concluded her comeback season with a second-place finish in a World Cup super-G in March. It was her first World Cup podium spot since March 15, 2018, when she finished third in a super-G. A year later, she earned downhill bronze at the world championships.

Xi’an Int’l Football Center to host China’s qualifiers

XI’AN, China, Aug 6, (Xinhua): The Xi’an International Football Center in northwest China’s Shaanxi Province is set to host its first international matches, beginning with China’s group-stage fixtures in the 2026 AFC U23 Asian Cup qualifiers from September 3 to 9.

China will face Australia, Timor-Leste and the Northern Mariana Islands in Group D. The winners of the 11 groups and the four best runner-ups

will qualify for the finals in January 2026 in Saudi Arabia.

“Today, we can say with relief that Xi’an International Football Center is all set!” read an open letter released Monday by the stadium’s operator, Shaanxi Tourism Group.

Construction on the 60,000-seat venue began in 2020. According to the Chinese Football Association, China will open its qualifying campaign

against Timor-Leste on September 3 at the new stadium.

Although the venue has hosted several trial events, local second-tier side Shaanxi Union has yet to announce when it will begin playing its China League One home matches there.

Beyond professional football, the stadium is expected to host fitness activities, amateur competitions and concerts.

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NEWS



Club Puebla goalkeeper Jesus Rodriguez (33) blocks the attempt to score by CF Montreal's Hennadiy Synchuk (18) during first half Leagues Cup soccer action in Montreal. Puebla won 2-1. (AP)

Sports

Tough start for Kuwait at World Championship

PAS invalidates KHA decisions

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Kuwait's U-19 national handball team opened its campaign at the 10th IHF Men's Youth World Championship with a 22-39 loss to Sweden in Cairo, Egypt, as part of Group A action. The team is set to face Portugal in its second match tomorrow at 3:00 pm.

Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Sport has ruled recent decisions by the Kuwait Handball Association invalid due to procedural violations. The ruling pertains to meetings No. (5-2025) and (6-2025) of the federation's Board of Directors.

In an official letter (No. 11163-2025) dated August 6, Deputy Director General for Competitive Sports Bashar Abdullah confirmed that the Authority consulted the Fatwa and Legislation Department to assess the legal quorum requirements for board meetings — specifically, whether meetings could proceed without the presence of the federation's president or vice president, and under the leadership of the Secretary-General.

The legal opinion clarified that for any board meeting to be considered valid, it must be attended by at least six members, including either the president or vice president. Decisions must be passed by a simple majority of those present. In the event of a tie, the side supported by the president — or whoever is officially presiding — prevails. Without the president or vice president present, any resulting decisions are considered null and void.

Based on this opinion, the Authority concluded that all decisions made during meeting No. (5-2025) are invalid, due to the absence of both the president and vice president. The same applies to the subsequent meeting, No. (6-2025), and its resolutions.

Separately, the Kuwait Handball Association has announced the formation of the Referees Committee for the upcoming 2025-2026 season. The committee will be chaired by international referee Ahmed Al-Mutawa, with fellow international referee Hani Abul serving as deputy chairman. Committee members include international referees Abdulrahman Al-Mutawa, Mishari Armih, and Bader Al-Mutawa.



Players fighting for the ball during the opening match between Kuwait and Sweden.

Kuwait Club heads to Prague after victory over Al-Shabab



Al-Dhafiri, Farih, and Amr take part in Kuwait's final training sessions.

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Kuwait Club defeated Al-Shabab 3-1 in a friendly match held at its home ground, as part of both teams' preparations for the upcoming 2025-2026 Zain Premier League season, which kicks off on September 12.

Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Fahad Hammoud, and Ibrahim Kamil were on target for Kuwait Club, while Abdullah Fadel scored the lone goal for Al-Shabab.

Following the win, Kuwait Club will depart today for its pre-season training camp in Prague, Czech Republic. The camp will run until August 28 and includes four scheduled friendly matches. Upon its return, Kuwait Club will begin its league campaign with a match against Al-Tadamon on September 12.

The delegation is led by board member Adel Oqla, with Mohammed Al-Hajri as team manager. Administrative staff includes Dr. Ahmad Al-Subaih and Basil Al-Dhafiri, along with team photographer Nasser Bin Nasser.

Technical and Medical Staff:

Head Coach: Nebojša Jovović

Assistant Coach: Karim El-Shazly

Fitness Coach: Marko Jovanović

Goalkeeping Coach: Darko Loptardo

Physical Trainer: Osama Al-Shammari

Technical Analyst: Blagoje Ogumanović

Medical Team: Shibl Ahmed and Maher Salama

Traveling Squad (26 players):

Sami Al-Sanea, Mishari Ghanem, Fahad Hammoud, Fahad Al-Hajri, Redha Hani, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Ali Hussein, Youssef Al-Khubaizi, Ibrahim Kamil, Abdulrahman Kamil, Faisal Zayed, Amr Abdel-Fattah, Mohammed Dahham, Mohammed Farih, Ahmed Alaa, Youssef Nasser, Ahmed Al-Zanki, Saud Al-Hoshan, Dhari Al-Otaibi, Khaled Al-Rasheedi, Hamoud Al-Sanousi, Hénoch Baka (Congo), Arsen "Malik" Zola (Congo), Mohammed Marhoon (Bahrain), Yassine Khenissi (Tunisia), and Sam Morsy (England).

Hu Jinqiu scores 20 points

China edges Saudi Arabia in FIBA Asia Cup opener

JEDDAH, Aug 6, (Xinhua): Hu Jinqiu scored 20 points as China opened its FIBA Asia Cup Group C campaign with a 93-88 win over host Saudi Arabia.

China, the most successful team in the tournament's history with 16 titles, had lost its opening game in the previous two editions.

Saudi Arabia started strongly, taking a 14-7 lead before China recovered to finish the first quarter ahead 30-22. Hu added 13 points in the second quarter to help the visitors hold a 53-43 advantage at halftime.

Zhao Rui and Yu Jiahao combined to push China's lead to 15 points after three quarters, but the hosts rallied late to close the gap to 90-85 with 1:42 remaining. Zhao then made an off-balanced shot to help secure the win.

Hu, the 2024-2025 CBA regular-season MVP, shot 9-of-10 from the field for a team-high 20 points. Zhao finished with 19 points, while Yu added 15.

"The Saudi team put us under a lot of pressure, but whether we were trailing or leading in the



Hu Jinqiu (center) of China goes up to make a basket during the Group C match between China and Saudi Arabia at the FIBA Asia Cup 2025 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. (Xinhua)

score, no one gave up. It's the first match, we were still adjusting to the competition," said Hu.

China is without Zhou Qi and Yang Hansen, with Yang focusing on his development with the

NBA's Portland Trail Blazers and Zhou sidelined by injury.

"We have a relatively young team this time, and every match is tough for us. But we have the confidence to show our spirit and

play with the strengths we've developed in training," said head coach Guo Shiqiang.

China will meet India in its second Group C match on Thursday.

Total compensation up 20%

US Open singles champions to get record \$5 million

WASHINGTON, Aug 6, (AP): Prize money at the U.S. Open will rise to nearly \$85 million across all competitions this year, including a record \$5 million each to the women's and men's singles champions, and total player compensation is jumping 20% to \$90 million, the most in tennis history.

The U.S. Tennis Association announced the payouts Wednesday for the year's last Grand Slam tournament, which begins with the new mixed doubles event and its \$1 million top check on Aug. 19-20. Singles competition starts on a Sunday for the first time - Aug. 24 - as those brackets expand from 14 days to 15.

The increases at Flushing Meadows - where last year's total compensation was \$75 million - come as the sport's leading players have been in discussions with each of the four major tournaments in a bid to receive a higher percentage of revenues at the U.S. Open, Wimbledon, French Open and Australian Open.

Novak Djokovic, Coco Gauff and 2024 U.S. Open champions Aryna Sabalenka and Jannik Sin-

ner were among 20 players who signed a letter sent to the heads of the four Grand Slam events in March seeking more prize money and a greater say in what they called "decisions that directly impact us." Since then, some players

have held talks with the majors.

The previous high amount for a U.S. Open singles championship was \$3.85 million in 2019, before decreasing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year's \$5 million check rep-

resents a 39% hike from last year's \$3.6 million. The same percentage increase was applied to the singles runners-up, who get \$2.5 million each. Semifinalists will earn \$1.26 million, a 26% rise.

At Wimbledon, which ended last month, prize money went up about 7% to about \$73 million at the exchange rate when the All England Club announced its player payments. The singles champions were paid about \$4 million apiece.

In New York, the winning teams in women's and men's doubles will receive \$1 million, a new high for those events at the U.S. Open, where total prizes for qualifying are going up to \$8 million, a 10% increase.

The \$85 million in 2025 U.S. Open prize money includes singles, doubles, qualifying and wheelchair events.

Wednesday's news comes after the USTA said in May that its main arena, Arthur Ashe Stadium, would be overhauled as part of an \$800 million project touted as the "largest single investment" in U.S. Open history.



Ben Shelton of the United States, hits a forehand to Alex De Minaur, of Australia, during their quarterfinal match at the National Bank Open in Toronto. (AP)