



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Your Highness the Prime Minister ... When will Kuwait change?

BEFORE the new era's measures – which halted squandering, tampering with all aspects of the State, and chaos in government positions – the State wasted many opportunities and even made it appear to be experiencing premature aging and deficits in several sectors.

Without a doubt, the tampering has affected the sovereign wealth and all arms of Kuwaiti financial power. It has affected the backbone of the State.

Therefore, after the measures taken in the new era, attention should be given to the Future Generations Fund, social security, oil revenues, and commercial and industrial activities which, along with other aspects, constitute the gross domestic product (GDP), in addition to openness.

Your Highness the Prime Minister, as a financial and economic expert, we speak frankly to you. "It is now time to consider strengthening the financial industry of Kuwait and to maximize its soft power."

When the Future Generations Fund was established, it was partly for the future and long-term investment, as HH the late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad (may Allah have mercy on him) had envisioned.

Before that, Kuwait was the first in the world to establish an investment fund in 1953. This has accumulated over the past decades.

Ironically, Norway, which established a pension fund in 1990, is far ahead of Kuwait despite the recent introduction.

Why? Without a doubt, the shortsightedness that citizens are 'specialized' in is the reason.

China, with its wealth of great minds, did not accept this. In 1978, it hired the British expert of Iraqi origin – Elias Korkis – who made a strategy that turned China into the second-largest economy in the world today.

Similarly, Singapore transformed itself from a poor country rife with corruption into the largest productive economy in Asia and an internationally renowned financial center.

Your Highness, the world is changing and many countries, including those in the region, have far outpaced Kuwait; because they tapped local and foreign talents and utilized their sovereign wealth in various productive sectors – both domestically

and internationally.

At home, they invested in vacant land, built service facilities, and even entertainment cities that helped boost the GDP.

Today, the Social Security Fund serves around 150,000 pensioners. In the future, it will serve thousands more.

It suffers from an actuarial deficit, which is easy to address. It has liquidity that can be invested locally; which is much better than losing that money, as it happened in Lebanon.

Undoubtedly, oil revenues have an investment function as well – to help develop industrial facilities, not only domestically in the oil industry, but also in many other fields.

This requires experts who do not necessarily wear the 'ghutra' and 'egal', but rather come from abroad and have succeeded in other countries.

Today, there is no longer pressure on the government – whether from members of Parliament or influential figures.

It has become imperative to begin the process of recovery, with development based on a vision to enhance the GDP on one hand, and achieve economic stability on the other hand.

This can be done by leveraging Kuwait's soft power tools in the region and the world, building a sound financial system, and preventing the future exploitation of sovereign wealth for reckless adventures.

Your Highness the Prime Minister, the path of finance and the economy in America is managed by experts who are not necessarily from the country itself. They are honored and they receive their dues.

In Kuwait, there are oil reserves, sovereign wealth, social security and the Ministry of Finance; that is, if it has people who know how to maneuver and profit.

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Silence is a betrayal of conscience

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Kuwait pricing cap crimps recruitment

No pay hike for Filipino domestic workers

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Head of the Union of Domestic Labor Offices Khaled Al-Dakhnan confirmed that the biggest problem currently facing recruitment agencies is the lack of applications, due to the pricing set by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which leaves agencies with little flexibility to secure experienced candi-

dates, and negatively impacts the overall quality of available labor.

Al-Dakhnan said, "We are not receiving good applications, as the ministry's set pricing only allows for older workers, many of whom prefer to go to other Gulf countries that offer better incentives."

He explained that the recruitment cost from some African countries reaches KD 575, in line with the pricing set by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which is an acceptable amount. However, the market still primarily depends on Asian workers.

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War enters new phase as tensions escalate

Kuwait labels Gaza grab a mockery of law

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9, (Agencies): Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered a strong condemnation and outright rejection of the Israeli government's recent decision to take control over the entire Gaza Strip. The ministry called this move a "flagrant violation of inter-

national law and humanitarian law," characterizing it as a mockery of international legitimacy. It emphasized that this decision would undermine the prospects for a two-state solution and hinder efforts to establish an independent Palestinian state within the June 4, 1967 borders,

with East Jerusalem as its capital. Kuwait also renewed its appeal for the international community — and especially the UN Security Council — to shoulder their responsibilities, halt Israeli

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Rents drain KD450m from Kuwait budget

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Housing activists, who met with Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs Abdul Latif Al-Mishari on Thursday, described the meeting as "frank and transparent".

Sources revealed that during the meeting, which lasted for more than two hours,



Al-Mishari

the housing activists discussed the biggest challenges the housing sector is currently facing; as well as ways to develop policies and mechanisms related to housing care, land allocation and real estate development projects.

Meanwhile Al-Mishari pointed out at the meeting that "scarcity remains one of the biggest obstacles to solving the housing problem." He said the number of farms in the country has increased fivefold since the beginning of the millennium and has become a burden on the land portfolio, especially since many of them have been transformed into resorts and concrete buildings rented for recreational purposes without any real agricultural return.

He stated that the country is on the cusp of a major housing boom aimed at completing 170,000 housing units over the next 10 years in new cities; such as Al-Sabriya, Al-Khiran and Nawaf Al-Ahmad.

In the same context, housing activist Mohammad Al-Nasafi disclosed in a press statement after the meeting that the value of tenders supervised by the Housing Ministry is estimated at KD2.75 billion; exceeding what the Ministry of Public Works oversees -- a reflection of the magnitude of the challenge and the responsibility it bears.

Al-Nasafi expects Chinese companies to play a vital role in building major residential cities in the coming period, as part

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Officials from Kuwait and Japan engage in ongoing discussions to enhance bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors.

Talks highlight shared vision for stability

Japan, Kuwait elevate ties to strategic level

TOKYO, Aug 9, (KUNA): Japan and Kuwait on Friday confirmed their intention to continue cooperation in various fields, including energy, food trade, and regional stability, during their policy meeting in Tokyo, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said.

The Fifth Policy Consultations Meeting between the two foreign ministries in Tokyo was attended by Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Sameeh Hayat and Japanese Assistant Foreign Minister Toshihide Ando, along with other senior officials, said the ministry in a press release.

At the meeting, Ando, who also serves as the ministry's Director-General for Middle Eastern and African Affairs, expressed appreciation for Kuwait's long-standing stable supply of crude oil to Japan, and both sides reaffirmed their intention to further promote bilateral

energy cooperation.

They also confirmed that they are in the final stages of lifting the ban on Japanese beef imports to Kuwait and will proceed with necessary procedures.

In addition, the two sides confirmed close collaboration within the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which Kuwait holds the GCC presidency this year.

They also agreed to strengthen their cooperation toward stabilization of the Middle East and East Asia.

The consultations followed the May summit between His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, during which bilateral ties were elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.



KUNA photo
Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Sameeh Hayat with Japanese Assistant Foreign Minister Toshihide Ando.

School prep hits high gear in Kuwait

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Ministry of Education has started carrying out extensive field operations to prepare public schools for the opening of the new academic year in September, say sources from the educational sector.

Sources affirmed this is part of the commit-

ment of the ministry to guarantee the smooth opening of the 2025/2026 academic year.

Sources confirmed that comprehensive cleaning works in public schools will begin on Sunday; indicating eight cleaning workers are assigned in each school, with the possibility of increasing this number based on the size and needs of the schools.

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Ministry of Information mourns late theater pioneer Al-Munaie

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9, (KUNA): The Ministry of Information mourned veteran actor Mohammad Al-Munaie, who passed away Friday evening after a rich career spanning more than six decades.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Information conveyed the condolences of Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi and ministry employees to the family and relatives of the deceased actor.

They called with appreciation Al-Munaie's significant contributions that enriched the Kuwaiti and Gulf theatrical scene and made him one of its pioneers.

The ministry noted that Al-Munaie began his career by joining the Popular Theater Troupe and contributed to the establishment of the Kuwaiti Theater Troupe.



Mohammad Al-Munaie

He participated in dozens of theatrical and television works that tackled social issues with a sincere spirit and distinguished performance.

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Fog, heat, thunder clash over Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9, (KUNA): Kuwait's Meteorological Dept. has forecast that the country will see hot, partly cloudy and humid weather, coupled with sporadic rainfalls and thunderstorms, from Saturday evening until Monday.

Low-altitude cumulus clouds, thunderstorms and active southeastern wind are expected, particularly in the southern parts of the country this evening, the Dept. Dhrar Al-Ali told KUNA.

High levels of humidity and fog will bring visibility down to less than one kilometer, he said.

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**9 ABK Group holds H1
2025 analyst
conference call**

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:46	Asr	15:29
Sunrise ..	05:12	Maghrib ..	18:34
Zohr	11:54	Isha	19:58

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot, humid especially over coastal areas and partly cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind, with speeds of 10-42 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times and a chance for rising dust.

By Night: Hot to rather hot, humid especially over coastal areas and partly cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 10-35 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times and a chance for fog forming over some areas.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	45	35
Kuwait Airport	46	32
Abdaly	46	33
Jahra	46	34
Salmiyah	40	33
Ahmadi	39	29
Nuwaisib	42	30
Wafra	46	30
Salmiya	45	31

Kuwait salutes Azeri, Armenian peace deal

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Saturday welcomed the peace agreement concluded by Azerbaijan and Armenia, hoping that such a historic step would contribute to further stability and prosperity for both countries.

In a press release, the ministry said the State of Kuwait commends US mediation efforts to reach this significant agreement, underlining its backing to all regional and global efforts to resolve and settle conflicts by dialogue and peaceful means.

Azerbaijan and Armenia signed on Friday a U.S.-brokered peace deal at the White House to end a 35-year conflict between the two sides.

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Other Voices

Desmedt black road & asphalt

By Ahmad alsarraf

In March 1902, Prince Albert I asked Swiss doctor Guglielminetti how to deal with the dust stirred up by cars on the streets of Monaco, especially during the motor racing season. At the time, the doctor had no answer, as he was preoccupied with other matters.

Soon after, he traveled to the Netherlands, where the government assigned him to remote islands such as Java, Sumatra, and Borneo. There, he experienced many amazing adventures.

However, he returned home in 1890 after the death of his mother and later went on a journey to Mont Blanc to assist in establishing an astronomical observatory near the summit.

Due to his fear of heights, he focused increasingly on physiological experiments. This eventually led him to develop a breathing apparatus that, after continuous refinement, proved invaluable to firefighters, mountaineers, balloonists, pilots, and divers. It also played a big role in advancing anesthesia techniques.

As his reputation grew, he was appointed in 1894 as the personal physician to the Prince of Monaco. Based on his earlier experiences in Southeast Asia, he finally found the answer to Prince Albert's question.

He recommended covering the roads with tar, which was waterproof and easy to clean. He had seen this at a hospital in Sumatra.

As a result, tar waste from the principality's gas plant, which had previously been dumped into the sea, was repurposed to pave a section of the Nice-Monte Carlo National Road. Despite objections from environmental and animal rights groups over the growing use of tar in road construction, the practice quickly gained momentum.

Technology improved and spread throughout Europe with the development of modern machines that heated tar for application on roads. Tar, derived from coal, differs from bitumen, which is obtained from petroleum. However, because tar is carcinogenic, its use in road construction was phased out by the mid-1980s.

As is typical of great humanists, Dr. Gaudron, a nickname that Dr. Guglielminetti later earned due to his work in this regard, never sought to patent any of his inventions. However, he was always highly honored, and his brilliant idea for paving roads secured his place in history.

This story reflects the connection between France, Monaco, and Dr. Gaudron, but the credit for today's asphalt roads belongs to a multi-stage development involving several key pioneers. Perhaps the person most closely associated with the modern concept of asphalt-covered roads is the Belgian-American chemist Edmund J. Desmedt.

In the early 19th century, Scottish engineer John Loudon MacAdam revolutionized road construction by developing a method called "macadam." This technique involved layering angular crushed stones so they would bind together under the weight of traffic, creating a hard, durable surface.

This was a significant improvement over traditional dirt roads. However, MacAdam's original design did not use an asphalt binder; instead, the roads were stabilized with stone dust and water.

In the early 20th century, British engineer Edgar Hooley patented a process for mixing hot tar with crushed stone. He called this new material "tarmac," a term that later became synonymous with airport runways.

Desmedt, a pioneer of modern asphalt paving, developed a technique he called "sheet asphalt paving" while studying at Columbia University in 1870. This method used a finely ground mixture of sand and a petroleum-derived binder (bitumen), which became the foundation of modern asphalt concrete.

In the same year, Desmedt laid the first true asphalt pavement in the United States, in New Jersey.

His work culminated in the paving of Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., in 1876, a major project that demonstrated the effectiveness and durability of his method and led to its widespread adoption.

While ancient civilizations were the first to use asphalt for paving, it was MacAdam and Hooley who developed the foundational techniques, and Desmedt who is credited with inventing the first modern asphalt pavement.

Note: We thank His Excellency the Minister of Municipal and Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari for his kind call to confirm the commitment of both ministries to some of the points raised in yesterday's article, and to confirm an upcoming meeting to discuss the remaining proposals.

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Silence is a betrayal of conscience

Kuwait's leadership urged to continue noble mission



Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa in Gaza locality.



Hungry Gazan children struggling to get food.

An interview with His Eminence Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa on his visit to the Gaza Strip by a correspondent for 'Al-Seyassah' and 'Arab Times'

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JERUSALEM, Aug 9: Following a moving visit to the Gaza Strip, His Eminence Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, spoke in a special meeting with a correspondent for the newspapers Al-Seyassah and Arab Times. He shared his firsthand observations of the destruction, suffering, and the steadfast dignity of the people of Gaza.

The Cardinal walked among the wounded and the displaced, visited churches, mosques, schools, shelters, and damaged institutions, and listened to the sighs of a people living in profound pain. Yet amidst the rubble, he found an exceptional strength, unity, and unwavering faith.

In this interview, the Cardinal not only offers a testament of mercy but also directs a moral appeal to the conscience of the world, calling for justice, peace, and urgent humanitarian response:-

Question: How would you describe the scale of human suffering you witnessed during your visit to Gaza?

Answer: We saw a people burdened by the weight of war—among the wounded and displaced—who still bear the image of God. Their grief is profound and all-encompassing, yet their dignity and inner strength remain firmly rooted.

Q: What did you observe regarding the destruction of streets and buildings?

A: Amidst the shattered walls of places like St. Porphyrius Church, as well as the Holy Family Church, mosques, and destroyed neighborhoods, we witnessed the tangible effects of the conflict. The destruction of holy and civilian sites testifies to the intensity of the suffering people have endured.

Q: Was this your first visit to Gaza since October 7, 2023? What were your feelings after the visit?

A: This is the third time I have visited Gaza since October 7, 2023. The purpose of the visit was not political but pastoral: to visit and comfort the faithful, to walk among the wounded, and to stand with those in pain. These were moments dominated by sadness, but also full of a steady hope rooted in faith and solidarity.

Q: After the visit, you said, "We saw a human dignity that refuses to die..." Can you elaborate on that?

A: Yes, even amid the pain, we found a dignity that refuses to perish.

Q: Could you elaborate on that?

A: Yes, even in the midst of pain we found an unbreakable dignity. The faithful of Gaza mourn, but they also feed and heal, they pray and empathize. Their resilience, rooted in love and faith, is a living testament to the power of the human spirit in the face of continuous suffering.

Q: Can you tell us more about the spirit of unity among the people of Gaza during these crises?

A: Indeed. In churches, shelters, and especially in hospitals, Muslims and Christians come together, not separated by religion, but united by need and mercy. These places are living testimonies to humanity, brotherhood, and solidarity.

Q: What are your observations regarding the damage to clean water sources?

A: Although this was not mentioned in detail in the statement, it's clear that basic human needs such as water have been severely damaged. The crisis goes beyond visible destruction to the silent suffering of children and families deprived of the essentials of daily life.

Q: What is your opinion on France's intention to recognize the State of Palestine?



Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa leading a prayer.



A dejected Gaza Palestinian sitting in the ruins of his home.

A: While our statement does not include specific political developments, we call on the international community to act, not to remain silent. Recognition and justice must be based on conscience and a genuine pursuit of peace.

Q: Do you expect a potential change in the United States' position that could help the people of Gaza?

A: We hope so. The United States has a pivotal and fundamental role in this crisis. To everyone in power, we say, "Blessed are the peacemakers." True change will come when humanity precedes politics, and peace precedes rigid stances.

Q: How do you view the position of developed countries that advocate for animal rights while remaining silent in the face of the human tragedy in Gaza?

A: It is a painful paradox in the culture of this era in some parts of the world. "Silence in the face of suffering is a betrayal of conscience." A just world cannot tolerate selective compassion. The dignity of a human being must triumph over everything.

Q: What is your assessment of the Arab countries' position toward the suffering of the people of Gaza?

A: Although we do not mention specific countries, the Church recognizes and encourages all acts of mercy, solidarity, and assistance. We call for the continued courageous support from all Arab nations for their brothers and sisters in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Q: What is the number of Christians in Gaza? Have the churches been damaged?

A: While the numbers are not precise, the Christian community in Gaza is small but firm in its faith. Currently, there are about 500 Christians. Before the war began, their number was 1,017.

Q: What is your opinion on the delay in delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza?

A: As I said after the visit, "Humanitarian aid is not just necessary; it is a matter of life or death. Preventing it is not a delay; it is a death sentence. Every hour that passes without food, water, medicine, or shelter causes deep harm."

Q: How do you view the refusal of the residents in Gaza to be forcibly displaced? Is Israel still exerting pressure in this regard?

A: Yes. We still do not know what the next phase will lead to. Decisions will be made in these days, and we are worried.

Q: In your opinion, what is the real path to ending these tragedies? Is there a need to increase humanitarian aid?

A: First, there must be an immediate ceasefire and the allowance of humanitarian aid. Schools must resume, and hospitals must be reopened. We first need steps on the ground to revive the minimum level of life and to rebuild something resembling normality. Only then can major political issues be discussed.

Q: What is your opinion of Kuwait's supportive stance toward Gaza and the Palestinian cause? What message do you have for its leadership? Are there plans for a new visit to Gaza?

A: To Kuwait and its leadership: Your support is clear, and your solidarity is appreciated. We encourage the continuation of this commitment stemming from human dignity and moral clarity. Your role is essential.

Conclusion of the Interview:

This interview not only embodies the sorrow of a people but also conveys the voice of a shepherd who chose presence over absence, and solidarity over silence. Cardinal Pizzaballa's words call upon the world to reclaim its conscience and act with courage, not calculation, and with mercy, not indifference.

In this spirit, His Eminence directs a heartfelt and official appeal to His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait; to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah; and to the esteemed government of the State of Kuwait. For decades, the State of Kuwait has always been at the forefront of humanitarian solidarity and a beacon of mercy, justice, and generosity in the Arab world.

Whether through emergency aid, diplomatic support, or moral leadership, Kuwait has chosen to walk alongside the oppressed and to make the voices of those silenced by injustice and war heard.

Today, as the people of Gaza endure one of the most devastating moments in their history, the Cardinal urges Kuwait's leadership to continue its noble mission. May Kuwait remain a guardian of human dignity, may it raise the voice of peace, defend the right to life, and provide assistance to those in most need.

May the name of Kuwait, in the eyes of humanity and the world, remain a symbol of mercy, conscience, and steadfast solidarity.

Kuwait hails Malta intention to recognize Palestine State

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Ambassador in Malta Meshal Al-Mudhaf and Undersecretary of the Maltese Foreign Ministry Christopher Cutajar discussed ways of promoting bilateral ties and several global issues, mainly Gaza.

The ambassador voiced Kuwait's appreciation to the government of Malta for its recently announced intention to officially recognize the State of Palestine, the Kuwaiti Embassy in Malta said in a press release on Saturday.

He spoke highly of this step as contributing to implementing relevant UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative regarding the Palestinian people's self-determination and an independent statehood on the 1967 border with Jerusalem as its capital.

Al-Mudhaf noted that the Maltese side is sincerely willing to further expand its relations with the State of Kuwait to cover all fields, specifically economy and tourism.

On July 30, Maltese Prime Minister Robert Abela announced that his country would recognize the state of Palestine during the UN General Assembly in September.

"Our country's position reflects our commitment to finding a solution in favor of lasting peace in the Middle East," Abela was quoted as saying.



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti Ambassador in Malta Meshal Al-Mudhaf and Undersecretary of the Maltese Foreign Ministry Christopher Cutajar discussed ways of promoting bilateral ties.

Abela's announcement came just hours after a similar declaration by UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and days after France revealed its own plans for recognition.



KUNA photo

The delegation of Kuwaiti students who took part in the Arab Chemistry Olympiad.

Kuwaiti students bag 4 medals at 'Arab Chemistry Olympiad'

AMMAN, Aug 9, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti students won a silver medal and three bronze at the ongoing 10TH Arab Chemistry Olympiad, being hosted in the Jordanian capital city of Amman.

The championship, due to conclude tomorrow, Saturday, gathered representatives of 11 Arab countries, said Haifa Al-Adwani, supervisor of chemistry at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education.

Ali Behbehani, grade 12 from the Academy Of Giftedness, won the bronze medal, she said in statements to KUNA.

The three bronze medalists are Hala Al-Rashidi, Grade 11 from Al-Rawdha High School; Zahraa Al-Haddad, Grade 10 from Tolaitelah High School, and Ibrahim Al-Rashidi, Grade 11 from Mohammad Najm High School.

Al-Adwani attributed the achievement of the Kuwaiti students to the continuous efforts of the ministry to foster the skills of talented students.

The Ministry is keen on ensuring eminent performance of students at regional and international contests, she added.

Art, culture sans border ... Nawal remains Kuwaiti

“NAWAL Al-Kuwaitiya will always be a Kuwaiti. Names, titles, and identities do not change with time or place ... a Kuwaiti remains Kuwaiti,” Kuwaiti journalist **Hassan Ali Karam** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The sons of “Ezra” - Saleh and Daoud Al-Kuwaiti - left Kuwait in the early 1930s for Basra, then moved on to Baghdad. There, their fame grew and their artistic contributions flourished, but their name remained unchanged.

“Even when they later moved to Israel in the 1950s, their Kuwaiti name and identity remained intact. In fact, a street was named in their honor.

“I used to listen to them in the 1990s when their concerts were broadcast on “Radio Israel.”

“Their grandchildren still carry the Kuwaiti surname with pride. There are people who lived in Kuwait during those distant times, and continue to live there today.

“Those men, and their children and grandchildren are Kuwaiti. Titles are not what define nationality.

“Nawal will remain Kuwaiti, irrespective of whether she is present or not. Let us not forget that her husband is Kuwaiti, meaning one half completes the other, and together they remain whole.

“Her absence from the Kuwaiti art scene is unjustified, especially while her peers continue to perform with strength, their voices echoing on the stages and in seasonal or special occasion concerts.

“Revoking citizenship does not erase identity, nor does it remove someone from the hearts and minds of the people. Nawal will always be a daughter of Kuwait. It is a moment marked by irony, which requires enduring the bitterness of separation and the harshness of transition.

“How many have been pressed by the world to the point of despair, only to be relieved by God who never constricts except to bring relief?”

“It is a beautiful gesture from Kuwait Radio, and from the voices of her fellow citizens, that the melodies and lyrics of Kuwaiti artists, her peers in writing and composing, continue to be offered to her with unwavering affection.

“What is even more heartening is that Kuwait Radio remains loyal to Nawal. After all, art is not defined by a passport but it is a feeling that flows from the heart. No authority can force an artist or any person to embrace something that contradicts their taste or convictions. Everyone is entitled to the voice of their own heart.

“No matter how far Nawal may be from her homeland, or even if she is banished from it, she remains a daughter of Kuwait.

“Nawal Al-Kuwaitiya carries with her a lifetime of memories, a rich history, and deep roots. Let us honor Nawal, and all Kuwaiti artists in all artistic, creative, and cultural spectrum who were forced to leave their homeland and build their lives abroad.

“Art in Kuwait is marginalized, and part of the injustice lies in the fact that some of those entrusted with managing cultural and creative affairs are outsiders to both culture and creativity.

“Artists speak a language that often goes unheard by the ears, and beyond the tastes, of those in positions of authority. Yet Kuwait has always been, and will remain, a land of creativity and an inspiring environment for the arts, no matter how much the naysayers resist it.

“That is why opponents of free expression should never be given the power to undermine what artists, intellectuals, and writers create.

“For instance, banning books, whether written locally or imported from abroad, is unacceptable. Thought cannot be divided or contained. What takes place in one society can very well occur in ours.

“The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait did not affect Kuwait alone. Its repercussions reached far beyond, touching lands we had never heard of and people who had never heard of us.

“Today, the world is nearly one. With a single tap on your phone, the whole world appears in the palm of your hand, with its people, creativity, arts, economy, and even its wars.

“It is a world condensed into a device no larger than your palm. Is there any privacy left after that? In such a connected world, everything is visible, and Nawal’s absence from the stage has left a noticeable void.”

Also:

“El Salvador was once considered the most dangerous country on Earth. It experienced a civil war from 1979 to 1992, followed by years of an internal guerrilla war that claimed tens of thousands of lives and forced many more to flee,” columnist **Ahmad Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Nayib Bukele came to power and promised to end the violence and restore order. He pronounces his first name “Nagib,” following Spanish pronunciation rules where the “g” is softened, similar to how Kuwaitis drop the “g” sound.

“Bukele, who is of Palestinian descent, was born in El Salvador in 1981. His family immigrated from Palestine about a century ago. At the age of 18, he ran a business, later became mayor of a local municipality in southern El Salvador, and eventually served as a district mayor. He won the presidency through promises of fighting corruption, reducing poverty, and ending gang violence.

“Following a sharp rise in murders, his government declared a state of emergency, allowing the suspension of basic civil liberties and the deployment of armed forces to carry out mass arrests. His firm grip on power made him extremely popular, leading to a landslide re-election in February 2024.

“Crime rates dropped sharply, and El Salvador’s state of emergency was extended nearly two dozen times, giving Bukele close to two years of broad authority. During this period, he suspended certain civil liberties, launched an aggressive crackdown on gangs, rooted out corruption within the judicial system, and cut off communication between imprisoned gang leaders and their networks outside. As a result, public safety improved dramatically, and people began to enjoy public spaces once again.

“My point is simply this - strict governance can be good for a country. That said, I don’t believe crime and gang violence will ever fully disappear from Central and South America.

“This reminds us of other examples where strict governance helped save a country, or a city. Eighty years ago, New York City was plagued by crime, corruption, and high unemployment. Fiorello LaGuardia was appointed mayor. An honest and principled leader, he implemented major reforms and, with the support of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, succeeded in dismantling widespread corruption.

“He improved conditions for poor farmers and unemployed workers, launched the construction of low-cost housing, and oversaw the development of public stadiums, parks, and airports. Major infrastructure projects such as highways, bridges, and tunnels were also built under his leadership.

“LaGuardia carried out his duties strictly, as a seasoned and tough mayor.

“Thanks to his leadership, calm returned to the streets of New York, which had once been overwhelmed by crime, and people were once again able to walk safely in public.

“Another example of a leader loyal to his country is Tanzania’s President John Magufuli. In April 2019, he dismissed several senior officials, including the head of the anti-corruption commission. He reduced the number of government ministers from 30 to 19, required all ministers to publicly disclose their assets and properties, and warned that anyone who failed to submit their financial statements would be dismissed.

“During a surprise visit to a hospital, he found patients lying on the floor and medical equipment out of order. He immediately dismissed all hospital officials and gave the new administration just three days to fix everything.

“He also auctioned off the government’s fleet of luxury vehicles and replaced them with modest Toyotas for official use.”

“A wise person doesn’t need supernatural abilities or deep experience in the art of physiognomy to understand others,” Kuwaiti writer Dr. **Khalid Janfawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“In my humble opinion, it is actually quite simple. All one needs to do is to do the following:

■ Listening to others - Truly listening means paying close attention when people speak, and discerning what they genuinely mean when they write or post online. Most people, often unintentionally, reveal their true personalities and the contents of their subconscious minds. They reveal their true desires, and as they continue, the truth becomes clear.

■ Body posture - The way a person stands, sits, walks, dresses, turns, gestures, and moves, especially their head, says a great deal about them, particularly in public settings. A person’s posture when interacting with others also reflects how they perceive themselves and how they evaluate their relationships. There is a big difference between someone whose body barely carries them and someone who fully carries and controls their body.

■ Opinions about others when absent - What a person says about others in their absence reveals much about their mindset, morals, and core behavior. When someone speaks to you about a person who isn’t present, they are, consciously or not, expressing either appreciation or disdain. Those who backbite are cowardly and spiteful, and a wise person should never trust them. Those who speak of others in their absence as they would like to be spoken of are generous, emotionally healthy, and morally upright.

■ Self-control - A psychologically sound person manages their words and actions in a way that is completely different from someone who lacks self-control. Those who always appear in control of their actions and words do not typically suffer from complex psychological issues and can, more often than not, be dealt with safely.

■ Person’s environment - People choose the environments they place themselves in. No one is truly forced to remain in a setting that doesn’t align with their desires, ambitions, or self-image. Others judge individuals based on the nature of the environments they accept and are content to inhabit, because the environment is, in many ways, the homeland of one’s personality.”

— Compiled by **Mohammad Wangengi/Simi K.Kutty**



Buildings need repairs in many Kuwaiti localities.

Municipality campaign targets Hawally dilapidated buildings

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality has announced the launching of comprehensive inspection campaigns aimed at monitoring construction and building activities in all sectors -- private, industrial, commercial, agricultural, investment and crafts housing -- to ensure full compliance with building regulations and standards, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The department confirmed that inspection teams, led by supervising engineers, will continue their field work throughout the current month; while highlighting the dedication and professionalism of the national workforce involved in the campaign.

The Engineering Audit and Follow-up Department in the Hawally Govern-

rate Municipality branch carried out a field campaign, targeting investment and commercial properties. The inspections focused on identifying violations and enforcing the building codes and regulations.

The campaign resulted in the issuance of 13 warnings for various building violations in Hawally. The necessary measures have been taken against those proven to have committed violations.

The department disclosed that this initial campaign marks the beginning of a wider inspection initiative, with additional field visits scheduled in all governorates. It has prepared a detailed timetable, in coordination with other concerned departments, to ensure systematic implementation in the coming weeks.

Knife-wielding citizen shot, arrested for creating panic

10 police checkpoints trap illegals, criminals

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: A citizen armed with a knife was arrested in Raqqa after attempting to attack passersby and confronting security personnel, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting a security source.

According to the source, the suspect brandished a knife and threatened both civilians and the responding officers. Despite multiple warning shots fired into the air, the man refused to surrender and continued to pose a threat.

In response, security personnel shot the suspect on the foot to neutralize the threat. He was immediately subdued and transferred to Adan Hospital. His condition is stable.

The suspect remains under heavy security, and a case has been registered against him for attempted murder and possession of a bladed weapon.

10 checkpoints set up: The Ahmadi Security Directorate, as per the directive of Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs at the Interior Ministry Major General Hamad Al-Munifi

and under the supervision of acting Director General of the directorate Brigadier General Hussein Dashti, conducted an intensive security campaign in several areas in the governorate with the participation of a team from Kuwait Municipality, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

A security source disclosed that 10 checkpoints were set up during the morning and evening shifts in densely populated areas, particularly Mahboula and Mangaf.

The campaign resulted in the arrest of one individual wanted by law for evading a four-year prison sentence, four Residency Law violators, five absconding expatriates, and three others with expired visas.

Furthermore, the authorities removed eight caravans and 10 abandoned vehicles; while the traffic patrols issued 220 citations for various violations.

1 dead in boat crash: A collision between two fishing boats at the South Sea resulted in the death of an Egyptian and injury to others, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

Coast Guard officers headed to the collision site immediately after receiving a report on the accident. Upon arrival at the scene, they found one

Degree forgers targeted

MEW to verify workers docus for authenticity

By **Mohammad Ghanem**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and **Agencies**

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) is planning to request academic certificates from its technical and administrative employees, both citizens and residents, who obtained their qualifications from the year 2000 onward.

These certificates will be reviewed by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to verify their authenticity and combat forgery.

According to informed sources, this request follows CSC’s request to collect complete data on the higher academic qualifications of all employees, as the ministry falls under CSC’s oversight.

If any forged certificates are found, the appointments of those individuals will be canceled and legal action will be taken against them.

This aims to enhance job efficiency, uphold the principle of fairness, and enforce the highest standards of integrity and credibility within ministries and government agencies.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy has started the comprehensive review of service fees and audit of employees’ academic qualifications; as part of its ongoing effort to ensure fairness and efficiency, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

In line with its commitment to guarantee fair pricing for essential services; the ministry is conducting a detailed study on electricity and water supply costs, including connection and reconnection procedures.

Undersecretary of the ministry Dr. Adel Al-Zamel issued a decision to form a specialized committee, led by Assistant Undersecretary for the Electricity Distribution Networks Sector Eng. Khaled Al-Rashed. The committee has been tasked to review Ministerial Resolution No. 121/2017 and propose amendments based on the results of the evaluation of service costs for all consumer categories.

Egyptian fisherman dead, and several others injured. All those injured were taken to the nearest hospital.

A case was registered and referred to the Coast Guard for investigation to determine the circumstances that led to the accident.

Mishap holds up traffic: Traffic on Salmi Road was disrupted for more than two hours after a three-vehicle collision along Kilometer 85 caused a truck to veer off the road and crash into a concrete barrier, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

According to a security source, the Ministry of Interior received a report about the accident and immediately dispatched patrols to the site. The crash resulted in damages to two vehicles and the truck, but no injuries were reported.

In another development, the General Traffic Department announced the closure of the safety lane and right lane on King Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa Highway (Road 30) toward Hawally and Jabriya.

Moreover, the uphill exit leading to the Fourth Ring Road and the downhill exit toward Fahaeel will remain closed until maintenance work is completed.

Med staff guilty

Jail, deportation for ‘sexual exploitation’

By **Jaber Al-Hamoud**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Criminal Court, presided over by Judge Al-Dhuwaih Mubarak Al-Dhuwaih, sentenced an Egyptian anesthesiologist working at a government hospital to seven years in prison with hard labor and ordered his deportation following the completion of his sentence.

The court found him guilty of ‘inappropriately touching’ a patient while she was unconscious under anesthesia.

According to the case file, the doctor exploited the patient’s vulnerable condition in the operating room to commit the offense. After she was discharged, he contacted her by phone, made inappropriate advances and offered to provide her with “painkillers” if needed.

The Public Prosecution charged him with committing an indecent act by abusing his professional position. The conviction was based on the victim’s complaint, witness testimonies, investigative findings, and the doctor’s own confession during questioning.

Submit criminal record certificate, urges MoA

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Ministry of Islamic Affairs (MoIA) has issued a directive requiring holders of religious positions such as imams and muezzins working in mosque administrations in all governorates to submit a recently issued criminal record certificate, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

A circular was distributed urging all imams and muezzins to provide an updated criminal record certificate within three working days of the circular’s release and to submit it to the Personnel Affairs Department.

The circular explained that the certificate can be obtained electronically through the Sahel app by selecting the Ministry of Interior Services, then logging into “Security Services,” and choosing the “Issuing Criminal Record” service.

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Dr. Faisal Hamed Al-Refaei with participants and mentors celebrate the conclusion of DDI's 2025 summer internship program.

DDI photo

Dasman Diabetes Institute hosts annual Science Poster Day showcasing student and graduate research

Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI) concluded its 2025 summer internship program with the annual Science Poster Day on August 7, 2025, celebrating the achievements of 36 participants, including both university students and recent graduates, who presented a variety of impactful research projects developed during their training.

Organized under the guidance of DDI's expert scientific and medical teams, the event provided a platform for participants to showcase the knowledge and practical skills gained during their three-month internship,

which focused on diabetes and related health research.

The event was attended by Dr. Faisal Hamed Al-Refaei, Acting Director General of DDI, along with researchers, doctors, and staff from the institute. Dr. Al-Refaei praised the quality of the presentations and emphasized DDI's ongoing commitment to supporting young researchers through immersive, hands-on experiences in an advanced scientific setting.

"We are proud to support and nurture emerging scientific talent in an

integrated and collaborative research environment," said Dr. Al-Refaei. "Whether still studying or recently graduated, these individuals represent the future of scientific innovation in Kuwait and beyond."

This annual initiative, launched by DDI and supported by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), aims to enhance the research capabilities of students and graduates in scientific and medical fields, while inspiring the next generation of healthcare and research professionals.

New scholarship bylaw approved

GPA, age limits and transfer rules out

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9, (KUNA): Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Chairman of the Private Universities Council Dr. Nader Al-Jalal has issued a decision approving a new bylaw for internal scholarships and missions at private universities. The bylaw includes 17 organizational articles aimed at regulating internal scholarship mechanisms and ensuring their compatibility with the country's development requirements and labor market needs.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Higher Education on Thursday, the new bylaw will take effect starting from the 2025-2026 academic year, provided that the relevant educational authorities are committed to implementing its provisions.

The statement noted that the bylaw stipulates the applicant must be a Kuwaiti citizen, aged between 17 and 23 years (27 years for diploma holders), hold a secondary school certificate issued within the past 26 months, and have academic records and certification based on Gulf certificates. The minimum GPA for an academic diploma is set at 3.0, excluding training diplomas.

The regulation also states that transfers from public or foreign universities are permitted according to specific conditions, with a minimum

GPA of 2.67, and 3.0 for medical and engineering specializations. Changing specialization is permitted only once, provided that the scholarship is frozen with prior approval.

The bylaw obliges the student to maintain full-time attendance and comply with regulations, with withdrawals allowed only upon approval. Penalties range from a written warning to final dismissal in cases of cheating, submitting forged documents, or disrupting the system.

It also stipulates that the student, guardian, or guarantor must repay any debts in the event of a breach of conditions. The issuance of certificates or registration in new educational institutions is prohibited until financial obligations are settled. In some cases of withdrawal or dismissal, 50 percent of fees may be refunded, while a full exemption applies in cases of death or disability.

MoSA appoints Maryam Al-Awad as interim director of Coop Union

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: In an unprecedented move that reflects the commitment of the State to empower women and strengthen their leadership role; Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Anthal Al-Huwailah issued a decision appointing Maryam Al-Awad as interim director of the Union of Cooperative Societies, succeeding Abdulaziz Al-Mutairi.

The appointment will last for one year or until a new Board of Directors is elected, whichever comes first.



Al-Awad

In a press statement, the ministry pointed out that this appointment is a historic precedent; as Al-Awad is the first woman to hold this position since the founding of the union. This is a manifestation of the ministry's belief in the importance of involving competent women in decision-making positions, especially in the cooperative sector.

The decision was widely praised by various cooperative and social circles, considering it a qualitative step toward establishing the principle of equal opportunities between genders and affirming the ability of Kuwaiti women to lead institutions efficiently and competently. They added that this appointment is a milestone in the history of cooperative work in Kuwait, and a new step towards enhancing women's participation in decision-making and achieving institutional balance.



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Listing supports preservation efforts

ALECSO declares Kuwait Towers as major Arab architectural landmark

By Shokri Bin Mansour

TUNIS, Aug 9, (KUNA): The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)'s Culture Department Director Humaid Al-Nofali confirmed Thursday that the organization's inclusion of the Kuwait Towers on the Arab Heritage List makes them an architectural landmark.

The Kuwait Towers were included on the Arab Heritage List under the category of modern architecture, and it comes as a result of their status as one of the most prominent architectural landmarks in contemporary Arab heritage.

In an interview with KUNA, Al-Nofali added that the Kuwait Towers have been qualified by their unique engineering, creativity, and aesthetic features to be included in ALECSO's Architectural and Urban Heritage in Arab Countries registry.

He emphasized that the Kuwait Towers were widely accepted by ALECSO's jury due to their reflection of a modern architectural vision that represents an important stage in the development of Arab architecture in the modern era.

Additionally, they became a distinguished model of contemporary heritage that combines identity and modernity, which gives them added cultural and touristic value within the Arab architectural landscape.

Al-Nofali emphasized the importance of the Architectural and Urban Heritage in Arab Countries register because it offers a different perspective from other registers established by international organizations such as UNESCO and ISESCO.

The register pays special at-



KUNA photo
Humaid Al-Nofali, Director of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization Culture Department

attention to the urban expansion of cities, particularly ancient cities that still retain their historical identity and traditional character, a number of these ancient cities were included in the register after meeting the required criteria and conditions.

The goal of this register, he stressed, lies primarily in preserving the architectural and urban heritage in Arab countries, especially in light of the challenges facing some countries as a result of exceptional circumstances and natural and human-made disasters that threaten this heritage.

In addition to protection, the register aims to raise awareness of the importance of this type of heritage among Arab citizens and enhance its role in achieving sustainable development by integrating it into vital sectors such as tourism, the economy, traditional crafts, and others.

KU announces course registration schedule for 2025/26 1st semester

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Dean-ship of Admission and Registration at Kuwait University has announced the schedule for course registration, as well as drop and add procedures, for the first semester of the 2025/2026 academic year.

According to acting Dean of Admission and Registration Dr. Fahad Abbas Aziz, the registration period will begin on Aug 10, 2025; and will continue until Sept 20, 2025.

The process will be divided into two phases with prior appointments and two phases without appointments, in order to accommodate the large number of continuing and expected graduating students from various colleges.

Aziz stated that more than 43,000 new and continuing students are expected to register this semester.

He affirmed the department's commitment to provide sufficient course offerings to meet the academic needs of current and incoming students.

The registration process will be conducted in stages; prioritizing students with special needs, those nearing graduation and high-achieving students, to ensure fairness and academic progress.

The Deanship urged all students to follow the announced schedule and guidelines to ensure a smooth and efficient registration process.

Continued from Page 1

Your Highness

Your Highness the Prime Minister, all other countries in the world employ the best minds of other nationalities to serve their economies and enhance their GDP.

Therefore, applying the popular proverb, “All roads lead to Rome,” has become a necessity.

What matters is the decision. This is the time to say that our country, Kuwait, has really changed.

Kuwait pricing

Regarding Filipino workers, he said, “The reopening of recruitment was temporary and limited only to those who had previously worked in Kuwait, not new workers. It has now been a year and a half since that partial reopening. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Public Authority for Manpower were expected to step in and officially open recruitment for workers who have never worked in Kuwait.”

Talking about the issue of increasing the salaries of Filipino workers, Al-Dakhnan said, “It is not currently under discussion and is being considered solely by the Philippine side. If the salary is raised, the change would apply in all countries. It is an internal Philippine matter, and we do not expect it to be implemented anytime soon.”

On the impact of Ethiopian workers on the local market, he said, “There is high demand for this nationality, with requests in the thousands. However, the African labor market is generally weaker than the East Asian market, and Kuwait continues to rely more on Asian countries, as they have proven their worth more than their African counterparts.”

Al-Dakhnan also revealed that a union delegation is scheduled to visit Indonesia in early September, noting that, “existing efforts will not succeed without direct government involvement, as the Indonesian side has requested the establishment of a direct line of cooperation between the Public Authority for Manpower and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The reception during previous visits to Indonesia was positive, and officials there expressed a clear willingness to send workers. However, they clarified that the decision to open recruitment is not solely in their hands, especially given that many of their workers are already employed in Saudi Arabia, Oman, and East Asian countries, where they are in high demand and regarded as among the best in the world.”

He emphasized that Kuwait’s labor market has shifted with the entry of Ethiopian workers, resulting in an increased supply. However, Kuwaiti citizens still primarily rely on Filipino and Sri Lankan workers, followed by workers from various African countries.

Al-Dakhnan indicated that one of the current demands from the Indonesian side is to refer to their workers as “cleaning workers” rather than “domestic workers.”

Regarding the recruitment of domestic workers from Myanmar, he stated that the union had submitted an official letter to the Myanmar Embassy and held a meeting with the ambassador, adding, “Recruitment from Myanmar cannot proceed without the intervention of the Public Authority for Manpower and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to establish a new line of cooperation with the country.”

Rents drain

of accelerating the pace of construction and easing pressure on waiting lists.

He added that rental allowances drain around KD 450 million annually from the State budget, while suggesting the construction of multi-story residential buildings as one of the solutions. He explained that the strategy aims to stop this waste and achieve faster stability for eligible citizens.

Fog, heat,

Weather charts show that the country is affected by the Indian seasonal depression and a hot mass of air, which led to high level of humidity and fog, particularly in the coastal areas, he noted.

Al-Ali advised motorists to remain cautious for poor visibility on highways and keep following the weather forecasts on social media for updates.

School prep

Sources said the cleaning works cover classrooms, laboratories, libraries and playgrounds; in addition to sterilizing the restrooms and preparing external areas to ensure that school facilities are fully ready to serve the students and faculty members.

In a step toward modernization and transparency, the ministry will also launch the online internal and external transfer process for teachers in the coming days.

Teachers will be able to view available opportunities and submit their requests electronically, based on a fair and efficient system designed to save time and lessen administrative burdens.

In a related development, the Curriculum Sector, in coordination with the Ministry of Information printing press, has started printing 16 new textbooks. These textbooks are in line with the revised national curricula, aimed at enhancing educational outputs.

The ministry is currently reviewing additional textbooks, which will be sent for printing soon. It is committed to complete printing and distribution before the school year begins, such that all books are available for students and teachers from day one.

To support the implementation of the new curricula, the General Technical Directives have launched a field training plan for primary and intermediate school teachers. The program includes workshops, model lessons, and innovative educational activities designed to help teachers understand the curriculum philosophy and implement it effectively in classrooms.

Moreover, teacher handovers for both Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti staff will commence on Aug 24; marking the formal start of the academic year preparations.

Educational districts have laid down a plan to train newly appointed teachers by organizing training courses on modern teaching methods, classroom management, and how to handle students with special needs. The courses will also cover the technical aspects of the curricula and the teacher’s charter.

According to sources, all these measures reflect the strategic approach of the ministry in improving the quality of education by integrating infrastructure readiness, curriculum devel-

opment, and capacity-building for the teaching staff.

Sources added the ministry is keen on creating a supportive and stimulating learning environment that ensures an ideal start for the academic year and lays the groundwork for long-term educational success.

Ministry of

He was an example of a dedicated actor who combined talent and commitment, leaving an unforgettable mark on Kuwaiti and Gulf art movement, added the statement.

The Ministry of Information offered its sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy to his esteemed family, relatives, and colleagues in Kuwait and the Gulf.

Kuwait labels

actions in Gaza, ensure immediate entry of humanitarian supplies, and end policies leading to starvation and further humanitarian catastrophe.

Saudi Arabia also responded with the strongest possible language, condemning the Israeli decision as a flagrant breach of international norms and an extension of “barbaric practices and ethnic cleansing” against the Palestinian people.

The Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs criticized Israel’s systematic displacement, inhumane policies, and war crimes, warning that ongoing inaction from the global community, particularly the UN Security Council, erodes international legitimacy and emboldens war criminals. The Kingdom called for urgent sanctions against Israeli authorities and a renewed commitment to the two-state solution based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital. Saudi Arabia stressed that peace cannot be reached without a just resolution for Palestine and denounced the regional and international risks associated with further escalation.

Israel said Friday it will intensify its 22-month war with Hamas by taking over Gaza City, stirring fears for Palestinian civilians and Israeli hostages still held in Gaza, and renewing international pressure for an end to the conflict.

Israel’s air and ground war has killed tens of thousands of people in Gaza, displaced most of the population, destroyed vast areas and pushed the territory toward famine. The timing of another major ground operation is unclear. It will likely require mobilizing thousands of troops and forcibly evacuating civilians, almost certainly worsening Gaza’s humanitarian crisis.

An official familiar with the plans to take over Gaza City said the operation would be “gradual” and that there is no start date. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

The U.N. Security Council announced an emergency meeting on Israel’s plans was rescheduled to 10 a.m. EDT on Sunday after originally being scheduled to take place at 3 p.m. EDT on Saturday.

The U.N. Mission of Panama, which holds the council presidency this month, provided no details, but Saturday is the Jewish Sabbath and Israel is certain to want to speak at the meeting.

Mediators from Egypt and Qatar are preparing a new framework that will include the release of all hostages - dead and alive - in one go, in return for an end of the war in Gaza and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the strip, two Arab officials told The Associated Press.

Breaking barriers in law and real estate

A legal powerhouse redefining success in Kuwait and Mideast

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: In a world where competition grows fiercer by the day, few professionals manage to truly stand out. Dalal Al-Mulla is one of them – a dynamic force in law, real estate brokerage, and corporate formation, trusted by clients across Kuwait and beyond.

A journey built on determination

Dalal’s path was never paved with shortcuts. From the earliest days of her career, she faced complex cases and high-stakes legal battles, turning each challenge into a stepping stone toward mastery. Her rise is a testament to the belief that true success is built on persistence, precision, and deep expertise.

Merging law and real estate

As both a seasoned lawyer and a certified real estate broker, Dalal brings a rare combination of legal expertise and market insight. She has successfully expanded her work from courtrooms to high-value property transactions, delivering innovative solutions that protect her clients’ rights while maximizing their returns. This dual skill set makes her a trusted name for clients navigating complex legal and real es-



Dalal Al-Mulla

tate matters.

From Kuwait to the regional stage

One of the defining milestones in her career was being appointed Le-

gal Advisor for Huawei Technologies in the Middle East and Al-Futtaim Group. In these roles, Dalal provided strategic legal counsel in competitive, high-profile business environments, solidifying her position as a trusted advisor to leading global companies.

A strategic partner for entrepreneurs

With extensive experience in establishing and structuring companies, Dalal has become the go-to partner for entrepreneurs and investors, offering comprehensive legal, commercial, and real estate solutions that set businesses up for long-term success.

An advocate for empowerment

For Dalal, achievement is not just about personal milestones – it’s about creating opportunities for others. She is committed to paving the way for the next generation of leaders, using her expertise to inspire and empower.

Dalal Al-Mulla is more than a lawyer, advisor, and real estate broker – she is living proof that determination, knowledge, and vision can create a lasting legacy.

KFAS concludes INSPIRE 2025 Satellite Internship with University of Colorado

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) has concluded the second edition of the International Satellite Summer Internship Program for Education and Research (INSPIRE) 2025, in collaboration with the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) at the University of Colorado Boulder—one of the premier research institutions in space exploration and atmospheric science throughout the world.

In a press statement, KFAS disclosed that the program was conducted from May 27 to Aug 1, 2025; with the participation of five outstanding Kuwaiti undergraduate and graduate students. These students engaged in an intensive, hands-on learning experience that covered all phases of CubeSat missions --from concept development and design to system integration, testing and environmental assessment.

INSPIRE 2025 offered participants direct access to cutting-edge space technologies and practical training in various areas; such as spacecraft payload integration, electrostatic discharge (ESD) safety protocols and cleanroom procedures. The curriculum included core principles of spacecraft design and systems engineering, delivered under the guidance of top scientists and engineers at the Space Science and Technology Laboratory.

The program was designed to mirror global best practices, providing students with an immersive environment that closely reflects real-world space mission development.



Outstanding Kuwaiti students from INSPIRE 2025 proudly pose after completing their space internship.

KFAS affirmed that the INSPIRE program is part of its initiative to develop a highly skilled national workforce in the fields of Space Science and Engineering. The initiative also



KFAS photos
Hands-on training equips students with cutting-edge satellite skills.

aims to foster long-term collaborations with leading global research institutions.

It also confirmed its ongoing partnership with the University of Colorado —an institution with more than 70 years of experience in Space Science, indicating that previous scientific visits by members of Kuwait’s first satellite team were facilitated under this cooperation.

By supporting specialized training programs abroad, KFAS intends to position Kuwait among the leading nations in Space Science and Technology globally.

The initiative is in line with its vision to advance the knowledge economy and create a scientific environment that empowers Kuwaiti youths to engage in Science, technology and innovation; particularly in future-focused sectors like space.

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- Membership from Kuwait Society of Engineers
Experience: At least 12-15 years experience in site supervision for affordable major Public Buildings/ approval from Public Authority for Housing Projects in Kuwait.
- Safety Engineers**
- Education: Bachelor of Engineering (Civil)
- Membership from Kuwait Society of Engineers
Experience: At least 10-15 years experience in site supervision for affordable major Public Buildings/ approval from Public Authority for Housing Projects in Kuwait.
- Planning Engineers**
- Education : Bachelor of Engineering (Civil/Architect)
- Membership from Kuwait Society of Engineers
Experience: At least 10-15 years experience in site supervision for affordable major Public Buildings/ approval from Public Authority for Housing Projects in Kuwait.
- Land Surveyors**
- Education : Diploma (Civil/Land Surveying)
Experience: At least 10-15 years experience in site survey in supervision for affordable major Public Buildings/ approval from Public Authority for Housing Projects in Kuwait.
- Site Civil Inspectors**
- Education : Diploma in Civil Engineering
Experience: At least 10-15 years experience in site supervision for affordable housing projects, public buildings, Roads and Infrastructure projects.
- Site Mechanical Inspectors (PL/FF & HVAC)**
- Education : Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
Experience: At least 10-15 years experience in site supervision for affordable Housing projects, Public Buildings Projects.
- Site Safety Inspectors**
- Education : Diploma in Civil/Safety Engineering
Experience: At least 10-15 years experience in site supervision for affordable housing projects, public buildings, Roads and Infrastructure projects.
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Experience: At least 10-15 years experience in site supervision for affordable housing projects, public buildings, Roads & Infrastructure projects.

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Women’s Housing Affairs postpones appointments


By Mohammad Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Women’s Housing Affairs Committee, headed by Sheikha Bibi Al-Yousef, announced the postponement of appointments for female citizens wishing to meet with the committee’s team for a period of two weeks – Aug 10-22.

She explained that the purpose of the postponement is to study, follow up and scrutinize the submitted applications in order to provide the best solutions and to achieve the desired goals. She affirmed that the committee will resume receiving female citizens starting Aug 24 – Sundays and Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.– the Public Authority for Housing Welfare building.

Automated travel ban lift halted

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Ministry of Justice temporarily suspended the automated travel ban lifting operations on Friday to carry out a system backup, reports Al-Jarida daily.



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

Kuwaiti and Saudi Merchants, registered with either Company wishing to participate in any of the under-mentioned Tenders are invited to collect the Tender documents from Purchasing Section, Purchasing & Logistic Division, Administration Building, Ground Floor, Joint Operations, Wafra, during the official working hours from **10 AUG 2025** up to **2 SEP 2025** for a non-refundable fee mentioned against each tender. Tender Fees to be deposited in the National bank of Kuwait (NBK) Account No. 1001132057. Saudi Suppliers can collect the tender documents from Saudi Arabian Chevron office in Al-Khobar Telephone No.: (013) 8645104 - Fax No.: (013) 8985436

The closing date for the following Tender will be on **Tuesday, 9 SEP 2025 @ 09:00 AM.**

S.NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS	FEES (IN KD)
1	039385	GATE & BALL VALVES	15
2	039386	RODS (PONY - SUCKER - POLISH)	25
3	039387	BULL DOG BAILER OR EQUIVALENT	5
4	039388	TOOLS (HARBISON-FISCHER - BROWNING OIL TOOLS - LUFKIN QUINN PUMPS)	5
5	039931	FLARE SYSTEM SPOOL, ZEECO	25
6	039933	S/F DELTA V EMERSON SYSTEM	25
7	039934	ELECTRICAL CABLES	35
8	040083	S/F SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC	5
9	040084	METAL PLATES	15
10	040085	ELECTRICAL CABLES	25

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

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

INTERNATIONAL



Accompanied by California and Texas lawmakers, California Gov. Gavin Newsom discusses the push to schedule a special election to redraw California's Congressional voting districts, during a news conference in Sacramento, Calif on Aug. 8. (AP)

GOP warns of more escalations over walkout

Newsom and Pelosi back Texas Dems

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Aug. 9, (AP): California Gov. Gavin Newsom and former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi appeared shoulder-to-shoulder Friday with Texas Democratic lawmakers in a show of support for their nearly week-long walkout, which has blocked a vote on congressional redistricting maps sought by President Donald Trump in a widening national battle over US House control.

Texas has been the epicenter of Trump's push to gerrymander congressional maps to shore up Republicans' narrow House majority before next year. But the standoff is threatening to spill into other states - including California, New York, Florida and Indiana - in an emerging proxy war for control of Congress in 2026.

California is moving toward a special election in November that Democrats hope could slash five Republican-held House seats in the liberal-leaning state, in direct response to the maneuvering in Texas.

"We are trying to defend democracy,

as opposed to see it destroyed district by district," Newsom said amid the crowd of lawmakers at the governor's mansion. "There are no rules for Donald Trump."

Pelosi defended the Texas walkout, calling it "self-defense for our democracy."

She said Democrats will not let Trump "pave over" free and fair elections in the country.

The appearance of nationally prominent Democrats Newsom - a potential 2028 presidential candidate - and Pelosi underscored the increasingly high stakes for a deeply divided Washington.

Earlier Friday the Texas House failed to meet a quorum for the third time this week as Democratic lawmakers continued to stay away from Austin.

Texas Republicans had warned they would escalate efforts to end the walkout if defiant Democrats do not return to the Capitol. But the lawmakers who bolted for points across the country Aug. 3 still were not back for Friday's scheduled House floor vote.

Frustrated Republican leaders continued to ratchet up the pressure, including new and expanding efforts to try to remove Democratic lawmakers from office and seeking help from the FBI to assist state troopers trying to find them.

"We have all hands on deck, we are continuing to explore" options to force Democrats home, Speaker Dustin Burrows said after the chamber failed to reach a quorum. "We will keep pressing forward until the job is done. ... Each one of you knows eventually you will come back."

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued former U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke, who ran unsuccessfully for governor and Senate, in state district court, alleging that his political group, Powered by People, improperly gave money to cover costs for the absent Democrats and continued to raise more for them. In an initial win for Republicans, Paxton said Friday that he had been granted a temporary restraining order halting the spending and fundraising while the case continues.

President Trump in six months did a miracle: Aliyev

Leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan shake hands and sign deal at WH peace summit

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9, (AP): The leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan shook hands Friday at a White House peace summit before signing an agreement aimed at ending decades of conflict.

President Donald Trump was in the middle as Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan flanked him on either side. As the two extended their arms in front of Trump to shake hands, the US leader reached up and clasped his hands around theirs.

The two countries in the South Caucasus signed agreements with each other and the U.S. that will reopen key transportation routes while allowing the US to seize on Russia's declining influence in the region. The deal includes an agreement that will create a major transit corridor to be named the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity, the White House said.

Trump said at the White House on Friday that naming the route after him was "a great honor for me" but "I didn't ask for this." A senior administration official, on a call before the event with reporters, said it was the Armenians who suggested the name.

Trump has sought to be known as a peacemaker and made no secret of the fact that he covets a Nobel Peace Prize. Friday's signing adds to a series of peace and economic agreements brokered by the US this year.

Both leaders said the breakthrough was made possible by Trump and his team.

"We are laying a foundation to write a better story than the one we had in the past," Pashinyan said, calling the agreement a "significant milestone."

"President Trump in six months did a miracle," Aliyev said.

Trump remarked on how long the conflict went on between the two countries. "Thirty-five years they fought, and now they're friends and they're going to be friends a long time," he said.

That route will connect Azerbaijan and its autonomous Nakhchivan exclave, which are separated by a 32-kilometer-wide (20-mile-wide) patch of Armenian territory. The demand from Azerbaijan had held up peace talks in the past.

For Azerbaijan, a major producer of oil and gas, the route also provides a more direct link to Turkey and onward to Europe.

Trump indicated he'd like to visit the route, saying, "We're going to have to get over there."

Asked how he feels about lasting peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Trump said "very confident."

Aliyev and Pashinyan on Friday joined a growing list of foreign leaders and other officials who have said Trump should receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in helping ease long-running conflicts across the globe.



US President Donald Trump, (center), shakes hands with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, (right), and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev during a trilateral signing ceremony in the State Dining Room of the White House on Aug. 8, in Washington. (AP)

The peace deal between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda helped end the decadeslong conflict in eastern Congo, and the U.S. mediated a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, while Trump intervened in clashes between Cambodia and Thailand by threatening to withhold trade agreements with both countries if their fighting continued. Yet peace deals in Gaza and Ukraine have been elusive.

brokered deal would allow the US. to deepen its reach in the region as Moscow retreats, senior U.S. administration officials said.

The Trump administration began engaging with Armenia and Azerbaijan in earnest earlier this year, when Trump's key diplomatic envoy, Steve Witkoff, met with Aliyev in Baku and started to discuss what a senior administration official called a "regional reset."

Negotiations over who will develop the Trump Route - which will eventually include a rail line, oil and gas pipelines, and fiber optic lines - will likely begin next week, and at least nine developers have expressed interest already, according to the senior administration official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

Separate from the joint agreement, both Armenia and Azerbaijan signed deals with the United States meant to bolster cooperation in energy, technology and the economy, the White House said.

Trump previewed much of Friday's plan in a social media post Thursday evening, in which he said the agreements would "fully unlock the potential" of the South Caucasus region.

"Many Leaders have tried to end the War, with no success, until now, thanks to 'TRUMP,'" Trump said on his Truth Social site.

The two nations were locked in conflict for nearly four decades as they

fought for control of the Karabakh region, known internationally as Nagorno-Karabakh.

The area was largely populated by Armenians during the Soviet era but is located within Azerbaijan. The two nations battled for control of the region through multiple violent clashes that left tens of thousands of people dead over the decades, all while international mediation efforts failed.

Most recently, Azerbaijan reclaimed all of Karabakh in 2023 and had been in talks with Armenia to normalize ties. Azerbaijan's insistence on a land bridge to Nakhchivan had been a major sticking point, because while Azerbaijan did not trust Armenia to control the so-called Zangezur corridor, Armenia resisted control by a third party because it viewed it as a breach of sovereignty.

But the prospect of closer ties with the United States, as well as being able to move in and out of the landlocked nation more freely without having to access Georgia or Iran, helped entice Armenia on the broader agreement, according to US officials.

Meanwhile, Russia stood back when Azerbaijan reclaimed control of Karabakh in the September 2023 offensive, angering Armenia, which has moved to shed Russian influence and turn westward. Azerbaijan, emboldened by its victory in Karabakh, also has become increasingly defiant in its relations with Moscow.

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy dismisses planned summit between Trump, Putin

KYIV, Ukraine, Aug. 9, (AP): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy dismissed Saturday the planned summit between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, warning that any peace deal excluding Kyiv would lead to "dead solutions."

The Trump-Putin meeting, scheduled for Friday in Alaska, is seen as a potential breakthrough.

Trump had previously agreed to meet with Putin even if the Russian leader would not meet with Zelenskyy, stoking fears Ukraine could be sidelined in efforts to stop the continent's biggest conflict since World War II.

In a statement posted to Telegram, Zelenskyy said Ukraine's territorial integrity, enshrined in the constitution, must be non-negotiable and emphasized that lasting peace must include Ukraine's voice at the table.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine "will not give Russia any awards for what it has done" and that "Ukrainians will not give their land to the occupier."

Touching on Ukrainian anxieties that a direct meeting between Putin and Trump could marginalize Kyiv and European interests, Zelenskyy said: "Any decisions that are without Ukraine are at the same time decisions against peace. They will not bring anything. These are dead decisions. They will never work."



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy leave 10 Downing Street after a meeting in London on June 23. (AP)

Ukrainian officials had previously told the Associated Press privately that Kyiv would be amenable to a peace deal that would de facto recognize Ukraine's inability to regain lost territories militarily.

Trump said he will meet with Putin to discuss ending the war in Ukraine.

"It seems entirely logical for our delegation to fly across the Bering Strait simply, and for such an important and anticipated summit of the leaders of the two countries to be held

in Alaska," Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov, said Saturday in a statement posted to the Kremlin's news channel.

Such a summit may prove pivotal in a war that began more than three years ago when Russia invaded its western neighbor and has led to tens of thousands of deaths, although there's no guarantee it will stop the fighting since Moscow and Kyiv remain far apart on their conditions for peace.

America

Two dead in US campus shooting: The Georgia Bureau of Investigation has identified the man who opened fire at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as 30-year-old Patrick Joseph White of Kennesaw, Georgia.

The GBI statement says White died and Officer David Rose with the DeKalb County Police Department was shot and killed during the shooting Friday.

The shooter opened fire outside the CDC headquarters, striking windows across the sprawling campus and killing the officer before he was found dead in a nearby building, authorities said. The attack prompted a massive law enforcement response to one of the nation's most prominent public health institutions, but no one else was reported to be injured.

At least four CDC buildings were hit, Director Susan Monarez said in a post on X. Images shared by employees showed multiple agency buildings with bullet-pocked windows, underscoring the breadth of the damage to a site where thousands of scientists and staff work on critical disease research.

The gunman was found on the second floor of a building across the street from the CDC campus and died at the scene, Atlanta Police Chief Darin Schierbaum said. (AP)

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3 injured in Times Square shooting: Three people were wounded during a shooting at New York City's iconic Times Square, the New York Police Department said Saturday.



Monarez

One person was held in custody and being questioned over the shooting, the police said. No charges have been pressed yet. Video on social media showed people running away from the scene, police surrounding a vehicle and attending to the wounded lying on the ground. Several have been hospitalized, but their injuries are not life-threatening, the police said.

The shooting took place at 1:20 am. No details have been released so far on how it unfolded.

New York City has seen a remarkable drop in gun violence this year. Through Aug. 3, it has seen its fewest shootings in decades, down 23% so far since last year. (AP)

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Montana shooting suspect captured: A man suspected in a shooting at a Montana bar that left four people dead was captured Friday just a few miles from where the shooting happened after hundreds of law enforcement officers spent the past week scouring nearby mountainsides, authorities said.

Michael Paul Brown, 45, was taken into custody around 2 p.m. near the area where authorities had focused their search in the days following the Aug. 1 shooting at The Owl Bar in Anaconda, about 100 miles (190 kilometers) from Missoula.

Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen said during a news conference that about 130 law enforcement officers made a hard push Thursday after getting tips that helped verify they were looking in the right area.

"It's not someplace he'd been hiding. He was flushed out," Knudsen said.

Gov. Greg Gianforte first confirmed Brown's capture on social media Friday afternoon, saying it was the result of what he called a "Herculean effort" from law enforcement officers across the state.

The community finally would be able to sleep tonight, Anaconda-Deer Valley County Attorney Morgan Smith said, adding that the case is just the beginning for prosecutors who will be seeking to charge Brown with the killings. (AP)

Portugal President Rebelo vetoes law to tighten immigration rules

LISBON, Aug. 9, (Xinhua): Portugal's President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa vetoed the amended Foreigners Law on Friday, returning it to parliament shortly after the Constitutional Court struck down several of its provisions as unconstitutional, the presidential website announced.

According to Diario de Noticias, the court ruled that measures restricting access to family reunification and limiting appeals to the Administrative Court against decisions of the Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum violated constitutional protections.

One provision, by excluding a spouse or equivalent partner, could lead to the separation of the nuclear family of a foreign national holding a valid residence permit, the court found.

It also deemed unconstitutional the compulsory two-year waiting period before a resident could request family reunification for all adult family members living abroad. In addition, the court struck down the proposed extension of the maximum review period for family reunification requests from 90 days to nine months, saying it breached the state's duty to protect



Portugal's President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.

the family.

The legislative process and amendments have been highly controversial. President Rebelo de Sousa repeatedly voiced concerns during the drafting stage, criticizing the process as rushed, and referred the bill to the Constitutional Court for preventive

review.

The Foreigners Law, covering immigration, visas, residence permits, and family reunification, has undergone multiple revisions in recent years. On June 23, the Portuguese government approved legislative proposals to amend the law, and on July 16, parliament passed the amended law seeking tightened immigration controls.

Prime Minister Luis Montenegro said Thursday that the government would respect the court's decision and seek legal adjustments that upheld constitutional principles while pursuing its policy goals. Minister of the Presidency Antonio Leitao Amaral stressed the government would not abandon the amendments and would rework the plan for future implementation.

Portugal has moved in recent years to tighten immigration controls after experiencing a rapid rise in migrant arrivals. In 2024, it abolished the "expression of interest" residency regime, which had allowed non-EU migrants to enter on a tourist or other non-work visa and later apply for a residence permit.

Europe

Belarus journalist jailed for 10 years: A Belarusian journalist was convicted of treason and revealing state secrets and was sentenced to 10 years in prison after a closed trial, a media group said Friday, the eve of the fifth anniversary of a disputed election that kept authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko in power and unleashed mass protests.

Danil Palianski, who worked for several independent news agencies, was sentenced on July 25, but the trial's outcome was only revealed Friday by the Belarusian Association of Journalists. In addition to the prison sentence, Palianski was fined the equivalent of about \$7,000.

"Belarus has already become the black hole of Europe, where people are judged for words and thoughts," said BAJ leader Andrei Bastunets.

Palianski, who was detained in September, is one of 37 journalists behind bars in Belarus.

His jailing is part of a sustained crackdown on government critics after unprecedented mass protests following Lukashenko's disputed election on Aug. 9, 2020. Human rights groups say authorities have arrested more than 65,000 people, and hundreds of thousands more have fled the country in fear of persecution.

There are about 1,187 political prisoners in Belarus, in-



Palianski

cluding Nobel Peace Prize laureate and peace activist Ales Bialiatski, according to the human rights group Viasna, which he founded. (AP)

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Crew battle to prevent reignition of wildfire: About 1,400 firefighters were deployed on Saturday in France's southern Aude region to prevent the country's largest wildfire in decades from reigniting, as all residents were allowed to return to their homes.

Aude prefect Christian Pouget said the fire has been contained since Thursday after burning this week more than 160 square kilometers (62 square miles) in the wooded region, known for its wineries. All roads have been reopened but authorities issued a strict ban on accessing the forest, Pouget said at a news conference on Saturday.

"The fight is continuing, firefighters are still working on (fire) re-ignition," he said.

The blaze left one person dead and 25 people have been injured, including 19 firefighters, Pouget said.

High temperatures in the coming days are expected to complicate firefighters' efforts.

"The fire won't be extinguished for several weeks," Col. Christophe Magny, director of Aude firefighters department, said, pointing to several "hot spots" that are being closely monitored.

France's national weather agency Météo France placed the southern half of France under "high vigilance" alert for heat wave, with temperatures expected in the Aude region of up to 39 degrees Celsius (102 degrees Fahrenheit) on Saturday. Southern Europe has seen multiple large fires this summer. Scientists warn that climate change is exacerbating the frequency and intensity of heat and dryness, making the region more vulnerable to wildfires. (AP)

Asia

Heavy rain slams southern Japan: Torrential rain pounded the southern Japanese island of Kyushu on Friday, triggering floods and landslides and sending residents to shelters as officials issued highest-level warnings in parts of the region.

A mudslide hit a house in Aira city in Kagoshima prefecture, burying two people who were rescued alive and taken to hospital, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency.



Ishiba
in Kyushu because of a low-pressure system. (AP)

The agency issued evacuation advisories to more than 360,000 people in Kagoshima prefecture and neighboring Miyazaki.

Television footage showed muddy water gushing down swollen rivers. In Kirishima city, floodwater was up to knee level at a shopping mall.

The heavy rain paralyzed local transportation, halting trains and buses. Dozens of flights in and out of Kagoshima have been canceled.

Prime Minister **Shigeru Ishiba**'s government set up a task force for emergency response and support. "The government will do everything to protect your life and safety," he said. The Japan Meteorological Agency predicted heavy rainfall and thunderstorms through Friday

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10 injured after train derails in Thailand: At least 10 passengers were injured after a train bound for Bangkok derailed early Saturday in Thailand, local media reported.

Three carriages of the Bangkok-bound train derailed in Kui Buri, Prachuap Khiri Khan province, in the early morning, according to the State Railway of Thailand. Thai News Agency reported that 10 passengers suffered minor injuries and were sent to hospital. (Xinhua)

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Teenager arrested in Sydney stabbing: A man has been hospitalized in a critical condition and a teenager has been arrested following the stabbing attack at a public park in Sydney.

Emergency services were called to reports of an assault at the park in the inner-western Sydney suburb of Annandale at about 10:45 p.m. on Thursday.

Police officers arrived and found six men with a range of injuries, who said they had been assaulted by a group of four unknown males following an argument. (Xinhua)

New Zealand, Australia seek closer military cooperation

MELBOURNE, Australia, Aug 9, (AP): The leaders of New Zealand and Australia on Saturday discussed closer cooperation between their expanding militaries against the backdrop of a recent extraordinary Chinese live-fire exercise near their shores.

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon hosted his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese at the tourist city of Queenstown for their second annual bilateral leaders' meeting.

Luxon said his country wanted closer military cooperation with Australia, a country he describes as New Zealand's "only ally."

"A big focus for us has been interoperability with Australia. We want to be a force multiplier," Luxon told reporters.

"We want to be one, sort of, essential Anzac force essentially operating within our region," he added, referring to the Australian New Zealand Army Corps in which the two nations' soldiers first fought together during World War I.

The summit follows a Chinese naval flotilla firing weapons in February in the Tasman Sea, which separates Australia and New Zealand. The exercise forced commercial airlines to divert flights.

The Chinese navy rarely ventures so far south and the mission that partially circumnavigated Australia was seen as a demonstration of China's growing



New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, (right), and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese hold a joint press conference in Queenstown, New Zealand on Aug 9. (AP)

military reach.

Albanese said last month that he complained to China's President Xi Jinping during a state visit to Beijing about the lack of notice the Chinese had given of the live-fire exercise. Xi replied that Australia also engaged in exercises, referring to freedom of navigation missions conducted by Australian military in the disputed South China Sea.

Albanese and Luxon recognized

their countries face the most unpredictable and dangerous strategic environment in decades and their alliance plays a critical role in protecting and advancing their shared interest in the region, they said in a joint statement.

The prime ministers also commended progress over the past year to intensify defense cooperation and integration.

While the statement did not mention

China, the prime ministers confirmed their most important trading partner was discussed.

"Of course, the geostrategic competition, in particular between the great powers, is something that countries like Australia and New Zealand do discuss together and we cooperate politically," Albanese said.

Luxon said "both countries have followed pretty much the same playbook" in their bilateral dealings with China.

"China's an important world power. It's important that we can engage," Luxon said.

"We genuinely are able to have a conversation - I think a very mature one now - to say, look, we do have very different histories, we do have different systems, we do have different values, that does mean we do have differences. Good partners should be not afraid to talk about those things," Luxon added.

Luxon announced in April a plan to make the New Zealand Defense Force more combat capable that would double defense spending to more than 2% of GDP. He described the rise from around 1% over the past two decades as "a big step up for us."

In a demonstration of Tokyo seeking deeper strategic ties in the South Pacific, Japanese warships docked in New Zealand on Friday for the first time in almost 90 years.



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, rescuers arrive at the site of mountain torrents and lead rescue vehicles to conduct rescue mission following a heavy downpour, in Yuzhong County of northwest China's Gansu Province on Aug 8. (AP)

Flash floods kill 13, leave 30 missing in northwestern China

The mountain torrents in Yuzhong County, northwest China's Gansu Province, left 13 dead and 30 missing as of noon Saturday, the provincial emergency authorities said.

Torrential rain began pounding Yuzhong, which is under the jurisdiction of the provincial capital city of Lanzhou, and other areas of Lanzhou on Thursday evening, with

the maximum precipitation reaching 220.2 mm by noon Friday. Several townships in Yuzhong have been seriously affected.

At about 2 pm Friday, Xinhua reporters saw floodwater mixed with uprooted trees blocking the roads near Xinglong Primary School in Chengguan Township, with mud deposits more than 30 cm deep in some sections.

Along the roadside, many vehicles lay damaged, while furniture from the ground floors of some houses had been swept to their doorsteps.

More than 2,700 rescue personnel have been dispatched by provincial authorities, along with 980 vehicles and pieces of machinery, and 8,530 sets of emergency supplies. (Xinhua)

North Korea removing speakers from tense border: South Korea's military

SEOUL, South Korea, Aug 9, (AP): South Korea's military said Saturday it detected North Korea removing some of its loudspeakers from the inter-Korean border, days after the South dismantled its own front-line speakers used for anti-North Korean propaganda broadcasts, in a bid to ease tensions.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff didn't disclose the sites where the North Koreans were removing speakers and said it wasn't immediately clear whether the North would take all of them down.

In recent months, South Korean border residents have complained that North Korean speakers blasted irritating sounds, including howling animals and pounding gongs, in a tit-for-tat response to South Korean propaganda broadcasts.

The South Korean military said the North stopped its broadcasts in June after Seoul's new liberal president, Lee Jae Myung, halted the South's broadcasts in his government's first concrete step toward easing tensions between the war-divided rivals. South Korea's military began removing its speakers from border areas on Monday but didn't specify how they would be stored or whether they could be quickly redeployed if tensions flared again.

North Korea, which is extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of its



A North Korean military guard post, left, and loudspeaker are seen from Paju, South Korea, near the border with North Korea on Aug 9. (AP)

authoritarian leadership and its third-generation ruler, Kim Jong Un, didn't immediately confirm it was taking down its speakers.

South Korea's previous conservative government resumed daily loud-speaker broadcasts in June last year, following a yearslong pause, in retaliation for North Korea flying trash-laden balloons toward the South.

The speakers blasted propaganda messages and K-pop songs, a playlist designed to strike a nerve in Pyongyang,

where Kim has been pushing an intense campaign to eliminate the influence of South Korean pop culture and language among the population in a bid to strengthen his family's dynastic rule.

The Cold War-style psychological warfare campaigns further heightened tensions already inflamed by North Korea's advancing nuclear program and South Korean efforts to expand joint military exercises with the United States and their trilateral security cooperation with Japan.

New leadership appointed in Haiti as gangs threaten to overthrow govt

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Aug 9, (AP): A wealthy businessman became the head of Haiti's transitional presidential council tasked with restoring order in the troubled country as a top gang leader underscored the challenges facing the nation by vowing to overthrow the government.

Laurent Saint-Cyr's appointment at the council's heavily guarded office in the capital, Port-au-Prince, where criminal gangs control 90% of the neighborhoods, marked the first time that members of Haiti's private sector serve in both the rotating presidency and the post of prime minister, two positions that share the country's executive duties.

Saint-Cyr had his start at a local insurance company while Haiti's current prime minister once ran an internet firm.

"Our country is going through one of the greatest crises in all its history," Saint-Cyr said as he was sworn in. "It's not the time for beautiful speeches. It's time to act."

Hours earlier, a powerful gang federation that has long denounced Haiti's oligarchs threatened to overthrow the government, and gunfire erupted in parts of the capital.

In a video posted on social media, Viv Ansanm gang leader Jimmy Chéri-



Laurent Saint-Cyr speaks after the transitional council named him president of the council in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Aug 7. (AP)

zier - better known as "Barbecue" - warns residents to give his armed group free passage through neighborhoods to reach the council's office.

"People of Haiti, take care of yourselves and help us ... in the battle to free the country," Chérizier says, wearing a bulletproof vest and with an automatic rifle slung around his shoulder.

A UN-backed mission led by Ke-

nyan police said in a statement that officers thwarted potential attacks by around-the-clock patrols and by boosting the number of armed forces in certain neighborhoods and around critical infrastructure.

"Armed gangs had plotted to disrupt national stability and render the country ungovernable," it said.

Saint-Cyr thanked all national and international actors who have helped Haiti, as well as the private sector, which he called the engine of the country's economy. He noted that while he's from the private sector, he would serve all people equally.

Saint-Cyr previously served as president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Haiti and of the country's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He'll be working with Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aimé, a one-time president of an internet company in Haiti and also a former president of the country's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Saint-Cyr said security was a priority. He called on the armed forces to intensify their operations and on international partners to send more soldiers, offer more training and help boost a mission lacking resources and personnel.



People gather at the scene of a bus accident that overturned, killing several people, in Kisumu, Kenya on Aug 8. (AP)

Kenya bus accident kills 25, injures several others

A bus carrying mourners back home from a funeral in southwestern Kenya overturned and plunged into a ditch on Friday evening, killing at least 25 people and injuring several others, authorities said. The bus was traveling from the western town of Kakamega to the city of Kisumu, where the accident happened.

The driver lost control of the bus as it approached a roundabout at high speed and plunged into a ditch, according to Peter Maina, a regional

traffic enforcement officer for the province of Nyanza, where Kisumu is located. A 10-year-old girl was among the crash victims, he said.

Twenty-nine people were initially reported injured in the crash, and four of them died later in the hospital, said Fredrick Ouma Oluga, the principal secretary in charge of medical services in Kenya.

The crash shocked many in the region, sparking renewed calls for tougher road safety measures.

Road accidents are common in Kenya and the wider East African region, where roads are often narrow and in poor condition with many potholes. Police often blame road accidents on speeding drivers.

In another accident on Thursday, nine people were killed in a bus crash in the town of Naivasha in the county of Nakuru. The victims were among 32 workers going to work when the bus crashed at a railway crossing, police said. (AP)

Trump doubles reward to \$50M for arrest of Venezuela prez to face US drug charges

MIAMI, Aug 9, (AP): The Trump administration is doubling to \$50 million a reward for the arrest of Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro, accusing him of being one of the world's largest narco-traffickers and working with cartels to flood the US with fentanyl-laced cocaine.

"Under President Trump's leadership, Maduro will not escape justice and he will be held accountable for his despicable crimes," Attorney General Pam Bondi said Thursday in a video announcing the reward.

Maduro was indicted in Manhattan federal court in 2020, during the first Trump presidency, along with several close allies on federal charges of narco-terrorism and conspiracy to import cocaine. At the time, the US offered a \$15 million reward for his arrest.

That was later raised by the Biden administration to \$25 million - the same amount the U.S. offered for the capture of Osama bin Laden following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Despite the big bounty, Maduro remains entrenched after defying the U.S., the European Union and several Latin American governments who condemned his 2024 reelection as a sham and recognized his opponent as Venezuela's duly elected president.

Last month, the Trump administration struck a deal to secure the release of 10 Americans jailed in the capital,



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro addresses supporters during an event marking the anniversary of his disputed re-election and the birthday of late President

Caracas, in exchange for Venezuela getting home scores of migrants deported by the United States to El Salvador under the Trump administration's immigration crackdown. Shortly after, the White House reversed course and allowed U.S. oil producer Chevron to resume drilling in Venezuela after it was previously blocked by US sanctions.

2 Indian soldiers, suspected militant killed

Heavy rains lash Indian capital Delhi

NEW DELHI, Aug 9, (Agencies): Heavy rains on Saturday lashed the Indian capital territory Delhi and its outskirts, leaving many roads and areas waterlogged, besides affecting vehicular traffic, officials said.

The downpour also impacted flight operations, with reports saying over 180 flights were delayed and four were cancelled. With several underpasses and arterial roads inundated, the commuters faced long delays.

According to the plane tracking site Flightradar, at least 182 flight departures have been delayed at the Delhi Airport. At least 30 flights arriving in Delhi have also been delayed.

Also:

SRINAGAR, India: Two Indian soldiers and a suspected militant have been killed in one of longest gunfights



Indian paramilitary soldiers stand guard outside a market in Srinagar, Indian-controlled Kashmir on Aug 7. (AP)

in Indian-controlled Kashmir, officials said Saturday.

The fighting began on Aug. 1 after Indian troops laid a cordon in southern

Kulgam district's Akhal forested area following a tip that a group of insurgents was operating there, officials said.

Kuwaiti oil falls to \$69.81 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil dropped 81 cents to USD 69.81 per barrel (pb) on Friday, compared to USD 70.62 pb on Thursday, reported Kuwait

Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Saturday. In global markets, Brent futures went up 16 cents to USD 66.59 pb, while West Texas Intermediate stood at USD 63.88 pb.

Business

Middle East political crises impact oil shipping routes and revenues

Kuwait Petroleum profits decline due to lower oil prices and OPEC cuts

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Economic analyst and expert Sultan Al-Jazzaf has attributed the decline in the profits of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) over the past three years to the oil price drop and voluntary production cuts by OPEC countries, including Kuwait, which began in 2023. Al-Jazzaf told the newspaper that the profits of KPC went down to KD1.365 billion in fiscal 2024/2025, compared to KD1.46 billion in fiscal 2023/2024 -- a decrease of KD94.77 million; while its profits in 2022/2023 reached KD2.6 billion. He said the average price of a barrel of oil reached \$103 in 2022, gradually declining in recent years to range between \$65 and \$74, apart from the exceptional increases. Regarding quotas, he explained that production share of

Kuwait at the beginning of the cut was 2.8 million barrels per day in 2023, declining to 2.448 million at present, which affected the profits of State-owned oil companies and negatively impacted the profits of KPC since 2022. He also cited the major political crises in the Middle East, particularly the Gaza war, which led to the disruption of oil tanker operations through Bab Al-Mandab and the Suez Canal. He stated that the recent decision of OPEC Plus countries to increase production by 457,000 barrels per day for the eight member states, including Kuwait, starting in September, will have positive repercussions for Kuwaiti oil companies -- both financially and operationally. He pointed out this will allow Kuwait to raise its quota to 2.548 million barrels per day, resulting in additional revenue flows for subsidiaries and improved financial solvency. He stated that previous production cuts, which began years ago to support prices, were the result of de-

clining financial revenues for companies. He believes this production increase could offset some of the previous losses and enhance the companies' financial liquidity; enabling them to finance development projects, improve infrastructure, and cover some previous financial obligations. On operational repercussions, he clarified that increased production necessitates having more fields, and increasing the efficiency of operations in production and export facilities. He emphasized the importance of KPC's subsidiaries continuing to enhance operational efficiency by investing additional revenues in modernizing infrastructure and production technologies to reduce costs and increase competitiveness, as well as developing strategies to hedge against falling oil prices through global partnerships; thus, giving them a strategic dimension and benefiting from the expertise of their clients. He added that OPEC Plus countries, which hold half of global

production, could benefit from increased export volume to boost their revenues. He thinks that Kuwait, in particular, will benefit from increased production by boosting its financial revenues, which will significantly contribute to reducing the general budget deficit, help stabilize the economy and finance its development projects. "It will also improve the profits of oil companies, which suffered from declining revenues in recent years due to reduced operations. This increase will maintain the stability and balance of global market supply and demand," he elaborated. He called for intensifying the efforts of Kuwait to increase its share in OPEC, following the example of the United Arab Emirates (UAE); especially since KPC intends to increase its daily production of crude oil and derivatives; particularly since it has been aiming to increase its production capacity to reach three million barrels per day, in addition to reaching four million barrels per day in 2040.

Other Voices

US oil exports hit 3-year low

Oil declines as inflation clouds market outlook

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

Oil prices have dropped to \$66 per barrel, while inflation continues to rise, leaving oil markets in a jittery, directionless state. This uncertainty has drawn global attention, and although it may seem like bad news, it could benefit oil producers that are increasing production and pushing more volumes into the market. However, the absence of strong oil prices is a concern for the U.S., especially as inflation is weakening the overall demand for oil. The outlook for oil prices remains bleak. U.S. crude oil exports have fallen to 3.2 million barrels per day, the lowest level since October 2021. Exports to Asia have also hit their lowest point since 2019. This drop reflects growing concerns over inflation and U.S. tariff policies, which are affecting major oil consumers in Asia. At the same time, the U.S. is pressuring India to reduce its oil imports from Russia. Yet the U.S. cannot adequately replace the shortfall in Russian oil. Only Arabian Gulf producers have the capacity to meet such shortages, and they have shown a willingness to do so. There is concern that Russia is neither willing nor ready to trade in U.S. dollars, instead preferring barter deals. However, the Arab Gulf countries are not equipped or prepared to engage in such deals. Their import needs, primarily limited to items like rice, tea, and other agricultural products, do not match the scale required for a balanced barter exchange, particularly with India. In contrast, the U.S. administration continues to promote increased foreign purchases of American oil and gas. However, the U.S. lacks the capacity to fully meet India's oil demand. The United States has a limited export capacity, capped at around

3.5 million barrels per day, while India imports approximately 4.3 million barrels daily -- 25 percent from Iraq, 16 percent from Saudi Arabia, 10 percent from the U.S., and less than 3 percent from Russia. Overall, India's total oil imports reach about 5 million barrels per day. The recent U.S. oil policy, which imposes conditions on the import of American crude, is seen as impractical. It lacks both the logistical support and the price competitiveness compared to crude oil imports from the Arab Gulf. The challenge for most oil-producing and exporting countries is determining how long weak oil prices will last, and what measures are needed to lift prices back to the \$70-per-barrel range. Will the U.S. gasoline season, typically marked by higher domestic demand, have any significant impact in pushing prices upward? For now, the global political situation seems relatively stable, with no major events on the horizon likely to drive prices higher. Meanwhile, OPEC+ is continuing to push more crude oil into the market in an effort to provide stability and reassure global markets. This may also serve as a signal to non-OPEC producers that the organization is actively managing supply to prevent any sharp price increases and to maintain market balance. At present, the oil market is in relatively good condition, stable, with ample supply and a calm political environment that remains manageable. However, forecasting a rise in oil prices beyond the \$70 level in the short term is difficult, as there are no clear indicators pointing in that direction. Oil consumers are currently benefiting from stable prices, but concerns about rising inflation are beginning to weigh on demand. Purchasing power remains tight, which is limiting consumption and keeping demand subdued. This situation has left many stakeholders uneasy, neither satisfied with the lower oil prices nor confident about the future. Unfortunately, there is little that international markets can do.

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KAFD move boosts regional position

Kamco Invest relocates Saudi HQ to KAFD

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced today the relocation of its Saudi office to King Abdullah Financial District (KAFD), an iconic architectural landmark in the heart of Riyadh and the prime business and lifestyle destination. Kamco Invest -- Saudi proudly serves a distinguished client base comprising institutions, family offices, and high-net-worth individuals through tailored portfolio management and three Saudi-domiciled funds that have consistently ranked among the top performers in their respective categories since the beginning of the year. Notably, one of these strategies is recognized as one of the largest equity funds in the Kingdom. In parallel, Kamco Invest has maintained a strong presence in the debt capital market, successfully managing multiple bonds and sukuk issuances for leading corporates and financial institutions across Saudi Arabia. Faisal M. Sarkhou, Chief Executive Officer of Kamco Invest (Group) and Board Member of Kamco Invest - Saudi commented, "We are pleased to join the growing list of leading regional and international firms establishing their Saudi headquarters in KAFD. Saudi Arabia remains a core market for Kamco Invest, and our presence in this premier financial hub reflects our strategic commitment to deepening our footprint and expanding our offerings in the Kingdom. This move not only reaffirms our deep-rooted commitment to the Saudi market and the clients we proudly serve within the Kingdom but also underscores our growing success in attracting regional investors seeking exposure to the Saudi market." Mohammed Hamad Alfaris, Chief Executive Officer of Kamco Invest -- Saudi, stated: "Our new headquarters in KAFD represents more than just a change of address, it marks the beginning of a new era aligned with Vision 2030. This strategic move reflects our bold ambition to be at the forefront of the Kingdom's financial transformation. It reaffirms our deep-rooted commitment to the Saudi market, enhances our ability to serve a growing and sophisticated client base, and provides an inspiring environment for our team to innovate, lead, and shape the future of investment in the region, in line with the Kingdom's aspirations for a vibrant and diversified financial sector." Set in the heart of Saudi Arabia's capital city Riyadh, KAFD is home to 1.6 million square meters of state-of-the-art office space, world-class venues and iconic luxury residences, designed to transform the way urban communities live, work, learn and play. A landmark development, KAFD is a key driver of Riyadh's economic ambitions, and is owned and managed by the King Abdullah Financial District Development and Management Company (KAFD DMC). Sarkhou concluded, "As Saudi Arabia continues to implement transformative economic reforms and advance its Vision 2030 agenda, we remain focused on delivering innovative investment solutions that connect our clients to the Kingdom's long-term growth story." About Kamco Invest Kamco Investment Company K.S.C (Public) "Kamco Invest" is a regional non-banking financial powerhouse headquartered in Kuwait with offices in key regional financial markets, established



Faisal Sarkhou



Mohammed Alfaris



Tower at KAFD

in 1998 and listed on Boursa Kuwait in 2003. It is an Independently managed subsidiary of Burgan Bank, a member of KIPCO Group, adopting highest standards of corporate governance and regulated by the Capital Markets Authority and Central Bank of Kuwait. Kamco Invest has AUM of over USD16.9bn as

of 31 March 2025 allocated to various asset classes and jurisdictions, making it one of the largest asset managers in the MENA region. It has acted as investment banker to deals exceeding USD41.8bn from its inception till 31 March 2025 in equity capital markets, debt capital markets and mergers & acquisitions.

Gross margin improves to 18%

ACICO reports net profit of KD 8.3 mln & operating profit of KD 3.5 mln in Q2 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: ACICO Group announced its financial results for the second quarter of 2025, reporting a net profit of KD 8.3 million, marking a major turnaround from the net loss of KD 2.3 million recorded during the same period in 2024. The results reflect the company's stringent cost control policy, enhanced operational efficiency, continued progress in implementing its financial restructuring plan and its operational strength that positions it as a partner of choice in key infrastructure projects in Kuwait and the region. Commenting on the results, Chairman of the Board Mr. Emad Abdullah Al Essa stated: "We are entering a new chapter that paves the way for strengthening our financial position in line with our solid operational track record and sector-wide achievements. We have built a strong foundation rooted in operational efficiency, prudent management and a clear commitment to sustainable growth, ensuring long-term value for our shareholders, customers and the community. With confidence, we are moving forward toward achieving financial and operational balance that reinforces ACICO's position as a leading national company aligned with Kuwait's and the region's de-



Emad Abdullah Al Essa, Chairman

- Continues debt restructuring and completes a settlement with a creditor bank, generating a gain of KD 3.5 million
- Maintains stable prices and supports the local market amid operational developments

velopment ambitions." Sales from industrial operations grew by 7.9% to KD 35.6 million. Gross profit margin improved from 17% to 18%, and selling, general and administrative expenses remained flat year on year. Despite these improvements, the company recorded an operating profit of KD 3.5 million, compared to KD 5 million in Q2

2024. This variance is primarily due to the exclusion of real estate revenues following the divestment of certain assets as part of the company's restructuring efforts, which have significantly reduced total liabilities and interest expenses from KD 8 million to KD 3.7 million. Restructuring Enhances Financial Position During the quarter, ACICO finalized a major debt restructuring agreement with a creditor bank for a total liability of KD 128.5 million. The agreement, which aligns with the Group's approved financial restructuring plan, resulted in a non-recurring gain of KD 3.5 million and a corresponding increase in shareholders' equity. The agreement included a multi-phase implementation plan, comprising the transfer of a property worth KD 60 million, a partial cash repayment of KD 2 million, direct debt discounts, and the conversion of part of the debt into preferred shares. The Group reaffirmed that this agreement is a continuation of its comprehensive financial restructuring strategy endorsed by the Board of Directors, aimed at strengthening financial efficiency, fortifying the balance sheet, and reinforcing ACICO's position as a leading regional player.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Executive Manager Retail Banking Segmentation at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Athba Alhumaidi, stated that KFH offers a suite of exclusive services, reflecting its vision, Beyond Horizons. This move is part of the Bank's continuous commitment to excellence, top-tier services, and enhancing the banking experience for its Premium and Advance customers. In a press release, Alhumaidi added that these offerings are based on KFH's understanding of the needs and aspirations of both segments and are part of its constant efforts to ensure they are the most satisfied and distinguished clientele in the banking sector. "The services are designed to provide a more convenient and tailored experience to our customers. They include a dedicated relationship manager, lounges for in-person assistance, airport pick-up and drop-off for a comfortable travel experience, secure and private cash delivery to the customer's residence, and year-round complimentary valet parking at key locations across Kuwait for Premium customers," she explained. Alhumaidi added: "Driven by its adherence to excellence and delivering personalized and exceptional services, KFH provides the Concierge service for its Premium and Advance credit cardholders, which acts as a designated



Athba Alhumaidi

- Alhumaidi:**
- KFH's services provide privacy and a dedicated personal assistant for completing daily tasks.

personal assistant, handling daily tasks on the customer's behalf with competence and care." KFH Concierge service includes a wide range of lifestyle conveniences such as processing official transactions including domestic worker documentation, government-related services, visa processing, travel arrangements (hotel bookings, flights, airport meet & assist services), restaurant reservations (locally and internationally), transport coordination, car rentals and entertainment bookings.

Alhumaidi said that KFH provides Advance and Premium customers with the following services for free: safe deposit boxes, money transfers and cash withdrawals, issuance of bank certificates and cheque books, along with various additional benefits. She commented: "Premium customers also receive the Visa Signature card, which includes exclusive perks such as complimentary access to airport lounges, travel insurance, and purchase protection". Alhumaidi said that aligning with digital transformation and customers' demand for modern banking products and services, KFH offers a new feature on KFHOnline, allowing customers to adjust the daily withdrawal and usage limits for their cards. Customers can enjoy app, with full access to their benefits. Additionally, Premium customers can directly contact their designated Relationship Manager. She emphasized that these services, features, and facilities reflect KFH's commitment to meeting customer needs and its dedication to offering the best features while continuously enhancing and developing the banking experience. Alhumaidi added: "at KFH, we believe excellence means exceeding customers' expectations and providing a comprehensive and high-quality banking experience that meet their aspirations."

Strong loan growth and stable asset quality at ABK

ABK Group holds H1 2025 analyst conference call



Giel-Jan M. Van Der Tol



Abdulla Al Sumait, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer



Shiamak Soonawalla, Group Chief Finance Officer



Abdulaziz Jawad, Chief Strategy Officer

■ Giel-Jan M. Van Der Tol: The Bank has successfully executed a number of strategic initiatives over the years which we are bearing fruit of now.

■ Abdulla Al Sumait: The Bank will continue to strengthen its position and deliver on its strategic priorities.

■ Shiamak Soonawalla: Overall, H1 2025 demonstrates the strength of our business model and impact of our focused execution.

■ Abdulaziz Jawad: We are well-positioned to navigate the evolving operating environment and capitalize on emerging opportunities.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently hosted its H1 2025 analyst conference attended by Giel-Jan M. Van Der Tol, Group CEO; Abdulla Al Sumait, Deputy Group CEO; Shiamak Soonawalla, Group CFO; Abdulaziz Jawad, Chief Strategy Officer; and Osama Ezzeldin, Assistant General Manager of Strategy and Follow Up.

In his opening statement, Van Der Tol said, “What’s clear to me is that ABK has a robust foundation that will be leveraged to unlock and realize the Group’s regional aspirations. The Bank has successfully executed a number of strategic initiatives over the years which we are bearing fruit of now. ABK Group will continue to invest in the future and transform itself into a digital-at-core organization.”

He shed light on ABK’s solid performance, achieving a 9% year-on-year increase in net profit with net profit attributable to shareholders rising to KD 31.7 million. Meanwhile, earnings per share held steady at 11 fils and ABK’s loan portfolio grew 5% year-on-year, supported by its robust credit governance structure. Asset quality also remained solid, with the NPL ratio well controlled at 1.35%.

Furthermore, ABK’s CET1 ratio stood at 11.94% and total capital adequacy ratio at 16.96%, well above the regulatory requirement, reflecting the strength of its capital base and ability to support future growth.

Van Der Tol added, “We have successfully executed the key initiatives under our ABK2X strategy, which focused on improving efficiencies, strengthening our core franchise and accelerating our digital transformation. As a result, we witnessed a significant improvement in our cost to income ratio, which improved to 42.2%, a clear reflection of the benefits realized from our transformation strategy.”

The Group CEO elaborated on ABK’s continued advancement in digital transformation. He said, “Over 15 new features were added to our mobile app enhancing digital applications, payments and account control. Furthermore, as part of our customer experience banking initiative, we upgraded our ATM network with a new interface.”

Moving on to ratings, he clarified that Moody’s reaffirmed ABK at A2 and Fitch at A, both with a stable outlook and continued confidence in its financial strength, prudent risk management and governance standards.

Van Der Tol continued, “Our regional diversification continues to be a key enabler of sustainable growth. Our international operations, including our UAE branches and ABK-Egypt, contributed a solid 40% of operating income and accounted for 37% of total assets, highlighting the strategic value of our regional footprint.”

He also highlighted ABK employees’ unwavering commitment and hard work, who remain a key pillar of its success. He affirmed that the Bank remains focused on fostering an inclusive, high performing culture and empowering local talent with Kuwaitis continuing to occupy 73% of leadership positions and female representation reaching 40% of human capital.

In his final remarks, Van Der Tol claimed, “As we enter the second half of the year, our focus is clear: drive core profitability, strengthen asset quality and accelerate digital transformation. We remain committed to disciplined execution and delivering sustainable shareholder value.”

Strongly Positioned

Commenting on ABK’s overall performance, Al Sumait stated, “The Bank will continue to strengthen its position and deliver on its strategic priorities.” He commended the Board of Directors for their steadfast leadership as well as the senior management for their dedication and resilience where their collective efforts have been instrumental in driving progress for ABK.

Financial Performance

Moving on financial performance, Soonawalla highlighted that operating income for the period reached KD 108.8 million, while operating profit stood at KD 62.9 million, reflecting proactive cost management and continued revenue momentum across business lines. Asset quality remained robust with the Group’s non-performing loan (NPL) ratio maintained at a healthy 1.35% while loan loss coverage ratio held firm at 447%, underscoring the stability of ABK’s credit metrics.

He added, “We hold provisions amounting to KD 218 million, which exceed IFRS 9 requirements and are in accordance with Central Bank of Kuwait guidelines, reflecting our continued prudent provisioning policy.” The net interest margin (NIM) increased to 2.2% driven by improved asset yields and stable funding costs while return on average equity (ROAE) improved to 9.2% in H1 2025, showcasing stable earnings and long-term shareholder value.

Liquidity and funding remained a key strength for ABK supported by a liquidity coverage ratio of 230% and a net stable funding ratio of 108%, both comfortably above regulatory thresholds. Customer deposits stood at KD 4.3 billion, representing 67% of our total liabilities, highlighting the continued client confidence and the resilience of ABK’s funding profile.

Soonawalla shared, “The Group’s operational performance advanced significantly in H1 2025 with an 18% uplift in operating profit, reflecting improved income generation and tighter cost control.

“This demonstrates our stronger efficiency and core business growth.”

Commercial Banking continued to lead operating income during H1 2025, contributing 51%, followed by Retail Banking at 37% and Treasury and Investments at 12%.

Asset allocation also remained strategically balanced, with 56% allocated to Commercial Banking, 13% to Retail Banking and 31% to Treasury and Investments.

He continued, “Our cost to income ratio improved to 42.2% in H1 2025, reflecting the success of our focused cost management efforts which delivered a 3% year-on-year reduction in operating expenses.”

As of H1 2025, total assets expanded to KD 7.2 billion, delivering strong year-on-year growth of 8%.

In addition, net loans and advances increased by 5% to KD 4.7 billion, demonstrating healthy lending activity and prudent balance sheet expansion.

Soonawalla summarized, “Overall, H1 2025 demonstrates the strength of our business model and impact of our focused execution. We delivered solid financial performance, strong risk controls, improved efficiency and robust asset quality. As we enter the second half of the year, we remain committed to sustainable growth and long-term value creation for our shareholders.”

Strategic Priorities

On his part, Jawad affirmed that ABK has continued to execute against its strategic priorities, delivering steady growth across key customer segments, including Kuwaitis, privilege banking and youth.

Targeted initiatives focused on product development, digital engagement and service excellence contributed to loan growth that beat market growth.

“We remain disciplined in our underwriting approach while maintaining a healthy risk-adjusted return profile,” he affirmed.

In addition to its financial performance, ABK achieved meaningful recognition from leading international institutions. During the first half, the Bank was honored with the Best Digital Transformation Initiative award by MEED and the Elite Quality Recognition award from J.P. Morgan.

He said, “These recognitions reflect the progress we have made in advancing our digital capabilities, strengthening operational delivery and our ongoing efforts to enhance client experience across channels.”

Egypt and the UAE

Jawad shed light on the business’ continued strong performance Egypt where it obtained PCI-DSS certification, reinforcing digital security standards. ABK-Egypt was also recognized by International Business Magazine as the Fastest Growing Retail Bank in 2024.

He continued, “In addition, we strengthened our digital payments proposition through a strategic partnership with Visa and launched a suite of tailored wealth solutions to support our affluent client base. These developments are aligned with our commitment to innovation, segmentation and service excellence.”

In parallel, ABK Capital, the investment arm of the Group, has established its subsidiary at the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) after receiving approval from the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA).

This marks a significant strategic milestone in our efforts to expand ABK’s regional and international presence. Jawad claimed, “The new entity strengthens our investment platform, enabling us to access key financial markets and deliver enhanced value to our clients and stakeholders across a broader geographic landscape.”

ESG

Last but not least, Jawad emphasized that ESG remains a central pillar of ABK’s long-term strategy, fully aligned with Kuwait Vision 2035. He stated, “We are embedding ESG into our culture and operations through initiatives focused on climate resilience, responsible banking, financial inclusion and community impact.”

He also highlighted the strong progress made on climate action by transitioning all ABK facilities to LED lighting, reducing Scope 2 emissions. On the governance front, climate considerations have been integrated into policies and processes. Additionally, ABK is growing its sustainable finance portfolio by funding projects with positive environmental outcomes.

He concluded, “We remain focused on execution, agility and delivering shareholder value. We are well-positioned to navigate the evolving operating environment and capitalize on emerging opportunities. Our strategic direction remains clear and we are committed to driving disciplined growth, strengthening our franchise and upholding our leadership in financial stewardship and sustainability.”

GCC index extended its rally, supported by widespread market gains

By KAMCO Invest

The GCC index continued to show gains during July-2025 led by earnings optimism for Q2-2025. The MSCI GCC index was up for the second consecutive month registering a gain of 2.2% in July-2025 led by a broad-based gain across the GCC exchanges.

Dubai was the best performing market in the GCC during the month with a gain of 7.9% followed by Oman and Qatar with gains of 6.2% and 4.8%, respectively.

Saudi Arabia was the only market that declined during the month.

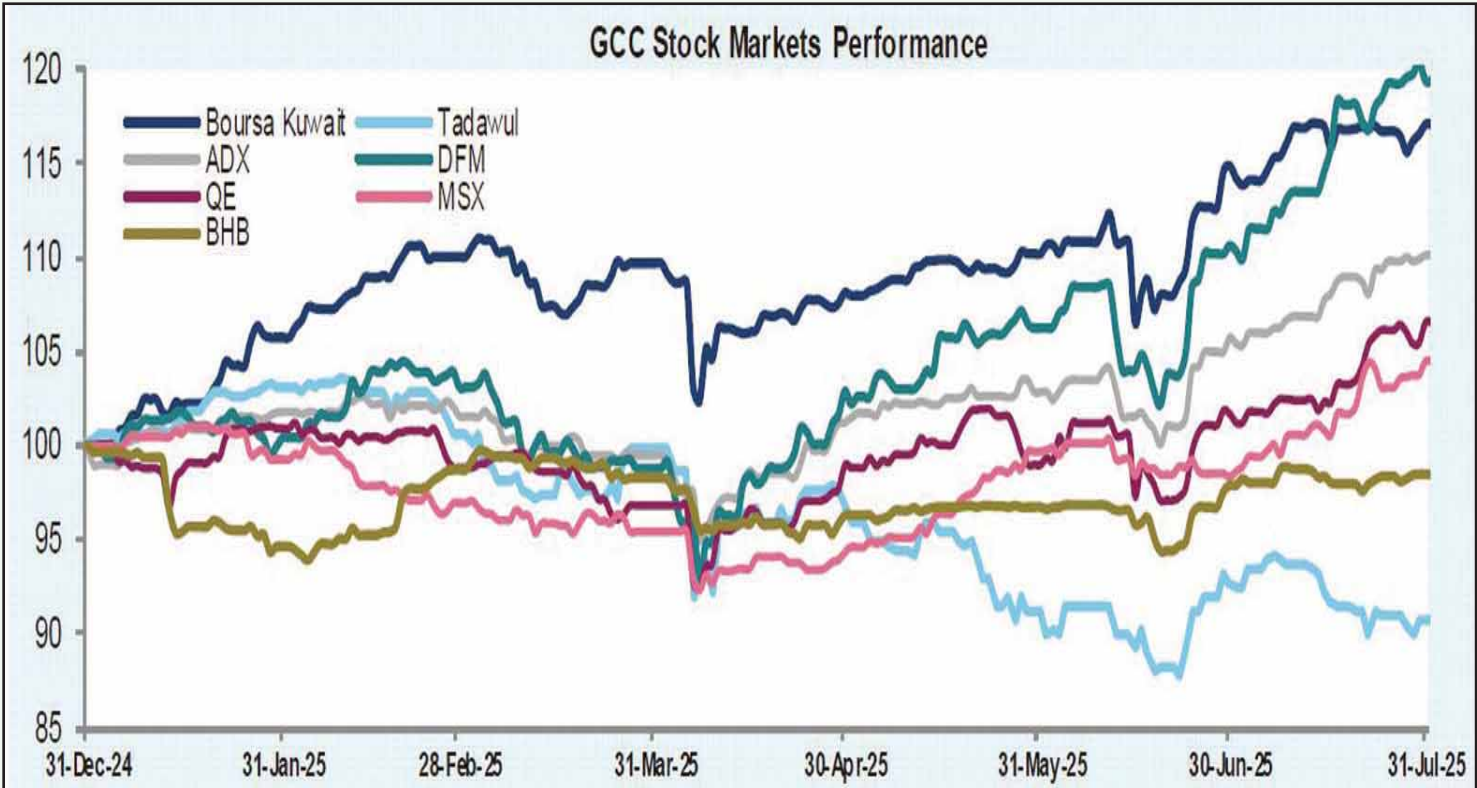
The decline mainly reflected excessive investor concerns related to the prospect of the projects market in the Kingdom with oil prices trading around the USD 70/b mark, although the quarterly earnings season has so far showed healthy double-digit growth in profits.

In terms of YTD performance, the GCC index was up by 3.7%, also highlighting the positive performance for most GCC markets barring Saudi Arabia and Bahrain that registered a decline of 9.3% and 1.5%, respectively.

In terms of monthly sector performance, the chart was skewed towards decliners, however, gain in large cap sectors like Banks, Telecom and Real Estate, helped to offset these declines.

The Insurance sector witnessed the biggest decline during the month showing a fall of 9.1% followed by Utilities and Pharma & Biotech with declines of 6.4% and 6.2%, respectively.

On the gainers side, Real Estate



was leading with a gain of 5.2% followed by Capital Goods and Banks with gains of 4.1% and 3.7%, respectively.

The Telecom index also showed a gain of 3.5% while the Energy index was down marginally by 0.2%.

The performance of global equity markets remained steady with four consecutive months of gains for the MSCI ACWI Index.

The benchmark gained 1.3% during July-2025 and performance at the country level reflected the negotiations on the tariff front. Europe and US markets were up during the month while

India, Brazil and Mexico registered declines.

Boursa Kuwait

Boursa Kuwait continued its positive run for the third consecutive month during July-2025.

However, unlike the gains during the prior two months, gains during July-2025 were mainly led by healthy growth in mid and small cap stocks on the exchange.

This was reflected in the 5.8% gains in the Main Market Index and the 5.3% gain in the Main 50 index while the Premier Market index witnessed a relatively smaller gain of 1.2% during the month.

The net impact was a 1.9% growth in the headline All Share Index that closed at 8,617.8 points at the end of July-2025.

In terms of YTD-2025, Boursa Kuwait remained one of the top performing markets this year with a gain of 17.0% for the All Share index, the second-highest in the GCC after DFM.

These gains mainly reflected the 18.6% gain in the Premier Market Index while the Main Market Index and the Main 50 index registered relatively smaller double digit gains of 10.2% and 11.7%, respectively.

The monthly sector perfor-

mance chart was skewed toward gainers that included ten sectors while the remaining three sectors witnessed declines.

The Technology index witnessed the biggest gains during the month at 38.2% reflecting equivalent gains in its sole constituent company i.e. Automated Systems Co. that witnessed extremely volatility in prices during the month.

The Telecom index was next with a gain of 8.9% followed by Utilities and Financial Services indices with gains of 6.1% and 5.9%, respectively. Gains in the Telecom index showed broad-

based surge in share of all the four constituent companies.

The gain in shares of Ooredoo and STC reflected y-o-y growth in Q2-2025 and 3.5% y-o-y growth in Q2-2025 net profits while higher net profits for Zain KSA supported shares of Zain Kuwait.

On the decliner’s side, the Healthcare sector registered double-digit decline of 10.3% led by fall in shares of ATC by over 25% during the month, indicating profit booking by investors as the stock is up more than 60% since the start of the year.

The Industrials index was next with a much smaller decline of 3.2% followed by Consumer Discretionary index with a decline of 2.1%.

In terms of results for Q2-2025, around 23 companies reported results for the quarter.

The trend was largely positive with net profit for these companies up by 12.6%.

In the Banking sector, seven of the nine listed banks reported Q2-2025 results.

Net profits for these banks showed a growth of 8.5% y-o-y during Q2-2025 and 3.5% y-o-y growth during 1H-2025.

The growth was mainly led by an 10.2% growth in non-interest income while net interest income increased at a much slower y-o-y pace of 1.5%.

Impairments during the quarter were significantly lower, further supporting the bottom-line performance and was mainly supported by reversal of impairments reported by NBK and KFH during Q2-2025.

The growth was partially offset translation losses reported by KFH and Burgan Bank related to their overseas subsidiaries.

Asia drives trade growth

WTO slashes 2026 trade growth forecast to 1.8%

GENEVA, Aug 9, (Xinhua): The World Trade Organization (WTO) on Friday lowered its forecast for global merchandise trade growth in 2026 to 1.8 percent from the previous estimate of 2.5 percent due to higher tariffs.

In its latest trade forecast update, the WTO said recent tariff changes are expected to have an overall negative impact on the outlook for global trade.

Higher “reciprocal tariff” rates introduced by the United States on Aug. 7 are expected to weigh increasingly on U.S. imports and depress exports of U.S. trading partners in the second half of 2025 and in 2026, the WTO said.

The WTO now projects world merchandise trade to grow by 0.9 percent in 2025, revising its earlier forecast of a 0.2 percent contraction made in mid-April following the U.S. announcement of “reciprocal tariffs” and a temporary

90-day pause on some of them.

The WTO noted that the revised growth outlook is largely driven by frontloading of U.S. imports, but emphasized that the forecast remains well below the pre-tariff estimate of 2.7 percent.

By region, Asian economies are projected to remain the largest positive driver of world merchandise trade growth in 2025, while North America will weigh negatively on global trade growth in both 2025 and 2026, according to the forecast.

WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala noted that the full impact of recent tariff measures is still unfolding.

“The shadow of tariff uncertainty continues to weigh heavily on business confidence, investment and supply chains. Uncertainty remains one of the most disruptive forces in the global trading environment,” she said.

Intel CEO responds after Trump calls for his resignation

Trump plans to remove IRS commissioner Billy Long

WASHINGTON, Aug 9, (Xinhua): U.S. media reported on Friday that President Donald Trump plans to remove Billy Long, the commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), who has been in office for only two months. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent will serve as acting IRS Commissioner.

The New York Times reported that Long is expected to be nominated for an ambassadorial position, citing four people familiar with the matter. It is currently unclear who will take over the IRS.

A senior government official said that Bessent will serve as acting IRS Commissioner until a successor is in place.

The report also noted that Long has little background in tax policy.

While he was a congressman, he supported legislation calling for the complete abolition of the IRS.

Bessent and Long had clashed at times, the report said, quoting three people familiar with the decision.

“Mr. Long had remarked to some colleagues that he had to ask Mr. Bessent for permission for everything he did at the IRS, two of the people said,” the report said, adding that others said Long had at times appeared to “get out ahead of” the IRS and Treasury Department.

The Hill reported that since Trump began his second term, Long has been the fifth individual to lead the IRS, with four others serving in an

acting capacity before him.

The Hill report also noted that he is a staunch ally of Trump but has faced criticism from Democrats due to his lack of experience and background in tax policy.

The IRS is an agency under the Treasury Department.

Since the Trump administration took office, it has carried out significant layoffs across many federal departments, with the IRS being one of the key targets. A Treasury spokesperson said in May that out of approximately 100,000 IRS employees, over 20,000 have already left the agency.

Also:

WASHINGTON: Intel CEO **Lip-Bu Tan** says he’s “always operated within the highest legal and ethical standards” after President **Donald Trump** said he should resign.

On Thursday Trump said on Truth Social platform that, “The CEO of Intel is highly **CONFLICTED** and must resign, immediately.

“There is no other solution to this problem. Thank you for your attention to this problem!”

Trump’s post landed after Sen. Tom Cotton sent a letter to Intel Chairman Frank Yeary expressing concern over Tan’s investments and ties to semiconductor firms that are reportedly linked to the Chinese Communist Party and the People’s Liberation Army, and asked the board whether Tan had divested his

interests in these companies to eliminate any conflicts of interest.

It was not immediately clear on Thursday if Tan, who took over as Intel’s CEO in March, had divested his interests in the companies.

The economic and political rivalry between the U.S. and China are increasingly focused on computer chips, AI and other digital technologies that are expected to shape future economies and military conflicts.

Intel said in a statement that it’s “deeply committed to advancing U.S. national and economic security interests and are making significant investments aligned with the President’s America First agenda.”

Tan also addressed the situation, saying in a message to employees that there was misinformation circulating about his past roles at Walden International and Cadence Design Systems and that he’s always followed proper standards.

Tan also said Intel was in contact with the Trump administration.

“We are engaging with the Administration to address the matters that have been raised and ensure they have the facts,” Tan said. “I fully share the President’s commitment to advancing U.S. national and economic security. I appreciate his leadership to advance these priorities, and I’m proud to lead a company that is so central to these goals.”

The company’s stock rose slightly in premarket trading on Friday.

Whitmer urges Trump to rethink auto tariffs

Michigan loses 7,500 manufacturing jobs

WASHINGTON, Aug 9, (AP): Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer met privately in the Oval Office with President Donald Trump to make a case he did not want to hear: the automotive industry he said he wants to save were being hurt by his tariffs.

The Democrat came with a slide deck to make her points in a visual presentation. Just getting the meeting last Tuesday with the Republican president was an achievement for someone viewed as a contender for her party’s White House nomination in 2028.

Whitmer’s strategy for dealing with Trump highlights the conundrum for her and other Democratic leaders as they try to protect the interests of their states while voicing their opposition to his agenda. It’s a dynamic that Whitmer has navigated much differently from many other Democratic governors.

The fact that Whitmer had “an opening to make direct appeals” in private to Trump was unique in this political moment, said Matt Grossman, a Michigan State University politics professor.

It was her third meeting with Trump at the White House since he took office in January. This one, however, was far less public than the time in April when Whitmer was unwittingly part of an impromptu news conference that embarrassed her so much she covered her face with a folder.

On Tuesday, she told the president that the economic damage from the tariffs could be severe in Michigan, a state that helped deliver him the White House in 2024. Whitmer also brought up federal support for recovery efforts after an ice storm and sought to delay changes to Medicaid.

Trump offered no specific commitments, according to people familiar with the private conversation who were not authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke only on condition of anonymity to describe it.

Whitmer is hardly the only one sounding the warning of the potentially damaging consequences, including factory job losses, lower profits and coming price increases, of the import taxes that Trump has said will be the economic salvation for American manufacturing.

White House spokesman Kush Desai said that no other president “has taken a greater interest in restoring American auto industry dominance than President Trump.” Trade frameworks negotiated by the administration would open up the Japanese, Korean and European markets for vehicles made on assembly lines in Michigan, Desai said.

But the outreach Trump has preferred tends to be splashy presentations by tech CEOs. In the Oval Office on Wednesday, Apple CEO Tim Cook gave the president a customized glass plaque with a gold base as Cook promised \$600 billion in investments. Trump claims to have brought in \$17 trillion in investment commitments, although none of those numbers has sur-



New cars line a lot at the Port of Benicia in Benicia, Calif., on Friday, Aug. 8, 2025. (AP)

faced yet in economic data.

Under his series of executive orders and trade frameworks, U.S. automakers face import taxes of 50% on steel and aluminum, 30% on parts from China and a top rate of 25% on goods from Canada and Mexico not covered under an existing 2020 trade agreement. That puts America’s automakers and parts suppliers at a disadvantage against German, Japanese and South Korean vehicles that only face a 15% import tax negotiated by Trump last month.

On top of that, Trump this past week threatened a 100% tariff on computer chips, which are an integral part of cars and trucks, though he would exclude companies that produce chips domestically from the tax.

Whitmer’s two earlier meetings with Trump resulted in gains for Michigan. But the tariffs represent a significantly broader request of a president who has imposed them even more aggressively in the face of criticism.

Materials in the presentation brought Whitmer to the meeting and obtained by The Associated Press noted how trade with Canada and Mexico has driven \$23.2 billion in investment to Michigan since 2020.

General Motors, Ford, and Stellantis operate 50 factories across the state, while more than 4,000 facilities support the auto parts supply chain. Altogether, the sector supports nearly 600,000 manufacturing jobs, forming the backbone of Michigan’s economy.

Whitmer outlined the main points of the materials to Trump and left copies with his team.

To Grossman, the Michigan State professor, a key question is whether voters who expected to be helped by tariffs would react if Trump’s import taxes failed to deliver the promised economic growth.

“Everyone’s aware that Michigan is a critical swing state and the auto industry has outsized influence, not just directly, but symbolically,”

Grossman said.

AP VoteCast found that Trump won Michigan in 2024 largely because two-thirds of its voters described the economic conditions as being poor or “not so good.” Roughly 70% of the voters in the state who felt negatively about the economy backed the Republican. The state was essentially split over whether tariffs were a positive, with Trump getting 76% of those voters who viewed them favorably.

The heads of General Motors, Ford and Stellantis have repeatedly warned the administration that the tariffs would cut company profits and undermine their global competitiveness. Their efforts have resulted in little more than a temporary, monthlong pause intended to give companies time to adjust. The reprieve did little to blunt the financial fallout.

In the second quarter alone, Ford reported \$800 million in tariff-related costs, while GM said the import taxes cost it \$1.1 billion. Those expenses could make it harder to reinvest in new domestic factories, a goal Trump has championed.

“We expect tariffs to be a net headwind of about \$2 billion this year, and we’ll continue to monitor the developments closely and engage with policymakers to ensure U.S. autoworkers and customers are not disadvantaged by policy change,” Ford CEO Jim Farley said on his company’s earning call.

Since Trump returned to the White House, Michigan has lost 7,500 manufacturing jobs, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Smaller suppliers have felt the strain, too.

Detroit Axle, a family-run auto parts distributor, has been one of the more vocal companies in Michigan about the impact of the tariffs. The company initially announced it might have to shut down a warehouse and lay off more than 100 workers, but later said it would be able to keep the facility open, at least for now.

Amazon communities impacted

US tariffs put Brazil’s ‘acai’ exports at risk

BELEM, Aug 9, (AP): When U.S. President Donald Trump imposed tariffs of 50% on Brazilian exports in July, acai producer Ailson Ferreira Moreira felt immediately concerned.

After all, who was going to eat all of that Amazon berry, globally famous as a delicious, refreshing and nutritious superfood, if American consumers suddenly could no longer afford it?

As the main importer of the Brazilian berry, prices of acai smoothies and bowls look certain to go up in the United States.

“The acai that’s all produced here ... If only people here eat it, it’s going to be a lot of acai, right?” Moreira told The Associated Press outside of Belem, an Amazon city of 1.4 million residents that will host this year’s U.N. climate summit COP30 climate summit in November.

“If there’s too much acai here, people won’t be able to eat it all and the price will drop.”

A single full crate of acai sells for around \$50 at local markets in Brazil, a price that is now expected to plummet. The U.S. is by far the largest acai importer of a total Brazilian output currently estimated at about 70,000 tons per year.

The most vulnerable acai producers in the northern state of Para say they have already been hit by tariffs imposed by the U.S. government, as a surplus of the berry without a clear destination starts to mount only days after the new economic scenario unfolded.

More powerful exporters, such as Sao Paulo-state based company Acai Tropicalia Mix, are also feeling the impact.

One of its owners, Rogério de Carvalho, told the AP that last year he exported to the U.S. about 270 tons of acai cream - an industrialized version of the berry - ready for consumption. As tariffs started to loom, he said, American importers steered away and clients suspended negotiations. Until the end of July, de Carvalho estimates that his company sold 27 tons to the U.S.

“That’s 1.5 million Brazilian reais (\$280,000) that we lost,” the businessman said. “We are confident there will be a deal between the two countries to allow not only our clients to return, but also getting some new ones.”

Trump has linked the higher tariffs on Brazil to the trial of former President Jair Bolsonaro, who

is now under house arrest for his alleged role in leading an alleged coup plot to remain in office, despite his election loss to current leftist President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

And despite several Brazilian exports being exempted from the tariffs, acai berries aren’t among them.

Brazil’s industry ministry didn’t reply to a request for comment on whether acai berries are among the items that remain on the negotiating table with U.S. trade representatives.

Nearly all of the acai consumed in the U.S. originates from Brazil, with the state of Para alone accounting for 90% of the country’s total production. Several communities in the Amazon depend on its harvest.

The harvesting of acai is a physically demanding job that requires workers to climb tall trees with minimal safety equipment, and then sliding down branches full of berries to fill baskets and then place them carefully in crates. Analysts say its producers also help protect the rainforest from illegal loggers, miners and cattle ranchers.

The night markets of Belem, such as the Ver-o-Peso acai market, are a hub of activity where the freshly harvested berries are brought in by boat and prepared for sale.

The Brazilian Association of Fruit and Derivative Producers and Exporters estimates there was an explosive growth of acai exports from Para state, from less than one ton in 1999 to more than 61,000 tons in 2023. Another explosive rise was expected for this year, before the tariffs.

On Thursday, Brazil requested consultations at the World Trade Organization over tariffs imposed by the Trump administration against the South American nation that went into effect on Wednesday.

That could be took little too late for acai harvester Mikael Silva Trindade, who agrees that the future of the trade is at risk as higher U.S. tariffs can disrupt the delicate balance of supply and demand that holds the industry.

“There will be nowhere to market (the excess of acai),” Trindade told the AP as he picked berries in Para state. “The more you export, the more valuable it becomes. But if there’s too much to sell, it will stay here and become cheap.”

Core CPI up 0.8% for third straight month

China’s consumer prices rise 0.4% in July, reversing June’s decline

BEIJING, Aug 9, (Xinhua): China reported positive signs in terms of both consumer and producer prices last month, as government policies to boost domestic demand continued to take hold.

The consumer price index (CPI), a main gauge of inflation, climbed 0.4 percent in July compared with the previous month, reversing a 0.1-percent drop in June and exceeding the average seasonal pace of 0.3 percent, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed Saturday.

On an annual basis, the CPI was unchanged in July, while the core CPI, which excludes food and energy, rose 0.8 percent -- a rising streak for three consecutive months.

NBS statistician Dong Lijuan said these positive trends were driven mainly by higher prices for services and industrial consumer goods, while emphasizing the effective role of policy measures in expanding demand.

China has intensified moves to bolster domestic economic circulation this year, including stronger fiscal support for consumer goods trade-ins nationwide and strengthened focus on key service sectors such as elderly

care, childcare and digital consumption.

Saturday’s data also revealed improved signs in the industrial sector. The producer price index (PPI), which measures costs for goods at the factory gate, fell 0.2 percent from a month earlier in July -- an improvement considering the 0.4 percent-drop recorded in June, while also marking the first month-on-month narrowing since March. Compared with the same month in 2024, the PPI slid by 3.6 percent in July, the same as in June.

Dong attributed the improving PPI performance in part to optimized market competition order, ongoing industrial shifts and unleashed domestic demand potential.

China’s price levels have remained subdued this year due to both global headwinds and the country’s ongoing economic transformation.

According to Sheng Laiyun, deputy head of the NBS, China is at a critical stage of economic transition and upgrading. Prices of products related to traditional growth drivers, such as steel, cement and other building materials, are experiencing adjustments, while those related to new growth

drivers, such as high-tech products and products involving sophisticated technology, are going upward.

Analysts expect prices to stage a mild recovery in the second half of the year, as positive factors, including a steady economic outlook, effective policies aimed at boosting domestic demand, and seasonal factors during the summer vacation, the Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day holidays, are likely to spur consumer demand and help stabilize or lift prices.

Wen Bin, chief economist at China Minsheng Bank, said that government efforts to curb rat-race competition among companies will encourage more orderly and rational market behavior, which could accelerate a healthy cycle of supply and demand and further support price recovery.

Earlier data showed that China’s consumer market had maintained an upward trend, with retail sales of consumer goods expanding 5 percent year on year in the first half of 2025. In this period, China’s economy grew by 5.3 percent.

‘Dead To Rights’ premieres in North America

Nanjing Massacre film resonates strongly with US audience

WASHINGTON, Aug 9, (Xinhua): The North American premiere of “Dead To Rights,” a Chinese historical film about the 1937 Nanjing Massacre, was held Wednesday night at a cinema near Washington, D.C., resonating strongly with the audience.

Drawing on verified photographic evidence of Japanese wartime atrocities during the Nanjing Massacre, “Dead To Rights” tells the story of a group of Chinese civilians who seek refuge in a photography studio during the brutal occupation of the Chinese city of Nanjing by Japanese aggressors.

When the screening ended, the theater fell into complete silence, the air heavy with solemnity.

“Japan, apologize!” a member of the audience suddenly shouted, breaking the stillness. Many people, their faces still streaked with tears, seemed lost in emotion and remained seated long after the film ended.

Mr. Ma, originally from Anhui province near Nanjing and now working at the World Bank, told Xinhua after watching the film that he felt a deep heaviness in his heart.

Although many years have passed since the war, Japan continues its attempts to erase history and deny its wartime atrocities, Ma said.

Ma expressed hope that more people would see the film so that the world would remember the Massacre’s tragic history.

Echoing his view, David Huang, veteran journalist and founder of World Today Television, a Chinese-language TV channel based in the United States, noted that to this day, Japanese textbooks, literary works and news media continue to deny history and downplay Japan’s wartime aggression in China. Huang said the film should be produced in several languages to reach a



A woman walks past a board of 'Dead To Rights' at a cinema in Sydney, Australia, Aug. 8, 2025. (AP)

broader audience and reveal the truth.

The massacre lasted for more than 40 days following the Japanese troops’ capture of Nanjing, the then Chinese capital, on Dec. 13, 1937, leaving more

than 300,000 Chinese civilians and unarmed soldiers dead and 20,000 women raped.

Zhao Jie, who has lived in the United States for more than 20 years, told Xinhua that “our generation will never forget this.”

“Chinese descendants in the United States should never forget their roots,” Zhao said.

Chinese Ambassador to the United States Xie Feng attended the premiere, watching the film together with overseas Chinese and others to jointly commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Victory in the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

In his remarks, Xie said that the film transcends time and space, revealing the darkest corners of history while also shining a light on the best of human conscience and reminding us of the cruelty of war and the preciousness of peace.

Xie pointed out that those who forget history are doomed to repeat it. “The Chinese people nationwide united as one, fought heroically, and won the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression with tremendous sacrifices, making an indelible contribution to the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War,” Xie said.

“The 1.4 billion Chinese people will never tolerate any attempt to tamper with the history of WWII, and all the peace-loving people in the world will never accept any move to turn back the wheel of history,” he said.

The Chinese ambassador also stressed that remembering history means paving the way to a brighter future. “During the war, the Chinese and American people fought shoulder to shoulder to defend peace and justice. In this era of peace, China and the United States have only the shared responsibility to safeguard peace, and no single reason for conflict and confrontation,” Xie said.

People

‘Battled cancer’

Clarkson’s ex-hubby Blackstock dies at 48

NEW YORK, Aug 9, (AP): **Brandon Blackstock**, Kelly Clarkson’s ex-husband and talent manager, has died of cancer, his family said Thursday. He was 48.

“Brandon bravely battled cancer for more than three years,” a representative for the Blackstock family shared in a statement to The Associated Press. “He passed away peacefully and was surrounded by family. We thank you for your thoughts and prayers and ask everyone to respect the family’s privacy during this very difficult time.”



Blackstock

The news was first reported by People magazine. On Wednesday, Clarkson announced that she was postponing her “Studio Session” concerts in Las Vegas, writing on Instagram, “While I normally keep my personal life private, this past year, my children’s father has been ill and at this moment, I

need to be fully present for them.” Blackstock was the father to four children, including two from his previous marriage to Melissa Ashworth: Savannah and Seth. He has two young children with Clarkson: River and Remington. Blackstock became a grandfather in 2022, when Savannah gave birth to a son named Lake.

Blackstock and Clarkson met at a rehearsal for the Academy of Country Music Awards back in 2006. They started dating in 2012, after reconnecting at a Super Bowl, and married in October 2013. In 2020, she filed for divorce, citing irreconcilable differences, and requested that she not be required to pay Blackstock spousal support.

The filing asked that the singer’s legal last name be restored to Clarkson and indicated that the couple had a prenuptial agreement. The divorce was contentious, eventually finalized in 2022. In 2024, the pair agreed to settle lawsuits over millions of dollars that he allegedly overcharged her while serving as her manager during their marriage.

Blackstock also formerly represented Blake Shelton and Rascal Flatts. He began his career with Starstruck Entertainment, his father Narvel Blackstock’s company. Country legend Reba McEntire was previously married to Narvel Blackstock, from 1989 to 2015, and is the mother of Blackstock’s brother Shelby.

Narvel Blackstock managed Clarkson before his son took over.

‘Superman’ star

Dean Cain to join ICE as ‘honorary officer’

NEW YORK, Aug 9, (AP): **Dean Cain**, the actor best known for portraying Superman on a 1990s television show, wants to join the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency. In an interview with Fox News this week, Cain said he’d already spoken to the agency responsible for carrying out President Donald Trump’s mass deportations agenda.



Cain

Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin, the Department of Homeland Security’s spokesperson, said Thursday that Cain would be sworn in as an “honorary ICE Officer” in the coming month. It wasn’t immediately clear what his duties as an honorary officer would entail. Cain, 59, told Fox News he was already a sworn deputy sheriff and a reserve police officer.

Earlier this week, Cain posted a video to his social media accounts encouraging others to join the agency.

The Department of Homeland Security said Wednesday that it is removing age limits for new hires at the agency responsible for immigration enforcement, as it aims to expand hiring after a massive infusion of cash from Congress.

Cain has in the past decade been outspoken in his conservative viewpoints and endorsed Trump in three elections. A representative for Cain did not respond to request for comment Thursday.

McLaughlin referenced Cain’s titular role in “Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman,” which ran from 1993 to 1997, in her statement, saying in her statement that “Superman is encouraging Americans to become real-life superheroes.”

Warner Bros., which released a new “Superman” last month, didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment. The film, which has made over \$550 million and stars David Corenswet, became a hot-button topic with right-wing commentators who criticized the movie as “woke” after director James Gunn referred to the character as being like an “immigrant.”

Film



This image released by Disney shows Jamie Lee Curtis, (left), and Lindsay Lohan in a scene from ‘Freakier Friday.’ (AP)

Lohan and Curtis swap again in wild sequel

‘Freakier Friday’ brings double the chaos

By Jocelyn Noveck

It’s a tale as old as time - or at least, a tale Hollywood loves to tell again and again: Body-swapping. It’s magical. It’s comical. It carries heartwarming messages about walking in another’s shoes, and learning about oneself along the way.

So it’s hardly surprising that “Freaky Friday,” the 2003 version of the 1972 Mary Rodgers novel starring Lindsay Lohan and Jamie Lee Curtis, was a hit. Lohan was endearing and charismatic as an appealing, mildly turbulent teenager, and Curtis was a comic hoot as her control-freak therapist mom.

And while there were a few misfires - the stereotypical Asian representation has aged badly - the film was powered by an easy chemistry between the two stars. So why not revisit the story in 2025? Sequels are often made for far less compelling reasons.

The chief weakness of “Freakier Friday” - which brings Curtis and Lohan back for an amiable, often joyful and certainly chaotic reunion - is that while it hews overly closely to the structure, storyline and even dialogue of the original, it tries too hard to up the ante. The comedy is thus a bit more manic, and the plot machinations more overwrought (or sometimes distractingly silly).

Then there’s the double body-swapping. Because one major swap isn’t enough, here we have two sets of swappers - a quixotic quartet of lives disrupted during the lead-up to, yes, another wedding! The problem is that sometimes, it’s actually hard to keep track of who’s inhabiting whom, and therefore why they’re doing what.

Not to say that “Freakier Friday,” directed with gusto by Nisha Ganatra, doesn’t have moments of comic glee. I’ll admit to laughing out loud - with everyone else older than 30 near me - when two teens were trying to locate an adult contact and one of them pulled up Facebook, explaining: “It’s

like a database of old people!” Touché, guys.

These “youngsters” are actually Lohan and Curtis, playing ninth-graders trapped in adult bodies. Before we get to that, though: We begin 22 years after we last saw Lohan’s Anna, playing electric guitar at her mom’s wedding. Now a single mom herself with a job managing a young pop star, she’s trying to get her daughter up for school. Harper (the excellent Julia Butters) is - surprise! - an appealing, mildly turbulent teenager. And just like Anna two decades ago, she keeps people out of her bedroom. “Prepare to be triggered!” Anna yells before barging in. (The dialogue has been duly updated to the present time.)

Driving to school drop-off, Anna is joined by her mom, Tess (Curtis), who has stylish gray hair now and is still a practicing therapist, podcaster and author whose latest topic is “Rebelling with Respect.” Dropping Harper off, Anna calls out “Make good choices!” - just what mom Tess used to say, natch.

At school, Harper butts heads with transfer student Lily (Sophia Hammons), a budding fashion designer who hails from Britain and is very snooty. Anna is called to see the principal. There, she meets Lily’s dishy chef dad Eric (Manny Jacinto), and the two flirt so intensely, the principal herself makes them a dinner reservation.

All it takes is one cute dating montage, and poof, Anna and Eric are engaged. But things are still bad between Harper and Lily, whose animosity triggers a weirdly violent, all-school food fight on bake sale day. But they all have a bachelorette party to attend. There, a wacky fortune-teller and barista and business-card maker - Vanessa Bayer, in a cameo that perhaps, no definitely goes on too long - reads their palms. And then the earth starts shaking.

“Freaky” fans know what happens next. The four awaken the next morning, each inhabiting someone else. Anna is Harper. Tess is Lily. Harper is Anna. Lily is Tess. We’ll be

testing you on this later!

Seriously, it’s easy to lose the thread. Also, one wonders: why doesn’t Lily’s British accent travel with her to Tess’s body? If Curtis suddenly had a British accent, the pairing would make a lot more sense.

Anyway, they go about their days. Lily, in Tess’ body, plays pickleball awkwardly with husband Ryan (Mark Harmon is back, in a thankless part). Harper, in Anna’s body, goes to a pre-wedding tango lesson with Eric, with disastrous results. Meanwhile Anna and Tess, in their teen bodies, feast on junk food with impunity. “I haven’t eaten real dairy since the Bush administration,” one says.

Curtis, aka Lily, gets her best moment in a drugstore, when her hubby asks her to get supplies from the “senior” aisle, and she stockpiles everything from adult diapers to enemas. Lohan’s at her comic best when, as Harper, she tries to flirt the way she thinks her mother would. She’s flirting with Jake (Chad Michael Murray) - yes, the hunky guy from the original - and her flirting is so weird, Jake thinks she’s having a stroke.

It all barrels toward a conclusion that we won’t spoil. Will the wedding be derailed by the efforts of Lily and Harper? Will that derailment be temporary? Will the sisters-to-be reach an understanding? Will Lohan get to play the electric guitar? Will everyone grow to appreciate each other?

That last question, we can answer. Of course they will. Whoever they are, and whatever they just did.

“Freakier Friday,” a Walt Disney Studios release, has been rated PG by the Motion Picture Association “for thematic elements, rude humor, language and some suggestive references.” Running time: 111 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four. (AP)

Variety

LOS ANGELES: Actor **Gina Carano** has settled her federal lawsuit against Lucasfilm and its parent The Walt Disney Co. over her claim that she was fired from “The Mandalorian” in 2021 for expressing right-wing views on social media.

The specific terms of the agreement were not made available. “Ms. Carano was always well respected by her directors, co-stars, and staff, and she worked hard to perfect her craft while treating her colleagues with kindness and respect,” Lucasfilm said in a statement. “With this lawsuit concluded, we look forward to identifying opportunities to work together with Ms. Carano in the near future.”

The two sides stipulated in a federal court filing Thursday that the case should be dismissed with prejudice, meaning it can’t be refilled. A judge still needs to formally dismiss it. The case had been scheduled to go to trial in Los Angeles in February of next year.

The lawsuit, filed in a federal court in California last year, alleged Carano was wrongfully terminated from the “Star Wars” galaxy Disney+ series after two seasons due to a post likening

the treatment of American conservatives to the treatment of Jews in Nazi Germany. Her posts were widely criticized online and spurred a trending #FireGinaCarano hashtag.

“I’d like to thank you all for your unrelenting support throughout my life and career, you’ve been the heartbeat that has kept my story alive. I hope to make you proud,” Carano wrote in a statement Thursday. “I am excited to flip the page and move onto the next chapter. My desires remain in the arts, which is where I hope you will join me.”

Carano thanked Elon Musk for helping fund the lawsuit “and asking for nothing in return.” The suit had alleged that the 43-year-old actor was fired because she “dared voice her own opinions” against an “online bully mob who demanded her compliance with their extreme progressive ideology.”

Carano is a former mixed martial artist who played the recurring character Cara Dune on the show, which launched in 2019 and ran for three seasons. (AP)



Sam Heughan, (from left), Hermione Corfield, Jamie Roy and Harriet Slater arrive at the premiere of ‘Outlander: Blood of My Blood’ on Monday, July 28, 2025, in Los Angeles. (AP)

‘Blood of My Blood’ reveals Fraser family roots

‘Outlander’ prequel goes back in time to meet parents

LOS ANGELES, Aug 9, (AP): In Starz’s “Outlander,” Caitriona Balfe’s Claire Fraser is bold and brave. She can also think on her feet in high-pressure moments. Her husband Jamie Fraser, played by Sam Heughan, is protective and empathetic. In a new prequel series out Friday, called “Outlander: Blood of My Blood,” we see how they each got that way.

“Blood of My Blood” tells the love story of Jamie’s parents, Ellen and Brian, and Claire’s parents, Julia and Henry. The characters are inspired by the stories of Diana Gabaldon but there are no novels for showrunner Matthew B. Roberts to follow. He also is the showrunner of the original series, which debuts its final season early next year.

With no source material “there’s a lot more room to play in,” explained Roberts. In “Outlander,” “there are all these tentpole moments that we have to write to because that’s what our audience wants from the books.”

In the books, Gabaldon mentions Jamie’s parents in “breadcrumbs” said Roberts. “We stick to those, but the freedom is what can we do after that to get to essentially where ‘Outlander’ begins.”

The big obstacle facing Jamie’s parents, Ellen and Brian, who meet in 18th century Scotland - is that they come from families that “don’t get on,” said Harriet Slater, who plays Ellen. “They don’t mix. It’s completely forbidden. My father’s worst enemy was Brian’s father so I’m sure he’d have had some strong words to say about the whole thing.”

Jamie Roy, who plays Brian, enjoys the duality of his character. There’s the “tough, stoic, Highland warrior” who he says “rides around on horses and swings swords and stuff.” Then there’s this “lovely, gentle, poetic, romantic guy who wants nothing more than to take care of other people.”

A few months ago Roy went back and rewatched episodes from season one of “Outlander,” because he wanted to watch Heughan as his TV son.

“There’s so many people who had said there was resemblances about our performances and such. I was like, ‘Well, let me see what Sam’s journey was like right at the start. And I kind of see what they mean.”

Claire’s parents Julia and Henry are mentioned even less in the books. They died in a car acci-

dent when Claire was young. We see them meet in “Blood of My Blood” during World War I. Henry was a soldier and Julia worked in postal censorship.

“When we meet him, he’s pretty much given up,” said Jeremy Irvine, who plays Henry. “I think he’s accepted death really and doesn’t have anything to live for and sends this one last lifeline out in the form of an open letter back to England.” Julia finds his letter at work and feels compelled to respond. The two end up falling in love while writing back-and-forth.

A series of events send Julia and Henry, like their daughter, back in time. They end up in the 1700s where Irvine explains they are “trying to live second by second.”

“The time they’ve gone back to is not a friendly time to be an outsider at all. Being an outsider would likely mean death. Henry and Julia, as is Claire, are very quick-witted, fast-thinking, intelligent people. They survive by the skin of their teeth.”

The cast is already in production on season two of “Blood of My Blood.” Hermione Corfield, who plays Julia, says it’s been nice filming “in our own little secret bubble.”

Variety

NEW YORK: A Missouri woman who starred in the HBO documentary series “Chimp Crazy” has been sentenced to nearly four years in prison after she lied that a movie star primate that she was accused of mistreating had died.

Tonia Haddix, 56, was also ordered Thursday to serve three years of supervised release after her 46-month prison sentence ends.

Haddix, who ran a primate facility the St. Louis suburb of Festus, pleaded guilty in March to two counts of perjury and one of obstructing justice.



Haddix

chimps in “confined in cramped, virtually barren enclosures” at the now-defunct Missouri Primate Foundation facility.

Among the chimps was Tonka, who appeared in the 1997 movies “Buddy” and “George of the Jungle.” Actor Alan Cumming, the British-born actor who starred in the movie “Buddy” alongside Tonka, also begged for the primate to be moved.

Haddix signed a consent decree in 2020 agreeing to send four of the chimps to a Florida sanctuary. The order allowed her to keep three others, including Tonka, at a facility she was to build.

But after a judge found that was not complying with the agreement, authorities arrived in 2021 and removed the remaining chimps, except for Tonka. Haddix claimed Tonka had died and that she had cremated the remains, according to court records. (AP)

MADRID: Spanish authorities have reopened the historic Qurtuba (Cordoba) Mosque following a fire that inflicted damage, the official Spanish Television said.

The television station quoted unidentified local sources as saying that the accident had taken place due to a fire in an electrical sweeping machine. It broke out at 9 p.m. and was put out in three hours. However, firemen remained at the site until dawn to ensure that flames would not recur.

Cordoba Dean Jose Maria Belido, also cited by the official television, indicated that the accident could have been catastrophic had the fire squads failed to scramble and contain the flames.

The damage happened in the eastern section of the mosque and did not spread to the part that dates back to the 8th AD century and contains the most valuable relics, he said.

It was the third fire at the old mosque after the May 1910 and the July 2001 blazes. The latest one scorched a large number of documents.

Qurtuba Mosque was built in 783 AD after the Islamic conquer of Andalusia. It was converted into a Cathedral following Christian forces’ takeover of the country. (KUNA)

CHENGDU: When 108 children from four continents harmonized the Chengdu World Games theme song “Countless Wonders” during Thursday’s opening ceremony, their crystalline voices transformed the stadium into a cathedral of cross-cultural unity.

Under the baton of conductors from US group OneVoice, Italy’s Piccolo Coro dell’Antoniano, Shanghai’s Xiquihua (Hydrangea) Choir, the Chengdu City Concert Hall Choir, and the Daliangshan Niu Niu Choir - ‘Niu Niu’ meaning ‘girls’ in Chinese - brought the anthem’s lyrics, ‘Embracing all colors, countless dreams await,’ to life as a living testament to the Games’ spirit.

For 12-year-old Chloe from Italy’s choir, the performance doubled as an unforgettable birthday celebration. “Marking my birthday on this global stage feels extraordinarily meaningful,” the spirited singer told Xinhua, having practiced Mandarin lyrics like “We gather by appointment” - her favorite phrase for being “catchy and beautiful.”

Her new friend Wang Ying, 12, from the mountainous Daliangshan region of Sichuan Province, mirrored the excitement: “Singing alongside international friends is thrilling.” (AP)

Culture



People pose for photos by a statue of Atlas lion in Rabat, Morocco, on Aug. 2. (Xinhua)

Morocco allocates \$1 million to fund cultural activities

The Moroccan Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication -- the Culture Sector -- has earmarked 9.45,000 dirhams (approx. one million US dollars) to fund cultural festivals and various artistic activities for the year 2025.

The ministry said in a statement that the commission tasked with examining applications for the State financial support this year had held a series of meetings and selected 177 eligible projects out of 583,000 programs that sought the funding.

The allocations will cover artistic and cultural festivals (6.290,000 dirhams worth nearly USD 600,000), 46 cultural gatherings (2.5000 dirhams equivalent to USD 221,000), four projects organized by cultural and artistic societies (750,000

dirhams valued some USD 83,000).

The ministry noted in its statement that the 30th edition of the International Book and Publishing Fair, held between April 17 and 27, strengthened its status among identical international exhibitions.

Up to 403,000 people had visited the fair ground, depicting the Moroccans’ “vital relationship with the writers,” the department said.

The fair, held under the aegis of King Mohammad VI, saw participation of 775 exhibitors from 51 countries, showcasing more than three million books and publications.

The ministry affirmed that the exhibition had hosted the

Emirate of Sharjah as a guest of honor, signaling the close relations between Morocco and the United Arab Emirates.

Seminars and various activities were held during the fair, the ministry statement said, adding that a number of creative intellectual figures were honored and awards were granted to poets and young writers.

Interviews and ceremonies for signing of new releases had also been held. Moreover, “the world painters” program was held for cementing the bonds between children and books. Up to 6,600 children were engaged in the program that also aimed at creating interacting among children, creativity and knowledge. (KUNA)

The resurgence of Y2K fashion

Your closet castoffs could be Gen Z’s treasure

NEW YORK, Aug 9, (AP): From Juicy Couture sweat sets and low-rise, bedazzled jeans to chunky belts and baby tees, early 2000s fashion is all the rage again. That potentially makes that old box of clothes in the back of your closet a sitting cash cow.

Generation Z - born from about 1997 to 2012 - has taken to the Y2K aesthetic that many millennials cringe at.

Fashion-forward college students and TikTok influencers are flaunting the miniskirts, chunky sandals and other bright, brand-heavy and borderline tacky items they likely bought secondhand.

Jackson Mangum, a 24-year-old tailor in Eugene, Oregon, said that while he has distanced himself from Y2K and found his own personal style, his wardrobe still has influences of it, including baggy camo shorts, flared jeans and big, funky sunglasses.

“I’m usually not Y2K but I appreciate Y2K style. I think it’s cool,” said Mangum, who showcases his work on his Instagram account, @wornandornature.

“The baggy jeans, different pops of pink and the chrome shades - it’s easy to go anywhere and be able to find things that fit into that niche. Throwing it together is easier than throwing together a full vintage outfit.”

One reason for the Y2K resurgence is a 20-year cycle often seen in fashion history, experts say. (Y2K is short for the year 2000.)

“Prior to Y2K styles being back, we saw a lot of ‘90s styles being back,”

New York City-based fashion historian Emma McClendon said.

Lauren Downing Peters, an associate professor of fashion studies at Columbia College Chicago, said the Y2K resurgence could be a result of boomers downsizing their homes and purging their millennial children’s old belongings.

“The 20-year duration is just long enough for a younger generation to be able to find the fashions of their parents’ generation, something that they can remember but only in the abstract, as quaint or interesting and kind of available for reinterpretation and adoption in their 20s,” she said.

In addition, both experts drew parallels between the political and social dynamics of the two decades, such as technology booms and catastrophic events.

“At the start of the 2000s we had 9/11, we had a restructuring of how people thought about the world, how people thought about themselves, how people thought about politics,” McClendon said. “I think the global pandemic can be a really interesting comparative to that restructuring.”

The growth of the internet and social media in the 2000s mirrors the development of artificial intelligence today, she said. At the same time, the 2000s may represent a time relatively free of social media and interconnectivity, which could appeal to Gen Z, who have grown up in the age of the internet.

“That is kind of the appeal behind vintage-inspired fashion trends - this idea that things were better back then,”



Eclectically styled mannequin heads are displayed at Apocalypse, a buy, sell and trade store in Boulder, Colo. on Saturday, July 12, 2025. (AP)

she said. Jocelyn Brown, who owns the on-line resale shop Arkival Storehouse, earns a living off this nostalgia by purchasing vintage clothes from thrift stores and antique malls, upcycling them and reselling them online.

Anyone trying to turn a profit on old clothes, she said, can use online channels and apps like Depop, Poshmark, ThredUp, TikTok and Instagram to sell and trade. Brown also suggests selling at flea markets.

She advises sellers to cater to the audience buying.

“People really like when something is curated and it feels like an experience,” said Brown, who lives in Chi-

cago. “I’m really specific about what I put on my racks, and I may have more than what I bring... or I separate it out into different collections.”

Resale stores are another option. Nell Tercek, an assistant manager at Apocalypse, a resale shop in Boulder, Colorado, said about 75% of the inventory the store buys is Y2K.

Staff specifically watch out for micro miniskirts, vintage Victoria Secret lingerie tanks and baby tees, she said. For every item bought, the seller receives either 30% cash or 50% store credit of the resale price.

“Y2K style is really flashy and very exciting and visually enticing,” Tercek said. “Physical expression is

really important right now due to the circumstances of the world. People are wanting to show who they are authentically and be able to experiment with clothing.”

Downing Peters sees “logo-mania and the resurgence of a lot of these cherished Y2K brands. Like, much to my horror, I’m seeing students wearing Von Dutch again and True Religion jeans, brands that I cared a lot about when I was younger.”

The sustainable nature of buying secondhand also appeals to consumers, the experts said.

Gen Z has “this awareness of fashion sustainability and the ills of mainstream mass fashion, and the idea that you can shop responsibly by shopping secondhand without sacrificing style and individuality,” Downing Peters said.

Brown said she is sometimes hesitant to resell Y2K-era clothing because some was made poorly during the industry’s fast-fashion economics then. However, she emphasized, Y2K-era denim is much higher quality than current-day denim, making it more valuable.

Looking ahead, Brown believes Y2K pieces will remain in consumer’s closets but will be styled in a more individualized way.

“People will take bits and pieces of Y2K style with them and add it to just their overall style,” she said.

As for what comes next? McClendon says 2010s style could be on the horizon, so hold on to those infinity scarves, skinny jeans or combat boots you may have tucked away.

Shingles shot may cut dementia risk by 20%: study

Vaccines hold tantalizing promise in dementia fight

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

By Anand Kumar and Jalees Rehman
University of Illinois Chicago

Over the past two centuries, vaccines have been critical for preventing infectious diseases. The World Health Organization estimates that vaccination prevents between 3 million and 5 million deaths annually from diseases like diphtheria, tetanus, influenza, measles and, more recently, COVID-19.

While there has long been broad scientific consensus that vaccines prevent or mitigate the spread of infections, there is new research suggesting that the therapeutic impact might go beyond the benefit of preventing infectious diseases.

An April 2025 study published in the prominent journal Nature found tantalizing evidence that the herpes zoster - or shingles - vaccine could lower the risk of dementia in the general population by as much as 20%.

We are a team of physician scientists with expertise in the clinical and basic science of neurodegenerative disorders and dementia.

We believe that this study potentially opens the door to other breakthroughs in understanding and treating dementia and other degenerative disorders of the brain.

One of the major challenges researchers face when trying to study the effects of vaccines is finding an unvaccinated "control group" for comparison - a group that is similar to the vaccine group in all respects, save for the fact that they haven't received the active vaccine. That's because it's unethical to assign some patients to the control group and deprive them of vaccine protection against a disease such as shingles.

The Nature study took advantage of a policy change in

Wales that went into effect in 2013, stating that people born on or after September 2, 1933, were eligible for the herpes zoster vaccination for at least a year, while those born before that cutoff date were not. The vaccine was administered to prevent shingles, a painful condition caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox, which can lie dormant in the body and be reactivated later in life.

The researchers used the policy change as a natural laboratory of sorts to study the effect of shingles vaccination on long-term health outcomes. In a statistically sophisticated analysis of health records, the team found that the vaccine reduced the probability of getting dementia by one-fifth over a seven-year period. This means that people who received the shingles vaccine were less likely to develop clinical dementia over the seven-year follow-up period, and women benefited more than men.

The study design allowed researchers to compare two groups without actively depriving any one group of access to vaccination. The two groups were also of comparable age and had similar medical comorbidities - meaning similar rates of other medical conditions such as diabetes or high blood pressure.

Immune

Results from this and other related studies raise the possibility that vaccines may have a broader role in experimental therapeutics outside the realm of infectious diseases.

These studies also raise provocative questions about how vaccines work and how our immune system can potentially prevent dementia.

One scientific explanation for the reduction of dementia by the herpes zoster vaccine could be the direct protection against the shingles virus, which may play a role in exacerbating dementia.

However, there is also the possibility that the vaccine may

have conferred protection by activating the immune system and providing "trained immunity," in which the immune system is strengthened by repeated exposure to vaccines or viruses.

The study did not differentiate between different types of dementia, such as dementia due to Alzheimer's disease or dementia due to stroke. Additionally, researchers cannot draw any definitive conclusions about possible mechanisms for how the vaccines could be protective from an analysis of health records alone.

Medicine

The next step would be a prospective, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study - the "gold standard" for clinical trials in medicine - to directly examine how the herpes zoster vaccine compares with a placebo in their ability to reduce the risk of dementia over time. Such studies are necessary before any vaccines, as well as other potential therapies, can be recommended for routine clinical use in the prevention of dementia.

Dementia is a major noncommunicable disease that is a leading cause of death around the world.

A January 2025 study provided updated figures on lifetime dementia risk across different subsets of the U.S. population. The researchers estimate that the lifetime risk of dementia after age 55 is 42% - more than double earlier estimates. The dementia risk was 4% by age 75, and 20% by age 85, with the majority of risk occurring after 85. The researchers projected that the number of new cases of dementia in the U.S. would double over the next four decades from approximately 514,000 cases in 2020 to 1 million in 2060.

Once considered a disease largely confined to the developed world, the deleterious effects of dementia are now apparent throughout the globe, as life expectancy increases in many formerly developing countries. While there are different forms of dementia with varying clinical manifestations

and underlying neurobiology, Alzheimer's disease is the most common.

Prospective studies that specifically test how giving a vaccine changes the risk for future dementia may benefit from studying patient populations with specific types of dementia because each version of dementia might require distinct treatments.

Unfortunately, for the past two to three decades, the amyloid hypothesis of Alzheimer's disease - which posits that accumulation of a protein called amyloid in the brain contributes to the disorder - dominated the scientific conversation. As a result, most of the efforts in the experimental therapeutics of Alzheimer's disease have focused on drugs that lower the levels of amyloid in the brain.

However, results to date have been modest and disappointing. The two recently approved amyloid-lowering therapies have only a minimal impact on slowing the decline, are expensive and have potentially serious side effects. And no drug currently approved by the Food and Drug Administration for clinical use reverses the cognitive decline.

Studies based on health records suggest that past exposure to viruses increase the risk of dementia, while routine vaccines, including those against tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, pneumonia, shingles and others, reduce the risk.

There is sometimes a tendency among scientists to cling to older, familiar models of disease and a reluctance to move in more unconventional directions.

Yet the process of doing science has a way of teaching researchers like us humility, opening our minds to new information, learning from our mistakes and going where that data takes us in our quest for effective, lifesaving therapies.

Vaccines may be one of those paths less traveled. It is an exciting possibility that may open the door to other breakthroughs in understanding and treating degenerative disorders of the brain. (AP)

Fed freeze jeopardizes Harvard health breakthroughs

Research could be set back years after funding cut, scientists warn

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Aug 9, (AP): Harvard University professor Alberto Ascherio's research is literally frozen.

Collected from millions of US soldiers over two decades using millions of dollars from taxpayers, the epidemiology and nutrition scientist has blood samples stored in liquid nitrogen freezers within the university's T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

The samples are key to his award-winning research, which seeks a cure to multiple sclerosis and other neurodegenerative diseases. But for months, Ascherio has been unable to work with the samples because he lost \$7 million in federal research funding, a casualty of Harvard's fight with the Trump administration.

"It's like we have been creating a state-of-the-art telescope to explore the universe, and now we don't have money to launch it," said Ascherio. "We built everything and now we are ready to use it to make a new discovery that could impact millions of people in the world and then, 'Poof. You're being cut off.'"

The loss of an estimated \$2.6 billion in federal funding at Harvard has meant that some of the world's most prominent researchers are laying off young researchers. They are shelving years or even decades of research, into everything from opioid addiction to cancer.

And despite Harvard's lawsuits against the administration, and settlement talks between the warring parties, researchers are confronting the fact that some of their work may never resume.

Protests

The funding cuts are part of a monthslong battle that the Trump administration has waged against some the country's top universities including Columbia, Brown and Northwestern. The administration has taken a particularly aggressive stance against Harvard, freezing funding after the country's oldest university rejected a series of government demands issued by a federal antisemitism task force.

The government had demanded sweeping changes at Harvard related to campus protests, academics and admissions - meant to address government accusations that the university had become a hotbed of liberalism and tolerated harassment.

Harvard responded by filing a federal lawsuit, accusing the Trump administration of waging a retaliation campaign against the university. In the lawsuit, it laid out reforms it had taken to address antisemitism but also vowed not to "surrender its independence or relinquish its constitutional rights."

"Make no mistake: Harvard rejects antisemitism and discrimination in all of its forms and is actively making structural reforms to eradicate antisemitism on campus," the university said in its legal complaint. "But rather than engage with Harvard regarding those ongoing efforts, the Government announced a sweeping freeze of funding for medical, scientific, technological, and other research that has nothing at all to do with antisemitism."



Harvard University professor Alberto Ascherio opens a liquid nitrogen freezer used to store blood samples used for research at the university's T.H. Chan School of Public Health on Tuesday, Aug. 5 in Boston. (AP)

The Trump administration denies the cuts were made in retaliation, saying the grants were under review even before the demands were sent in April. It argues the government has wide discretion to cancel federal contracts for policy reasons.

The funding cuts have left Harvard's research community in a state of shock, feeling as if they are being unfairly targeted in a fight has nothing to do with them. Some have been forced to shutter labs or scramble to find nongovernment funding to replace lost money.

In May, Harvard announced that it would put up at least \$250 million of its own money to continue research efforts, but university President Alan Garber warned of "difficult decisions and sacrifices" ahead.

Ascherio said the university was able to pull together funding to pay his researchers' salaries until next June. But he's still been left without resources needed to fund critical research tasks, like lab work. Even a year's delay can put his research back five years, he said.

"It's really devastating," agreed Rita Hamad, the director of the Social Policies for Health Equity Research Center at Harvard, who had three multiyear grants totaling \$10 million canceled by the Trump administration. The grants funded research into the impact of school segregation on heart health, how pandemic-era policies in over 250 counties affected mental health, and the role of neighborhood factors in dementia.

At the School of Public Health, where Hamad is based, 190 grants have been terminated, affecting roughly 130 scientists.

"Just thinking about all the knowledge that's not going to be gained or that is going to be actively lost," Hamad said. She expects significant layoffs on her team if the funding freeze continues for a few more months. "It's all just a mixture of frustration and anger and sadness all the time, every day."

Desperation fueling lawlessness in Gaza: WHO

Ailing kids in Gaza fight to survive amid famine, medical shortages

GAZA, Aug 9, (Xinhua): At six years old, Misk al-Madhoun weighs just five kilograms -- roughly the weight of a two-month-old infant. Suffering from cerebral atrophy since infancy, she now lies limp and silent in northern Gaza, her body wasting away as war deprives the enclave of even the most basic means of survival.

"We had financial difficulties even before the war," her father, Bilal al-Madhoun, told Xinhua. "Now we can't find anything -- no treatment, no food. Humanitarian aid has almost disappeared."

Despite occasional assistance from charitable organizations, her family often goes without food. Their hopes now have shifted from seeking medical treatment to simply securing basic necessities -- a bottle of milk or a clean cloth -- to ease their daughter's suffering.

Since the outbreak of hostilities between Israel and Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023, Israel has imposed a near-total blockade on the Gaza Strip, drastically limiting the entry of food, fuel, medicine, and other essential goods.

Disabilities

Crossings into the enclave -- already tightly controlled before the war -- have been largely shut, while infrastructure has been bombarded, displacing most of Gaza's 2.3 million residents and crippling public services, especially the health system.

Children like Misk, living with chronic illnesses or disabilities, are among the hardest hit. Many have experienced rapidly deteriorating conditions -- and in many cases, death.

On Tuesday, 15-year-old Tamer Shohaiber died at al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip due to complications related to severe malnutrition, according to hospital officials.

Born also with cerebral atrophy, Tamer's condition worsened since the war began, said Khalil al-Diqran, a spokesperson for the hospital. "In his final days, we can't secure even basic food such as bread," said his grieving mother.



Dr. Jamal Salha tends to a young patient at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, July 7, 2025. (AP)

Al-Diqran said Tamer's case is not an isolated one. "We are witnessing a surge in child deaths that could have been prevented if minimal health and nutritional support had been available," he said.

Since Oct. 7, 2023, at least 201 people have died due to starvation and lack of medical treatment in Gaza, including 98 children, according to figures released by the Gaza-based health authorities on Friday.

In the 24 hours leading up to the report, four deaths were recorded, including two children, the authorities said in a press statement.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has voiced alarm over the deepening humanitarian crisis, warning that approximately one-third of Gaza's population has gone days without food.

In a press statement released in late July, the WFP estimated that around 470,000 people in Gaza are experiencing famine-like conditions, with at least 90,000 women and children in urgent need of nutritional support.

"It's clear a disaster is unfolding in front of our eyes, in front of our television screens," said Ross Smith, WFP director of emergencies, in a press briefing in Geneva.

Similarly, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned on Monday that more than 320,000 children in Gaza under the age of five are at risk of dying from acute malnutrition.

"Every hour matters for the children of Gaza, and if the situation does not change immediately, the consequences could be dire," the organization said in a statement, calling for urgent international action.

Meanwhile, head of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Thursday that the desperation in Gaza has led to a breakdown of law and order, calling for humanitarian corridors to evacuate people in need of urgent medical care outside Gaza.

"People are dying not only from hunger and disease, but also in the desperate search for food," the WHO director-general told a press briefing in Geneva, noting that more than 1,600 people have been killed and nearly 12,000 injured while trying to collect food from distribution sites since May 27.

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South Africa draws with Algeria

Uganda recovers to beat Guinea 3-0 in CHAN tournament

KAMPALA, Aug 9, (Xinhua): Co-hosts Uganda finally recovered to collect a 3-0 win against Guinea in the TotalEnergies CAF African Nations Championship (CHAN) 2024 Group C match played.

Cheered on by the home fans, Uganda Cranes launched an aggressive start at the Mandela National Stadium in Kampala.

After 31 minutes Regan Mpande, who features for SC Villa in the Uganda Premier League, made no mistake nodding the ball past Guinea's goalkeeper Ousmane Camara.

Yakhouba Barry had a chance for Guinea five minutes later, but shot wide before the first half ended 1-0 in favour of the hosts.

In the second half, Guinea came all out with a high passing approach, but the Uganda Cranes defenders stood firm. After 66 minutes, Aboubacar Bangoura brought down Allan Okello, who converted from the spot to make it 2-0.

Guinea tried to fight back and believed they had earned a penalty

in the 74th minute, but it was overturned after a VAR review.

Substitute Ivan Ahimbisibwe also got his name on the score sheet for Uganda after 89 minutes as the home team ran riot against the West African side.

"I am happy that after losing our opening match to Algeria, the players have responded positively and

collected three points and three goals in the second match," said Uganda's coach Morley Byekwaso after the match attended by over 30,000 spectators.

In an earlier match, South Africa battled from a goal down to hold 2023 finalists Algeria to a 1-1 draw.

The Desert Fennecs took the lead

after 29 minutes with Abdenmour Belhocini's strike. But South Africa fought back to level matters through Thabiso Kutumela on the stroke of half time.

Algeria now leads Group C with four points, while Uganda is second with three points and better goal difference than Guinea, who is also on three points.

Lynx holds off Mystics to improve to 16-1 at home



Dallas Wings guard JJ Quinerly (11) drives against New York Liberty guard Rebekah Gardner, left, during the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

Wilson scores 29 on birthday in Aces win

MINNEAPOLIS, Aug 9, (AP): Alana Smith scored 25 points, Courtney Williams had 14 and the Minnesota Lynx held off the Washington Mystics 80-76 to improve to 16-1 at home this season.

Smith and Washington rookie Sonia Citron each scored eight straight points for their teams down the stretch. Citron's three-point play with 2:44 left pulled the Mystics within 71-70, but Smith answered at the other end with her fourth 3-pointer.

Citron sank a 3-pointer from the wing with 59 seconds remaining to tie it at 76-all. Williams answered with a baseline jumper to give Minnesota a two-point lead.

Washington guard Sug Sutton was fouled with 36 seconds left but the call was overturned following a review. The Mystics won the jump ball, but Citron turned it over in the lane.

Kayla McBride sealed it with two free throws.

Dijonai Carrington, in her home debut for the Lynx after being traded from Dallas, added 12 points for Minnesota (26-5). McBride scored 11. Napheesa Collier (right ankle) did not play.

Citron finished with 26 points and four 3-pointers for Washington (13-17). Kiki Iriafen and Shakira Austin each scored 12 points.

Bridget Carleton made a jumper from the free throw line just before the halftime buzzer to give Minnesota a 38-35 lead. The Lynx were just 2 of 13 from 3-point range in the first half. The Mystics were hurt by



Seattle Storm guard Erica Wheeler (17) defends against Las Vegas Aces forward NaLyssa Smith (3) during the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Las Vegas. (AP)

13 turnovers in the half.

Aces 90, Storm 86

In Las Vegas, A'ja Wilson had 29 points and 12 rebounds on her 29th birthday. Jackie Young added 26 points, including a key 3-pointer with 51 seconds left, and the Las Vegas Aces beat the Seattle Storm for their fifth win in six games.

Young scored seven straight points at the end of an 9-0 run to give Las Vegas a 63-44 lead midway through the third quarter.

Seattle closed the third on a 17-6 run - with all six Las Vegas points from Jewell Loyd. The Storm also scored the opening seven points of the fourth to get to 71-70.

Dominique Malonga completed a three-point play with 5:38 left to tie

it at 75 - the closest Seattle had been since it was tied at 25. But Young scored the next five points.

Young's late 3-pointer made it 90-84.

Chelsea Gray added 13 points and 11 rebounds for Las Vegas (17-14). Loyd finished with 10 points against her former team. Young's second basket in the first half moved her past Becky Hammon for fifth in franchise history for most made field goals.

Malonga has season highs with 22 points and 12 rebounds for Seattle (16-15). Erica Wheeler added 16 points, Gabby Williams scored 14 and Nneka Ogumwimi had 12 points and nine rebounds. Brittney Sykes, in her first game with Seattle after com-

ing over from the Mystics, scored 14 points off the bench.

The Aces announced it was their 40th straight sold-out game - the most in WNBA history.

Liberty 88, Wings 77

In Arlington, Sabrina Ionescu scored 16 points, Emma Meeseman had 14 points, eight rebounds, seven assists and three steals, and the New York Liberty beat the Dallas Wings for their third straight victory.

Leonie Fiebich and Jonquel Jones also scored 14 points apiece for New York (20-10). Natasha Cloud and Marine Johannes each added 10.

Arike Ogunbowale scored 17 points and Maddy Siegrist added 15 off the bench for Dallas (8-23), which has lost four straight games. Myisha Hines-Allen had 12 points and seven rebounds.

Dallas was without rookie Paige Bueckers due to a back injury that required treatment when the teams met Tuesday in New York. Breanna Stewart, Kennedy Burke and Nyara Sabally did not play for the Liberty.

Meeseman had 14 points, six rebounds and four assists in the first half to help New York build a 50-34 lead. The Liberty made 51.5% of their shots, including 5 of 12 from 3-point range, and 11 of 11 free throws in the half. The Wings were held to 33.3% shooting with nine turnovers.

New York began the fourth quarter on a 13-1 run, capped by a 3-pointer by Fiebich, to take control with a 77-58 lead. The Wings didn't make their first field goal of the fourth until the 5:50 mark.

Bayern shifts away from 'Visit Rwanda' sponsorship

MUNICH, Aug 9, (AP): Bayern Munich signaled it will cut down on "Visit Rwanda" branding as it moves "away from a commercial sponsorship" with the African nation facing a backlash over alleged support for rebels in neighboring Congo.

Bayern dismissed allegations of "sportswashing" when it signed a five-year Rwanda deal in 2023. It included advertisements in the stadium and what Bayern called events "to promote tourism and investment opportunities in Rwanda."

At the time, it replaced a controversial sponsorship deal with Qatar. Rwanda has similar sponsorships with European soccer giants like Paris Saint-Germain, Arsenal and Atletico Madrid.

Some Bayern fans displayed a large banner at a game in February protesting the deal, amid accusations from the United Nations that Rwanda has backed rebels in neighboring Congo.

Now the German soccer champion says it's reached a new deal with Rwanda which turns the existing sponsorship deal into a three-year agreement focusing on developing young soccer players at a Bayern-affiliated academy in the country.

"In constructive talks about our future direction, we agreed that a very special part of our relationship with (the Rwanda Development Board) was the developmental nature of our work in Kigali through the FC Bayern Academy," Bayern chief executive Jan-Christian Dreesen said in a statement.

"We are therefore transforming our commercial partnership into a talent programme and expanding the FC Bayern Academy in (Rwanda's capital) Kigali together with the RDB as both a football and social initiative. This remains perfectly aligned to our strategic objective of

developing playing talent in Africa."

Bayern didn't specify how soon it would drop "Visit Rwanda" branding as part of the move, which is described as a transition. As of Friday afternoon local time, the branding was still displayed under a section of the Bayern website listing club sponsors and partners.

The RDB's chief executive, Jean-Guy Afrika, was quoted by Bayern as saying the changes to the partnership aimed to "accelerate sports development," adding: "This continued partnership with FC Bayern helps ensure that talent development remains anchored in our broader vision to position Rwanda as a global hub for tourism, investment, and high-performance sport."

Rwanda's presence in European soccer has grown steadily since 2018, when it first partnered with Arsenal to put "Visit Rwanda" branding on the London club's shirt sleeves.

An agreement with PSG was signed in 2019 and renewed in April this year. It covers branding in the stadium and included shirt-sleeve sponsorship at the Club World Cup. A three-year deal to sponsor Atletico was agreed in April including branding on training and warm-up shirts.

Rwanda is accused of supporting the M23 rebel group, the most potent of more than 100 armed groups vying for dominance in mineral-rich eastern Congo just across the border with Rwanda. Rwanda also has been accused of exploiting eastern Congo's minerals, used in smartphones, advanced fighter jets and much more.

However, Rwandan authorities allege some of those who participated in the 1994 Rwandan genocide fled into Congo and are either working with or are being protected by the Congolese army. They have denied involvement in Congo's minerals sector and said any security action taken is to protect its territory.

Medical report sent to Spanish league

Ter Stegen back as captain: Barca

MADRID, Aug 9, (AP): Barcelona says Marc-Andre ter Stegen will return as first-team captain after announcing that the goalkeeper had authorized the club to send his medical report to the Spanish league.

The announcement came after Ter Stegen criticized suggestions he was to blame for Barcelona's inability to register new players, insisting that his back surgery and recovery timeline were fully approved by the club.

The disagreement led to the 33-year-old Ter Stegen being stripped of the club's captaincy on Thursday. But that changed Friday.

"The club announces that the player Marc-Andre ter Stegen has signed the authorization necessary for the club to send La Liga the medical report relating to his surgery," Barcelona said in a statement. "The disciplinary case has been closed and the player is captain of the first team once again with immediate effect."

The club had opened a disciplinary proceeding against the goalkeeper on Tuesday after discrepancies about the recovery time for the lower back surgery that Ter Stegen successfully underwent last week.

Barcelona needed him to sign the injury report so it could be sent to the Spanish league in order to clear some salary-cap space and allow the club to more easily register other players without breaching financial fair play rules.

Ter Stegen said ahead of the surgery that the recovery time would be about three months. The club did not

give an official timetable for the recovery process, saying only that the operation was "successful" and that "his recovery will determine when he can return."

The club signed Espanyol goalkeeper Joan Garcia in June. Its other goalkeepers are veteran Wojciech Szczesny and Iñaki Peña.

Ter Stegen missed nearly all of last season because of a ruptured tendon in his knee, and in 2023 he missed about two months because of another back operation. Peña and the 35-year-old Szczesny started in place of Ter Stegen last season.

Barcelona, the defending Spanish league champion, arrived back in Spain on Tuesday after completing a preseason tour in Asia.

Meanwhile, Robert Lewandowski will miss Barcelona's friendly match on Sunday because of a hamstring problem, the Catalan club said Friday.

Barcelona will host Italian club Como in the traditional curtain-raising Joan Gamper Trophy game before its La Liga campaign starts Aug. 16 against Mallorca.

"The striker is unavailable for Sunday's game and his recovery will determine his return," the team said in a statement.

Lewandowski scored 42 goals total in 52 appearances last season to help Barcelona win the La Liga title. His 27 league goals was second only to Kylian Mbappe's 31.

The 36-year-old Poland international is beginning his fourth season at Barcelona.



FC Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski, left, celebrates with his teammate Gerard Martin after scoring a goal during a friendly soccer match between FC Barcelona and Daegu FC at the Daegu Stadium in Daegu, South Korea. (AP)

Vitesse Arnhem 'deeply disappointed' as court upholds license withdrawal

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Aug 9, (AP): Vitesse Arnhem lost a last-ditch bid Friday to get back its license to play in the Dutch professional leagues, possibly signalling an end to one of the oldest soccer clubs in the Netherlands.

A Dutch court rejected an injunction request by Vitesse Arnhem that sought to halt a decision by the Netherlands' soccer association in July to withdraw its professional license.

In a statement on its website, the club said it was "deeply disappointed and distressed" by the decision.

"We have done everything we can in the past period to meet the set conditions, in collaboration with the investors and other stakeholders," said Michel Schaaf, chairman of De Sterkhouders, a group of investors that sought to save the club. "The fact that this has been deemed insufficient is painful for us. Above all, for our supporters, em-

ployees, and the city of Arnhem."

Vitesse was established in 1892, initially as a cricket club. A soccer team was added later that year. Its only major Dutch title came when it won the KNVB Beker knockout cup competition in 2017.

The Central Netherlands District Court said in a statement that a judge ruled that the Dutch soccer association KNVB "did not violate the licensing regulations and could reasonably have reached this decision." The judge who made the decision also said the ruling by the association's licensing commission was "sufficiently reasoned."

Vitesse has been wrangling with the association for years over its status. Last year, it was docked 18 points and relegated from the top-flight Eredivisie while under investigation for ties to sanctioned Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich, the former owner of Chelsea.

The KNVB said in a written reaction that "it has

become painfully clear how significant the impact can be if a club structurally fails to comply with the licensing system."

"Losing a professional football club's license is a devastating blow, not only for the club itself, but also for the fans, sponsors, partners, employees, and everyone else directly or indirectly involved with Vitesse," the KNVB added. "We fully understand that this is painful and a very difficult time for them."

The club said Friday that it's future is now unclear. Vitesse had been scheduled to play its first match of the new season in the second tier of the Dutch professional league on Saturday against Almere City.

"The club is investigating the possibilities," it said. "In the meantime, the leadership remains in talks with stakeholders to secure the continuation of soccer in Arnhem."

Kuwait U-23 builds cohesion ahead of Asian Cup qualifiers

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Kuwait Olympic soccer team will play its third friendly match tonight against Yarmouk at 7:00 pm at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium, before departing for a training camp in Thailand as part of preparations for the U-23 Asian Cup finals to be hosted by Saudi Arabia next January.

Kuwait is drawn in Group B of the U-23 Asian Cup qualifiers alongside Japan, Afghanistan, and Myanmar, which will host the group matches from September 1 to 9.

Tonight’s game follows two earlier friendlies, in which the team defeated Kazma 3-1 and overcame Fahaheel 1-0 last Thursday thanks to a goal from Jarrah Al-Hulaileh.

Croatian head coach Dario Basic aims to use the match to evaluate player readiness and strengthen team cohesion, especially with several new additions to the squad, as the team targets strong results in the upcoming competition.

Basic, assisted by Mohammed Al-Failakawi, has called up 29 players: Jassem Al-Mutair, Abdullah Al-Ghaniman, Ahmed Boudi, Mohammed Al-Shuraifi, Abdullah Mousa, Abdulredha Shehab, Bader Al-Mutairi, Youssef Majed, Hussein Al-Aryan, Mohammed Al-Kandari, Omar Al-Mutair, Khaled Al-Kharqawi, Mohammed Al-Surai’e, Saleh Al-Matheb, Jarrah Al-Hulaileh, Salem Al-Khutlan, Omar Al-Saleem, Muntaser Abdulsalam, Omar Al-Azmi, Hussein Shehab, Abdulrahman Al-Rashidi, Ali Jabr, Nasser Al-Enezi, Bandar Al-Barazi, Abdulrahman Al-Harbi, Jassem Al-Enezi, Adel Al-Shammari, Dhari Al-Masri, Muath Al-Oseimie, and Muneer Al-Subaie.



Kuwait U-23 and Fahaheel players vie for the ball during their friendly match.

Part of season build-up

Al-Tadamon to play multiple friendlies



Players undergo a light training session.

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Al-Tadamon has scheduled two friendly matches against Yarmouk and Burqan on August 14 and 18 as part of its preparations for the upcoming Zain Premier League season, which kicks off against Kuwait Club on September 12.

Following the match against Burqan, the team will embark on a training camp abroad, where they will play several addi-

tional friendly matches.

The team has reinforced their squad with key signings, including Nigerian professional Folabi, French players Jonathan Bamba and Zakaria Slimani, Portuguese Pedro, and Syrian Ahmed Al-Dali. Al-Tadamon aims to deliver strong and convincing performances throughout the new season.

Training sessions began last week on the subsidiary field at Jaber Al-Ahmad Inter-

national Stadium, as the club’s main stadium undergoes maintenance. The sessions are led by Portuguese coach Miguel Leal in preparation for the season ahead.

The club has also added local talents such as Abdul Mohsen Al-Ajmi, Salman Al-Ajmi, Turki Al-Mutairi, and Ali Fadel to its roster. Negotiations are ongoing to sign additional local players to further strengthen the squad and achieve the team’s goals.

Kuwait youth team loses to Serbian club Brodarac



Players fighting for the ball.

BELGRADE, Aug 9: The Kuwait youth team suffered a 3-1 defeat against Serbian club Brodarac in a friendly match in Serbia. Misfer Al-Adwani scored the team’s sole goal.

Earlier, the team lost 5-1 to Serbian club Partizan but bounced back with a 3-1 victory over Serbian club Sevojno in another friendly match as part of its preparations.

The coaching staff is focused on pre-

paring all players over the coming period by improving their fitness levels and fostering strong team cohesion ahead of the Gulf Youth Cup, scheduled to take place in Abha on August 28.

Kuwait is drawn in Group A alongside Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen. Group B consists of Oman, Iraq, Bahrain, and Egypt, which will participate as a replacement for the UAE.

TOYOTA GAZOO Racing achieves ‘historic’ victory at Rally Estonia

Career-defining debut for 23-year-old Solberg

TALLINN, Aug 9: TOYOTA GAZOO Racing World Rally Team (TGR-WRT) returned to the top of the podium at Rally Estonia, powered by a sensational debut performance from Oliver Solberg. Manning the No. 99 Toyota GR YARIS Rally1 alongside co-driver Elliott Edmondson, Solberg claimed his maiden WRC victory, which also marks Toyota’s 100th win in the history of the FIA World Rally Championship. The team’s efforts have also helped Toyota retain its position at the top of the manufacturers’ standings, holding a 52-point lead as the 2025 season passes the halfway mark.

Akio Toyoda, TGR-WRT Chairman, commented: “Oliver, Elliott, congratulations on your victory! I’ve heard from the team that Juha has been giving Oliver various pieces of advice as it was his first time to compete with the GR YARIS Rally1. I am very grateful to Juha. The next rally is our home rally. We will put on the best performance for the people of Jyväskylä who always support us. I’m counting on everyone in the team!”

Rally Estonia marked a career-defining debut for 23-year-old Solberg, who was handed the opportunity to drive the No. 99 Toyota GR YARIS Rally1 alongside co-driver Ed-



Drivers in action during Rally Estonia.

mondson. After two days of testing in Finland, he quickly found his rhythm on Estonia’s high-speed gravel roads.

Solberg made an immediate impact, winning his first career stage in the opening forest tests

to take the rally lead. Two more stage wins later that day gave him a 12.4-second advantage. Despite a reduced road position advantage, Solberg maintained his momentum, adding four more stage wins to extend



The drivers celebrate their victory at Rally Estonia.

his lead to 21.1 seconds.

Rainfall added to the challenge in the final leg, but Solberg remained composed, securing two more stage wins to bring his total to nine. A measured Power Stage run, where he posted the third-fastest time, sealed a landmark 25.2-second victory and capped one of the most impressive performances in recent WRC memory. With this result, he becomes the third-youngest driver to win a WRC round and the 16th to do so in a Toyota.

Over the years, Toyota has been participating in many different forms of motorsports, including Formula One, the World Endurance Championship (WEC), and the Nürburgring 24 Hours endurance race. Toyota’s participation in these events was overseen by separate entities within the company until April 2015, when Toyota established TGR, to consolidate all of its motorsports activities under one in-house brand. Representing Toyota’s belief that ‘the roads build the people, and the people build the cars,’ TGR highlights the role of motorsports as a fundamental pillar of Toyota’s commitment to making ‘ever-better’ cars. Harnessing years of experience gained under the extreme conditions of various motorsports events, TGR aims to forge new technologies and solutions that bring the freedom, adventure, and joy of driving to everyone.

Best of the Rest

Villa signs Guessand: Aston Villa made its first major signing of the summer by landing Ivory Coast forward Evann Guessand from French club Nice for a reported fee of at least 30 million euros (\$35 million).

The 24-year-old Guessand scored 13 goals in total last season playing mainly as a winger and was named Nice’s player of the season.

Villa described him as “a versatile operator capable of playing across the front line.” Neither team disclosed financial terms. The deal reportedly includes another 5 million euros in potential add-ons.

“This club is special,” Guessand said in Villa’s announcement. “History, pride, passion, the belief. When I heard the club wanted me, I didn’t think twice.” (AP)

□ □ □

Thauvin joins Lens: Lens signed former France winger Florian Thauvin from Italian side Udinese on a three-year contract.

The 32-year-old Thauvin captained Udinese in Serie A last season, scoring eight league goals, and he was under contract for another year.

Lens did not give financial details but French sports daily L’Équipe said the club paid 6 million euros (\$7 million). Thauvin returns to Ligue 1 after playing the best soccer of his career for Marseille.

During a prolific spell playing alongside the mercurial Dimitri Payet, he scored 57 league goals across three seasons and coach Didier Deschamps called him up to the national side. (AP)

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NEWS



Shi Leilei (right) of China competes during the men's kumite - 60kg pool round match between Shi Leilei of China and Abdullah Shaaban of Kuwait at the World Games 2025 in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province. (Xinhua)

Sports

Third loss ends Kuwait's hopes

Junior handball team departs for 15-day training camp in Cairo

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

CAIRO, Aug 9: The Kuwait U-19 handball team suffered its third straight defeat, losing 26-32 against Austria in Group A of the 11th U-19 World Handball Championship, held in Cairo at Dr. Hassan Mostafa Hall from August 16. Earlier losses against Sweden (39-22) and Portugal (38-23) left Kuwait at the bottom of the group without any points, while Austria claimed second place with four points.

As a result, Kuwait is eliminated from contention for the title and qualification to the main round and will now compete for consolation in the President's Cup.

This marks the second edition of the tournament featuring this many teams, following the 2023 event in Croatia. Kuwait prepared for the World Cup through training camps in Croatia and Slovenia, playing several friendlies to fine-tune their performance ahead of the championship.

Meanwhile, the junior handball team departs today for a 15-day



Kuwaiti makes a goal attempt during Kuwait-Austria match.

training camp in Cairo, during which they will play five friendly matches. This camp is part of the Federation's ongoing efforts to develop the youth squad for upcoming competitions.

The delegation is led by Federa-

tion Board Member Mohammed Al-Dahilis, alongside Board Member Mubarak Al-Daihani, Administrative Staff Head Dr. Khaled Al-Gharib, National Team Manager, and technical staff led by Coach Tin Bodi, Assistant Coach Hassan Al-Mou-

sawi, and Goalkeeper Coach Khaled Madouh.

Dr. Al-Gharib emphasized that continuous preparation and training over different periods provide valuable experience and development opportunities for the players.

China's Gao takes home wushu title

Britain dethrones Switzerland for tug of war gold at World Games



Gold medalists team Britain celebrate during the victory ceremony for the men's outdoor 640kg competition of Tug of War event at The World Games 2025 in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province. (Xinhua)

CHENGDU, Aug 9, (Xinhua): The three-day tug of war competitions of The World Games 2025 kicked off here, with Britain's men's 640kg team clinching gold after a dominant performance against reigning champion Switzerland.

Germany took home the bronze medal, The tug of war event features three categories: men's 640kg, women's 500kg and mixed 580kg. 18 teams, each consisting of eight athletes, are participating in the Games.

In the morning's round-robin qualifying rounds, Germany, Britain, Switzerland and Belgium secured the top four spots with 11, 9, 7, and 7 points respectively to advance to the semifinals, where Switzerland defeated Germany and Britain overcame Belgium to set up a gold-medal showdown between the two powerhouses.

In the final, Britain was in formidable form to secure a convincing 3-0 victory over Switzerland. Germany defeated Belgium 2-1 to get the bronze medal.

Tug of war has been an official event at The World Games since its inaugural edition in 1981. Several athletes praised the organization and venue conditions of the Chengdu World Games, calling it an excellent opportunity to promote the development of the sport.

Shaw Gaz, a bricklayer and a member of the gold-winning British team, said the victory was a testament to a year of hard training that included c-

clinging and weighted runs.

A heartwarming moment took place during a break in the matches when the organizers and spectators surprised Dutch athlete Vincent Wagenmans with a birthday celebration. Wagenmans, who turned 48, was presented with the World Games mascots "Shu Bao" and "Jin Zai" while the crowd sang Happy Birthday, leaving him visibly moved.

Chinese wushu athlete Gao Jiushang won the men's changquan-daoshu-gunshu combined event with a dominant performance at the Chengdu World Games.

Gao topped all three disciplines, scoring a total of 29,393 points. Indonesia's Seraf Naro Siregar earned silver with 29,283, while Singapore's Jowen Lim took bronze.

In the women's changquan-jianshu-qiangshu event, Sham Hui-Yu Lydia of Hong Kong, China, claimed gold with 29,260 points. Malaysia's Pang Pui Yee won silver, and Japan's Nanoha Kida earned bronze.

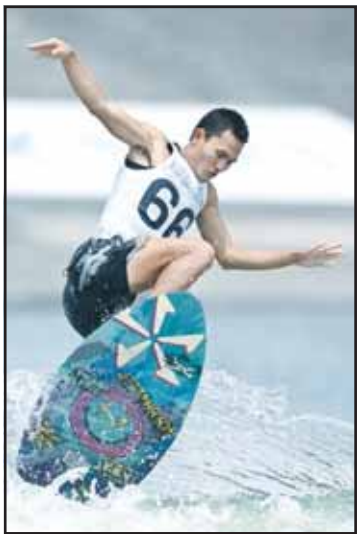
Earlier in the day, Malaysia's Tan Cheong Min dominated the Nanquan-Nandao events in the women's competition, winning gold with 19,479 points. Uzbekistan's Darya Latisheva and Singapore's Kassandra Ong earned silver and bronze, respectively.

In the men's Taijiquan-Taijijian, Hong Kong team's Yeung Chung Hei edged Japan's Tomohiro Araya by 0.05

points to take gold with 19,526. Singapore's Tay Yu Xuan finished third.

Alexey Glukhov and Anastasia Glazunova of Moldova claimed the standard dance gold medal.

The pair finished with 196.58 points to top the final at the Chengbei Gymnasium in Chengdu, the capital city of



Zhuang Tiancai of China competes during the men's wake surf skim semifinal of Waterski & Wakeboard event at The World Games 2025 in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province. (Xinhua)

southwest China's Sichuan Province. Rares Cojoc and Andreea Matei of Romania took silver with 193.00, while Poland's Dariusz Mycka and Madara Freiberga earned bronze with 188.04.

China's squash player Liu Ziyi made history at The World Games 2025 here on Saturday, beating Australia's Emily Lamb 3-2 in the women's singles round of 16 plate, the host nation's first squash victory at the multi-sport event.

The 18-year-old, competing in her first World Games, lost the opening game 11-7, but nailed down the next two 11-9, 11-3, before Lamb pulled back on level terms with an 11-5 win in the fourth game.

Trailing 3-0 at the beginning of the decisive fifth game, Liu quickly made adjustments by driving the ball deep and waiting for errors from her opponent, and overtook the lead 10-5. She then denied a late comeback from Lamb, who fended off three match points but committed a foul to hand Liu an 11-8 win.

"In squash, if the opponent interferes with your swing before you hit, it's your point," Liu explained. "The most important thing is to trust your judgment and stay firm if you believe you are right." China head coach Eslam Mehany said he kept his tactical advice simple when Liu headed into the final game against Lamb. "I could see she was nervous. I told her it's normal to be in a fifth game, and that she could win it," said the Egyptian.

Kuwait seeks winning start against Tunisia in Champ'ship

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

CAIRO, Aug 9: The Kuwait junior basketball team will open its campaign in the 22nd Arab Championship today in Cairo with a match against Tunisia at 3:00 pm. The tournament, which runs until the 17th of this month, will also see Bahrain face Qatar at 1:00 pm and Algeria take on hosts Egypt at 7:00 pm.

Six teams are competing in a single-round league format, with the top two advancing to the final and the third- and fourth-placed teams meeting for the bronze medal.

Kuwait aims for a strong start against Tunisia to build momentum in the tournament. The team prepared by taking part in the Gulf Championship in Bahrain last June, where it finished third. Led by national coach Talal Al-Qallaf and assistant Yahya Al-Bahr, Kuwait will meet Qatar tomorrow, then face Bahrain on Monday, Egypt on Thursday, and conclude the preliminary round



Players preparing for the opening match.

against Algeria next Friday.

Meanwhile, in the 31st Asian Basketball Cup in Jeddah, Australia defeated Lebanon 93-80 in Group A, while South Korea beat Qatar 97-83. In Group B, Iran overcame Japan 78-70, and Guam triumphed over Syria 82-73.

Fadiga faces 'uncertain' future at Al-Arabi following poor form

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

ABU DHABI, Aug 9: French professional Hasimi Fadiga may soon leave Al-Arabi, as the technical staff – led by Portuguese coach Marco Alves and his Jordanian assistant Ahmed Hayel – are reportedly unconvinced by his performances during the team's training camp in Abu Dhabi, which concluded the day before yesterday.

Sources reveal that Fadiga's form was underwhelming, prompting the club management to initiate talks with former Al-Arabi player, Bahraini Kamil Al-Aswad, about a possible return to the Green Falcons. However, Al-Aswad is reportedly close to signing with a club in the Iraqi league.

Fadiga is one of three foreign signings for Al-Arabi this season, alongside Ugandan Kenneth Semakula and Belgian Julian Ngoy.

Al-Arabi striker Ali Khalaf will miss the AFC Challenge League play-off match against Maldives' Maziya Sports Club, scheduled for the day after tomorrow, due to a muscle injury. Khalaf did not travel with the team to Abu Dhabi and is expected to be sidelined for approximately 10 days.

Following the Abu Dhabi camp, the Green Falcons resumed training in the Maldives. During the camp, Al-Arabi played three friendly matches against UAE clubs, suffering defeats in all: 2-0 to Al Wahda, 1-0 to Baniyas, and 2-1 to Hatta.

Coach Marco Alves emphasized his strategy of rotating players throughout these friendlies to assess



Hasimi Fadiga warms up

the entire squad's readiness ahead of the crucial match against Maziya.

Describing the Abu Dhabi camp as "very good," Marco Alves noted it provided an ideal opportunity to get to know the players better and evaluate their technical skills and commitment.

He said, "The players have absorbed and understood the coaching staff's ideas, which will be beneficial moving forward."

Alves highlighted the value of facing strong teams with many foreign players during the friendlies, stressing that this experience would help the team in future competitions.

Looking ahead to the upcoming AFC Challenge League match, he expressed confidence: "Our game against Maziya is Al-Arabi's first official test. We are ready and determined to win and advance in the tournament."

Kuwait Club begins preparations

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Kuwait Club's handball team begins its preparations for the new season today at the club's indoor hall. Local training will continue until August 16, when the team departs for a training camp in Bosnia lasting until August 29, during which it will play three friendly matches.

The delegation is led by team director Samih Al-Hajri and includes 10 administrative staff and 20 players, among them key professionals: Qatari Francis Marzo, Montenegrin Vladan Lipovina, and Portuguese Victor Ituriza.

The "Sons of Kifan" are gearing up for a busy schedule of local and international competitions, starting with hosting the 40th edition of the Arab Handball Championship for League and Cup Champions from September 12 to 22 – marking their second consecutive year as hosts.

Director Samih Al-Hajri expressed confidence in the team's resolve to



Samih Al-Hajri

continue winning titles both domestically and abroad, maintaining their golden legacy. He also commended the club's management for their strong support and efforts in removing obstacles, enabling the team to compete at the highest level in all tournaments.

Best of the Rest

Manchester United signs Sesko: Manchester United has announced the signing of Slovenia international Benjamin Sesko from RB Leipzig, bolstering their attacking options ahead of the new season.

The 22-year-old forward has signed a contract until June 2030, the club confirmed in a statement.

Over the past two seasons, Sesko has scored more goals than any other player under the age of 23 in Europe's top five leagues. In the 2024-25 campaign alone, he netted 21 goals and provided six assists for Leipzig.

Since making his debut in 2021 and becoming Slovenia's youngest-ever senior international, Sesko has earned 41 caps and scored 16 goals for his country. (Xinhua)