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KUWAIT TO SPARK TOURIST SURGE

‘Visa on arrival’ for GCC expats

New policy cancels old restrictions

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah has issued a decision permitting foreigners residing in any of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to enter Kuwait with a tourist visa issued directly at the port of entry, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decision, which was published in the official gazette “Kuwait Today”, stipulates that “without prejudice to the provisions of Decree Law No. 114/2024, a foreigner residing in any of the GCC countries and holding a valid residency of no less than six months may enter the country with a tourist entry visa issued at the port of entry.”

Article 2 of the decision cancels Ministerial Resolution No. 1228/2008 and any other provisions that contradict or conflict with this resolution.



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Dear Lebanese government, hold firm ... ‘It no longer needs it’

IN his collection “If Lebanon could speak”, the late Lebanese poet Saeed Oqal captured the tragic legend of his country, which was plagued for centuries by the curse of civil war.

Every few decades, some demon, whether internal or external, stirs the embers beneath the ashes. Therefore, all hopes rest on the belief that the recent war will be the final chapter in Lebanon’s long saga of suffering.

Today, Lebanon has a president who has shown steadfast commitment to a country scarred by hardship, especially since he hails from the south where no party has spared, whether Israeli, Palestinian, or Iranian. Each has sought to turn this region into its own republic.

Since 2000, Hezbollah has finally achieved this goal, and it repeatedly boasted of its allegiance to Tehran, while disregarding both the sect it claims to represent and the other components of this small Arab country.

When Hassan Nasrallah declared a divine victory, he understood that southern Lebanon was no longer a security concern for Israel.

In fact, discussions about withdrawal had already begun in 1999. Despite this, Hezbollah sought to capitalize on the Israeli army’s withdrawal to consolidate its control over the country’s decision-making.

The party entered the government for the first time and employed moral terrorism against ministers and the presidency.

Since then, and even before the election of President Joseph Aoun, the party has been engaged in the systematic sabotage of the country.

In 2006, Nasrallah ordered the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers from within occupied Palestine, a flagrant violation of the armistice agreement.

At a time when all parties were engaged in dialogue about disarmament, Nasrallah chose instead to ignite a war.

Afterward, he admitted, “If I had known this war would cost this much, I would not have entered it!”

Since 1982, when Iran established this party in accordance with its constitution’s mandate to “export the revolution,” Lebanon has not known peace.

Hezbollah has consistently been a source of unrest, either clashing with other Lebanese factions or provoking Israel.

The victims have most often been members of the Shiite sect or residents of the south, from all communities.

The party entered the most recent war at Tehran’s behest, without regard for the severe consequences for both the people and the state, especially in the midst of a financial and economic crisis unseen globally since the mid-nineteenth century.

This clearly demonstrates that the party is executing Iranian directives, in effect, acting as a mercenary rather than a defender of national sovereignty.

How much did the last war cost? Eight thousand people were killed, dozens of villages were destroyed, and the cost of living soared, reaching USD 14 billion.

Meanwhile, Israel continues to invade Lebanon daily.

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Follow me on:

@Ahmedaljarallah

Ahmed aljarallah

ahmed@aljarallah.com



Scan QR code to visit the website:

aljarallah.com

Amir receives Crown Prince, Acting PM



His Highness the Amir



His Highness the Crown Prince

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahamd Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received, Sunday, at Al-Seif Palace His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also received Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Sunday at Seif Palace Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

Kuwait energy future shines bright with new power-desalination giant

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) has affirmed the signing of a commitment document to implement the North Zour Phases II and III project; in cooperation with the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and a consortium comprising of ACWA Power and Gulf Investment Corporation.

In a press statement on Sunday; KAPP explained that under this agreement, the winning consortium will be responsible for designing, financing, building, operating, maintaining and transferring the project – the construction of an integrated power generation and water desalination plant through the establishment of a public shareholding company.

KAPP confirmed that the implementation of the project is in accordance with Law No. 39/2010 on establishing Kuwaiti joint-stock companies to build power and water desalination plants and its amendment, as well as Law No. 116/2014 on public-private partnership.

The authority emphasized that the project is a milestone in the strategy of the State to cover the rising demand for electricity and water, support the stability of the national electricity grid, and ensure its readiness for future development projects.

The project also reflects the commitment of the government to involve the private sector in infrastructure development and benefit from its expertise in design, implementation and operation. This will reduce costs, accelerate completion, optimize the utilization of natu-



Photo by Mohamad Morsi

Signing of a commitment document to implement the North Zour Phases II and III project.

ral resources, attract foreign investment, and finance major development projects.

It is the second of the Zour Power and Desalination Complex projects, with a production capacity of about 2,700 megawatts using combined-cycle technology, along with a desalination capacity of 120 million imperial gallons per day.

It is one of the largest projects undertaken by the authority to date, with a production capacity double that of the first phase of the North Zour North project. It is financially supported by a group of local and international banks, at a cost of more than one billion Kuwaiti dinars.

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Photo by Mohamad Morsi

Group photo during the signing of a commitment document to implement the North Zour Phases II and III project; in cooperation with the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and a consortium comprising of ACWA Power and Gulf Investment Corporation.

Revenues jump to KD110 mln

CITRA’s financial discipline drives results: Sheikh Athbi

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (KUNA): Acting Chairman of Central Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), Sheikh Athbi Jaber Al-Sabah, said on Sunday CITRA’s proceeds have grown due to collecting due liabilities and ensuring no delay from one fiscal year to another.

In a statement to KUNA, Sheikh Athbi revealed that the returns have grown to KD 110 million (USD 359.9 million) after adoption of the final account of the financial year (2024-2025).

The eight percent growth that put the overall proceeds at KD 110 million (USD 359.9 million) compared to the previous year had been achieved due to the execution of the bylaws on investing in CITRA’S realty plots and collecting service fees, due as of August 15, 2023, he said.

Sheikh Athbi has forecast a five year growth in the fiscal year 2025-2026,



Sheikh Athbi Jaber Al-Sabah, Acting Chairman of CITRA

compared to the previous year.

He added that digital transformation for all service permits would facilitate and speed up clients’ transactions and invest the financial proceeds according to CITRA’s laws and bylaws.

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US tariff moves boost prices

Kuwait’s 24K gold hits KD33.32

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (KUNA): Gold prices in Kuwait saw a notable increase last week, with the price of 24-karat gold rising to KD 33.320 per gram (around \$108), and 22-karat gold reaching KD 30.544 per gram (about \$100). The price of silver also climbed, with one kilogram selling for KD 421 (approximately \$1,377).

According to a report issued on Sunday by the Kuwaiti company Dar Al-Sabaik, the rise in domestic gold prices mirrors global

trends, with international spot prices closing at \$3,398 per ounce, marking the highest level in two weeks amid the recent U.S. decisions on customs tariffs.

The report highlighted that a surprise decision by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to classify 1 kg and 100-ounce gold bars under a tariff category has raised concerns about new regulatory pressures on gold trade.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait nabs African cybercrime gang targeting banks, telecom

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior announced on Sunday the arrest of an international cybercrime gang of African nationality involved in attacks on telecom towers and banks across Kuwait.

According to a statement from the General Directorate of Security Relations and Media, the case began after a report from the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) about cyberattacks.

Security teams quickly launched investigations and traced the attacks to advanced electronic devices used by the cybercrime gang to hack networks and send fraudulent messages impersonating banks to

steal account data and funds.

Authorities located suspicious signals originating from a vehicle in Salmiya, and when officers attempted to stop the vehicle, the driver tried to flee, colliding with several cars, but was successfully arrested.

Searches of the vehicle uncovered electronic equipment and technical tools linked to the crimes, and the suspect confessed to involvement in hacking telecom networks and sending fraudulent messages.

Further investigations led to the arrest of a second suspect and the seizure of additional devices used for data analysis, both suspects and

Continued on Page 5

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed Kuwait’s sympathy and solidarity on Saturday with the Lebanese Republic over the death and injury of a number of Lebanese Army personnel while performing their duties in southern Lebanon.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the government and people of the State of Kuwait extend their sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to Lebanon and to the families of the victims, wishing the injured a speedy recovery.

Munition in an arms depot in south Lebanon exploded Saturday as army experts were dismantling them, killing six of them and wounding several others, the army said.

The incident occurred on the edge of the southern village of Zibqin in Tyre province, the army said. (Agencies)



**Gulf Bank hosts youth
AI workshop in
alliance with INJAZ
as part of ongoing
efforts to support and
empower youth**

**Lebanon’s economy
shows early signs of
recovery in 2025**

Day by Day

BY order of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad (may Allah have mercy on him), public entities contributed funds to the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences. However, its awards often go to foreigners for literature and intellectual contributions, rather than scientific research.

Whatever the title may be, why are there no awards for Kuwaitis, when all of them, like the foreigners, are Allah’s creation?

Is it really possible that not a single Kuwaiti is worthy of such recognition?

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:46	Asr	15:29
Sunrise ..	05:13	Maghrib ..	18:33
Zohr	11:53	Isha	19:57

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.

Weather
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 08-35 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times and a chance for light fog forming over some areas.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	44	37
Kuwait Airport	47	31
Abdaly	49	29
Jahra	50	35
Salmiyah	36	34
Ahmadi	35	30
Nuwalib	41	30
Wafra	48	29
Salmly	48	31



HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince



HH the Prime Minister

Kuwait Amir congratulates Ecuador Pres. on Nat'l Day

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Sunday a cable to the President of Ecuador Daniel Noboa, congratulating him on the country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished President Noboa good health, and Ecuador and its people further progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent Sunday a cable to the

President of Ecuador Daniel Noboa, congratulating him on the country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished President Noboa good health, and Ecuador and its people further progress and prosperity.

Prime Minister

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent Sunday a cable to the President of Ecuador Daniel Noboa, congratulating him on the country's national day.

Kuwait, Saudi ink MoU in markets fair share chase

Deal to promote competitiveness, combat monopoly

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Council of Ministers has approved the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the government of Kuwait -- represented by the Competition Protection Authority, and the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia -- represented by the General Authority for Competition, for a period of four years, renewable automatically for a similar period or more.

The MoU will promote competition and combat monopoly and other practices that

restrict fair competition, while ensuring fruitful cooperation between the two parties. It focuses on various areas of cooperation between the two countries, including the exchange of information and expertise in the field of promoting competition and combating monopoly. This will facilitate and enhance the performance of the two parties' tasks, particularly with regard to competitive guidance and how to develop policies that promote competition in the markets of both countries, in addition to organizing conferences and training visits in this field.

The MoU also stipulates the exchange of expertise regarding investigations and inquiry procedures in relation to violations of competition laws and regulations, as well as the exchange of consultations and experiences through mutual visits to the headquarters of

the competition authorities in both countries, official electronic communication channels, and other means of communication between experts and technicians from both parties.

It states the exchange of experiences regarding the mechanism for examining complaints, requests and notifications; as well as the exchange of studies and publications needed to analyze various methods of dealing in the markets to uncover monopoly and other cases that are harmful to competition. It includes the exchange of periodic bulletins, procedures and measures in the field of competition protection; in addition to addressing issues and legislative rules to achieve the desired efficiency in the field of competition.

It will take effect from the date of the last mutual notification between the two parties through diplomatic channels, confirming the completion of the necessary internal regulatory procedures.

Transparency eyed in distribution of houses

PAHW ponders moratorium on plot sales for 5 years

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Real estate expert Faisal Al-Abdali confirmed that the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) is considering the issuance of a decision to stop the sale of plots and houses in new housing projects for a period of five years in order to curb real estate speculation, and ensure that plots and houses are granted only to the rightful beneficiaries.

In a statement to the newspaper after his meeting with Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs Abdulatif Al-Mishari, Al-Abdali said that the move aims to enhance family stability and support the sustainability of housing care.

He said the authority is also looking into the possibility of requiring those entitled to housing

grant to sign a pledge before electricity is connected to the house. He explained the pledge shall stipulate prohibiting the rental of units or their use for non-residential purposes, with measures that could include electricity disconnection or withdrawal of the plot or house in the event of a violation.

He also revealed that the planning tender for Sulaibiya and Taima housing projects will be issued within the next two months, indicating the infrastructure work is expected to be completed by 2028. He affirmed that the residents of these areas promised to vacate them immediately upon completion of the Na'ayem project.

Regarding the South Saad Al-Abdullah expansion project, Al-Abdali explained that the

minister issued a directive on the removal of obstacles; including the wood scrapyard that occupies an area equivalent to 1,500 out of 3,600 plots. He affirmed that the PAHW is currently coordinating with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to remove it.

He added that PAHW is close to obtaining approval from the Ministry of Defense to receive land in Saad Al-Abdullah allocated to a real estate developer and another in Jaber Al-Ahmad.

He also indicated that PAHW is waiting for the response of the Legal Advice and Legislation Department regarding the abolition of the 'Whoever Sold Their Home' Law, as well as the status of the residents of East Taima and those waiting for East Sabah Al-Ahmad houses.

Kuwait ranked 4th in Gulf in average monthly net salary

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Kuwait ranked 36th worldwide in average monthly net salaries for 2025, reports Al-Rai daily.

This is according to the report of CEO World magazine, which reviews monthly net income in countries throughout the world.

Kuwait is fourth in the Gulf; with an average monthly net salary of \$1,961. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) ranked first in the region with \$3,770; followed by Qatar with \$3,275 and Saudi Arabia with \$1,995.

Switzerland topped the global list with \$8,218; followed by Luxembourg with \$6,740 and the United States with \$6,562.

The top 10 included Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Canada, Ireland, the Netherlands and Singapore.

The report was released amid warnings by economists about a challenging year ahead; with the risk of a global recession rising due to persistent inflation, post-pandemic supply chain disruptions, and heightened geopolitical tensions -- including the Russia-Ukraine conflict, unrest in the Middle East, and strategic rivalries among major powers.

The report also revealed that finance, insurance, energy, mining, information technology, retail, and education sectors tend to offer the highest salaries globally; while administrative support, hospitality and construction remain among the lowest-paying.

It stressed that inflation must be factored into salary comparisons, as it can erode real purchasing power.

'Pollution from vehicles, road travel murderous'

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The World Health Organization (WHO) published a report on its official website entitled, "Transportation - Solutions for Air Pollution and Health."

The report highlighted the transportation sector as a major source of ambient air pollution and its health impacts, ranking fourth in greenhouse gas emissions. It indicated that while emissions in energy and industry sectors are declining, transport emissions are still increasing.

Transport-related air pollution is a complex mixture of gases and fine particulate matter, resulting from motor vehicle emissions -- both from exhaust and from indirect sources such as road dust, brake wear and tyre wear.

Strong scientific evidence supports a link between transport-related air pollution and premature death from cardiovascular disease, as well as asthma in children and adults, among other negative health effects.

The report also reviewed the technical progress made to date, examples of successful transport and health policies, and proposals to address the health impacts of this major source of pollution.

This report is part of the WHO Science-Policy Series on Air Quality, Energy and Health; which aims to provide scientific knowledge and evidence to support decision-makers through scientific insights related to air quality, energy access, climate change and public health.



Farwaniya Governor and acting Governor of the Capital Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah meets former Minister of State for Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, and Minister of State for Communications Affairs Fahad Ali Al-Shu'la.

Pledge to work for betterment of Farwaniya, nation residents

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Governor of Farwaniya and acting Governor of the Capital Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah on Sunday received in his office at the Farwaniya Governorate headquarters former Minister of State for Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, and Minister of State for Communications Affairs Fahad Ali Al-Shu'la.

This is part of a series of friendly meetings with a number of national figures.

During the meeting, friendly conversations were exchanged, and important issues

and topics related to the development of the governorate were discussed.

A number of proposals were also discussed to improve services provided to residents of the governorate. The Governor praised the former minister's career and his contributions to the nation.

On the other hand, Al-Shu'la expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Governor for the warm welcome and hospitality; wishing him success in continuing his efforts to serve Farwaniya Governorate.

Other Voices

How did Hitler finally defeat the Jews?

By Ahmad alsarraf

AMI AYALON, former head of Israel's internal security service Shin Bet, and a former minister and parliamentarian, once told ABC News during the height of the Hamas-Israel conflict, "If I were a Palestinian living under occupation, I would fight Israel for freedom. If someone came and stole my land, I would fight him without limits. The Palestinians are a people demanding independence, not just individuals seeking their daily needs of food and drink!"

A very similar stance was expressed by Ehud Barak, Israel's Prime Minister from 1999 to 2001, who recognized the Palestinians' right to resist. Yet, paradoxically, some among our own people deny this right to the Palestinians, who are the true bearers of the cause and those paying the heaviest price every day.

They also deny Palestinians their right to resist and to live with dignity, openly demanding unconditional surrender to Israel because they believe it is impossible to defeat.

This is truly shameful and can only be explained as serving Zionist interests.

The clearest evidence lies in the hundreds of articles they have written and dozens of television interviews they have given since October 7, 2023, none of which have ever condemned the criminal actions of the Zionist government, not even once.

They also claim that the Palestinians previously sold their land to the Jews, who, according to them, have consistently rejected all peace offers, from before the founding of Israel to the present day, along with other shameful lies.

US President Truman, the first world leader to recognize Israel, made a powerful statement, declaring that the Zionists want all of Palestine for themselves,

"devoid of all its inhabitants," and that this would not be an easy task.

This stands as a clear rebuttal and refutation of the global Zionist narrative that Palestine was a land without a people given to a people without a land.

□ □ □

British-Australian actress Miriam Margolyes, born in May 1941, is known for her outspokenness and strong opinions, as well as her extensive work in film, television, and theater.

She has won the prestigious BAFTA Award and gained international fame for her role as Professor Sprout in the Harry Potter film series (2001–2011).

Margolyes is also a recipient of the Order of the British Empire, one of the highest honors in the UK.

In light of France's recent announcement of its imminent intention to recognize a Palestinian state, and growing pressure from 100 British Parliament members urging Prime Minister Keir Starmer to do the same, Miriam Margolyes has declared that she considers Gaza her greatest cause.

A long-time supporter of Palestinian rights, she is deeply concerned with the situation there, especially because, as a Jewish woman, she is fully aware of the historical accusations, violence, and suffering her own people have been subjected to.

Therefore, she cannot bear the thought that the Jews, her own people, are now inflicting the same suffering on another people who had nothing to do with the horrors of the Holocaust, a tragedy that was a purely European crime, for which Europe alone must bear responsibility, without forcing another people to pay the price.

Her heart aches as she confronts this painful reality. It pains her deeply to acknowledge that, in a tragic way, Hitler ultimately triumphed over her people by turning them into his own criminal counterparts.

□ □ □

email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw



alsarraf

diwaniya



A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Can we stem the pitfall?

Game of deals has hit peak levels of display

“MANY believe we are living in a turbulent era marked by rapid transformations unseen since the rise of modern materialism, with rigidity and brutality that led humanity into the horrors of two world wars,” sustainability expert **Dr Sami Mohammad Al-Adwani** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Today, we stand not merely on the brink of war, but on the verge of a complete reshaping of the world, its values, institutions, borders, and even its deeper meanings.

“Amid this seismic upheaval, the planet simmers under the weight of unprecedented capitalist concentration.

“A tiny elite, representing no more than one percent of the global population, owns assets equivalent to 90 percent of humanity’s wealth. Transnational corporations are no longer content with merely producing technology. They are now shaping human consciousness and redefining destiny.

“It is often said that what we witness today is merely the most distorted version of the old formula crafted by Presidents Reagan and Thatcher - market liberalization, state retrenchment, and the commodification of humanity.

“What’s new, and what makes the current reality even more alarming, is that the market magnates and champions of ruthless materialism, who once influenced events from behind the scenes, have now seized direct control of the political stage.

“We see clear examples of their dominance in international decision-making, turning “business” into governance, money into a decision-making process, and capitalism into a governing ideology.

“Amid this profound distortion, values are unraveling and ethical standards are collapsing within politics and international relations.

“There is no clearer evidence of this than the game of deals, which has reached unprecedented levels of public display.

“Even stock market speculation has become a playground for some senior politicians to engage in legalized plunder, with little to no accountability. Meanwhile, freedom of expression is being suppressed, silenced from the pulpit to the prison cell, and free opinion is being stifled at the very heart of democratic societies.

“Worsening this alarming situation is the rise of a global wave of racism and neo-fascism.

“Extremist parties have gained ground in many European countries, including the Kingdom of Sweden, which was once regarded as a model for embracing Islamic principles more closely than some Muslim nations. These parties are now influenced by racist rhetoric and even more extreme voices from the Zionist entity, perpetuating a discourse of hatred and exclusion that casts a cold shadow over the global conscience.

“Aggression against the international system has reached unprecedented levels, marked by withdrawals from the Paris Climate Agreement and the World Health Organization, the weakening of the United Nations’ role, and the stripping of UNRWA’s most basic funding.

“Even the International Court of Justice has been constrained in dealing with the plight of persecuted peoples.

“In Gaza, a massacre unfolds before the eyes and ears of the world. More than 60,000 people have been killed, 115,000 wounded, and 18,000 children buried beneath the rubble.

“UNICEF reports that every day, an entire classroom of children in Gaza, representing 10 percent of the enclave’s population, is wiped out. If this scale of devastation were applied to the United States, it would equate to 33 million deaths in just 18 months.

“Over 90,000 tons of explosives have been dropped on Gaza, averaging 40 kilograms per living person.

“How can this be explained? How can such atrocities be met with silence? The pressing question arises - Where are the guardians of values? Where are those who champion human rights and international justice? Has the mask finally fallen? Are we truly equal before the law, or are there select races and peoples who can be destroyed with impunity?

“When Einstein confronted Nazism, he famously said, “Organized force can only be confronted with organized force.”

“Today, that is our responsibility, as humanists, as advocates for humanity, as bearers of hope, as voices that must continue to resonate in the midst of silence.

“A year ago, we held more optimism when the “Future Summit” discussed restructuring the United Nations, digital justice, and global gov-

ernance. Yet those aspirations were soon crushed beneath the rubble of harsh reality.

“The General Assembly has failed to enforce its resolutions, and the International Criminal Court has not intervened to protect the victims from their executioners.

“Meanwhile, the arms race has escalated from 1.4 percent of global GDP in 2022 to 2 percent in 2025. As values decline, wealth soars.

“An Oxfam report reveals that the number of billionaires has surged from 256 in 2023 to 2,780 in 2024, with their combined wealth rising from \$13 trillion to \$15 trillion, while millions of people struggle for bread and medicine.

“In the face of these harsh realities, neutrality is a luxury we cannot afford. The world is being reshaped, either we witness its downfall, or we become the architects of its revival.”

Also:

“Strange are the circumstances that have sparked battles among Syria’s own communities. Regardless of who is right or wrong, and setting aside the rhetoric and statements from all sides, we need to ask - Where were these crowds and factions with these weapons when it came to confronting the regime of Bashar al-Assad? Where were they during the Israeli attacks on Syria? Where were they in the fight to liberate the occupied Golan Heights? Where were they when Gaza’s people faced extermination? And where were they throughout the many crises Syria has endured over the past three-quarters of a century? Let me clarify that I am not here to debate the details or assign blame,” columnist Eng. **Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“How did Syria, the once beating heart of Arabism, become fragmented into tribal and sectarian factions? How did fanaticism come to dominate the public mood of a people we once knew as united, Arab, and indiscriminate?

“In recent days, we have witnessed a surge of inflammatory rhetoric, heated words, threats of violence, and talk of weapons and conflict, with some vowing to eliminate others. This is deeply alarming, especially considering that the Syrian mosaic was once a shining example of coexistence and national unity. We never spoke in terms of Sunni, Shiite, Druze, Christian, Alawite, or any other sectarian labels. Syria was united, despite the injustices imposed by the former Baathist regime. No one sought to shatter the social fabric or undermine the covenant that bound the people together.

“Today, however, we hear voices demanding their share of the state, or even calling for independent regions, based solely on sectarian or religious identity. Others speak of the state’s identity as though it belonged to just one group.

“On the other hand, some are calling for protection from Israel, others seeking intervention from Russia, and various factions turning to regional powers, be it Iran, Turkey, or others, for support.

This poses a direct threat to Syria’s sovereignty and opens the door to the violation of its territory, dignity, and independence. It appears that some parties are actively pursuing regional and international agendas that, in the end, come at the cost of their own people and the very existence of the state.

“When Israel bombs the Ministry of Defense and strikes near the Presidential Palace, and has, since the fall of the former regime, destroyed Syria’s military capabilities through repeated airstrikes, no one moves to respond. This raises many questions. What kind of state do the Syrian people envision for their future? How will they rebuild their capabilities and fortify themselves once again?

“An outside observer of the evolving Syrian situation can clearly see that hotheads, wherever they may be, often lead to the destruction of nations and societies, especially when they are given the space to flex their muscles against the state institutions and dominate other components of the population. The foundation of any stable society is a strong, unified state that brings all its people under one banner.

“That’s why Syrians must draw lessons from the experiences of other nations. What has come of allowing foreign intervention, whether Israeli, Iranian, Turkish, or otherwise? The results speak for themselves.

“Until these complex issues are resolved, the voices of wisdom must rise to calm the flames of extremism, even if doing so comes at a steep cost. The unity of the people and the state is more valuable than any slogan or narrow interest.

“May God protect all of Syria.”

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



An aerial view of Kuwait’s Qaruh Island.

Qaruh Island, cleanup of beaches launched

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Cleaning Department at the Capital Governorate continued its cleanup drive of the islands, as part of the

‘Our Beaches Are Beautiful’ awareness campaign.

On Saturday morning, the Islands Cleaning Center Team carried out a large-scale cleaning campaign on Qaruh Island.

The Public Relations Department at Kuwait

Municipality stated that the goals of the campaign are to maintain the cleanliness of Kuwaiti beaches and islands, protect them from environmental pollution, and raise public awareness on the importance of preserving the marine environment as a natural and tourism resource.

Defense Minister lauds PACA prowess & vision

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali congratulated the Chair of the Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) Sheikh Humoud Al-Sabah on the issuance of the Amiri Decree establishing the authority, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.



Sheikh Abdullah

He praised PACA’s efforts in developing the aviation sector and enhancing its capabilities to serve the state’s strategic goals in transportation and infrastructure.

During a recent visit to PACA, Minister Al-Ali was given a detailed presentation on the latest developments in civil aviation, including current and future projects, plans to develop airport infrastructure, and upgrades to technical and navigation services in line with the highest international standards.

Sheikh Humoud Al-Sabah expressed his gratitude for the minister’s visit, and highlighted the importance of this support in advancing the state’s vision for civil aviation.



Traffic police checking the car documents.

Over 27,000 citations issued; juveniles held

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The General Traffic Department (GTD) at the Interior Ministry continued its traffic campaigns in all governorates.

These campaigns resulted in the issuance of 27,593 citations for various violations and referral of 28 juveniles to the Juvenile Prosecution for driving without a license.

Weekly statistics from the traffic patrols revealed the impoundment of 16 vehicles and motorcycles, referral of 27 people to traffic police stations, confiscation of 65 vehicles wanted by the judiciary, arrest of 56 persons wanted by law for involvement in different crimes, arrest of 115 people who hold expired residency permits, and referral of one person to the Drug Control General Department.

The statistics indicated that the total number of traffic accidents reached 1,224 that caused injuries to 178 individuals.

Assailant flees as MoH slams attack on doctor

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Ministry of Health condemned the incident in which a patient assaulted a doctor at a primary healthcare center, while he was performing duties inside the clinic.

The assault resulted in various injuries and scratches on the body of the doctor, and then the assailant fled from the scene. This is a blatant violation of the sanctity of health facilities and the safety of their workers.

The ministry affirmed that this act is a shameful and criminal behavior under Law No. 70/2020 on the practice of the medical profession. It immediately took the necessary legal and security measures, in coordination with the concerned authorities, to ensure that the assailant is held accountable in accordance with the law.

Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi and Undersecretary of the ministry Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi personally checked the condition of the assaulted doctor and assessed his needs.

Huge rise in minors held driving without a license

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Traffic statistics have revealed an increase in the number of minors driving vehicles without a license, with 244 minors apprehended during the period between June 28 and July 28, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The Traffic Affairs and Operations Sector, represented by the General Traffic Department and the General Department of Rescue Police, stated that this phenomenon highlights the vital role of families and society in supervising children and preventing them from driving without a license, due to the legal consequences and serious risks to traffic safety.

The General Traffic Department urged parents to closely monitor their children and instill the importance of following traffic laws and regulations, for their safety and the safety of others on the road, and to preserve their future from legal consequences and potential harm.

Syrian held selling army ranks crests

‘Shabu’ dealer nabbed

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: As part of security efforts to combat crimes that undermine the prestige of security and military institutions, the Criminal Security Sector, represented by the General Department of Criminal Investigations’ Criminal Investigation and Licensing Department, arrested a Syrian national for selling unauthorized insignia of ranks for the Kuwait Police Force, Kuwait Army, National Guard, and Kuwait Fire Force, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The Ministry of Interior explained that information received by the authorities revealed the accused was selling these rank insignia.

Following a carefully planned ambush, he was arrested with 700 various insignia belonging to the Ministry of Interior, 300 insignia for the National Guard, 270 insignia for the Ministry of Defense, and 500 badges from various ministries and agencies including Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense, National Guard, Kuwait Fire Force, and General Administration of Customs found in his possession.

These items were confiscated, the accused was detained, and necessary legal procedures are underway in preparation for his referral to the competent authorities.

The Ministry of Interior emphasized that it will not tolerate any actions that undermine the prestige of security and military institutions or the misuse of their insignia.

It urged the public to report any similar activities through its official channels or

the emergency number 112.

‘Shabu’ dealer arrested: The Criminal Security Sector, represented by the Drug Control General Department (DCGD), arrested an individual, identified as T.A., during a tightly coordinated security operation carried out under the direct supervision of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Youssef Saud Al-Sabah, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The suspect, who has a criminal record and whose Kuwaiti citizenship was recently revoked, was apprehended in Saad Al-Abdullah after it was confirmed that he was involved in the manufacture and distribution of the narcotic substance known locally as shabu.

According to the Ministry of Interior, investigations and field surveillance led to the detection of the suspect’s criminal activities. It was discovered that he was manufacturing shabu using chemical substances that had been smuggled into the country illegally.

Authorities seized 30 liters of a chemical used in the production process, three liters of shabu in a semi-final stage, and six kilograms of shabu ready for distribution and consumption. A large quantity of chemicals and specialized tools used in the manufacturing process were also confiscated.

The estimated market value of the seized substances is approximately KD 500,000.

In addition, two firearms and several live rounds were found in the suspect’s possession.

The suspect was referred with the seized items to the concerned authorities for necessary legal action.

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Energy ministry launches tender for network electronic protection

Six bids received for water project

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy is offering a tender for the electronic protection of the electricity network this year.

The tender is included in the contracts for the supply and installation of electronic protection equipment at the main transformer stations (400, 300 and 132 kilovolts) to ensure network stability and encrypt data transmitted through stations and control centers.

Sources said the ministry will offer the ten-

der to specialized companies wishing to compete, through the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT). They said a date will be set for the submission of bids, which will be referred to the ministry for study and preparation of recommendations. They indicated that this is part of a series of tenders aimed at providing electronic protection for all the facilities and services of the ministry in view of the electronic breaches witnessed worldwide.

On the other hand, CAPT decided, in its meeting last Monday, to open bids for the construction and maintenance of a pumping station and its accessories at Site One in Al-Mutlaa Residential City; during which six bids were accepted.

The agency stated that it will refer the six bids to the ministry to prepare a recommendation within one month of the referral date. Based on the recommendation, a decision will be made to award the tender, which will then be referred to the State Audit Bureau (SAB) for review, audit and opinion.

Sources disclosed the tender is under the water system project for Al-Mutlaa Residential City and it is being handled by the ministry, as one of the tasks assigned to it in the establishment of new residential cities that require various services -- primarily electricity and water. They said the station will pump water into the network to ensure continuous water supply, especially during peak hours in summer.

Pharmacist Al-Jadaan takes Secretary General spot

Kuwait secures top pharmacy post in EMRO

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Kuwait Pharmaceutical Association commended the victory of its candidate, Abdulaziz Al-Jadaan, for the position of Secretary General of Pharmacy Practice at the Middle East Regional Office of the International Pharmacists Federation (EMRO).

In a press statement, President of the association Dr. Ahmed Taqi pointed out that the victory of Al-Jadaan in this prestigious position is a manifestation of the scientific and professional competence of Kuwaiti pharmacists, and their ability to contribute to formulating regional policies for pharmacy practice in accordance with the latest international standards.

He said this victory puts Kuwait on the global pharmaceutical map and reflects the ongoing national efforts to develop the profession and enhance the role of pharmacists in healthcare, in line with the vision of Ku-

wait to develop the health sector.

He also congratulated Wael Ali from Egypt on winning the presidency of the Regional Office and Professor Maureq Al-Otaibi from Saudi Arabia on winning the position of Secretary General of Pharmaceutical Education and Development, wishing them continuous success in serving the profession and advancing it at the regional and global levels.

Meanwhile, the association announced the organization of a comprehensive introductory event for fresh graduate pharmacists under the title, "Discover Pharmacy," with the aim of providing new professionals with everything they need to be confident in starting a fruitful career.



Al-Jadaan

PAAET announces new admission procedures

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Dean of Admissions and Registration at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr. Fawzi Al-Dokhi has announced the new mechanisms for student admission this year.

In a press statement, Al-Dokhi revealed students must automatically approve their admission once the results are announced, warning that non-approval will lead to the cancellation of admission after the deadline; while the cancellation process after the student approves the admission will be subject to a fee of KD20.

He said the new mechanisms this year include the requirement for those accepted into medical courses at the colleges of Nursing and Health Sciences, as well as the Nursing Institute, to obtain a certificate affirming they are free of certain infectious diseases. He added the infectious disease test form will be distributed immediately after the admission results are announced at the Adailiya Admissions Building. "Accepted students must submit this form, signed and stamped by the relevant authorities at the Ministry of Health, during the interview," he stressed.

Recycling lags far behind Gulf peers

Kuwait's buried crisis: Landfills 'threaten' health and economy

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: In the heart of the Kuwaiti desert, the sand conceals more than just abandoned land -- the landfills, some of which are active and others closed for decades; yet they still pose numerous dangers, specifically pollution, foul odor, hazardous emissions, and the squandering of precious resources.

In this report, the newspaper highlights landfills as one of the thorniest and most neglected environmental and economic issues in Kuwait; at a time the neighboring countries have become leaders in waste recycling and investment.

While other Gulf countries are moving towards converting waste to energy or recycling it industrially, the recycling rate in Kuwait does not exceed 10 percent; compared to 50 percent in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), 40 percent in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and 35 percent in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

According to unofficial estimates, Kuwait loses tens of millions of Kuwaiti dinars annually due to the failure to utilize recyclable materials in the industry or energy sector.

Former Municipal Council member and Director of the National Integrity Center Eng. Hamoud Al-Enezi confirmed in a special statement to the newspaper that the present and old landfills are among the biggest environmental challenges the country is currently facing. He explained this is due to the high per capita waste rate in Kuwait compared to other Gulf countries. He revealed that Kuwait produces a massive amount of solid municipal waste; including household, agricultural and commercial waste -- around two million tons of waste annually.

He said the total size of the three currently operating landfills -- Seventh Ring Road Landfill, Jahra Landfill and Mina Abdullah Landfill -- is 9.5 square kilometers. "These landfills were not initially established according to health standards and principles. Old dredge excavation sites were converted into landfills; resulting in more environmental and health risks related to the pollutants associated with the landfills, particularly the hazardous gaseous emissions. This is in addition to the risk of groundwater contamination and the negative impact on the quality of life in surrounding residential areas, as these landfills are close to residential areas, which are negatively affected by wind speed and direction," he explained.

He added that "at the same time, waste is a promising investment opportunity. Many countries have been able to launch high-yield economic industrial projects based on solid, municipal or other waste types. The challenge remains in building a successful economic model and working on all stages of the waste recycling cycle -- from sorting at the source to the production of various final products, using waste to generate energy or recycling waste into reusable products."

He revealed that the estimated two million tons of solid waste generated in Kuwait annually can be converted into alternative fuel through a special station, producing one million tons of alternative fuel (RDF-Refuse Derived Fuel) annually. "This can then be used to generate electricity equivalent to 1,250 gigawatts annually; saving approximately 735,000 barrels of oil equivalent annually and preventing carbon emissions of up to one million tons of carbon dioxide," he asserted.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Zaidan, an environmental affairs specialist and former Deputy Director for Technical Affairs at the Environment Public Authority

(EPA) stated "it is impossible to talk about environmental sustainability or achieving the sustainable development goals within the 'New Kuwait 2035' vision without seriously addressing the issue of waste dumps in the country -- whether municipal waste or tyre waste."

He pointed out that Kuwait is considered one of the Gulf countries with the third highest daily per capita production of household waste, with the average daily per capita waste production reaching 2.3 kilograms per day.

He stressed the need to accelerate the pace of addressing the tyre waste dumps issue, one of the country's biggest environmental challenges. "These dumps contain massive quantities of used tyres, which are considered environmental and economic burdens. Kuwait has the largest tyre dump in the world, with a capacity of over 44 million tyres and an annual increase of about 2.2 million tyres. Establishing a tyre waste treatment system has special requirements to maximize economic benefits. The expected lifespan of an unusable tyre is more than a year after disposal. If the period exceeds a year after dumping, international recycling companies refuse to recycle it due to its unsuitability (loss of flexibility and hardening of the tyre), as the raw material has become unusable," he elaborated.

He then emphasized the need for a comprehensive and complete elimination of the concept of landfills through an integrated waste sorting system, starting with consumers and then State institutions.

Municipal Council member and Jahra Committee Chairman Abdullah Al-Hathal disclosed that Jahra Governorate has one of the largest landfills -- along Salmi Road, next to Al-Ghanim Oasis. "This landfill, which is over 45 years old, has become a major environmental and health concern, as it has led to the accumulation of waste; rising to a height of more than 50 meters, emitting foul gases that harm nearby areas like Al-Oyoun and the oasis. Citizens have repeatedly complained about this damage. The Kuwait Municipality stated in its response to the Jahra Governor's letter requesting the closure or relocation of the landfill that the current landfill is the only one within the governorate's borders, and that it is fully committed to environmental protection laws, particularly Article 36 of Environmental Protection Law No. 42/2014, which prohibits the establishment or expansion of new landfills except with the approval of the Supreme Council for the Environment, while also committing to conducting an environmental impact study and implementing the relevant executive regulations. Therefore, closing the Jahra site requires first the existence of a sustainable environmental and economic alternative. Accordingly, the Municipality prepared the integrated strategy for solid waste management in 2015 and updated it in 2018, which is consistent with the Environmental Law. The project to implement and operate the sanitary landfill site in the area was approved. The Kabad landfill is a strategic option for receiving all waste, instead of the current landfill in Jahra, after completion of the procedures. This will achieve the gradual displacement of the old landfill and reduce its environmental and health risks," he explained.



Al-Zaidan



Al-Enezi



Al-Hathal



Al-Seyassah photo

Mina Abdullah landfill

MoCI gets new organizational structure

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced on Wednesday the approval of its new organizational structure, in accordance with Decision No. 160/2025 issued by Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel.

The decision includes the creation of two assistant undersecretary positions and a reorganization of departments to include seven general managers under the new structure, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the ministry explained that the decision is in line with the Cabinet's directives to develop and improve the state's administrative framework and enhance institutional performance efficiency.

The decision aims to raise work efficiency and improve the quality of services provided to citizens and investors, as part of the ministry's plan to keep pace with modern economic and administrative developments. The new structure enhances the effectiveness of the administrative system by redistributing tasks and responsibilities, which contributes to improving internal operations and achieving integration between the ministry's sectors.

The new structure supports the ministry's efforts in digital transformation and the use of modern technologies in work management. It also focuses on empowering national cadres and stimulating a developmental work environment. This modernization is a crucial step toward achieving corporate governance, enhancing coordination between departments, and accelerating and simplifying procedures related to commercial and industrial services.



Al-Ajeel

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Ambassadors and university leaders gather to celebrate 120 students from 30 countries

Kuwait University Language Center honors scholarship graduates

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Language Center at the College of Arts in Kuwait University has organized a graduation ceremony for the scholarship students in the 2024/2025 academic year, with the ambassadors of several sisterly countries in attendance.

Held under the patronage of University President Prof. Dr. Dina Musaed Al-Mailem, the ceremony took place at Sabah Al-Salem University City, in cooperation with the Deanship of Student Affairs.

Acting Dean of Student Affairs Prof. Dr. Jassim Al-Hamdan represented Al-Mailem at the event.

Also in attendance were Dr. Hamed Suleiman Al-Furaih, Assistant Vice President for Community Service and Libraries; Dr. Issa Al-Nashmi, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs at the College of Arts; Dr. Lamees Ahmed Al-Bustan, acting Director of the Language Center; Dr. Khaled Al-Fadhli, Head of the Arabic Language Unit for Non-Native Speakers; along with ambassadors, academic staff and honored guests.

The event underscored the University's commitment to promote academic, cultural and civilizational cooperation across borders, reflecting the nation's foreign policy objectives centered on cultural diplomacy and educational exchange.

In his opening remarks, Al-Hamdan welcomed attendees, stating, "Today, we celebrate a remarkable group of students who joined us from across the globe – bringing with them their languages, cultures and aspirations. Their journey at Kuwait University has gone beyond language learning to become a shared experience of cultural and intellectual enrichment."

He continued, "You are now ambassadors of Kuwait University and of knowledge. Carry what you have learned here with pride, integrity and the spirit of excellence. I also extend my sincere gratitude to the faculty members of the Language Center for their tireless efforts in providing an environment that fosters academic success and global understanding."

Speaking on behalf of the Language Center, acting Director Dr. Lamees Ahmed Al-Bustan highlighted the ongoing efforts of the university to provide a world-class educational experience to international students. "This year, we proudly welcomed 120 students from 30 countries, a reflection of Kuwait's dedication to promote global knowledge exchange. The Language Center is more than just a place to learn Arabic – it is a platform for mutual respect, tolerance and identity-building," she said.

Dr. Khaled Al-Fadhli emphasized the significance of the event as a



Top & above: Photos taken during the graduation ceremony, organized by the Language Center at the College of Arts in Kuwait University.

Kuwait University photos

celebration of cultural diversity and academic achievement. "Our graduates today are not just students – they are bridges between Kuwait and the world. They will carry with them

a piece of Kuwait as they return to their home countries. Kuwait University remains committed to nurturing global citizens through inclusive education," he stated.

The ceremony featured a visual presentation showcasing the students' academic journey and cultural experience at the university, supported by faculty and staff.

At the conclusion of the event, the Language Center presented a commemorative shield in honor of Prof. Dina Musaed Al-Mailem, received on her behalf by Prof. Jassim Al-

Hamdan. Graduating students were also honored and awarded their certificates, marking the culmination of their academic journey in Kuwait.

Continued from Page 1

Dear Lebanese

Unemployment has also skyrocketed, meaning it will take approximately 25 years for the country to recover to its state five years ago, let alone to regain the status of the "Switzerland of the East" it held in the 1970s.

Therefore, the question that must be asked is - What benefit did Lebanon gain from this war?

Did Iran defend its "party," or did it simply say, "Go, you and your Lord, and fight. We will sit here and wait?"

So, when the entire world supports the Lebanese government's efforts to disarm all militias in Lebanon, including Hezbollah, it means the decision rests with the state, not with sectarian factions, parties, or organizations, and that fears of civil war are nothing more than soap bubbles.

The international and Arab consensus is clear - Lebanon must be freed from this burden. Fortunately, a courageous team has emerged, led by the president and prime minister, to work on saving their country with minimal losses, because Lebanon can no longer bear this strain, or as they say in Lebanese slang, "It no longer needs it."

Kuwait's 24K

Although the White House has attempted to downplay the move, market sentiment shifted strongly in favor of gold as a safe-haven asset, especially amid rising trade tensions between the U.S. and Europe, notably Switzerland, which is a global center for gold refining and export.

In addition to geopolitical concerns, weak U.S. economic data has reinforced expectations of an imminent interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve. With unemployment benefit claims reaching their highest level since November 2021 and a slowdown in the services sector, markets are now pricing in a 92 percent chance of a rate cut at the Federal Reserve's upcoming meeting.

Despite a rise in the 10-year U.S. Treasury yield to 4.285 percent and a slight improvement in

the dollar index, investor demand for gold remains strong amid uncertainty over the future of U.S. monetary policy.

The Dar Al-Sabaik report noted that the classification of gold as a tariffed good sends a political message to the European Union and signals a U.S. strategy aimed at reducing dependence on foreign financial centers, even allied ones. While tensions have yet to escalate into direct conflict, the situation has prompted investors to increase their gold holdings.

Looking ahead, the report indicated that market attention will turn to upcoming U.S. data releases, including the consumer price index, retail sales, and consumer confidence index, as well as statements from Federal Reserve officials. Any negative or mixed signals could help keep gold at current levels or drive prices even higher.

Kuwait nabs

the confiscated materials were referred to the relevant authorities for legal action.

The Ministry emphasized that these efforts reflect its ongoing commitment to strengthening cybersecurity and combating electronic fraud targeting residents and citizens.

CITRA's financial

He affirmed keenness on abiding by the financial bylaws and collecting fines for any payments' delay.

CITRA's final account for the 2024-2025 year stood at KD 110 million compared to KD 102 million the previous year.

Digital status

The ministry explained that proof of initiating the status amendment process can be provided by accessing its services on 'Sahel', then select 'Article Eight Affairs Services', including the 'Amendment of Status and Proof of Seriousness' service. If a passport is obtained, click on the 'Amend Status' option. If a passport is not obtained, select 'Proof of Seriousness', attach the required

photos and documents, and submit the application.

According to the ministry, this is the continuation of the statement it issued last week; which emphasized the need to expedite the submission of the required documents before the Aug 31 deadline. It warned that failure to amend the status or prove seriousness will result in the cancellation of the benefits granted under the 'Kuwaiti treatment' clause. It affirmed that amending the status does not stop the consideration of grievances submitted to the Grievance Committee, which is responsible for the revocation of Kuwaiti citizenship.

Kuwait energy

It is a reflection of the high level of confidence enjoyed by the investment and partnership environment in the State of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy invited regional and international companies specialized in the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of power and water desalination plants to explore investment opportunities and review the procedures of KAPP in order to participate in the Shagaya Renewable Energy Project-Phases One and Two, with a total production capacity of 1,600 megawatts; and the Khairan Plant Project (Phase One), which will produce 1,800 megawatts of electricity and 33 million imperial gallons of water per day. The project will be tendered by the authority in September.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Adel Al-Zamil confirmed that the North Zour Power Plant project (Phases II and III) is the largest in the history of its co-operation with Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP).

In a press statement, Al-Zamil pointed out that the project is distinguished by its large size and the long period since a similar project was implemented; hence, it is considered a tremendous success for the energy sector.

He revealed the plant will provide 2,700 megawatts of electricity; making it the largest plant in the history of Kuwait, in addition to the production of 120 million

imperial gallons per day of fresh water using the energy-saving reverse osmosis (RO) technology, which will contribute to reducing production costs and positively impact the State budget and future tariffs.

He expressed optimism about the new partnership with Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power, indicating this is the first of several other projects; such as the Khairan Phase One project and Shagaya Phases Three and Four solar and renewable energy projects, which are among the largest in the world. He revealed that "in the next three years; we will witness the commencement of production from these projects, the expansion of the electricity grid, and the provision of better electricity and water services."

He said the first unit in the North Zour project will be operational in June 2028; followed by an additional 1,000 megawatts two months later. He added work is underway with ACWA Power to expedite the operation of the units and to overcome obstacles.

He stated that the energy partnership projects include a roadmap to achieve zero carbon emission; affirming that the North Zour Phase Two and Three are among these projects, as well as the planned solar energy projects.

Regarding the Shagaya project, he said it is currently undergoing technical study by the Chinese side and that the ministry is awaiting its review; hoping to complete it in the coming months, in preparation for its implementation in order to be operational in 2028.

He confirmed that Kuwait signed a memorandum of understanding with China on March 17; granting the Chinese side a renewable six-month grace period, with the hope of beginning implementation in the first quarter of 2026.

Regarding the Khairan Station project-Phase One, he stated that it is currently being tendered; stressing that the group of proposed projects, if implemented according to the timetable, will contribute to improving the country's energy situation by 2028. He added the year 2029 will witness the operation of the solar energy projects and North Zour, with a plan to modernize older stations like South Shuaiba and East Doha.

No new roundabouts needed

Traffic study for Saleel Jahra Bridge project moves ahead

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Municipal Council has referred the traffic study for Saleel Jahra Bridge project to the Kuwait Municipality.

The project, which links the Sixth Ring Road to Al-Mutlaa Residential City, is expected to move forward in coordination with the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART). It is in line with the commitment of the council to promote urban development and strengthen the integration of new residential areas with the main road network.

This step follows the council's formal approval of the project on Jan 18, 2021.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the traffic study, which includes technical details and the strategic location of the bridge in Northwest Jahra, across from the Saleel Jahra Resort. It lies at the intersection of two major highways

-- Jassim Mohammad Al-Kharafi Road (Sixth Ring Road Expressway) and Jahra Expressway (Road 80).

According to the study, the project includes the construction of a main road (J1) connecting the Saleel Jahra Bridge to Al-Mutlaa Residential City (N12). The road will span around six kilometers with three lanes in each direction, separated by a median strip.

The road (J1) begins with a three-way roundabout with free-flowing secondary lanes and ends at J3 with another similar roundabout to maintain smooth traffic flow. In the middle of the road (J2), there are secondary lanes and right-hand side storage lanes for safe entry and exit in both directions.

The study concluded that there is currently no need for additional roundabouts in the middle of the road for traffic safety reasons. However, the addition of roundabouts might be considered in case of commercial or investment projects in the future.

PAI closes 39 industrial plots

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Youm) published the decision of the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) to close 39 industrial plots in South Amghara Scrapyard, as these plots were used for purposes other than those designated for them,

reports Al-Jarida daily.

The decision stipulates the closure until the violations and their consequences are removed. If the violations are not removed within a month, a harsher penalty will be imposed.

PAAET opens new nursing programs

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Dean of the College of Nursing at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr. Laila Al-Shatti revealed that the college is offering several academic programs for outstanding high school students this year, subject to the availability of seats.

In a press statement, Al-Shatti said the minimum acceptance rate for bachelor's degrees is 75 percent and 65 percent for diploma programs. She disclosed that the programs include Bachelor's degree in General Nursing, Bachelor's degree

in School Nursing, Nursing Diploma and Post-Diploma Nursing completion program based on the '2+2' system; meaning two years of study to obtain the diploma, followed by two additional years to obtain the bachelor's degree.

She added that the curricula of the college combine theoretical aspects, practical training in laboratories, and field training in hospitals, with training hours being counted as an essential part of the study plan; stressing that the college is keen on providing academic accreditation that ensures its programs are in line with the international standards applied in nursing colleges around the world.

‘Bill likely to make America poorer and sicker’

Hundreds cheer Senator Gallego as Dems take offensive against Trump’s tax bill

DAVENPORT, Iowa, Aug 10, (AP): Hundreds of people cheered Sen Ruben Gallego at a town hall meeting in eastern Iowa Saturday as the first-term Arizona Democrat assailed the massive, Republican-backed tax bill signed by President Donald Trump as likely to make “America poorer and sicker.”

Gallego’s upbeat event struck the opposite tone from Rep. Mike Flood’s town hall meeting earlier in the week, when an even bigger crowd jeered the Nebraska Republican for most of a 90-minute event in his state to promote the bill.

Democrats, searching for months after last year’s election defeat for footing in opposing the aggressive tone struck by Trump in his second term in the White House, have gone on the offensive this month, still united in their frustration with Trump but suddenly energized in full-throated opposition to his signature legislation.

“I think this bill is helping Democrats see clearly what’s at stake with the future of protections for so many regular Americans,” said Pete Wernimont of Waterloo, who drove 140 miles (225 kilometers) to see Gallego. “I just hope they are there when it really matters a year from now.”

While some Republicans in safe Republican districts are braving crowds to sell Trump’s law, most in Congress are heeding GOP leaders’ suggestion to keep lower public profiles, especially noteworthy during the August recess following closely on Trump’s signing of the tax cut and spending reduction bill last month.

Democratic activists are rallying to point out what they see as the measure’s political liabilities for Republicans trying to hold their narrow majorities in Congress in next year’s midterm elections.

“This is the galvanizing moment that’s happening because Democrats now understand, we’re the people that fight for the middle class and the working class of America,” Gallego told reporters before the event Saturday. “This is a clarifying moment for us.”

For two hours, the audience of some 300 people applauded and at times stood cheering for the Arizona



Audience members listen to Sen. Ruben Gallego, D-Ariz., speak during a town hall meeting on Aug 9, 2025, in Davenport, Iowa. (AP)

Democrat, one of several party figures who have been attacking the bill in congressional districts represented by Republicans. He was in Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks’ 1st Congressional District, among the most competitive

in the nation in the past three congressional elections.

For a party frustrated with an array of Trump administration initiatives, the measure has had its own energizing effect.

“I came here because I work in health care and this bill will hurt health care,” said Alexandra Salter, a physicians assistant from Davenport. “I think we are getting more vocal about it, because we need to speak up.”

The meeting contrasted sharply with Flood’s meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska, on Monday, when an even larger crowd of 700 voiced vigorous opposition to the bill, locking in especially on its changes to Medicaid, the federally funded health care program for low-income American.

The bill, which passed with no Democratic votes in the House or Senate, makes substantial cuts to the health care program, notably by imposing work requirements for many of those receiving aid.

The same frustration that drew Wernimont to Davenport Saturday convinced Ann Ashburn of Aurora, Nebraska, to drive the 70 miles (113 kilometers) to Lincoln to face Flood on Monday.

Ashburn learned about Flood’s appearance through an Omaha-area Democratic group called Blue Dot

and reached out to friends who joined her. She dismissed any suggestion that such opposition had been orchestrated.

“I think the momentum could have been much greater had we been better organized,” the 72-year-old retired executive said.

For now, Republicans have their work cut out for them if they hope to use the measure as a reason for voters to return them to the majority in the 2026 elections. About two-thirds of U.S. adults expect the new law will help the rich, according to the poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Most - about 6 in 10 - also think it will do more to hurt than help low-income people, according to the survey taken last.

Gallego used his trip to Iowa, which included a requisite stop at the Iowa State Fair, to burnish his own profile in a state that, until 2020, traditionally had hosted the first event in the Democrats’ presidential nominating process. Iowa Democrats hope to return to the front of the parade when the 2028 primaries and caucuses begin.

America

Storms kill 1, injure another in Nebraska: Strong storms before dawn Saturday in eastern Nebraska killed one person and seriously injured another in a state park and displaced hundreds of inmates after two prison housing units were damaged, officials said, even as other Midwest states also braced for bad weather.

The Waterloo Volunteer Fire Department was called to Two Rivers state park just before 7 a.m. Saturday, where first responders found a vehicle crushed by a large cottonwood tree. The tree had toppled as the storm brought gusts higher than 80 mph (129 kph) to the area, according to the National Weather Service. A woman in the vehicle was declared dead at the scene, while a man was trapped inside, the fire department said in a news release.



Harlow

It took firefighters about 90 minutes to free the man because of the size and weight of the tree, the department said. Once free, the man was taken to an Omaha hospital with life-threatening injuries, Waterloo Fire Chief **Travis Harlow** said.

The state park - a popular camping spot - is about 5 miles (8 kilometers) west of Omaha’s western border.

High winds caused widespread damage across eastern Nebraska, toppling trees, damaging roofs and pulling down electrical lines. About 20 miles (32 kilometers) north of Omaha in Blair, the roof of a warehouse was torn open by high winds. Thousands of people were left without power in the immediate aftermath. (AP)

Man dies after shooting 2 neighbors: A 71-year-old man who shot and killed two neighbors then set his house on fire in a small Iowa city has died of burn injuries, authorities said.

Dennis Burnell had extensive burns when he exited his home on Wednesday evening, and died Friday at the Kansas University Medical Center Burn Unit, the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation said in a news release.

Following a dispute, Burnell shot 38-year-old Brandon Oman and his wife, 35-year-old Stevie Oman, outside his home in Glenwood, investigators said. The Omans lived across the street from Burnell, according to the Mills County Assessor’s online property records. The couple has a daughter, according to their obituaries.

Witnesses told police that there was an explosion in Burnell’s house before the fire, and the officers who responded to reports of the shooting found the home engulfed in flames. (AP)

Ex-FBI, CIA director Webster dies: William H. Webster, the former FBI and CIA director whose troubleshooting skills and integrity helped restore public confidence in those federal agencies, has died, his family announced Friday. He was 101.

Webster led the FBI from 1978 to 1987 and the CIA from 1987 to 1991, the only person to guide the nation’s top law-enforcement agency and its primary intelligence-gathering organization.

By the time he came to Washington, at age 53, Webster had practiced law for nearly 20 years, had served a stint as a federal prosecutor and had spent almost nine years on the federal bench in his native St. Louis. Those who opposed him in court or disagreed with his rulings acknowledged that his honesty was beyond question. (AP)



In this photo, provided by the Turkish Presidency, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, (center), welcomes the Russian, (left), and Ukrainian delegations ahead of their talks in Istanbul on March 29, 2022. (AP)

European leaders rally behind Ukraine ahead of Trump-Putin meeting

KYIV, Ukraine, Aug 10, (AP): European nations rallied behind Ukraine, saying peace in the war-torn nation can’t be resolved without Kyiv, ahead of a planned meeting between US President Donald Trump and Russia’s Vladimir Putin.

Trump had said Friday’s meeting in Alaska with his Russian counterpart was to discuss ending the more than three-year war.

Zelenskyy responded by thanking European allies and wrote on X on Sunday: “The end of the war must be fair, and I am grateful to everyone who stands with Ukraine and our people.”

Saturday’s statement by top European leaders came after the White House confirmed the US president was willing to grant Putin the one-on-one meeting Russia has long pushed for, and suggestions from Trump that a peace deal could include “some swapping of territories.” That raised fears that Kyiv may be pressured into giving up land or accepting other curbs on its sovereignty.

A White House official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as they aren’t allowed to speak publicly, told The Associated Press that Trump remained open to a trilateral summit with both the Russian and Ukrainian leaders, but for now, he will have a bilateral meeting requested by Putin.

Meanwhile, US Vice President JD Vance met Saturday with top European and Ukrainian officials at the British Foreign Secretary’s weekend residence to discuss how to end the war.

Trump had earlier said he would meet with Putin even if the Russian leader would not meet with Zelenskyy.

The Trump-Putin meeting may prove pivotal in a war that began when



Ukrainian National Guard servicemen of 3rd brigade ‘Spartan’ carry their comrade on stretcher during a training not far from the frontline on Pokrovsk direction, Ukraine, on Aug 8. (AP)

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.

Saturday’s statement, signed by the president of the European Union and leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Finland and the UK, stressed the need for a “just and lasting peace” for Kyiv, including “robust and credible” security guarantees.

“Ukraine has the freedom of choice over its own destiny. Meaningful negotiations can only take place in the context of a ceasefire or reduction of hostilities,” the statement said.

“The path to peace in Ukraine cannot

be decided without Ukraine. We remain committed to the principle that international borders must not be changed by force,” the Europeans added.

A monthlong US-led push to achieve a truce in Ukraine has so far proved fruitless, with Kyiv agreeing in principle while the Kremlin has held out for terms more to its liking.

Trump had also moved up an ultimatum to impose additional sanctions on Russia and introduce secondary tariffs targeting countries that buy Russian oil if the Kremlin did not move toward a settlement. The deadline was Friday. The White House did not answer questions Saturday about possible sanctions.

The Kremlin earlier this week reiterated demands that Ukraine give up territory, abandon its bid to join NATO, and accept limits on its military, in exchange for a withdrawal of Russian troops from the rest of the country.

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

Ukrainian officials previously told the AP privately that Kyiv would be amenable to a peace deal that would de facto recognize Ukraine’s inability to regain lost territories militarily. But Zelenskyy on Saturday insisted that formally ceding land was out of the question.

The threats, pressure and ultimatums have come and gone, but Putin has maintained Moscow’s uncompromising demands in the war in Ukraine, raising fears he could use a planned summit with Trump in Alaska to coerce Kyiv into accepting an unfavorable deal.

US Justice Dept escalates scrutiny of Trump foes with probes of AG, senator

WASHINGTON, Aug 10, (AP): The Justice Department is escalating efforts to scrutinize perceived adversaries of President Donald Trump with investigations into New York Attorney General Letitia James and US Sen Adam Schiff.

The Justice Department has subpoenaed James for records related to a lawsuit the Democrat filed against Trump over alleged fraud in his personal business dealings, according to a person familiar with the matter. It’s part of an investigation into whether James violated Trump’s civil rights, another person said. Another subpoena seeks records related to a lawsuit involving the National Rifle Association and its longtime leader Wayne LaPierre.

The people could not publicly discuss details of the investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on Friday on the condition of anonymity.

Attorney General Pam Bondi this week also named Ed Martin as a special prosecutor to help conduct separate mortgage fraud investigations into James and Democratic US Sen Adam Schiff of California, one of the people said. James and Schiff have denied any wrongdoing and have called the claims politically motivated.

The moves are among the most se-



New York Attorney General Letitia James speaks on Feb 16, 2024, in New York. (AP)

rious yet the Justice Department has taken against political foes of the president, who vowed on the campaign trail to seek retribution against his opponents. Schiff and James are both vocal critics of Trump, and James has sued Trump and his Republican administration dozens of times over his policies as president and over how he conducted his private business empire.

News of the subpoenas comes as the Justice Department advances an

investigation into the Trump-Russia probe that shadowed Trump for much of his first term as president and as the administration has engaged in a widespread purge from the workforce of law enforcement officials who had been involved in examining the activities of Trump and his supporters.

A spokesperson for James’ office, Geoff Burgan, declined to confirm the subpoenas but issued a statement that said, “Any weaponization of the justice system should disturb every American. We stand strongly behind our successful litigation against the Trump Organization and the National Rifle Association, and we will continue to stand up for New Yorkers’ rights.”

In a separate statement, James’ personal attorney, Abbe D. Lowell, called the subpoenas “improper.”

“Investigating the fraud case Attorney General James won against President Trump and his businesses has to be the most blatant and desperate example of this administration carrying out the president’s political retribution campaign,” Lowell said. “Weaponizing the Department of Justice to try to punish an elected official for doing her job is an attack on the rule of law and a dangerous escalation by this administration.”

Armenians, Azerbaijanis greet US-brokered peace deal with hope but also caution

YEREVAN, Armenia, Aug 10, (AP): Residents and politicians in Armenia and Azerbaijan responded Saturday with cautious hope - and skepticism in some cases - after their leaders signed a U.S.-brokered agreement at the White House aimed at ending decades of hostilities.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan signed the agreement on Friday in the presence of U.S. President Donald Trump, who stood between the leaders as they shook hands - a gesture Trump reinforced by clapping their hands together.

While the agreement does not constitute a formal peace treaty, it represents a significant diplomatic step toward normalization of relations. The two countries remain technically at war, and the deal does not resolve the longstanding dispute over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

It does, however, reflect the shifting power dynamics following Azerbaijan’s 2023 military victory, which forced the withdrawal of Armenian forces and ethnic Armenians from the region.

Among the agreement’s provisions is the creation of a new transit corridor, dubbed the “Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity,” highlighting a changing geopolitical landscape amid declining Russian influence in the South Caucasus.

Nagorno-Karabakh has been at the



Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev, (from left), Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and US President Donald Trump arrive for a trilateral signing ceremony in the State Dining Room of the White House on Aug 8 in Washington. (AP)

heart of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict since the Soviet Union’s collapse. Although internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, the mountainous region was controlled for decades by ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia. Two wars - in the early 1990s and again in 2020 - left tens of thousands dead and displaced. In 2023, Azerbaijan regained control of most of the terri-

tory in a swift offensive.

Ali Karimli, head of the opposition People’s Front of Azerbaijan Party, wrote on Facebook that the signing of the agreement “has undoubtedly brought Azerbaijan and Armenia significantly closer to peace,” and noted that it delivered “another blow ... to Russia’s influence in the South Caucasus,” while deepening ties with the U.S.

Europe

Light aircraft crash kills 2 in Spain: Two people were killed Saturday when a light aircraft crashed in Spain’s Valencia region, the regional government confirmed.

The accident occurred near the town of Requena at approximately 11:25 a.m., when the plane went into a steep dive shortly after takeoff and crashed into nearby fields, killing both occupants.

The aircraft was completely destroyed by fire. The cause of the crash remains under investigation. Weather conditions at the time were reported to be favorable.

Both victims were men from the nearby city of Valencia. According to local newspaper Las Provincias, one of them was a 70-year-old man with close ties to Requena Aerodrome, a private facility near Requena. The aerodrome has a runway primarily used for training and private flights. (Xinhua)

Wildfires ravage Greece: Multiple wildfires swept across Greece on Friday, breaking out amid powerful seasonal winds that fueled blazes in several regions.

The fires prompted mass evacuations, inflicted heavy property damage, and left at least one person dead in Attica, according to local authorities.

The most severe blaze was reported in Keratea, about 35 kilometers southeast of central Athens.

The wildfire erupted around 2 p.m. local time and quickly spread through dry grasslands, farmland, and residential areas, driven by strong winds and parched vegetation, Greece’s national broadcaster ERT reported.



Two firefighters of the Wildfire Special Operation Unit, operate after a wildfire in Charvalo village, southeast of Athens, Greece on Aug 9. (AP)

The advancing fire line stretched over seven kilometers, destroying homes and cutting off roads.

Fire service spokesperson Vassilis Vathrakogiannis confirmed that the body of an elderly man was found inside his residence in Keratea, marking the first fatality of the day’s fires.

Firefighting operations were severely hampered by strong winds as well as dense smoke and difficult terrain.

A local official said that the situation was “out of control,” citing burning homes, low visibility, and an oxygen-deprived environment as major challenges for both professional crews and volunteers.

More than 200 firefighters and volunteers were deployed in Keratea, supported by 44 fire engines and 18 water-dropping aircraft operating before dusk. (Xinhua)

Asia

China renews yellow alert for rainstorms: China’s national observatory renewed a yellow alert for rainstorms on Sunday, warning of downpours in some regions of the country.

From 8:00 am Sunday to 8:00 am Monday, heavy rain and rainstorms are forecast to hit parts of Jiangsu, Shanghai, Anhui, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Guizhou, Yunnan, Sichuan, Chongqing, Shaanxi, Inner Mongolia and Heilongjiang, the National Meteorological Center said.

Parts of Jiangsu, Anhui, Hubei, Sichuan, Guizhou and Yunnan are expected to experience torrential rain, with precipitation of up to 230 mm, the center added.

Some of these regions are expected to see brief but heavy rainfall, with maximum hourly precipitation exceeding 80 mm in some areas, accompanied by thunderstorms and gales.

The center has advised local authorities to take precautions for heavy rainstorms and recommended implementing drainage measures in urban areas and across farmlands.

China has a four-tier color-coded weather warning system, with red representing the most severe, followed by orange, yellow and blue. (Xinhua)

Roads, power restored in NW China county: Roads damaged by mountain torrents in Yuzhong County, northwest China’s Gansu Province, reopened on Sunday and power supply has been restored following the disaster that left 13 dead and 30 missing.

According to transport authorities in the provincial capital Lanzhou, which administers Yuzhong, roads leading to the most affected areas reopened on Sunday. The effort involved more than 700 rescuers and over 200 machines and vehicles.

Power was restored to residents affected by the disaster on Saturday night, according to the State Grid Gansu Electric Power Company. A total of 73 rescue vehicles, 42 generators and three power-generating vehicles, together with 330 repair



Workers repair a communication facility in Nanbeiguan Village of Yuzhong County, northwest China’s Gansu Province on Aug 9. (Xinhua)

personnel, were mobilized to ensure power supply in the area.

Torrential rains, which led to the mountain torrents, began pounding Yuzhong as well as other areas of Lanzhou on Thursday evening, with precipitation reaching 220.2 millimeters by noon on Friday.

Search and rescue efforts for the missing are underway. (Xinhua)

3 killed, 1 injured in southern Philippines clash: Philippine security forces have killed three alleged members of the militant group Dawlah Islamiya (DI) during a clash in Lanao del Sur province in southern Philippines, and a soldier has been wounded, the military said on Sunday.

Brig. Gen. Billy Dela Rosa, the 103rd Infantry Brigade commander, said the clash occurred on Saturday when soldiers and police officers were serving arrest warrants against the militants facing murder and multiple counts of homicide.

“The militants opened fire at our forces, triggering a firefight,” Dela Rosa said. Firearms have also been recovered from the clash site, Dela Rosa said. (Xinhua)

Man in critical condition following Australia shooting: A man has been airlifted to hospital in a critical condition following a shooting in eastern Australia, police in Australia’s state of New South Wales (NSW) said in a statement on Sunday.

The emergency services were called to reports of a shooting at a home in the small town of Nana Glen, about 440 kilometers northeast of Sydney, around 8:30 p.m. local time on Saturday.

Officers arrived and were told that a 22-year-old man was shot in the chest by a man known to him following an argument.

The victim was treated at the scene by ambulance paramedics before being airlifted to the hospital, where he was in a critical but stable condition on Sunday morning after undergoing surgery.

About 30 minutes after the shooting, officers stopped an SUV in the nearby city of Coffs Harbour and arrested a 20-year-old man. A rifle was seized during a subsequent search of the vehicle.

The 20-year-old was taken to a local police station and charged with six offenses, including shooting with intent to murder as an act of domestic violence and possessing and using an unauthorized firearm.

NSW Police established a strike force to investigate the circumstances surrounding the shooting. (Xinhua)

Japanese Prime Minister Ishiba reiterates intention to stay on despite election loss

TOKYO, Aug 10, (Agencies): Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba has reiterated his intention to stay on as Japan’s leader, as his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) held a key decision-making meeting following a major parliamentary election loss.

“I’d like to listen sincerely and humbly to your views,” Ishiba, who is also the LDP’s party president, said at the joint plenary meeting of LDP lawmakers of both houses of parliament.

Amid growing calls from LDP members for him to step down, Ishiba underscored the need to fulfill his “responsibility to the country.”

Friday’s session opened with Ishiba apologizing again for the electoral defeat. “To continue being responsible for Japan, I would like to hear various opinions,” he said.

The gathering came as Ishiba remains determined to stay in office despite his ruling coalition’s loss of its majority in the House of Councillors in the July 20 election.

During the meeting, LDP Secretary-General Hiroshi Moriyama said the party will draw up a report on the election results by the end of this month.

Also:

TOKYO: A powerful eruption occurred at Shinmoedake volcano in

Japan’s Kirishima mountain range around 5:23 a.m. local time on Sunday, sending an ash plume soaring more than 3,000 meters above the crater, local media reported.

The volcano, located on the border between Kagoshima and Miyazaki prefectures, has been erupting intermittently since June 27. Ash from Sunday’s eruption is drifting northeast and could reach as far as Takane in Miyazaki Prefecture, national broadcaster NHK reported.

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) warned that moderate ashfall is expected in Kobayashi and Takaharu in Miyazaki Prefecture, as well as Kirishima in Kagoshima Prefecture.

Small volcanic rocks may fall within about 14 kilometers northeast of the crater, according to the JMA.

The agency is maintaining the eruption alert level at 3, advising residents to stay alert for large volcanic rocks within 3 kilometers of the crater and pyroclastic flows within 2 kilometers.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand: Japanese warships docked in New Zealand’s capital Friday for the first time in almost 90 years amid efforts by Tokyo to deepen its strategic ties in

the South Pacific Ocean.

Two destroyers with more than 500 crew on board sailed into Wellington harbor accompanied by the New Zealand navy ship HMNZS Canterbury. The JS Ise and destroyer JS Suzunami were on an Indo-Pacific deployment and arrived from Sydney, where Japan’s military took part this month in war games involving New Zealand, Australia and other countries.

The Wellington visit was a ceremonial one, but it came as Japan, whose only treaty ally is the United States, has increasingly sought to deepen bilateral military cooperation amid ongoing regional tensions.

“Our defense force are developing cooperative work, not only with New Zealand and Australia but also many Pacific Island countries,” Japan’s envoy to Wellington, Makoto Osawa, told reporters Friday. “Our main goal is the free and open Indo-Pacific.”

The ambassador’s remarks followed the announcement Tuesday by Australia’s government that Japanese firm Mitsubishi Heavy Industries had won the bid for a contract to build Australian warships, beating out a German firm. While officials in Canberra said the Japanese proposal was the best and cheapest, they also hailed it as the biggest defense industry agreement between the countries.



Two ships from the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, JS Ise and destroyer JS Suzunami tied up in the port of Wellington, New Zealand to begin a three-day ceremonial port visit on Aug 8. (AP)

Rwanda-backed rebels killed 80 civilians in recent weeks – Congolese authorities

KINSHASA, Congo, Aug 10, (AP): Rwanda-backed rebels have killed at least 80 people in eastern Congo in recent weeks, Congolese authorities said, despite the ongoing Qatar-led peace process aiming to end the conflict.

A decades-long conflict ravaging eastern Democratic Republic of Congo escalated earlier this year when the M23 rebel group seized two key cities with the help of neighboring Rwandan forces. Congo has long been wracked by deadly conflict in its mineral-rich east, with more than 100 armed groups active.

The continuing violence could threaten the efforts to get Congo and the rebels to sign a permanent peace deal by Aug. 18 as hoped for. One of the deal’s conditions is the protection of civilians and the safe return of millions of displaced people.

The Congolese army said in a statement late Friday that it is “fiercely condemning” what it described as a series of mass murders of civilians in South Kivu. It said that 80 people were killed on Aug 4 in the village of Nyaborongo, and that six civilians, including two minors, were murdered on July 24 in the village of Lumbishi.

It blamed the the RDF/M23-AFC coalition, which includes the rebel groups M23 and AFC backed by the Rwanda Defense Force (RDF).



M23 rebels guard outside the South Kivu province administrative office, at the centre of east Congo’s second-largest city, Bukavu on Feb 16. (AP)

“In addition to this excessive criminality, the M23/AFC is engaged in the forced recruitment of young people, including minors, to join their illegal organization,” the statement said.

There was no immediate comment from M23. When asked for a comment, the Rwandan foreign minister Olivier J.P. Nduhungirehe told The Associated Press that he could not comment on “any stupidity coming from DRC,” using the acronym of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Earlier this month, the UN human rights chief said that M23 killed 319 people over the past month in a different part of the region, describing the toll as one of the largest documented of such attacks since the M23 rebels resurfaced in 2022.

Lat/Am

Colombian senator in critical condition again: Colombian Sen Miguel Uribe Turbay, who was shot in June during a campaign rally in Bogotá and remains hospitalized, experienced a hemorrhage in his nervous system and is once again in critical condition, authorities said Saturday.

The Fundación Santa Fe clinic that is treating him said in a statement that Uribe Turbay required “urgent neurosurgical procedures” to stabilize him, adding that he was placed under deep sedation to aid his recovery.

Uribe Turbay was shot three times, twice in the head, while giving a campaign speech in a park on June 7. Since then, he has remained in an intensive care unit in serious condition with episodes of slight improvement.

Two months after the attack, his wife, María Claudia Tarazona, posted the following message on Instagram: “My sweet love, I miss you so much that it tears my soul apart. Come back to me, God willing.”

Six people have been prosecuted for the attack, while a minor collaborating in the investigation escaped from a detention center.

Among those arrested is Cristian Camilo González Ardilla, alias “El Costeño,” whom authorities believe was the planner and organizer of the attack and considered key to help investigators track down its masterminds. (AP)



A leaflet showing Colombian Sen Miguel Uribe Turbay sits on a Colombian national flag draped over his seat in the congressional chamber in Bogotá, Colombia on June 9. (AP)

tral American country is located on a major fault zone that serves as the boundary between the North American and Caribbean plates. (AP)

Brazil bus-truck collision kills 11: At least 11 people were killed and 46 others injured when a bus collided with a truck late Friday on a highway in Brazil’s central-western state of Mato Grosso, Brazil’s federal highway police said Saturday.

Among the injured, eight sustained minor injuries, 26 were in moderate condition, and 12, including the truck driver, were in serious condition, according to state news agency Agencia Brasil.

The accident occurred near the city of Lucas do Rio Verde, about 360 km from Cuiaba, the state capital. The bus was traveling from Cuiaba to Sinop, a key hub for Brazil’s agribusiness industry. Civil police are investigating the cause of the accident. (Xinhua)

Earthquake hits Guatemala: A 5.9 magnitude earthquake struck off Guatemala’s southwest coast on Saturday. There were no immediate reports of damage.

The quake occurred about 60 miles (100 kilometers) south-southwest of Champerico, Guatemala, at a depth of 6 miles (9 kilometers), according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

People on social media reported feeling the earth shake in Guatemala’s capital and other areas. The quake also was felt in parts of southern Mexico.

Earthquakes are common in Guatemala. The Cen-

Haiti declares 3-month state of emergency

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Aug 10, (AP): Haiti’s government announced Saturday that it is implementing a three-month state of emergency in the country’s central region as gang violence surges.

The measure will cover Haiti’s West, Artibonite and Center departments “to continue the fight against insecurity and respond to the agricultural and food crisis,” according to a government statement.

The region - known as Haiti’s rice basket - has been under attack in recent years, with gangs killing farmers or forcing them to abandon their fields as they raze nearby communities.

The United Nations’ human rights office noted that from October 2024 to the end of June 2025, more than 1,000 people have been killed, more than 200 injured and 620 kidnapped in the Artibonite and Central departments and nearby areas.

Gang violence also has dis-



Vladimir Paraison, (center), arrives for his presentation ceremony as the new interim police chief, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Aug 8. (AP)

placed more than 239,000 people in Haiti’s central region, according to the U.N. In late April, dozens of people waded and swam across the country’s largest river in a desperate attempt to flee gangs.

On Friday, the government appointed a new interim director

general to oversee Haiti’s National Police, which is working with Kenyan police officers leading a U.N.-backed mission to help quell gang violence.

André Jonas Vladimir Paraison replaces former police director general Normil Rameau, who was criticized for his struggle to contain violence perpetrated by gangs that control up to 90% of Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince. Rameau had repeatedly warned about the department’s severe underfunding.

Paraison previously served as head of security of Haiti’s National Palace, and he was on duty as a police officer when former President Jovenel Moïse was killed at his private residence in July 2021.

The changes come as Laurent Saint-Cyr, a wealthy businessman, takes over as president of Haiti’s transitional presidential council, which is charged with holding elections by February 2026.

Chad’s former PM gets 20 years in jail

DAKAR, Senegal, Aug 10, (AP): Chad’s criminal court on Saturday sentenced **Success Masra**, the country’s former prime minister and opposition leader, to 20 years in prison after convictions on charges including incitement to hatred and revolt and complicity to murder. The charges stemmed from a deadly clash between herders and farmers in May.

Masra was also fined 1 billion CFA francs, or almost \$1.8 million. Before leaving the courtroom, Masra gave a message to his supporters: “Stand firm.”

Following the verdict Kadjilembay Francis, Masra’s lawyer, told reporters: “He has just been subjected to ignominy and unworthy humiliation.” He said he will appeal the sentence.



Masra

Subcontinent

8 dead in separate incidents in Delhi: At least seven people, including two women and two girls, died and a few others were injured when a wall collapsed on them while they were asleep late Friday in Delhi, confirmed a local police officer.

The mishap occurred in South East Delhi’s Hari Nagar area amid incessant rains.

All the victims were laborers living in makeshift hutments. Among the injured were some in critical conditions.

“The wall collapsed due to the rains. Rescue teams recovered the trapped residents and evacuated the remaining hutments to prevent further incidents,” senior police officer Aishwarya Sharma said.

Meanwhile, one person died when a fire broke out inside a private hospital in East Delhi on Saturday afternoon. As many as 11 patients had to be instantly shifted to another hospital.

A total of 11 persons were rescued from different floors of the hospital on fire, and admitted to nearby Pushpanjali Hospital, said a senior official of the Delhi Fire Service, adding that one person who was hospital staff was declared dead due to suffocation. (Xinhua)

Pakistan military operation kills 14 terrorists: The Pakistan military has killed 14 terrorists in an operation early Saturday morning in Zhob district of the country’s southwest Balochistan province.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistan army, said in a statement that the security forces conducted an operation in the vicinity of the Sambaza area of the district along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

The military said that 14 terrorists were killed during the operation, and weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the killed militants.

The military added that it is a continuation of the operation, which started late Thursday night in the area in which 33 terrorists were killed by Friday morning.

“The number of terrorists killed in two days of anti-infiltration operation has risen to 47, including the 14 killed on Saturday morning,” the military said. (Xinhua)

US dollar steady at KD 0.305

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (KUNA): The US dollar maintained its rate against the Kuwaiti dinar at KD 0.305 on Sunday, according to the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). The euro slipped by 0.24 percent to KD 0.355 compared to Thursday’s level. The Brit-

ish pound rose by 0.66 percent to KD 0.410, while the Swiss franc edged down 0.36 percent to KD 0.377. The Japanese yen remained stable at KD 0.002, the CBK reported in its daily bulletin.

Business

Red cardholders explore AI in interactive workshop

Gulf Bank hosts youth AI workshop in alliance with INJAZ as part of ongoing efforts to support and empower youth

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: As part of its ongoing commitment to supporting youth and equipping them with the tools of the future, Gulf Bank, in collaboration with INJAZ Kuwait, organized an interactive workshop on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its applications, attended by a large number of school and university students.

This initiative comes within Gulf Bank’s continuous efforts to support digital education and enhance technological literacy among the next generation. The workshop provided participants with an introduction to AI concepts and hands-on activities designed to develop their creative and analytical thinking skills, better preparing them for the demands of the digital job market.

Through its long-standing partnership with INJAZ Kuwait, Gulf Bank continues to implement a variety of educational programs aimed at empowering youth in areas such as entrepreneurship, career readiness, and financial literacy – preparing them for professional success while fostering an entrepreneurial and independent mindset.

This collaboration stands as a testament to Gulf Bank’s commitment to corporate social responsibility and investment in national talent. The Bank remains dedicated to launching and supporting innovative initiatives, in partnership with leading educational institutions like INJAZ, to provide modern learning environments that keep pace with global de-



Gulf Bank, INJAZ Kuwait host AI workshop for youth.

velopments and inspire young people to contribute to building a knowledge- and technology-based economy.

Gulf Bank expressed its pride in its partnership with INJAZ Kuwait, which aligns with the Bank’s vision of promoting digital innovation and creating future-ready learning opportunities for Kuwaiti youth. The Bank emphasized that AI is no longer a luxury, but an essential tool for shaping the future – and Gulf Bank is keen to play an active role in empowering the next generation in this vital field.

Gulf Bank continues to lead digital transformation in Kuwait’s banking sector through sustained investments in technology and innovative banking solutions, alongside community efforts that focus on youth empowerment and fostering a culture of lifelong learning.

The workshop also welcomed several Red Cardholders – part of Gulf Bank’s youth-focused banking program for customers aged 15 to 25 – giving them the opportunity to explore the world of AI in a dynamic, hands-on setting. Designed to empower young customers, the Red Account offers benefits such as prepaid cards, exclusive deals, purchase rewards, and access to unique events and experiences that enrich their lifestyles and help them achieve their ambitions.

By offering diverse youth-focused events and experiences, Gulf Bank continues to strengthen its relationships with its customers – particularly young people – while reinforcing its position as a financial institution that understands and meets the aspirations of the next generation.

EPS rise to 35.1 fils

KIC achieves net profit of KD 6.5 million for H1 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Kuwait Insurance Company announced the financial results for the first half of the current year, where the gross profit for the current period amounted to KD 7.7 million (USD 25.3 million) compared to KD 7.1 million (USD 23.3 million) for the same period last year, which shows an increase of KD 600 thousand (USD 1.9 million), representing an 8% rise.

Net profit for the current period amounted to KD 6.5 million (USD 21.3 million), with earnings per share of 35.1 fils (USD 0.12), compared to KD 6.2 million (USD 20.3 million) and earnings per share of 33.3 fils (USD 0.11) for the same period last year, which shows an increase of KD 300,000 (USD 1.0 million), equal to 5%.

The Gross Written Premium for the current period amounted to KD 32.9 million (USD 107.9 million).

Net Operating profit amounted to KD 2.89 million (USD 9.48 million), compared to KD 2.82 million (USD 9.25 million), marking a 2.4% increase.

Total investment profits reached KD 5.6 million (USD 18.4 million) for the current period, compared to KD 4.7 million (USD 15.4 million), which shows an increase of 19%.

The CEO of the company, Mr. Sami Sharif, stated that these achievements are the result of substantial efforts made in previous years to build a foundation that ensures sustainable growth in both profits and premiums. The company maintains a strong and stable financial base. He also highlighted that the company has been awarded the “Most Trusted Comprehensive Insurance Company” in 2025 and in 2024 the “Most Trusted Insurance Company” by The Global Economics magazine.

Mr. Sharif added that in addition to profits and premiums, the company maintains an excellent credit rating from AM Best and Moody’s at A- and A3, respectively, with a stable outlook. We are proud to continue receiving these ratings, placing us among the leading local and regional companies in the insurance services sector.

This year, the company celebrates the 65th anniversary as the first insurance company in Kuwait and in the GCC, portraying its strong position as a leading insurance company in the Kuwaiti market. The company



Sami Sharif

launched a marketing campaign to mark its 65th anniversary through advertisements, outdoor displays, and social media platforms across Kuwait.

Aiming to focus on the importance of corporate social responsibility, Kuwait Insurance Company signed a memorandum of understanding with the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity. KIC aims to contribute by sponsoring specialized and diverse programs in the fields of science and technology for children and youth to hone their skills and develop their talents and capabilities. The company also sponsored the Kuwait Sustainability Exhibition to promote the culture of sustainability in society and spread awareness about the importance of creating a sustainable society for future generations. The company, in cooperation with the Kuwait Food and Relief Bank for the second year in a row, carried out its charitable campaign “Ifar for the Fasting Person” by distributing Iftar meals to fasting workers and people with limited income.

Kuwait Insurance Company is keen in investing and developing the staff by providing training and enrolling them for educational programs, which will develop them in providing insurance services to organizations, individuals, and stakeholders. With this step, they not only serve the interests of the society but also of the State of Kuwait.

We still look forward to accomplishing a lot in the coming years and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to achieving our goals, including the Board of Directors, the shareholders, and the company’s employees.

Zour Refinery inauguration marks new era

KPC CEO highlights record oil discoveries & strategic achievements for FY 2024/2025

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud Al-Sabah confirmed that the corporation and its subsidiaries achieved remarkable successes during the FY 2024/2025, adding to its long-standing record of excellence since its founding in January 1980.

In his remarks in KPC’s latest report, he explained that KPC is making every effort to develop the oil and gas sector in all areas based on a long-term strategy on balancing domestic demand for petroleum products with its vital role in ensuring stable hydrocarbon supplies to support global development.

This strategy also reflects KPC’s commitment to reducing emissions to protect the environment, while actively pursuing promising global opportunities in the sector.

Sheikh Nawaf said, “The oil sector reached a new milestone in May 2024, when His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah officially inaugurated the Zour Refinery, ushering in a pivotal new phase in Kuwait’s journey of excellence and global leadership in the oil industry.”

Reviewing KPC’s achievements for 2024, he highlighted several milestones, most notably the announcement by Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) in July 2024 of a major oil discovery in the Nokhitha field, located east of Failaka Island.

This marked KOC’s first-ever offshore exploration well and revealed reserves of light oil and gas estimated at approximately 3.2 billion barrels of oil equivalent, equal to the total production of the State of Kuwait for three full years.

As part of its ambitious offshore exploration plan, KOC announced in January 2025 the discovery of substantial commercial quantities of hydrocarbons in the Julai’a offshore field, estimated at approximately 800 million barrels of oil and 600 billion cubic feet of associated gas.

This discovery marks a significant addition to Kuwait’s hydrocarbon reserves and further solidifies its position as a major global oil and gas producer.

At the same time, KOC is nearing completion of engineering studies and infrastructure preparations for the development of the Dura field.

The Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC) also announced the discovery of new oil quantities totaling 640 barrels per day in the Wara and Hartha reservoirs, located north of Wafra.

CEO Sheikh Nawaf affirmed that such discoveries are a fundamental pillar of KPC’s strategic vision, as they strengthen the corporation’s export capacity and support Kuwait’s long-term economic stability.

On the international front, the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) reported total revenues of USD 1.47

billion by the end of 2024. In line with efforts to diversify Kuwait’s income sources through overseas exploration and production, KUFPEC added 3.5 million barrels of oil to its proven reserves, bringing the total to 302 million barrels of oil equivalent by the end of 2024.

As part of its long-term strategic direction and commitment to ensuring reliable and sustainable energy supplies for local demand, KPC signed an agreement in August 2024 with Qatar Energy. Under the agreement, QatarEnergy will supply KPC with up to 3 million metric tons of liquefied natural gas (LNG) annually over a 15-year period.

The aims to support Kuwait’s clean energy transition, strengthen the electricity generation sector, reduce harmful emissions, and improve air quality in the local environment. It also positions KPC to capitalize on growing strategic opportunities in several markets, particularly in Asia and South Korea.

In late October 2024, KPC signed an agreement to store four million barrels of Kuwaiti crude oil in South Korea.

This move strengthens KPC’s supply chain diversification and enhances its ability to respond quickly to growing demand in key Asian markets. The agreement also aligns with KPC’s strategic plan to ensure the security, continuity, and reliability of crude oil supplies, particularly amid ongoing regional geopolitical shifts.

AI to boost productivity, cut costs in oil sector

Kuwait oil sector embraces AI for efficiency

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Saff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: In line with the ongoing efforts of the government to digitize all services in ministries and State institutions and to realize the New Kuwait 2035 vision; the oil industry is entering the realm of modern technologies, as Minister of Oil and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Tariq Al-Roumi has unveiled the plan to link field production with artificial intelligence technologies, not only to increase productivity but also to enhance operational performance and reduce costs.

Al-Roumi made the announcement during the inauguration of the Artificial Intelligence Innovation Center of Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) on Saturday.

He considers this step “a part of the strategy of the corporation towards the digital transformation of the energy sector.”

On the other hand, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of KPC Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah stressed that “there is no alternative to humans in analyzing artificial intelligence output. No matter how fast and accurate artificial intelligence is, human intelligence surpasses it.”

He affirmed that the opening of the center contributes to the reduction of the number of

days needed to drill a single well and increases the efficiency of drilling operations.

He revealed Kuwait’s oil production has reached 2.548 million barrels per day, in accordance with the production quotas set by the OPEC Plus alliance. He said the plan is to reach a production capacity of four million barrels per day by 2035.

Moreover, CEO of KOC Ahmad Al-Eidan confirmed that the company realized early on the importance of investing in modern technologies. “Today, we are reaping the fruits of this vision through our strategic partnership with Microsoft,” he stated while praising the opening of the center, he asserted.

New Jazeera T5 General Manager to lead next phase of growth & expansion

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Jazeera Airways today announced the appointment of Alp Er Tunga Ersoy as the new General Manager of Jazeera Terminal 5 (T5) at Kuwait International Airport. With record-breaking passenger growth and ongoing investments in elevating the travel experience, this strategic leadership appointment comes at a pivotal time for the airline.

Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer of Jazeera Airways, commented: “Jazeera Airways is unique in the region for owning and operating its own Terminal. As we expand T5 and plan for T6, delivering a seamless and customer-focused airport experience remains central to our vision. We’re pleased to welcome Alp Er Tunga Ersoy as General Manager of our terminal portfolio. His leadership comes at a crucial time of record growth and continued investment, and we’re confident his expertise will help drive our next phase of operational and strategic excellence.”

Since its opening, Jazeera Terminal 5 has redefined the airport experience in Kuwait, quickly becoming a benchmark for efficiency and convenience in the region. Passenger traffic through the terminal has seen steady year-on-year growth, now reaching 5 million annually, driven by Jazeera Airways’ expanding network across the Middle East, Asia, and Europe.

Krishnan Balakrishnan, Deputy CEO and CFO of Jazeera Airways, added: “In his role, Alp will focus on enhancing operational efficiency, scaling infrastructure, and elevating the service proposition across the terminal portfolio. His appointment reinforces Jazeera Airways’ commitment to supporting Kuwait’s ambition of becoming a premier regional aviation and transit hub, while ensuring strong returns on infrastructure investments.”

Alp assumes leadership at a pivotal moment as T5 embarks on its next phase of development, including both the expansion of T5 and the creation of Terminal 6 (T6), which will significantly increase capacity and introduce next-

generation facilities to support the future of travel in Kuwait. These projects will progressively raise total passenger capacity from 5 million to 7.5 million, and eventually to 12 million, while aligning with Kuwait’s vision for a world-class aviation hub.

Alp highlighted: “I am honored to join Jazeera Airways at this dynamic stage of growth. With the expansion of T5 and the development of T6 ahead, I look



New GM Jazeera Terminal 5

forward to leading operations, commercial strategy, and infrastructure development to enhance efficiency, elevate the passenger experience, and shape the future of airport travel in the region.”

With over 25 years of international experience in airport management, ground handling, terminal operations, and customer service – including his previous role as CEO of Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen Airport – Alp is well-positioned to lead both T5 and the future T6 through a period of rapid growth and innovation.

About Jazeera Airways

Founded in 2004, Jazeera Airways is a leading low-cost carrier based in Kuwait, serving over 5 million passengers across a network of more than 60 destinations in the Middle East, Central and South Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Dedicated to offering affordable, high-quality air travel, Jazeera Airways caters to business, leisure, religious, and weekend travellers, all while maintaining the highest standards of safety and customer service.

Jazeera Airways currently operates a modern and efficient fleet of 24 Airbus A320ceo and A320neo aircraft, enabling it to optimize fuel efficiency and reduce environmental impact. 26 new aircraft from its orderbook, 18 A320neos and 8 A321neos are expected to arrive 2027 onwards.

The only publicly traded airline on the Kuwait Stock Exchange (Boursa Kuwait), Jazeera Airways was recognized as a Fortune 500 Arabia company and named “Great Place to Work” in 2023.

A trailblazer in the aviation sector, Jazeera Airways has introduced several digital initiatives to its customer experience and is one of the first to design, build, and operate its own terminal, Jazeera Terminal 5 (T5), at the Kuwait International Airport.

Within its strategic partnership with LOYAC

NBK sponsors 10th ‘Kon’ Social Entrepreneurship Program

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: As part of its strong commitment to supporting and empowering the youth, National Bank of Kuwait continues its support and sponsorship of the “Kon” Social Entrepreneurship Program under its ongoing strategic partnership with LOYAC non-profit organization.

Organized by LOYAC in collaboration with the prestigious Babson College, the program kick started its tenth edition this year with a festive opening ceremony at the American University of Kuwait, which witnessed a remarkable turnout of program alumni, mentors, and new participants in this year’s edition, in addition to representatives from both NBK and LOYAC.

Kon is a five-week extensive program that encompasses educational activities, specialized training sessions, interactive discussions, online lectures, and virtual workshops all tailored to enhance and develop pioneering social programs in Kuwait.

This year, 45 male and female students participated in the program between the ages of 12 and 16, and the opening day provided a unique opportunity for networking and exchanging experiences between different generations of social entrepreneurs.

As part of the program’s activities, Mohammed Al-Sarraf, Event Manager at NBK gave the students an orientation session, introduced them to concepts of social responsibility, and highlighted for them NBK’s diverse initiatives and programs across the different sectors including healthcare, education, environment, and youth support.

The aim of this program is to instill



NBK, LOYAC empower youth through social innovation.

- Al-Baqer:
- Our collaboration with LOYAC embodies our joint vision and belief in the significance of investing in Kuwait's youth
 - We strive to enable the youth to develop projects that provide innovative solutions for environmental, medical, and educational challenges
 - The program aims to upskill students and motivate them to be innovative

in the student skills of leadership and innovation by developing projects that serve society and contribute to its prosperity. Moreover, participants get the opportunity to learn from distinguished leaders at NBK as well as experts from different participating

companies and institutions, who provide their knowledge and counselling for the program’s competing projects.

On this occasion, Yaqoub Al-Baqer, Assistant Vice President of the Public Relations and Event Management commented: “We are pleased with our

collaboration with LOYAC that embodies our joint vision and belief in the significance of investing in Kuwait’s youth who, as we strongly believe, can make sustainable and positive change in society”.

Al-Baqer added: “This program is

remarkably aligned with NBK’s vision that aims to support the youth and widen their knowledge horizons, further enabling them to develop projects that serve their society and provide innovative solutions for environmental, medical, and educational challenges”.

Al-Baqer emphasized NBK’s strong commitment and dedication towards enabling Kuwait’s youth to become influential future leaders, as the bank diligently provides them with the necessary support and confidence to turn their ideas into purposeful projects. NBK is also very keen to constantly provide specialized training programs that invest in youth competencies and give them the opportunity to build promising futures.

The program successfully concluded its activities on the 7th of August, after which students benefited from extensive training sessions presented by experienced social entrepreneurship experts, as well as specialized discussions and virtual workshops. At the end of the program, the students competed in a final evaluation of their projects by which the judging committee chose the best three projects as per innovative, excellence, and quality standards.

This program strongly corresponds to NBK’s vision of supporting the youth and their knowledge to help them develop projects that serve their society and provide innovative solutions for educational, environmental, and other social challenges. Additionally, NBK provides specialized training programs that aim to invest in their promising competencies and provide them with the opportunities to build a promising future.

Under its commitment to social responsibility, NBK is always keen on supporting all society segments as well as volunteering non-profit organizations that promote youth education in preparation for a better future.

All Share Index rises 0.61%

Boursa Kuwait ends Sunday higher across major indices

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed on Sunday with gains across all major indices. The All Share Index climbed 52.41 points, or 0.61%, to end at 8,649.41. Trading volume reached 423.6 million shares, exchanged through 22,469 transactions with a total value of KD 85.3 million (approximately USD 260.16 million).

The Main Market Index increased by 35.33 points, or 0.46%, finishing at 7,674.87 points. This saw 280.2 million shares traded in 15,815 deals, amounting to KD 36.4 million (USD

111 million).

The Premier Market Index also posted gains, rising 59.27 points, or 0.64%, to close at 9,319.95. A total of 143.4 million shares changed hands through 6,654 transactions, with a market value of KD 48.9 million (USD 149.14 million).

Additionally, the Main 50 Index advanced by 39.39 points, or 0.52%, settling at 7,631.90. Trading for this index comprised 170.7 million shares across 7,895 cash transactions, valued at KD 23.2 million (around USD 70.7 million).

Electricity, gas boost IPI

Saudi Industrial Production Index up 7.8% in June 2025

RIYADH, Aug 10, (KUNA): Saudi Arabia’s Industrial Production Index (IPI) rose 7.8 percent in June 2025 compared to the same month last year, the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) reported on Sunday.

GSTAT attributed in its monthly bulletin that the increase is due to higher activity in electricity, gas,

steam, and air-conditioning supply, as well as water supply, sanitation, waste management and treatment.

The IPI measures, released monthly as an economic indicator reflecting relative changes in production quantities of materials and goods, tracking their transformation from raw materials to final consumable products for economic returns.

President Aoun drives economic reform amid challenges

Lebanon’s economy shows early signs of recovery in 2025

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Since President Joseph Aoun took office in January 2025, Lebanon’s economy has begun showing signs of recovery from the prolonged recession and near-total paralysis that afflicted it for years.

Early official indicators point to renewed momentum in the economic reform process, driven by a return to political and institutional stability.

Many local and international observers are hopeful that Lebanon’s security situation will remain stable, as this will positively impact economic reforms. President Joseph Aoun has pledged several reforms, but their success depends heavily on the cooperation and support of all parties.

However, recent political tensions have raised concerns. The withdrawal of Hezbollah and Amal Movement ministers from the latest ministerial meeting in protest against placing the issue of Hezbollah’s weapons on the agenda has sparked fears of renewed political crisis after Lebanon’s slow recovery.

As a result, there are growing calls for a return to calm and ministerial stability, and for all ministers to fulfill their responsibilities to ensure continued economic progress. This comes amid international expectations that Lebanon could achieve positive economic growth rates by the end of 2025.

However, concerns persist among observers about the risk of Lebanon slipping back into economic decline, particularly given the country’s long-standing struggles with widespread corruption, financial mismanagement, and money laundering.



President of Lebanon, Joseph Aoun

The Lebanese people are hopeful that the path of economic reform championed by President Joseph Aoun since he assumed office in May will continue, especially in light of recent data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) pointing to promising developments.

According to the IMF, inflation is expected to decline to 15.2 percent in 2025, especially due to President Aoun’s efforts to promote national unity and reduce political polarization, emphasizing loyalty to the country above sectarian, religious, or partisan divisions.

Local and international circles highlighted Lebanese President Joseph Aoun’s call for global support in rebuilding Lebanon and revitalizing its economy as an important step, especially as the damage to infrastructure and urban areas is estimated to have cost the country over USD 14 bil-

lion.

They noted that President Aoun’s commitment to several reform issues, including ensuring the integrity of parliamentary elections, purging state institutions of corrupt officials, and strengthening the army and judiciary through proposed judicial authority legislation, could place Lebanon on a clear path toward meaningful economic recovery.

However, the success of these reforms hinges on fulfilling the demands of the president and government to transfer Hezbollah’s weapons to state control and eliminate unusable arms.

They emphasized the importance of securing support for the army and security forces, noting that maintaining national security is directly linked to economic recovery and stability.

President Joseph Aoun was also praised for his calls to eliminate bureaucratic obstacles that hinder individual and institutional progress. He has recently underscored the need to activate the role of municipalities, implement the administrative decentralization law, hold parliamentary elections on schedule, and guarantee the voting rights of expatriates, all while urging government ministers to fully assume their responsibilities.

Experts agree that implementing these reforms will revitalize the Lebanese economy and guide it onto the right path.

To further stimulate economic recovery, many financial and economic experts have called for robust support of the banking sector. According to the Central Bank of Lebanon, the sector is showing signs of relative recovery, with foreign currency reserves recently reaching USD 11.2 billion, while the Lebanese pound has remained relatively stable compared to previous years.

In an ongoing effort to support the national healthcare sector and ensure a sustainable blood supply

Burgan Bank organizes its annual blood drive for its employees and their families in cooperation with the Central Blood Bank – Blood Transfusion Administration Services

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: As part of its year-long efforts to support health and humanitarian initiatives under the umbrella of its social responsibility and ESG program, Burgan Bank organized its annual blood drive at its headquarters for its employees and their families, in cooperation with the Central Blood Bank – Blood Transfusion Administration Services. The campaign aimed to raise awareness of the importance of regular blood donation and encourage a culture of giving back – specially when it comes to efforts that can save the lives of others.

On this occasion, Ms. Zahra Boarki, Senior Manager – Internal Communication at Burgan Bank, stated: “In line with Burgan Bank’s unwavering commitment to social responsibility and its role in supporting sustainable national initiatives, we continue to organize our annual blood drive in cooperation with the Central Blood Bank, reinforcing our healthcare system’s strategic blood reserve and ensuring its readiness to meet patients’ needs, especially in emergencies.” Adding: “Our ongoing commitment to this campaign and others reflects our firm belief that, as a proactive and responsible corporate citizen, the Bank’s role goes beyond providing banking services to include supporting community initiatives aimed at

making a tangible positive impact on the lives of members of society. We continue to seek to support vital sectors and industries, including the healthcare sector in line with Kuwait Vision 2035.”

She also added: “We are proud of the large turnout and wide engagement at this year’s blood donation campaign. Throughout this campaign, we focused on promoting a culture of giving among employees and cementing their role as active partners in supporting the healthcare sector. We believe that involving employees in such initiatives reflects the Bank’s commitment to give back to the community and reinforces a sense of teamwork within the workplace, contributing to building a sustainable corporate culture that begins with the employee and extends to the community.”

It serves to note that this campaign is part of a yearlong series of community efforts and initiatives organized by Burgan Bank, reaffirming its role as a proactive partner in supporting sustainable development goals and a key contributor to national efforts in the areas of health, education, environment, and more. With this campaign, the Bank renews its invitation to all members of society and institutions to embrace the culture of regular



Zahra Boarki, Senior Manager – Internal Communication at Burgan Bank

blood donation, given its significant impact in saving the lives of thousands of patients and those in need of blood.

About Burgan Bank
Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is a Kuwait-based conventional bank with a sig-

nificant focus on the corporate and financial institution sectors. From its earliest days, the Bank has significantly sought to diversify its offering to cater to its growing retail and private banking customer base.

Burgan Bank has majority-owned subsidiaries, collectively known as the “Burgan Bank Group”, in the MENAT region. This Group is supported by one of the largest branch networks across the region and includes: Gulf Bank Algeria – AGB (Algeria), Tunis International Bank – TIB (Tunisia), Burgan Bank Turkey (Turkey) and United Gulf Bank (Bahrain). Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a presence in the UAE through its corporate office, Burgan Financial Services Limited.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years, through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Moreover, Burgan Bank’s brand has been built on a foundation of real values – trust, commitment, excellence, and progression – which serve as a reminder of the high standards to which the Bank always aspires. In fact, the Bank’s core philosophy

of ‘Driven by You’ is the foundation on which its products and services are continuously developed.

Burgan Bank has achieved the LEED v4.1 O+M: EB Gold Certification for its Head Office in Kuwait City. The Bank has also obtained the ISO/IEC 27001: 2022 Information Security Management Systems certificate (ISMS), ISO / IEC 27701:2019 Privacy Information Management Systems (PIMS), ISO/ IEC 20000-1: 2018 Information Technology Service Management System (ITSMS) and was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS), making it one of the few banks in the GCC and Kuwait to receive such certification for five consecutive times. At the same time, the Bank has the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twenty consecutive years. Moreover, in a testament to its dedication to the development of its human capital, Burgan Bank is the first bank in Kuwait to be certified as a Great Place to Work®, earning the distinct honor in 2023.

Burgan Bank is a majority-owned subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), one of the largest holding companies in the MENA region.



Burgan employees taking part in the blood drive.

BUSINESS

Fed’s Bowman supports three rate cuts in 2025

Weak jobs report spurs cut calls

NEW YORK, Aug 10, (AP): A top official at the Federal Reserve said Saturday that this month’s stunning, weaker-than-expected report on the U.S. job market is strengthening her belief that interest rates should be lower.

Michelle Bowman was one of two Fed officials who voted a week and a half ago in favor of cutting interest rates. Such a move could help boost the economy by making it cheaper for people to borrow money to buy a house or a car, but it could also threaten to push inflation higher.

Bowman and a fellow dissenter lost out after nine other Fed officials voted to keep interest rates steady, as the Fed has been doing all year. The Fed’s chair, Jerome Powell, has been adamant that he wants to wait for more data about how President Donald Trump’s tariffs are affecting inflation before the Fed makes its next move.

At a speech during a bankers’ conference in Colorado on Saturday, Bowman said that “the latest labor market data reinforce my view” that the Fed should cut interest rates three times this year. The Fed has only three meetings left on the schedule in 2025.

The jobs report that arrived last week, only a couple of days after the Fed voted on interest rates, showed that employers hired far fewer workers last month than economists expected. It also said that hiring in prior months was much lower than initially thought.

On inflation, meanwhile, Bow-



Michelle Bowman, Vice Chair for Supervision of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, takes a seat for an open meeting of the Board of Governors at the Federal Reserve, in Washington, June 25, 2025. (AP)

man said she is getting more confident that Trump’s tariffs “will not present a persistent shock to inflation” and sees it moving closer to the Fed’s 2% target. Inflation has come down substantially since hitting a peak above 9% after the pandemic, but it has been stubbornly remaining above 2%.

The Fed’s job is to keep the job market strong, while keeping a lid on inflation. Its challenge is that it has one main tool to affect both those areas, and helping one by moving interest rates up or down often means hurting the other.

A fear is that Trump’s tariffs could box in the Federal Reserve by sticking the economy in a worst-case scenario called “stagflation,” where

the economy stagnates but inflation is high. The Fed has no good tool to fix that, and it would likely have to prioritize either the job market or inflation before helping the other.

On Wall Street, expectations are that the Fed will have to cut interest rates at its next meeting in September after the U.S. jobs report came in so much below economists’ expectations.

Trump has been calling angrily for lower interest rates, often personally insulting Powell while doing so. He has the opportunity to add another person to the Fed’s board of governors after an appointee of former President Joe Biden stepped down recently.

Tariffs hit European value chains

Portugal-China Chamber Head slams US tariffs

LISBON, Aug 10, (Xinhua): Bernardo Mencia, secretary-general of the Portugal-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry has criticized U.S. tariff policy, saying it marks another step in a worrying trend toward fragmentation of global trade.

These tariffs, which heavily penalize European exporters, including Portuguese businesses, are “particularly asymmetrical” as they were imposed unilaterally by Washington, Mencia has said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

For Portugal, the impact will be felt mainly along value chains where the country serves as an indirect supplier to European industrial sectors such as automobiles and machinery. Those sectors will now face higher costs when accessing the U.S. market, he said.

For Europe as a whole, the move delivers a blow to its strategic autonomy and undermines the credibility of a common trade policy, he noted.

According to final data released Friday by Portugal’s National Statistics Institute (INE), Portuguese exports to the United States plunged 39.4 percent year on year in June to 338 million euros (394 million U.S. dollars). The drop came amid market anticipation of tariffs announced by U.S. President Donald Trump.

On a quarterly basis, exports to the U.S. in the quarter ending June dropped 13.9 percent to 1.22 billion euros from 1.42 billion euros a year earlier.

Mencia said what is even more concerning is the geopolitical backdrop, in which the United States, rather than promoting multilateral cooperation, has chosen

protectionist measures with extraterritorial effects, exerting pressure on both allies and competitors.

By contrast, he added, the Chinese market offers expanding opportunities for European companies in trade and investment, especially in areas such as the energy transition, technological innovation, and the digital economy. “The global trend should be toward building bridges and diversifying relationships, not erecting barriers that only fuel tensions,” he said.

Mencia stressed that the tariffs run counter to the global development priorities of balanced interdependence, economic sustainability, and inclusive growth driven by multiple centers. As a country committed to openness and multilateralism, Portugal will continue to defend a fairer and more predictable international trading system, he said.

In July, Portugal took part for the first time as a national delegation in the China International Supply Chain Expo, seeking to expand supply chain partnerships with China.

Heading the delegation, Mencia said he was pleased with the results, noting that amid unprecedented pressure on global supply chains, promoting cooperation, dialogue, the exchange of experience, and the removal of trade obstacles is vital.

The expo, he said, provides a constructive platform for deepening cooperation in business, economy, commerce, technology, and logistics, which ultimately benefits all participants, especially end consumers.

Protected waters temporarily restored

Fed judge blocks commercial fishing in Pacific monument

HONOLULU, Aug 10, (AP): Commercial fishing that recently resumed in a vast protected area of the Pacific Ocean must halt once again, after a judge in Hawaii sided this week with environmentalists challenging a Trump administration rollback of federal ocean protections.

The remote Pacific Islands Heritage Marine National Monument is home to turtles, marine mammals and seabirds, where environmental groups say will get snagged by longline fishing, an industrial method involving baited hooks from lines 60 miles (about 100 kilometers) or longer.

President Donald Trump’s executive order to allow this and other types of commercial fishing in part of the monument changed regulations without providing a process for public comment and rulemaking and stripped core protections from the monument, the groups argued in a lawsuit.

U.S. District Judge Micah W. J. Smith granted a motion by the environmentalists on Friday. The ruling means boats catching fish for sale will need to immediately cease fishing in waters between 50 and 200 nautical miles (93 kilometers to 370 kilometers) around Johnston Atoll, Jarvis Island and Wake Island, said Earthjustice, an environmental law organization representing the plaintiffs.

U.S. Justice Department attorneys representing the government did not immediately return an email message seeking comment on Saturday.

Trump has said the U.S. should be “the world’s dominant seafood leader,” and on the same day of his April executive order, he issued another one seeking to boost commercial fishing by peeling back regulations and opening up harvesting in previously protected areas.

President George W. Bush created the marine monu-

ment in 2009. It consists of about 500,000 square miles (1.3 million square kilometers) in the remote central Pacific Ocean southwest of Hawaii. President Barack Obama expanded it in 2014.

Soon after Trump’s executive order, the National Marine Fisheries Service sent a letter to fishing permit holders giving them the green light to fish commercially in the monument’s boundaries, Earthjustice’s lawsuit says. Fishing resumed within days, the group said.

Government attorneys say the fisheries service’s letter merely notified commercial fishers of a change that had already taken place through Trump’s authority to remove the prohibition on commercial fishing in certain areas.

Earthjustice challenged that letter, and by granting the motion in their favor, the federal judge found the government had chosen not to defend its letter on the merits and forfeited that argument. Smith also ruled against the government’s other defenses, that the plaintiffs lacked standing to challenge the letter and that the court lacked jurisdiction over the matter.

David Henkin, an Earthjustice attorney, said Smith’s ruling requires the government to go through a process to determine what kind of fishing, and under what conditions, can happen in monument waters in a way that wouldn’t destroy the area.

Members of Hawaii’s longline fishing industry say they have made numerous gear adjustments and changes over the years, such as circle hooks, to avoid that.

The lawsuit says allowing commercial fishing in the monument expansion would also harm the “cultural, spiritual, religious, subsistence, educational, recreational, and aesthetic interests” of a group of Native Hawaiian plaintiffs who are connected genealogically to the Indigenous peoples of the Pacific.

BOE cuts rates to 4%, votes split 5-4

Trump nominates Fed critic Miran, sparks rate cut talk

By National Bank of Kuwait

Markets reacted to a wave of economic developments this week, led by President Trump nominating Fed critic Stephen Miran to a vacant board seat, boosting expectations for a September rate cut amid soft U.S. data, including weaker services PMI and rising jobless claims. Trade tensions escalated with a 25% tariff hike on Indian imports over Russian oil purchases and threats of 100% semiconductor tariffs, while Apple pledged \$100B in new U.S. investments. Moreover, U.S. Jobless claims rose above forecasts, with continued claims hitting a near four year high, adding to pressure for a Fed rate cut in September. Meanwhile, in the U.K. the BOE cut rates to 4.00% in a narrow vote, balancing high inflation and weak growth, while Switzerland saw core inflation rise despite muted headline CPI. In Asia-Pacific, China’s services PMI hit a 14-month high on stronger demand, and New Zealand’s unemployment rose as participation fell, reinforcing a dovish policy outlook.

United States

President Trump Announces

President Donald Trump announced that he will nominate Stephen Miran, chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, a close ally and key architect of his tariff policies who disputes Fed chair Jay Powell’s view that tariffs are inflationary, to temporarily fill the Federal Reserve board seat vacated by Adriana Kugler until January, a move that would give a vocal critic of Powell a vote on the Federal Open Market Committee and is expected to reinforce Trump’s push for interest rate cuts of up to three percentage points. Miran, who holds a Harvard PhD in economics, previously served at the Treasury Department and is likely to align with Trump appointees Christopher Waller and Michelle Bowman, both of whom opposed the Fed’s recent decision to keep rates steady, and his nomination comes as JPMorgan and other economists anticipate a September rate cut following signs of a sharp summer hiring slowdown, while Trump simultaneously ordered an additional 25% tariff on Indian imports raising total duties to 50% in response to India’s purchases of Russian oil, prompting condemnation from New Delhi as unfair and unjustified and widening a rift between the two countries just weeks after they were nearing a trade deal. The tariff announcement followed a meeting in Moscow between senior U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff and Vladimir Putin, after which Trump said he was open to meeting both Putin and Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Additionally, Trump threatened a 100% tariff on semiconductor imports with exemptions for firms expanding US manufacturing. The carve-out supports AI chip designer Nvidia and TSMC, which have pledged multi-billion-dollar US capacity expansions. In the Oval Office, Apple CEO Tim Cook pledged an additional \$100 billion in US investment over four years, raising the total to \$600 billion; initial partners include Corning, TSMC and Samsung. This came ahead of reciprocal tariffs on trading partners from the EU to Japan taking effect last Thursday. After the announcement, TSMC shares rose by over 4%, Samsung gained 2%, and Apple advanced 3% in after-hours trading. Apple estimates that under 5% of iPhone components are US-sourced and expects \$1.1 billion in Q3 tariff-related costs. Currently markets are pricing in 91% probability of 25 bps of a rate cut for the Fed

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week’s Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.1577	1.1525	1.1698	1.1639	1.1530	1.1750	1.1709
GBP	1.3271	1.3250	1.3458	1.3449	1.3350	1.3590	1.3461
JPY	147.26	146.60	148.08	147.72	146.60	148.85	146.28
CHF	0.8028	0.8023	0.8117	0.8080	0.8000	0.8200	0.7993

upcoming meeting.

U.S. ISM Services PMI

In the U.S., the ISM Services PMI dropped to 50.1 in July 2025 from 50.8 in June, missing expectations of 51.5 and indicating near stagnation in the U.S. services sector. Seasonal and weather factors contributed to the slowdown, with declines in business activity, new orders, and inventories. Price pressures surged to their highest level since October 2022, driven by tariff-related issues, especially in commodities. Employment contracted further, while backlogs continued to shrink. Supplier deliveries slowed slightly, and both exports and imports shifted into contraction, reflecting the negative impact of ongoing tariff tensions on global trade.

U.S. Unemployment Claims

The number of new weekly unemployment claims – a key indicator of the U.S. labor market – rose sharply last week to 226,000, up by 7,000 from the previous week and exceeding Dow Jones’ forecast of 221,000, as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor on August 7, with the prior week’s figure also revised upward from 218,000 to 219,000; and although the four-week moving average declined slightly to 220,750, the more troubling development is that continued unemployment claims – reflecting individuals receiving benefits for more than two weeks – climbed by 38,000 to 1.974 million (the highest level in nearly four years since November 2021), signaling increasing difficulty for job seekers in securing new employment, which, when combined with last week’s weak July jobs report, is fueling expectations that the Federal Reserve may respond with an interest rate cut in September amid rising concerns over deteriorating labor market conditions.

The Greenback was last seen trading at 98.180.

United Kingdom

United Kingdom Official BOE Monetary Policy Report

The Bank of England, in a closely split 5-4 vote by its nine-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), decided on Thursday to cut its key interest rates from 4.25% to 4%, marking its fifth rate cut since the July 2024 general election and signaling a continuation of what it calls a “gradual and careful” approach to monetary easing, a move that, while widely anticipated by markets, drew significant attention due to the internal division among policymakers, with four members preferring to hold rates, four favoring a 25-basis-point cut, and one advocating a larger 50-basis-point cut ultimately resolved by a second round of voting, this decision came against a backdrop of stubborn inflation, as June’s CPI climbed to a hotter-than-expected 3.6%, sluggish economic performance including a 0.1% GDP contraction in May, and a weakening labor market, all of which the BOE acknowledged in its statement emphasizing the ongoing need to eliminate persistent inflationary pressures to sustainably return inflation to its 2% target; while the British pound rose 0.5% following the announcement, BOE Governor Andrew Bailey cautioned against cutting rates too aggressively, stating it is essential not to act too quickly or deeply, though he noted that headline inflation likely won’t persist, and al-

though economists largely agree that rates will continue trending downward into 2026 with forecasts by some leading institutions are expecting a decline to 3.00%, below the 3.50% prices by markets. Uncertainty remains due to the conflicting signals from inflation, employment, and growth data, which led to the rare two-round voting process and reinforced the BOE’s commitment to a cautious pace of easing.

The GBP/USD was last seen trading at 1.3449.

Switzerland

Switzerland CPI m/m

Swiss inflation edged up to 0.2% year-on-year in July, slightly above the 0.1% forecast, driven by higher prices in restaurants, hotels, and energy, while food and transport costs fell. Core inflation rose to 0.8%, a four-month high, signaling underlying price pressures despite overall muted consumer price movement. On a monthly basis, prices remained flat, missing expectations for a 0.2% drop. The mixed inflation picture, rising core prices but stagnant headline inflation, reflects ongoing disinflationary trends, supported by external pressures and weak domestic demand. These developments may reinforce expectations that the Swiss National Bank will maintain or deepen its negative interest rate stance.

The USD/CHF currency pair was last seen trading at 0.8080.

Asia-Pacific

Chinese Caixin Services PMI

China’s services sector showed renewed strength in July, with the Caixin General Services PMI rising to 52.6 from June’s nine-month low of 50.6, surpassing expectations of 50.4. This marked the fastest expansion since May 2024, driven by a pickup in foreign demand and a rebound in tourism. Employment saw its sharpest increase since July 2024, while backlogs of work rose modestly. On the price front, rising input costs for materials, fuel, and wages led to the first increase in selling prices in six months. Business sentiment also improved, reaching its highest point since March, amid optimism for improved global trade conditions.

The USD/CNY currency pair was last seen trading at 7.1886.

New Zealand Unemployment Change q/q

New Zealand’s unemployment rate rose to 5.2% in Q2 from 5.1% in Q1, below the 5.3% consensus. Employment contracted by 0.1% QoQ after a 0.1% gain in Q1. The labour force participation rate declined to 70.5% from 70.8%. Since June 2022, the unemployment rate has risen 1.9 percentage points and the underutilization rate 3.5 points. In the RBNZ’s Q3 monetary conditions survey, two-year inflation expectations eased to 2.28% from 2.29%, and one-year expectations fell to 2.37% from 2.41%, both within the 1-3% policy target. Statistics New Zealand labour market spokesperson Jason Attewell highlighted the marked shift in conditions over the last three years.

The NZD/USD currency pair was last seen trading at 0.5957.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30535

Hong Kong wealth AUM up 14% in H1 2025

HONG KONG, Aug 10, (Xinhua): Hong Kong’s wealth management sector is receiving a particular boost in 2025 on top of years of steady growth owing to a brisk stock market and new investment options for an expanding high-net worth clientele in Asia.

Latest data from the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) showed that total assets under management of major private banks in Hong Kong grew by 14 percent in the first half of this year as compared to the end of 2024.

Standard Chartered said the number of affluent clients in Hong Kong grew 8 percent in the first half of the year with net new money from such clients up 35 percent. HSBC’s wealth management business added 600,000 clients.

The surge in asset and wealth management is driven both by growing wealth in the Asia-Pacific region and Hong Kong’s inherent strengths including a mature financial market and a robust banking system, noted HKMA Chief Executive Eddie Yue.

Private wealth in Asia-Pacific is among the fastest-growing worldwide. The number of individuals with a net worth of over 10 million U.S. dollars in Asia surpassed 850,000 in 2024, up 5 percent year on year. Among them, over 470,000 are from the Chinese mainland, accounting for 20 percent of the global total, according to the Wealth Report 2025 published by real estate consultancy Knight Frank.

“Hong Kong offers mainland high-net-worth individuals access to global assets. Foreign investors, increasingly heartened by China’s economic prospects, can find here Chinese assets to keep in their portfolios,” Pau Ka-Yan, tax partner of Deloitte China, told Xinhua.

The Hong Kong bourse has recorded brisk tradings so far this year because global investors continued to increase their holdings in awe of the economic vitality of the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong, market observers

noted.

By the end of July, total market capitalization of Hong Kong’s securities market hiked 44 percent year on year. By mid-July, the 52 initial public offerings raised 124 billion Hong Kong dollars (15.8 billion U.S. dollars) in total, nearly seven times the value recorded in the same period last year.

To bolster the wealth management sector, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government has introduced tax incentives for family offices and enhanced financial services. Now it is tapping the potential of digital assets.

Total transaction value of digital asset-related products and tokenized assets in banks surged 233 percent to 26.1 billion Hong Kong dollars in the first half of the year, local data showed. The licensing process for fiat-referenced stablecoins issuers began after the Stablecoins Ordinance took effect on Aug. 1.

“The availability of digital asset-related products has given Hong Kong a unique edge in the eyes of high-net-worth clients, who are developing an appetite for new asset types,” said Pau.

Analysts expect the wealth management business to sustain growth in the coming years as market connectivity strengthens between the mainland and Hong Kong.

The HKSAR government is working to launch a renminbi counter for stock connect schemes so that mainland investors can buy Hong Kong stocks with greater ease.

Global banks have announced plans to expand their wealth management businesses in Hong Kong. David Liao, co-chief executive of Asia and Middle East of HSBC, told Xinhua that the company will boost its private banking team this year and upgrade services through wealth centers across Hong Kong.

Books



Michelle Souliere, owner of the Green Hand Bookstore, carries a stack of books to the shelves, in Portland, Maine, on Thursday, Aug. 7. (AP)

America's hidden tales

History Press brings US' local lore to life

NEW YORK, Aug 10, (AP): With deep knowledge of Stephen King's books and curiosity about their inspirations, writer Sharon Kitchens began a journey around Maine. As she learned about the real-life settings and people behind such fiction as "IT" and "Salem's Lot," she arranged them into an online map and story she called "Stephen King's Maine."

"It was amateur hour, in a way," she says. "But after around 27,000 people visited the site one of my friends said to me, 'You should do something more with this.'"

Published in 2024, the resulting book-length edition of "Stephen King's Maine" is among hundreds released each year by The History Press. Now part of Arcadia Publishing, the 20-year-old imprint is dedicated to regional, statewide and locally focused works, found for sale in bookstores, museums, hotels and other tourist destinations. The mission of The History Press is to explore and unearth "the story of America, one town or community at a time."

The King book stands out if only for its focus on an international celebrity. Most History Press releases arise out of more obscure passions and expertise, whether Michael C. Gabriele's "The History of Dinners in New Jersey," Thomas Dresser's "African Americans of Martha's Vineyard" or Clem C. Pellett's "Murder on Montana's Hi-Line," the author's probe into the fatal shooting of his grandfather.

Like Kitchens, History Press authors tend to be regional or local specialists - history lovers, academics, retirees and hobbyists. Kitchens' background includes writing movie press releases, blogging for the Portland Press Herald and contributing to the Huffington Post. Pellett is a one-time surgeon who was so compelled by his grandfather's story that he switched careers and became a private investigator. In Boulder, Colorado, Nancy K. Williams is a self-described "Western history writer" whose books include "Buffalo Soldiers on the Colorado Frontier" and "Haunted Hotels of Southern Colorado."

Works

The History Press publishes highly specific works such as Jerry Harrington's tribute to a Pulitzer Prize-winning editor from the 1930s, "Crusading Iowa Journalist Verne Marshall." It also issues various series, notably "Haunted" guides that publishing director Kate Jenkins calls a "highly localized version" of the ghost story genre. History Press has long recruited potential authors through a team of field representatives, but now writers such as Kitchens are as likely to be brought to the publisher's attention through a national network of writers who have worked with it before.

"Our ideal author isn't someone with national reach," Jenkins says, "but someone who's a member of their community, whether that's an ethnic community or a local community, and is passionate about preserving that community's history. We're the partners who help make that history accessible to a wide audience."

The History Press is a prolific, low-cost operation. The books tend to be brief - under 200 pages - and illustrated with photos drawn from local archives or taken by the authors themselves. The print runs

are small, and authors are usually paid through royalties from sales rather than advances up front. History Press books rarely are major hits, but they can still attract substantial attention for works tailored to specific areas, and they tend to keep selling over time. Editions selling 15,000 copies or more include "Long-Ago Stories of the Eastern Cherokee," by Lloyd Arneach, Alphonso Brown's "A Gullah Guide to Charleston" and Gayle Soucek's "Marshall Field's," a tribute to the Chicago department store.

The King guide, which has sold around 8,500 copies so far, received an unexpected lift - an endorsement by its subject, who was shown the book at Maine's Bridgton Books and posted an Instagram of himself giving it a thumbs-up.

Shocked

"I was genuinely shocked in the best possible way," Kitchens says, adding that she saw the book as a kind of thank-you note to King. "Every choice I made while writing the book, I made with him in mind."

History Press authors say they like the chance to tell stories that they believe haven't been heard, or were told incorrectly.

Rory O'Neill Schmitt is an Arizona-based researcher, lecturer and writer who feels her native New Orleans is often "portrayed in way that feels false or highlights a touristy element," like a "caricature." She has responded with such books as "The Haunted Guide to New Orleans" and "Kate Chopin in New Orleans."

Brianne Turczynski is a freelance writer and self-described "perpetual seeker of the human condition" who lives outside of Detroit and has an acknowledged obsession with "Poletown," a Polish ethnic community uprooted and dismantled in the 1980s after General Motors decided to build a new plant there and successfully asserted eminent domain. In 2021, The History Press released Turczynski's "Detroit's Lost Poletown: The Little Neighborhood That Touched a Nation."

"All of the journalist work that followed the story seemed to lack a sense of closure for the people who suffered," she said. "So my book is a love letter to that community, an attempt for closure."

Kitchens has followed her King book with the story of an unsolved homicide, "The Murder of Dorothy Milliken, Cold Case in Maine." One of her early boosters, Michelle Souliere, is the owner of the Green Hand Bookstore in Portland and herself a History Press writer. A lifelong aficionado of Maine history, her publishing career, like Kitchens', began with an online posting. She had been maintaining a blog of local lore, "Strange Maine," when The History Press contacted her and suggested she expand her writing into a book.

"Strange Maine: True Tales from the Pine Tree State" was published in 2010.

"My blog had been going for about 4 years, and had grown from brief speculative and expressive posts to longer original research articles," she wrote in an email. "I often wonder how I did it at all -- I wrote the book just as I was opening up the Green Hand Bookshop. Madness!!! Or a lot of coffee. Or both!!!"

'The Magician of Tiger Castle,' a tale untold

Sachar's novel a zany adventure of science, magic

NEW YORK, Aug 10, (AP): Anatole isn't just any magician. He's the magician of Tiger Castle, whom the king of Esquaveta once declared to be the greatest magician in all the land.

"The Magician of Tiger Castle" is Anatole's chance to set the record straight. Not about his greatness - he fully accepts the title the king bestowed on him - but about what really happened in 1523 with the princess of Esquaveta, the apprentice scribe she fell in love with, the prince she was betrothed to, and the prisoner who was kept in the dungeon for 100 years.

It's the debut adult novel from Louis Sachar, author of the Newbery Medal-winning middle-grade novel, "Holes," and the "Wayside School" series of memorably wacky vignettes. "The Magician of Tiger Castle," out Tuesday from Ace Hardcover,

is every bit as creative and endearing as Sachar's dozens of children's and young adult books that enamored kids and teachers alike for decades.

The novel is told like a memoir, first-person from the magician himself. Only, he's never been a true magician; we quickly see that he's more of a misunderstood pioneer of medicine and modern science.

Calling attention to the thin, hazy line between science and magic, Anatole also dips into miniature medical history lessons. So, while you're following the story of this bald magician, hypersmart scribe and headstrong princess, you're also learning about why old-timey physicians wore beaked masks or how leeches are still sometimes used in medicine today.

Though it's classified as an adult novel, "The Magician of Tiger



This cover image released by Ace shows 'The Magician of Tiger Castle' by Louis Sachar. (AP)

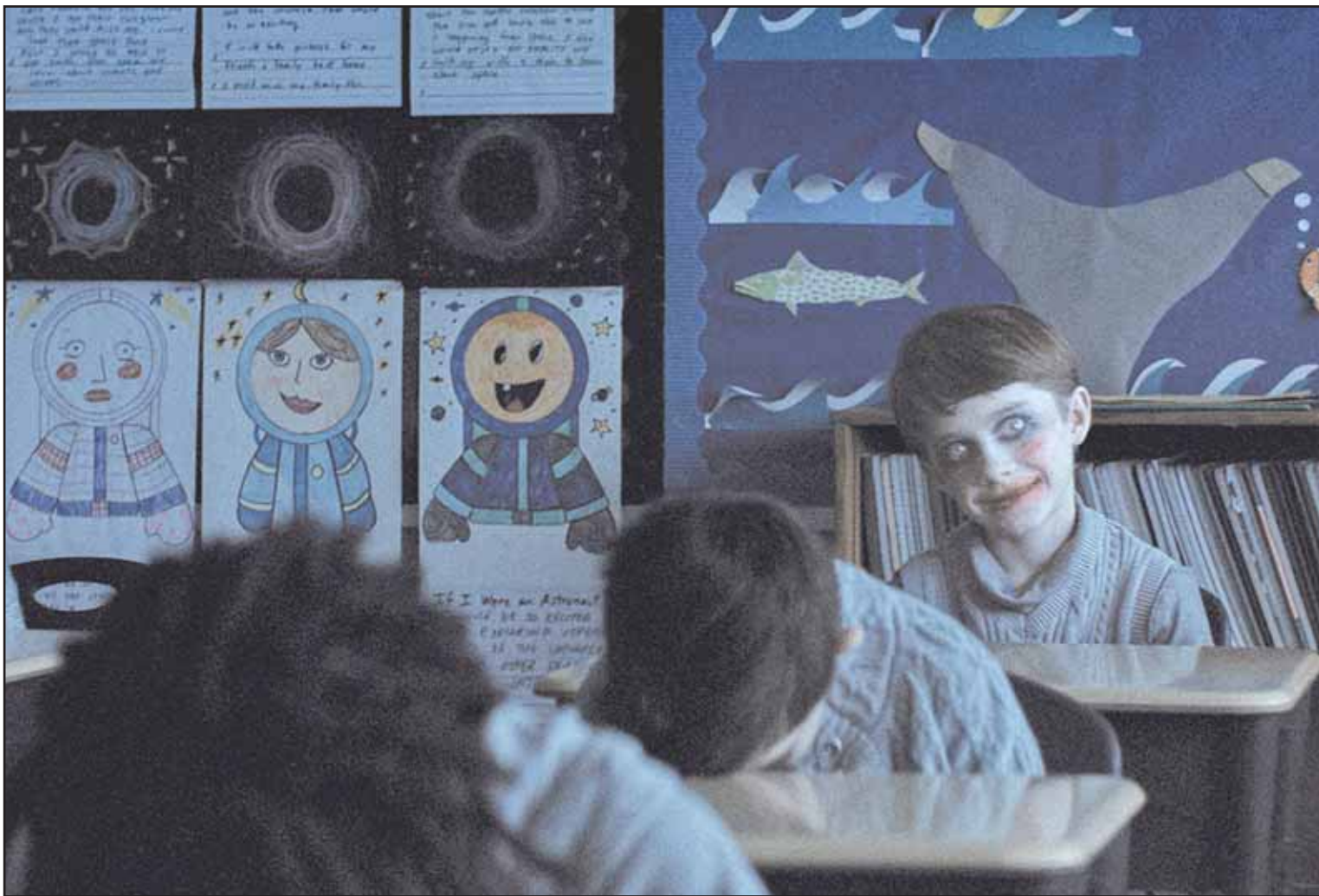
Castle" is fairly clean, with only one or two curse words, a handful of innuendoes and some light vio-

lence, but nothing explicit.

You can read the surface-level story and have a great time, but Sachar also brings literary elements to the modern fantasy-adventure table. Chess games reveal the protagonists' strengths while mirroring their evolving relationships, as well as their increasingly complicated schemes.

"The Magician" is self-aware and fourth-wall breaking, stepping outside the narrative to explain a word choice or cultural context for the fictional kingdom set somewhere near modern France. The plot is like a zany Dungeons & Dragons campaign played with friends; the storyline is meandering but with a definite aim and purpose, and the characters are lovably boisterous (or hateful, in the case of the antagonists). It's funny, surprising, smart and weird, and fully lives up to the high bar you'd expect from a great like Sachar.

Film



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

Cregger's film mirrors real life, humor and all

'Weapons' spins small town into chaos

LOS ANGELES, Aug 10, (AP): If there's one thing Zach Cregger learned while writing and directing his upcoming horror movie "Weapons," it's that the best laughs won't come from the jokes he writes.

The film follows Cregger's 2022 solo directorial debut "Barbarians," the widely celebrated genre-bending horror. This time, the young director bends even more, spinning a town into chaos when all children but one from the same classroom mysteriously vanish, leaving a trail of questions in their place.

The Warner Bros. release hit theaters last Friday and is as creepy as it is hilarious - a delicate balance that required Cregger to strip any intentionality behind his humor, he told The Associated Press.

"If the humor is coming from an authentic reaction that a character's having, then it works," Cregger said. "There's a lot of jokes that didn't make it into the movie that I thought were going to be so funny. And then we did a test screening, and nobody laughed and I'm like, OK, it's gotta go."

Paranoia runs deep in the film. The town's heartbroken parents are represented by Josh Brolin's character, Archer, whose son was among the missing. The students' teacher, played by Julia Garner, is determined to solve the mystery, despite parents blaming her for the disappearances.

The humor here comes naturally, Cregger said, as characters navigate the absurd events happening around them.

"You're not playing for the laugh, otherwise you lose the laugh," said Brolin, whose character stumbles through his grief, a state ripe for what he called genuine and "embarrassingly funny" moments.

If 17 kids up and ran out of their homes at 2:17 a.m. one morning with no trace, what would a community do? That question drove "Weapons," painting a picture of a town left reeling by the mystery.

The film setting - the fictional small town of Maybrook, Illinois - is just as integral to the plot as any of its main characters. The town feels hyper realistic, a core tenet to the movie's ability to blend humor and horror, two genres that Garner said are "opposite side of the same coin."

"It's funny because this isn't even like a proper horror film," Garner said. "It has comedic elements and has horror elements, but it's kind of its own genre, in a way."

Outraged

The town's reactions to tragedy and shock was intentionally meant to feel oddly realistic, Cregger said. Parents are outraged, storming into town halls and angrily demanding answers from the police, the school and, most pointedly, the students' teacher. Yet, when Garner's character is attacked in broad daylight, bystanders and store owners hardly bat an eye, a level of indifference that Cregger said is just as realistic as the parental outrage.

"We definitely have a, 'Whoa, not my problem,' kind of a thing when chaos is occurring, because we see it so much on TV that I think we're able to just kind of tune it out, even when it's happening in front of us," Cregger said. "Living in America, I've seen crazy things happen with my own eyes right in front of me, and I've just kept walking for better or worse, so I don't know, it feels real."

Brolin - who's found wide-reaching success across Hollywood, from the 1985 classic, "The Goonies," to the Marvel universe - initially hesi-

tated when approached for the film. As a father of four, facing his worst nightmare - losing his children - was "not something I want to show up to work for," he said.

But "Weapons" lends the characters a layer of depth that allowed horror, a genre he said is typically treated as cosmetic, to suddenly have "depth, and humor and absurdity," which, coupled with his own adult daughter's love of "Barbarian," was enough to convince him to sign on.

The movie subtly mocks suburban life, as go-riness and horror occur under the sights of nosy neighbors, corrupt police departments and struggling relationships.

Each character that drives the plot forward is just as flawed as they are victims of tragedy. Gandy, the schoolteacher, is harassed by parents for her missing students, but is secretly battling alcoholism. Archer, the heartbroken father, is failing in his job and his marriage as he navigates his son's absence. Paul Morgan, played by Alden Ehrenreich, is a local beat police officer with secrets of his own.

"Every character is perceived in a certain way and then every character breaks," Brolin said. "It all comes down to this very base thing: What if you lost the thing that you value the most? How do you deal?"

For Ehrenreich, who's found success in dramas, notably as a young Han Solo, "Weapons" offered a different pace, but its horror wasn't what drew him in. Rather, he was captivated by the film's depth and weirdness.

"The weird resonance, the weird opening voice-over, the way it was written and the kind of emotional brokenness of these characters and the depth that I felt was in the writing, that was as deep as any drama I've read in years," Ehrenreich said.

special themed fireworks show. (AP)

□ □ □

LOS ANGELES: A group of masked thieves stole about \$7,000 worth of Labubu dolls from a Los Angeles-area store this week, authorities said.

The incident took place early Wednesday morning at a store in La Puente, a city about 18 miles (29 kilometers) east of Los Angeles, the LA County Sheriff's Department said. The department said the suspects used a stolen Toyota Tacoma in the incident, which was recovered shortly afterward. The agency said it was investigating the case and did not have additional information.

Labubu dolls, created by Hong Kong-born artist Kasing Lung, have become a popular collectible item a decade after the toothy monsters were first introduced.

Toy vendor One Stop Shop said in an Instagram post that the thieves took all of the store's inventory and trashed the establishment. The store posted surveillance footage showing a group of people wearing hoodies and face coverings

breaking in. The suspects are seen shuffling through items and carrying boxes out of the shop. (AP)

□ □ □

BEIJING: China's summer box office earnings had exceeded 8 billion yuan (around 1.1 billion US dollars), with a film about the Nanjing Massacre grossing more than 2 billion yuan, as of Saturday morning.

Since its debut on July 25, "Dead to Rights," a film depicting Japanese atrocities during World War II, has dominated the daily box office charts. It earned nearly 80 million yuan this past Friday alone, according to Lighthouse Professional Edition, a box office tracker owned by Alibaba.

The movie currently enjoys an 8.6 out of 10 rating on Douban, a major film review platform. It is projected to gross up to 4.2 billion yuan in total.

Notably, 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. Several films related to this history have been released or are scheduled to premiere soon. (AP)



Hong Kong actor Jackie Chan poses with the 'Pardo alla Carriera' prize during the 78th Locarno International Film Festival, in Ascona near Locarno, Switzerland, Friday, Aug. 8. (AP)

Variety

NEW YORK: The New York Mets will honor the 60th anniversary of the Fab Four's performance at Shea Stadium when they host the Seattle Mariners on Aug. 15 for The Beatles Night at Citi Field.

The 1965 performance was a milestone because The Beatles became the first rock band to perform a major stadium concert. A 50-minute documentary entitled "The Beatles at Shea Stadium" captured the show. At the time, the multi-purpose stadium was home to the Mets and New York Jets.

The celebration begins with a performance by 1964 The Tribute in front of Shea Bridge at 6:15 p.m. ET. The first 15,000 fans to enter Citi Field will receive an exclusive Shea Stadium replica.

Celebrations continue throughout the night. The first pitch will be thrown by members of the gameday staff who worked the famous concert. After the game, fans can stay put for a



An artifact from ancient Egyptian civilization.



A piece of a bronze crown.



KUNA photos
A skull from the Egyptian artifacts recovered from the United Kingdom and Germany.

Egypt retrieves relics from Germany, UK

Egypt has reclaimed 13 relics from the United Kingdom and Germany as part of the state’s policy to retrieve and preserve the nation’s heritage and historical treasures.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration said in a statement on Sunday that London handed over to Cairo ten artifacts including a funerary tablet, an amulet, part of a bronze crown, a funerary mask and a number of black-stone amulets.

The treasures recovered from Germany include a human skull, hand of a

mummy and an amulet that signifies life during the ancient times in Egypt. The statement indicated that the British police had found and confiscated the relics after they had been smuggled out of Egypt by an international gang specialized in trafficking historical treasures.

It added that the Egyptian embassy in Berlin had received a notification from the Hamburg authorities, expressing desire to send back relics preserved in the city museum to Cairo after they discovered that they had been smuggled out of Egypt illegally. (KUNA)

Lifestyle



Halil Ibrahim Ucucu, (right), and his wife Hasret Yilmaz Ucucu wearing their wedding outfits pose for a photo session at Galata Bridge, in Istanbul, Turkey, Thursday, July 31, 2025. (AP)

Golden Horn draws brides and grooms

Galata Bridge becomes Istanbul’s love backdrop

ISTANBUL, Turkey, Aug 10, (AP): Under Istanbul’s old Galata Bridge, there’s a nondescript concrete landing that juts out into the waters of the Golden Horn.

By day, it’s easy to overlook. But as evening nears, it transforms into one of the city’s most sought-after stages for romance.

Starting in spring and continuing through summer, soon-to-be wed and newlywed couples flock to this unassuming spot in Eminonu district to immortalize their nuptials in radiant, and often highly choreographed, sunset photo shoots.

The spot is so popular, a dozen brides and grooms can often be seen posing side by side, each basking in a sliver of the sunset glow. At peak hours, a traffic jam of couples forms on the stairs leading to the

waterside overlook, waiting for their turn. “There’s no place in Istanbul we haven’t visited, we both love it,” said 22-year-old Elif Yuksel, standing next to her fiancé, Semih Aydin. “That’s why we wanted to be photographed somewhere we could see every corner of Istanbul.”

The setting sun casts its light just right during what’s known as “golden hour,” a coveted time for photographers and videographers who frame their shots against the backdrop of the medieval Galata Tower and the Ottoman imperial mosque, Suleymaniye, the city’s second largest.

It’s a fitting setting for newlyweds like Hasret Yilmaz Ucucu and her husband, Halil Ibrahim Ucucu, who had tied the knot shortly before their shoot.

“I went to the hairdresser and got ready there. Then my husband came and picked me up and we went to our wedding ceremony. Afterward (our photographer) brought us here with great excitement,” said the 24-year-old bride.

For many couples, the snapshots are more than keepsakes - they symbolize moments in time when love, tradition and the centuries-old city’s enduring splendor intertwine.

“I’ve been to London, I’ve been to Barcelona. There’s no place like Istanbul,” said Semih Aydin, who was taking engagement pictures with his soon-to-be wife. “Let’s take beautiful photos, let’s make beautiful memories to show our children in the future.”

A nightclub that made music history

Toad’s at 50: Tiny stage that rocked legends

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Aug 10, (AP): Nestled on a narrow, one-way street among Yale University buildings, a pizza joint and an ice cream shop, Toad’s Place looks like a typical haunt for college kids.

But inside the modest, two-story building is a veritable museum of paintings and signed photos depicting the head-turning array of artists who’ve played the nightclub over the years:

The Rolling Stones. Bob Dylan. Billy Joel. Bruce Springsteen. U2. The Ramones and Johnny Cash. Rap stars Kendrick Lamar, Drake, Kanye West, Cardi B, Run-DMC., Snoop Dogg and Public Enemy. Blues legends B.B. King, Bo Diddley, Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon and John Lee Hooker. And jazz greats Count Basie, Dizzy Gillespie and Herbie Hancock.

This year, the New Haven institution is celebrating 50 years in business. And the people who made it happen are reflecting on Toad’s success in attracting so many top acts to a venue with a standing-only capacity of about 1,000.

“You know, I thought it would be good for a few years and then I’d be out doing something else,” said owner Brian Phelps, 71, who started as the club’s manager in 1976. “And then the thing started to happen when some of the big bands started to come here.”

Original owner Mike Spoerndle initially opened Toad’s Place in January



A mural of past concerts at Toad’s Place is displayed above one of the bars in New Haven, Conn., on May 9, 2025. (AP)

1975 as a French restaurant with two friends he later bought out. Before that, the building had been a burger and sandwich joint.

But when the restaurant got off to a slow start, Spoerndle had an idea for bringing in more customers, especially students: music and dancing. A Tuesday night promotion with bands and 25-cent brews helped turn the tide.

Among the acts who performed was New Haven-born Michael Bolton, who would change his name to Michael

Bolton and go on to become a Grammy-winning ballad writer and singer.

The gregarious and charismatic Spoerndle, who died in 2011, endeared himself to bands and customers. A local musician he tapped as Toad’s booking agent used his connections to bring in area bands and, later, major blues acts.

Then, in 1977, came a crucial moment. Spoerndle met and befriended concert promoter Jim Koplik, who would bring in many big names to Toad’s over the years, and still does

today. “Mike knew how to make a really great room and Brian knew how to really run a great room,” said Koplik, now president of Live Nation for Connecticut and upstate New York.

A year later, Springsteen stopped by Toad’s to play with the Rhode Island band Beaver Brown after he finished a three-hour show at the nearby New Haven Coliseum.

In 1980, Billy Joel stunned Toad’s by picking it - and several other venues - to record songs for his first live album, “Songs in the Attic.”

That same year, a little-known band from Ireland would play at Toad’s as an opening act. It was among the first shows U2 played in North America. The band played the club two more times in 1981 before hitting it big.

On a Saturday night in August 1989, Toad’s advertised a performance by a local band, The Sons of Bob, and a celebration of Koplik’s 40th birthday, followed by a dance party.

The admission price: \$3.01.

After The Sons of Bob did a half-hour set, Spoerndle and Koplik took the stage. “Ladies and gentlemen,” Spoerndle said.

Koplik followed with, “Please welcome the Rolling Stones!”

The stunned crowd of around 700 erupted as the Stones kicked off an hourlong show with “Start Me Up.”

AGI race intensifies

GPT-5 release rekindles the AI hype ... or reality?

NEW YORK, Aug 10, (AP): OpenAI on Thursday released the fifth generation of the artificial intelligence technology that powers ChatGPT, a product update that’s being closely watched as a measure of whether generative AI is advancing rapidly or hitting a plateau.

GPT-5 arrives more than two years after the March 2023 release of GPT-4, bookending a period of intense commercial investment, hype and worry over AI’s capabilities.

In anticipation, rival Anthropic released the latest version of its own chatbot, Claude, earlier in the week, part of a race with Google and other competitors in the US and China to leapfrog each other on AI benchmarks. Meanwhile, long-time OpenAI partner Microsoft said it will incorporate GPT-5 into its own AI assistant, Copilot.

Expectations are high for the newest version of OpenAI’s flagship model because the San Francisco company has long positioned its technical advancements as a path toward artificial general intelligence, or AGI, a technology that is supposed to surpass humans at economically valuable work.

It is also trying to raise huge amounts of money to get there, in part to pay for the costly computer chips and data centers needed to build and run the technology.

Usability

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman described the new model as a “significant step along our path to AGI” but mostly focused on its usability to the 700 million people he says use ChatGPT each week.

“It’s like talking to an expert - a legitimate PhD-level expert in anything, any area you need, on demand,” Altman said at a launch event livestreamed Thursday.

It may take some time to see how people use the new model - now available, with usage limits, to anyone with a free ChatGPT account. The Thursday event focused heavily on ChatGPT’s use in coding, an area where Anthropic is seen as a leader, and featured a guest appearance by the CEO of coding software maker Cursor, an important Anthropic customer.

OpenAI’s presenters also spent time talking about safety improvements to make the chatbot “less deceptive” and stop it from producing harmful responses to “cleverly worded” prompts that could bypass its

guardrails. The Associated Press reported Wednesday on a study that showed ChatGPT was providing dangerous information about drugs and self-harm to researchers posing as teenagers.

At a technical level, GPT-5 shows “modest but significant improvements” on the latest benchmarks, but when compared to GPT-4, it also looks very different and resets OpenAI’s flagship technology in a way that could set the stage for future innovations, said John Thickstun, an assistant professor of computer science at Cornell University.

Believer

“I’m not a believer that it’s the end of work and that AI is just going to solve all humanity’s problems for it, but I do think there’s still a lot of headroom for them, and other people in this space, to continue to improve the technology,” he said. “Not just capitalizing on the gains that have already been made.”

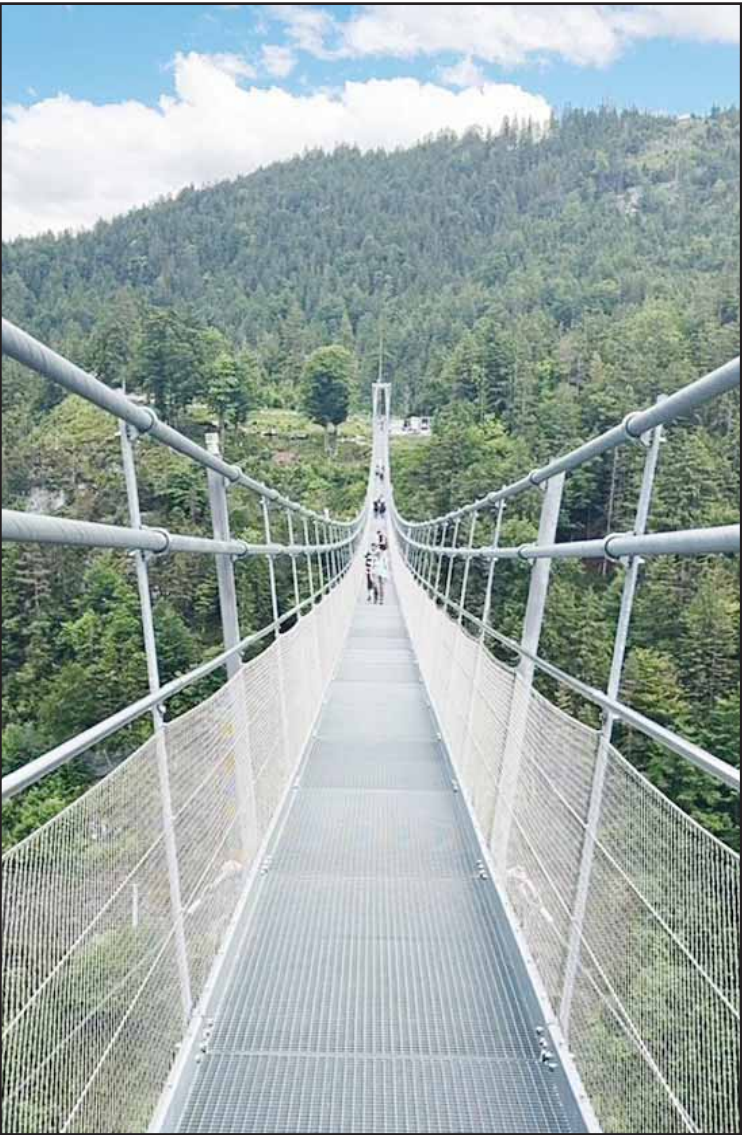
OpenAI started in 2015 as a nonprofit research laboratory to safely build AGI and has since incorporated a for-profit company with a valuation that has grown to \$300 billion. The company has tried to change its structure since the nonprofit board ousted Altman in November 2023. He was reinstated days later.

It has not yet reported making a profit but has run into hurdles escaping its nonprofit roots, including scrutiny from the attorneys general in California and Delaware, who have oversight of nonprofits, and a lawsuit by Elon Musk, an early donor to and founder of OpenAI who now runs his own AI company.

Most recently, OpenAI has said it will turn its for-profit company into a public benefit corporation, which must balance the interests of shareholders and its mission.

OpenAI is the world’s third most valuable private company and a bellwether for the AI industry, with an “increasingly fragile moat” at the frontier of AI, according to banking giant JPMorgan Chase, which recently made a rare decision to cover the company despite it not being publicly traded.

The inability of a single AI developer to have a “sustained competitive edge” could increasingly force companies to compete on lowering the prices of their AI products, the bank said in a report last month.



KUNA photo
Highline 179 Bridge in Austria ... An exciting experience that attracts tourists seeking adventure.

Highline 179: Austria’s skywalk thrill

Located in Austria’s western Tyrol State, Highline 179 Bridge has become a major tourist destination for thrill seekers since it provides eye-catching views and vistas.

Designed in the Tibet style, Highline 179 is considered the world’s longest pedestrian bridge spanning 406 meters in length, 114 meters in height and 1.20 in width. The bridge connects the historic castles of Ehrenberg Fort Claudia.

In 2014, it was listed by the Guinness World Records as the world’s longest walkway. (KUNA)

New strategies help lower chikungunya cases in China

China develops smart mosquito surveillance to fight diseases

GUANGZHOU, Aug 10, (Xinhua): Chinese scientists have achieved a breakthrough in preventing mosquito-borne diseases by developing an intelligent vector mosquito surveillance system that offers scientific guidance for disease control.

Developed by a team led by Chen Xiaoguang, a professor at Southern Medical University, this monitoring technology has been deployed across multiple communities in south China's Guangdong Province.

Accurate surveillance proves vital since diseases like chikungunya primarily spread through Aedes mosquito bites.

However, traditional methods for monitoring mosquitoes face limitations. "Mosquito traps and mosquito nets only monitor non-blood-fed mosquitoes, while mosquito oviposition traps target blood-fed egg-laying mosquitoes," Chen explained.

"Our innovation employs coordinated dual-device operation for real-time, high-efficiency monitoring," Chen said. Automated monitors use human-mimicking attractants to capture non-blood-fed mosquitoes, while smart oviposition buckets utilize container-type miniature water pools to monitor blood-fed gravid Aedes albopictus mosquitoes, achieving four times the efficiency of conventional oviposition traps, he added.

Field tests demonstrated remarkable effectiveness. During its first operational week, the system issued timely alerts for abnormal mosquito density surges across multiple zones and generated targeted intervention protocols.

"Manual mosquito trapping caused data delays. Now, real-time cloud-based alerts have substantially accelerated grassroots disinfection responses," Chen said. After deployment, surveillance showed nearly a 40 percent decrease in adult mosquito captures within key areas.

Currently implemented across multiple sites in Guangdong's Foshan City, this technology represents a significant advancement. "Our team is striving to accelerate mosquito-borne disease prevention through technological innovation," Chen said.

Meanwhile, new cases of Chikungunya fever in Foshan, a city in south China's Guangdong Province, have continued to decline thanks to a series of targeted prevention measures, municipal authorities said on Saturday.

For the past five days, the city has recorded fewer than 200 new cases each day, signaling early containment success, Wen Xi, the city's vice mayor, told a press conference.

No severe cases or fatalities have been reported to date, and more than 90 percent of all cases have recovered, Wen noted.

Recent efforts have focused on patient treatment, mosquito control and environmental cleanup. Specific measures include the targeted elimination of mosquito breeding grounds, the drainage of stagnant water and the extermination of adult mosquitoes. Disinfection work has been carried out in villages and neighborhoods that have reported high case numbers.

Despite the progress, authorities warn that challenges remain. Heavy rainfall during the annual flood season, coupled with typhoons, can boost mosquito activity and increase the risk of Chikungunya transmission.

"We will continue to promote public health campaigns, remove breeding sites and maintain strong mosquito control measures to consolidate the results achieved so far," Wen said.

Chikungunya fever is an acute infectious disease caused by the Chikungunya virus, which presents in clinical symptoms such as fever, rashes and joint pains. The virus is transmitted to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes.



Paul Williams cools off in water while taking a break from yard work in Richardson, Texas, July 31, 2025. (AP)

Heat and humidity soar

Climate change fuels record ‘muggy summer’ in east US

NEW YORK, Aug 10, (AP): More than 70 million Americans sweated through the muggiest first two months of summer on record as climate change has noticeably dialed up the Eastern United States' humidity in recent decades, an Associated Press data analysis shows.

And that meant uncomfortably warm and potentially dangerous nights in many cities the last several weeks, the National Weather Service said.

Parts of 27 states and Washington, D.C., had a record amount of days that meteorologists call uncomfortable - with average daily dew points of 65 degrees Fahrenheit or higher - in June and July, according to data derived from the Copernicus Climate Service.

And that's just the daily average. In much of the East, the mugginess kept rising to near tropical levels for a few humid hours. Philadelphia had 29 days, Washington had 27 days and Baltimore had 24 days where the highest dew point simmered to at least 75 degrees, which even the the weather service office in Tampa calls oppressive, according to weather service data.

Dew point is a measure of moisture in the air expressed in degrees that many meteorologists call the most accurate way to describe humidity. The summer of 2025 so far has had dew points that average at least 6 degrees higher than the 1951-2020 normals in Washington, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Richmond, Columbus and St. Louis, the AP calculations show. The average June and July humidity for the entire country east of the Rockies rose to more than 66 degrees, higher than any year since measurements started in 1950.

"This has been a very muggy summer. The humid heat has been way up," said Bernadette Woods Plackey, chief meteorologist at Climate Central.

Twice this summer climate scientist and humidity expert Cameron Lee of Kent State University measured dew points of about 82 degrees at his home weather station in Ohio. That's off the various charts that the weather service uses to describe what dew points feel like.

"There are parts of the United States that are experiencing not only greater average humidity, especially in the spring and summer, but also more extreme humid days," Lee said. He said super sticky days are now stretching out over more days and more land.

High humidity doesn't allow the air to cool at night as much as it usually does, and the stickiness contributed to multiple nighttime temperature records from the Ohio Valley through the Mid-Atlantic and up and down coastal states, said Zack Taylor, forecast operations chief at the National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center. Raleigh, Charlotte, Nashville, Virginia Beach, Va., and Wilmington, N.C., all reached records for the hottest overnight lows. New York City, Columbus, Atlanta, Richmond, Knoxville, Tennessee and Concord, New Hampshire came close, he said.

"What really impacts the body is that nighttime temperature," Taylor said. "So if there's no cooling at night or if there's a lack of cooling it doesn't allow your body to cool off and recover from what was probably a really hot afternoon. And so when you start seeing that over several days, that can really wear out the body, especially of course if you don't have access to cooling centers or air conditioning."

An extra hot and rainy summer weather pattern is combining with climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, Woods Plackey said.

The area east of the Rockies has on average gained about 2.5 degrees in summer dew point since 1950, the AP analysis of Copernicus data shows. In the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and part of the 1990s, the eastern half of the country had an average dew point in the low 60s, what the weather service calls noticeable but OK. In four of the last six years that number has been near and even over the uncomfortable line of 65.

Mission chief

James Lovell of Apollo 13 dies

NEW YORK, Aug 10, (Xinhua): US astronaut **James Lovell**, who was commander of the 1970 Apollo 13 mission that managed to get back to Earth safely after an oxygen tank explosion, died Thursday in the US state of Illinois at the age of 97, NASA said in a statement on Friday.

"Jim's character and steadfast courage helped our nation reach the Moon and turned a potential tragedy into a success from which we learned an enormous amount," NASA said. "We mourn his passing even as we celebrate his achievements."

Lovell flew four space missions in his lifetime -- Gemini 7, Gemini 12, Apollo 8 and Apollo 13. In 1968, Lovell, Frank Borman and William Anders of the Apollo 8 crew were the first to leave Earth's orbit and the first to fly to and circle the moon.

It was the Apollo 13 mission that made Lovell famous worldwide. In April 1970, Lovell and two other astronauts were on their way to the moon in Apollo 13 when an oxygen tank from the spaceship exploded. Over the next four days, following the instructions of ground crew, Lovell and the two others moved from the service module to the cramped lunar lander. Using the lunar module as a lifeboat, they swung around the moon, aimed for Earth and landed safely.

Though missing the opportunity to walk on the moon, Lovell was a recipient of the Congressional Space Medal of Honor.



Lovell

Disconnecting crucial for mental health

Keeping work from spoiling vacation takes planning, right phone settings

NEW YORK, Aug 10, (AP): For their 15th wedding anniversary, Katie Walley-Wiegert and her husband decided to take a beach vacation with their young son. But the trip didn't go as planned. Walley-Wiegert wound up needing to pack her computer because of a work assignment she couldn't ignore.

The 38-year-old marketing professional had just landed a podcast interview for an executive she worked with, and he had a short window to prepare. As she labored away through most of the vacation, she regretted not being present for her toddler's introduction to the ocean.

"I know my husband and my son are having this once-in-a-lifetime first experience, and I am missing it," Walley-Wiegert said. "And it's heartbreaking in some regards, because that first will never come again."

Navigating the line between work time and personal time is tricky for a lot of people. With laptop computers and smartphones making it possible to log in anytime to do work from anywhere, many find it hard to disconnect even when they take vacations.

"It doesn't take much to just quickly answer an email on your phone or just quickly open up the laptop whilst you're lying next to the pool," said Marais Bester, an occupational psychologist in the Netherlands, and senior consultant at SHL, a talent acquisition and management platform. "You get your company-issued phone, you get your company-issued laptop, and there is an expectation to some extent to respond as quickly as possible."

The compulsion to keep working while on vacation can be so strong that some people carve out time by feigning illness as an excuse to skip group outings, said Amy Biedenstein, senior vice president at human resources software and services company Dayforce.

"There's starting to be some pressure from families, too, to say, 'Hey, we need you to be focused and with us when we're on vacation,' so I think people are feeling increasingly like they have to hide it," Biedenstein said.

With the Northern Hemisphere's summer vacation season in full swing, experts offer practical advice for setting boundaries with work during your time off.

Once you have your vacation dates set, let teammates know when you plan to be off. Make sure your time off is booked on your office's electronic calendar, which can reduce the number of work requests you receive while you're out, Biedenstein said.

For many people, getting ready for vacation means working late the night before to finish time-sensitive tasks that can't wait until they're back. Try starting earlier. Assessing what needs to get done a week in advance may help reduce last-minute cramming.



A worshipper holding incense sticks browses his phone as he tours a Tibetan monks' prayer hall at the Yonghegong Lama Temple, in Beijing, Tuesday, Aug. 5. (AP)

You can also block off the afternoon before you leave to tie up loose ends and your first day back in the office to catch up, said time management and productivity coach Alexis Haselberger. Set the automatic replies on your email, Slack and other apps to say you're not checking messages and will respond the week of your return instead of your first day back, Haselberger advised.

If it's not possible to be completely out of touch, schedule times to check in on work and let co-workers know what those times will be. You also can share your preferred way to be contacted in the event of an emergency.

When Biedenstein's children were little, she sometimes used evenings to work when she had to during family vacations. The time on task made her mind churn to the point she had trouble sleeping. Biedenstein shifted to waking up early and getting in an hour of work before breakfast.

ISS astronauts return to Earth

NEW YORK, Aug 10, (AP): Four astronauts returned to Earth on Saturday after hustling to the International Space Station five months ago to relieve the stuck test pilots of Boeing's Starliner.

Their SpaceX capsule parachuted into the Pacific off the Southern California coast a day after departing the orbiting lab.

"Welcome home," SpaceX Mission Control radioed.

Splashing down were NASA's Anne McClain and Nichole Ayers, Japan's Takuya Onishi and Russia's Kirill Peskov. They launched in March as replacements for the two NASA astronauts assigned to Starliner's botched demo.

Starliner malfunctions kept Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams at the space station for more than nine months instead of a week. NASA ordered Boeing's new crew capsule to return empty and switched the pair to SpaceX. They left soon after McClain and her crew arrived to take their places. Wilmore has since retired from NASA.

Before leaving the space station on Friday, McClain made note of "some tumultuous times on Earth" with people struggling.

"We want this mission, our mission, to be a reminder of what people can do when we work together, when we explore together," she said.

McClain looked forward to "doing nothing for a couple of days" once back home in Houston. High on her crewmates' wish list: hot showers and juicy burgers.

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Haaland stands out as rare success story in England

Sesko, Ekitiké look to buck trend of ex-Bundesliga forwards struggling after big transfers

DUESSELDORF, Germany, Aug 10, (AP): Benjamin Sesko’s long-awaited move from RB Leipzig to Manchester United is complete. Now, the real work begins.

Sesko, along with fellow Premier League arrival Hugo Ekitiké who joins Liverpool from the Bundesliga will aim to break a recent trend of highly rated forwards struggling after leaving Germany.

Another with a point to prove is Mathys Tel, whose move to Tottenham from Bayern Munich was made permanent despite scoring just two goals in 13 Premier League appearances during his loan spell last season.

Of course, there are exceptions. Erling Haaland shattered records immediately after arriving at Manchester City from Borussia Dortmund in 2022. But for every star like Haaland, there are others Jadon Sancho, Timo Werner, Randal Kolo Muani who have failed to replicate their Bundesliga form in big-money transfers.

One explanation may be that the Bundesliga is a striker’s paradise. It led Europe’s top five leagues in goals per game last season with 3.13 the others all fell below three and has averaged more than three goals per game in each of the last seven years.

Part of that dominance comes from Bayern Munich regularly dismantling smaller sides, but it’s also a product of Germany’s tactical revolution over the past 15 years. High defensive lines and the famous “gegenpressing” style reward fast, physical forwards who can press aggressively, win the ball high



In this file photo, Leipzig’s Benjamin Sesko celebrates after scoring the opening goal during the German Bundesliga soccer match between RB Leipzig and FC Bayern Munich at the Red Bull Arena in Leipzig, Germany. (AP)

up the pitch, and strike on the counter. Even underdogs often take risks instead of simply parking the bus.

Sesko knows how hard it can be to rebuild momentum after a failed move. When Werner returned to Leipzig in 2023 after his disappointing spell at Chelsea, he found himself competing with Sesko and eventually lost that battle. Werner’s loan reboot at Tottenham also faltered, with no Premier League goals last season.

Some careers never recover. Luka Jovic’s high point came when he joined Real Madrid from Eintracht Frankfurt in 2019 for a reported £60 million (\$67.5 million at the time). Once tipped as Cristiano Ronaldo’s heir, the 27-year-old is now at AEK Athens after spells back at Frankfurt and in Italy with AC Milan and Fiorentina.

Omar Marmoush’s move from Frankfurt to Manchester City in January hasn’t been an outright failure, but neither has it been a triumph. This season could be decisive for the Egyptian, who scored seven goals in 16 Premier League matches last term.

Kai Havertz, a Champions League winner with Chelsea, has yet to fully deliver on his potential there or with Arsenal, with injuriesincluding a hamstring issue earlier this year not helping.

As for Christopher Nkunku, another former Leipzig star, his long-term role at Chelsea remains uncertain. He scored 15 goals last season, but only three came in the Premier League.

San Diego continues road surge



Vancouver Whitecaps forward Jayden Nelson, right, is slide-tackled by San Jose Earthquakes defender DeJuan Jones, left, during the first half of an MLS soccer match in San Jose, Calif. (AP)

Earthquakes edge Whitecaps

KANSAS CITY, Kan., Aug 10, (AP): Hirving Lozano scored a goal and Anders Dreyer found the back of the net and recorded another assist and San Diego FC continued road surge beating Sporting KC 2-0.

It was the fifth straight road win for San Diego (15-7-4) and its eighth road win in its inaugural season. San Diego is 7-2-1 in its last 10 MLS contests.

Pending the outcome of the San Jose, Vancouver FC match, San Diego could end the night by itself atop the Western Conference ahead of Vancouver.

Kansas City (6-13-6) failed to score again against the Western Conference’s top teams as it was coming off a 3-0 loss to Vancouver on July 26.

Preston Judd scored in the fourth minute of second-half stoppage time to rally the San Jose Earthquakes to 2-1 victory over the Vancouver Whitecaps.

Judd subbed in for Josef Martínez in the 81st minute and used assists from defenders DeJuan Jones and Jamar Ricketts to score for the fourth time this season. Jones’ helper was his career-high fifth after notching three through his first 157 appearances. Ricketts collected his third for San Jose (8-10-8) in his first full season in the league.

Jaziel Orozco, João Klauss and Sang Bin Jeong all scored to lead St. Louis City to a 3-1 victory over Nashville SC.

Orozco scored his first career goal to give St. Louis City the lead in the 23rd minute. It was the fifth appearance for the 21-year-old defender after four appearances with Real Salt Lake last season. Fellow defender Devin Padelford, 22, notched his first assist of the season in his second appearance with the club after coming over on loan from Minnesota United for a third-round

pick in the 2026 draft.

Klauss scored for the eighth time this season for a two-goal lead in the 39th minute. Eduard Löwen was credited with his second assist of the season.

Bin Jeong scored his first goal for St. Louis City in his second appearance for a 3-0 advantage.

Petar Musa and defender Lalas Abubakar scored goals, and Michael Collodi earned his second clean sheet in his third career start as FC Dallas beat the Portland Timbers 2-0.

Musa scored his 12th goal, unassisted in the 8th minute to give Dallas (7-11-7) an early lead.

Abubakar used an assist from Sebastian Lletget to score in the 62nd minute for a two-goal advantage. It was the first goal this season for Abubakar and the second assist for Lletget, who subbed in for Patrickson Delgado two minutes earlier.

Deandre Kerr scored in the first minute of stoppage time to rally Toronto FC to a 1-1 draw with the Philadelphia Union.

Kerr scored for the third time this season to help Toronto (5-13-7) pick up a point against the Union (15-5-6), who entered play as the leaders in the Eastern Conference and Supporters’ Shield races. Kerr scored the equalizer after subbing in for Ola Brynhildsen in the 76th minute.

Rookie midfielder Malik Henry notched his first assist on Kerr’s goal in his third appearance after also entering the match in the 76th minute.

Philadelphia jumped in front early when Indiana Vassilev took a pass from Tai Baribo in the fourth minute to score his second goal this season. Baribo’s assist was his third.

Denis Bouanga scored on a penalty kick in the 81st minute to rally Los Angeles FC to a 2-2 draw with the Chicago Fire at SeatGeek Stadium.

Bouanga notched his 14th goal of the season for LAFC (10-6-7) after subbing in for Mathieu Choinière in the 61st minute. The PK was awarded after Son Heung-Min - in his debut with the club

- was fouled by defender Carlos Terán.

Chicago (10-9-6) grabbed a 1-0 lead in the 11th minute on Terán’s first goal this season. Philip Zinckernagel collected an assist on the score. Terán has totaled one goal in five straight campaigns.

LAFC pulled even in the 19th minute on a goal by defender Ryan Hollingshead - his second. Nineteen-year-old midfielder David Martínez picked up his first assist this season after notching two in 17 appearances last year.

Jack McGlynn scored two goals late in the second half to rally the Houston Dynamo to a 2-2 draw with Austin FC.

McGlynn found the net for the first time on a penalty kick in the 80th minute to get Houston (7-11-7) within a goal. The PK was awarded after Pablo Ortiz drew a foul on Robert Taylor.

McGlynn scored the equalizer in the 89th minute with assists from rookie defender Lawrence Ennali - his first - and Sebastian Kowalczyk - his third. It was the 22-year-old midfielder’s career-high fifth goal in his first season with the Dynamo after scoring seven goals in 99 appearances with the Philadelphia Union.

Ilie Sánchez gave Austin (9-8-7) a 1-0 lead in the 31st minute, scoring unassisted for his first goal in his first season with the club.

Aleksey Miranchuk late goal helped Atlanta United forge a 1-1 draw against CF Montreal.

A corner from Saba Lobjanidze caused chaos in the Montreal penalty area and led to Miranchuk nodding the ball home from just a few inches out at the 87th minute.

Atlanta (4-11-10) nearly pulled out the win at the 90th minute, but Miguel Almiron’s curling shot hit the crossbar.

Dante Sealy opened the scoring in the 40th minute for Montreal (4-15-7), which is still searching for its second home win in MLS this season.

Richard claims runner-up spot

Hong rolls to second national at title US gymnastics champ’ships

NEW ORLEANS, Aug 10, (AP): Asher Hong cruised to his second national title in men’s gymnastics, pulling away from the field for an easy victory at the U.S. Championships.

The 21-year-old Hong, part of the five-man team that earned bronze at the Paris Olympics last summer, posted a two-day total of 170.020 to win easily despite a rare miscue on the high bar during the first rotation on Saturday.

Not that it mattered. Hong became the 13th man to win multiple national titles with ease. The 2023 champion entered with a massive lead of over four points thanks to six steady routines Thursday.

Hong finished with the top scores on floor exercise, vault and still rings, events where the rising Stanford senior’s power easily translates.

The real race was for second, where Frederick Richard’s two-day total of 162.555 was just enough to slip by Fuzzy Benas at 162.310. Richard managed to finish runner-up despite voluntarily taking 0.6 points in deductions for wearing a nonconforming uniform on parallel bars, high bar, pommel horse and rings.

Rather than don the stirrup pants that have long been the norm, Richard wore gray shorts with matching leggings underneath, a small sacrifice the 21-year-old says he’s willing to make while competing at domestic elite meets in hopes of making the sport a little “cooler” to potential fans.

Colt Walker was fourth in the final meet before the world championships in Jakarta, Indonesia, in October.

Two-time national champion Brody Malone, who skipped floor exercise and vault to put a little less stress on his surgically repaired right knee, placed



Asher Hong of Stanford University competes on the vault during the senior men’s finals of the U.S. Gymnastics Championships in New Orleans. (AP)

first on parallel bars, second on rings and third on pommel horse to put him in a strong position to return to worlds for the first time since 2022.

Stephen Nedorosic, the pommel horse specialist who became a viral sensation while winning two bronze medals in Paris, was fifth in his return to competition following a lengthy post-Olympic break that included a stint on “Dancing With the Stars.”

While Hong, Richard, Malone and Nedorosic are pressing on, the fifth member of the 2024 Olympic team - Paul Juda - announced his retirement.

PSG signs Chevalier from Lille amid uncertainty over Gianluigi’s future

PARIS, Aug 10, (AP): Champions League winner Paris Saint-Germain signed goalkeeper Lucas Chevalier from Lille on a five-year contract , amid increasing uncertainty over Gianluigi Donnarumma’s future at the club.

The transfer fee was not disclosed but French sports daily L’Équipe reported that PSG paid just over 40 million euros (\$46.5 million) for the 23-year-old Chevalier, with the deal potentially rising to 55 million euros in case of future bonuses.

Chevalier impressed for Lille in the Champions League last season. He caught the eye with stellar performances against Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid and Juventus, where he made one stunning save from Dušan Vlahović that even the Juve striker applauded.

“I am a kid that is living his dream. Ever since I was small I wanted to play at the very highest level,” Chevalier said. “I’m really delighted to be here. I will wear this shirt with passion and ambition.”

Chevalier came through Lille’s reputed youth academy and played 127 games for the northern club. Quick and agile, he is particularly strong coming off his line and has great anticipation, although he does not always look assured on crosses and corners.

His arrival could signal Donnarumma’s departure, with the 26-year-old Italy international unlikely to accept being No. 2 behind Chevalier if coach Luis Enrique decides so.

Donnarumma was arguably the best goalkeeper in Europe last season, playing a key role in PSG’s Champions League success with inspired shot-stopping in the knockout stages.

But with one year left on his contract, he has so far refused to sign a new contract and PSG is unlikely to let him leave for free at the end of the season, having already experienced the same situation with Kylian Mbappé.

PSG is already well stocked with three backup goalkeepers: Matvei Safonov, Arnau Tenas, and 19-year-old Renato Martin.

Five goalies could prove problematic to manage so at least one, and probably two, will need to leave during the summer transfer window.

Donnarumma was in a similar position to Chevalier when he joined the club after helping Italy win the European Championship in 2021. He replaced Keylor Navas as No. 1, even though Navas had been outstanding for PSG the previous season.

PSG begins its league campaign at Nantes on Aug. 17.

Best of the Rest

Pachuca stays perfect in Liga MX: Pachuca scored three first-half goals to keep its unblemished record intact with a 3-0 away win over Atlas in Mexico’s Liga MX.

Argentine winger Gaston Togni opened the scoring in the ninth minute, controlling Elias Montiel’s long pass with his chest before swiveling and, in the same motion, lashing a 20-yard left-footed drive into the bottom-right corner.

Daniel Aceves made it 2-0 with a clinical finish following a series of slick passes that disorientated Atlas’ defense.

The visitors completed the rout just before halftime when Sergio Barreto sent a bullet header past Colombian goalkeeper Camilo Vargas after Montiel’s corner.

Pachuca now has four wins from as many games and leads the Liga MX standings with 12 points, three ahead of Tigres UANL, which has a game in hand. Atlas is 10th, eight points off the pace. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Fischer ready for Ligue 1: Goalkeeper Jonathan Fischer has come a long way from playing part-time soccer in Denmark and waiting around for his next posting as a substitute teacher.

Now the 23-year-old Dane is preparing for his first season in the French league with newly promoted Metz, which signed him from Norwegian club Fredrikstad on a four-year contract. He could face Champions League winner Paris Saint-Germain later this season, which a while back would have seemed unfathomable.

Fischer, who is 1.98 meters (6 feet 6 inches) tall, impressed enough last season with Fredrikstad to persuade Metz to pay a reported fee of 3 million euros (\$3.5 million) for him. (AP)

Despite his imposing size - slightly bigger than PSG goalie Gianluigi Donnarumma and slightly smaller than Real Madrid’s Thibaut Courtois - he describes himself as “quick on the line” and “capable of playing out from the back.” (AP)

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Pereira, Plata strike as Flamengo extends lead

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug 10, (Xinhua): Leo Pereira and Gonzalo Plata scored either side of halftime as Flamengo stretched its lead at the top of Brazil’s Serie A with a 2-1 home win over Mirassol.

The hosts took the lead in the 19th minute at the Maracana when Pereira headed in after Samuel Lino’s cross from the left wing.

Ecuador international winger Plata doubled the advantage in the 68th minute by prodding home from inside the six-yard box following Giorgian de Arrascaeta’s cross with the outside of his right foot.

Gabriel Santana pulled a goal back five minutes later, slotting home from 15 yards after intercepting Leo Ortiz’s rushed defensive clearance.

Flamengo now has a three-point lead over second-placed Cruzeiro, which has a game in hand, while Mirassol is sixth, 12 points off the pace.

“Mirassol is a very well-trained, well-organized team, and they made it very difficult for us to press,” Flamengo manager Filipe Luis said after the match.

“The players tried to adjust midway through the first half, and even so, they found a way to counter our pressing. But we took a step forward in the second half and had clearer scoring chances. We scored the second goal and the conceded one through carelessness.” Elsewhere in Brazil’s Serie A on Saturday, Internacional won 3-1 at Bragantino, Sao Paulo eased to a 2-0 home win over Vitoria, Botafogo cruised to a 5-0 victory at Fortaleza and Fluminense drew 3-3 at Bahia.

Milton Gimenez scored a late equalizer as Boca Juniors earned a 1-1 home draw with Racing Club in Argentina’s Primera Division.

Racing appeared set for victory after Gabriel Rojas’ long-range effort deflected into the path of Santiago Solari, who fired home from close range in the 76th minute. But Gimenez salvaged a point with a towering 88th-minute header following Leandro Paredes’ floating free-kick.

The result at La Bombonera extends Boca’s winless run to 12 games across all competitions, the longest in the club’s history.

“We played well and created a lot of chances without being able to take advantage of them,” Paredes told reporters after the game. “We know that we have to improve. We just have to keep our heads up, work hard and prepare ourselves for what’s ahead.” Boca is now 13th in the 15-team Group A standings with three draws and a loss from its first four games of the Clausura tournament, a point behind Racing.

Sousa’s contract signing ceremony set for Thursday



Kuwait Football Association Chairman Sheikh Al-Yousef and some Board Members pose for a group photo with the new national team coach, Helio Sousa.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Football Association, hosted a dinner the day before yesterday in honor of the national team’s Portuguese coach, Helio Sousa, and his assistant staff.

The event was attended by Mubarak Abdulaziz, Vice Chairman for Administrative and Financial Affairs, Osama Hussein, Vice Chairman for Technical Affairs, and Fahad Al-Ham-lan, Board member.

Sheikh Al-Yousef also announced that the contract signing ceremony for the national team’s technical staff is scheduled for next Thursday evening. However, the press conference to officially introduce the coach and his assistants has been postponed until further notice.

New signings ready to shine as Al-Salmiya faces Al-Jazeera

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Al-Salmiya will open its friendly matches tonight against Al-Jazeera at 7:30 pm at Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium, home of Al-Sulaibikhat Club.

The Yellow Knights are gearing up for their Zain Premier League campaign, starting with a first-round clash against Kazma on September 12. Meanwhile, newcomer Al-Jazeera, competing in the Zain First Division League for the first time, aim to begin its season on September 14 under the guidance of Ibrahim Obaid.

Tonight’s friendly will be Al-Salmiya’s only local warm-up match before heading to Turkey next Thursday for a training camp lasting until August 30. During the camp, the team will play three additional friendlies to prepare for the league kickoff.

Coach Nasser Al-Shatti hopes to evaluate as many players as possible in today’s match and ensure the squad’s readiness. He also plans to give game time to new signings Syrian Mahmoud Al-Aswad and Jordanian Hussam Abu Al-Dhahab, alongside local additions Saud Qasim, Abdulrahman Salem, Abdullah Al-Shamali, Fawaz Al-Dosari, Omar Ali, Badr Jalal, and Nasser Salem.

Recent training sessions saw full participation from all foreign players, including Tunisian Imad Al-Lawati, Libyan Al-Sanousi Al-Hadi, Brazilian Alex Lima, as well as the newcomers Al-Aswad and Abu Al-Dhahab.



Al-Shatti gives instruction to players during training session.

Real Madrid gears up for title bid despite limited preparation time



Newcastle United’s Joelinton, left, and Atletico Madrid’s Conor Gallagher battle for the ball during the Sela Cup soccer match between Newcastle United and Atletico Madrid at St. James’ Park, Newcastle, England. (AP)

Barcelona faces financial fair play challenges ahead of La Liga season

MADRID, Aug 10, (Xinhua): With the 2025-26 La Liga season set to kick off in less than a week, last year’s top four teams find themselves at varying stages of preparation.

The demanding domestic and European schedules have left little downtime ahead of next summer’s FIFA World Cup finals.

Reigning La Liga and Copa del Rey champion FC Barcelona has made two notable signings striker Marcus Rashford and goalkeeper Joan Garcia. However, due to Spain’s strict financial fair play regulations, neither Gerard Martin nor Wojciech Szczesny have yet been registered in the first-team squad.

This leaves Iñaki Peña as the only available first-team goalkeeper and has forced the club to make the surprising decision to let central defender Iñigo Martínez join Saudi Arabian side Al Nassr on a free transfer, freeing up salary space under the wage cap.

Barcelona has also reportedly pressured Marc-André ter Stegen to submit a medical report indicating he will be sidelined for five months. This would allow the club to use 80% of his salary to register Rashford and the new arrivals.

The club’s pre-season tour of Japan and

South Korea was promising, highlighting the importance of young winger Lamine Yamal, Raphinha, and midfielder Pedri. Provided they stay injury-free in what promises to be another grueling campaign, Barcelona will start as favorites to retain the title.

Real Madrid has a new head coach in Xabi Alonso and fresh signings including defenders Dean Huijsen, Trent Alexander-Arnold, and Álvaro Carreras. Huijsen impressed during the summer’s Club World Cup.

Alonso faces the challenge of limited preparation time, as the squad only returned to training on August 4 after playing in the United States until mid-July. The season opener at home against Osasuna is just two weeks later.

Real will also be without Jude Bellingham for the opening weeks, as he recovers from surgery on a longstanding shoulder injury. Tactical questions remain, including whether Alonso will opt for a flat back four or three central defenders with wingbacks the latter likely suiting Alexander-Arnold best.

The coach will also want to see more high pressing from forwards Kylian Mbappé and Vinícius Jr. If the attacking duo gels, Real Madrid will be strong title contenders.

Atlético Madrid has also been busy, signing midfielders Johnny Cardoso and Thiago Alma-

da, winger Alex Baena, and defenders Matteo Ruggeri and David Hancko as Diego Simeone looks to improve on last season’s third-place finish.

The club has retained strikers Alexander Sørloth and Julián Álvarez, who scored a combined 37 La Liga goals last season. If Simeone balances ambition with his defensive instincts, Atlético has the talent to challenge – though their preparation time was also curtailed by Club World Cup involvement.

Athletic Bilbao finished fourth last season under coach Ernesto Valverde. Its biggest summer success was retaining star player Nico Williams amid interest from Barcelona. Attacking midfielder Robert Navarro and full-back Jesús Areso are promising additions.

However, its pre-season was disrupted by the suspension of defender Yeray Álvarez, a two-time cancer survivor, after he tested positive for a banned hair loss prevention product. Additionally, defender Unai Egiluz suffered a season-ending knee injury in a friendly.

Athletic’s season could hinge on whether they succeed in re-signing Spain international defender Aymeric Laporte. If they do, they will be a formidable force, especially at their passionate home ground, San Mamés Stadium.

Two Japanese boxers die from brain injuries in separate bouts

TOKYO, Aug 10, (AP): Two Japanese boxers have died from brain injuries sustained in separate bouts on the same card at Tokyo’s Korakuen Hall.

Shigetoshi Kotari, 28, collapsed shortly after completing a 12-round draw against Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation junior lightweight champion Yamato Hata on Aug. 2.

He underwent emergency brain surgery for a subdural hematoma - a condition where blood collects between the brain and skull - but died on Friday.

“Rest in peace, Shigetoshi Kotari,” the World Boxing Organization wrote on social media. “The boxing world mourns the tragic passing of Japanese fighter Shigetoshi Kotari, who succumbed to injuries sustained during his August 2nd title fight.

“A warrior in the ring. A fighter in spirit. Gone too soon. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, team, and the entire Japanese boxing community.”

On Saturday, fellow 28-year-old Hiromasa Urakawa died after suffering the same injury during a knockout loss to Yoji Saito. He had undergone a craniotomy in an attempt to save his life.

“This heartbreaking news comes just days after the passing of Shigetoshi Kotari, who died from injuries suffered in his fight on the same card,” the WBO said in another social media post on Saturday. “We extend our deepest condolences to the families, friends, and the Japanese boxing community during this incredibly difficult time.”

In response, the Japanese Boxing Commission has announced all OPBF title bouts will now be reduced from 12 rounds to 10.

Earlier this year, Irish boxer John Cooney died a week after being taken into intensive care following his Celtic super-featherweight title defeat to Nathan Howells in Belfast.

Best of the Rest

Shenhua stays top despite derby defeat: Shanghai Shenhua kept first place in the Chinese Super League (CSL) despite a 2-1 home loss to city rivals Shanghai Port.

Shenhua was stymied by a strong showing from Port goalkeeper Yan Junling, who made several important saves. Brazilians Gabrielzinho and Leonardo scored for Port, with Chen Jinyi getting Shenhua’s only goal.

The result leaves Shenhua leading with 45 points, with Port now just one point behind.

On Sunday, Beijing Guoan staged a 4-3 comeback win over Zhejiang after having trailed 3-1.

Cao Yongjing began the recovery before Zhejiang’s Cheng Jin received a straight red card for a stamp. Fabio Abreu and Wang Ziming then completed the turnaround for Guoan.

In relegation battles, Meizhou Hakka climbed out of the drop zone with a 2-1 victory over Wuhan Three Towns.

Qingdao Hainiu remains in danger despite a 5-1 thrashing of Yunnan Yukun, while Changchun Yatai stays in last place after a 2-1 loss to Shandong Taishan. (Xinhua)

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Kunishige Kamamoto dies at 81: Kunishige Kamamoto, who scored 75 goals in 76 games for Japan’s national team, died Sunday according to the Japan Football Association. He was 81 and the association said he died of pneumonia.

His 75 goals remains tops for the national team. He played on the national team from 1964 until 1977.

Kamamoto led Japan to a bronze medal in soccer at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico and scored seven goals to lead the tournament. (AP)

Florian Wirtz wins Germany’s player of the year award

BERLIN, Aug 10, (AP): Liverpool’s Florian Wirtz has been voted Germany’s player of the year for 2024-25 after another standout season at Bayer Leverkusen while Freiburg’s Julian Schuster won the coach’s accolade.

Germany teammates Giulia Gwinn and Ann-Katrin Berger have to share the women’s player of the year award after both received 608 valid votes from members of the Association of German Sports Journalists (VDS) in the yearly poll organized by Kicker magazine.

Kicker said Sunday that the 22-year-old Wirtz, who switched to Liverpool in June for a fee that could climb to 116 million pounds (\$156 million), received 191 votes, ahead of Michael Olise of Bayern Munich (81), Nick Woltemade of Stuttgart (71) and Thomas Müller (70), who last week joined MSL side Vancouver after a career at Bayern.

“I can’t think of a more worthy successor than you,” former winner

Toni Kroos said of Wirtz.

Schuster led modest club Freiburg to fifth place in the Bundesliga, securing Europa League qualification in his first season in charge since taking over from longtime coach Christian Streich.

Schuster was followed by Horst Steffen, who almost led Elversberg to Bundesliga promotion, and 2020 winner Hansi Flick, who led Barcelona to a domestic double.

The player of the year award has been awarded since 1960, with the coaches honored since 2002. Franz Beckenbauer leads the player category with four awards, while Jürgen Klopp and Felix Magath both won the coach’s award three times.

The women’s player of the year award has been awarded each season since 1996.

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NEWS



Celtic's Reo Hatate, left and Aberdeen's Graeme Shinnie vie for the ball, during the Scottish Premiership soccer match between Aberdeen and Celtic, at Pittodrie Stadium, Aberdeen, Scotland. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait looks to break losing run against Kosovo



Head coach talks to the players during recess.

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

CAIRO, Aug 10: Kuwait is currently participating in the President's Cup consolation rounds of the 11th U-19 World Handball Championship, taking place in Egypt until August 16. Today at 3:00 pm, the team will face Kosovo.

The President's Cup features 16 teams that did not advance to the second round of the tournament. These teams are divided into four groups competing for final placements from 16th to 32nd place. Kuwait is grouped with Morocco, Portugal, and Kosovo. Tomorrow at the same time, Kuwait will play against Morocco.

In the initial group stage (Group A), Kuwait lost all three matches against Sweden and Austria, who advanced to the second round, and against Portugal, who also competes in the President's Cup. The team is determined to perform strongly today and secure its first victory in the tournament.

Meanwhile, the junior handball team, coached by Tin Bodi and his assistant Hassan Al-Moussawi, started daily training today at their camp in Cairo, Egypt.

The team arrived in Cairo yesterday for a 15-day training camp, during which it will play five friendly matches. This camp is part of the federation's strategy to develop and strengthen the junior team in preparation for upcoming competitions.

Al-Arabi ready to face Maziya

Al-Qadsiya suffers narrow loss to Saudi Arabia's Al-Akhdood



Al-Qadsiya and Al-Akhdood players battling for the ball.

ISTANBUL, Aug 10: Al-Qadsiya suffered a narrow 1-0 defeat to Saudi Arabia's Al-Akhdood, during its training camp in Turkey as it prepares for the new season.

Al-Qadsiya will play two more friendlies in the coming days — against Al-Faisaly of Saudi Arabia tomorrow and Al-Emarat of the UAE on August 19. Additionally, two more matches are being arranged before the camp concludes on August 29.

Tunisian coach Nabil Maaloul aimed to rotate the squad extensively in the match. The first half featured a starting lineup of Ali Jarrah, Mohammed Al-Sharifi, Khaled Ibrahim, Ahmed Al-Yahya, Rashid Al-Dosari, Al-Mahdi Berhama, Jassim Al-Matar, Abdulrahman Al-Dhafiri, Eid Al-Rashidi, Mohammed Soula, and Ismail Khafi. In the second half, Maaloul made several substitutions, bringing on Abdulaziz Abdeen, Moaz Al-Dhafiri, Khaled Sabah, Sufyan Bouchar, Faisal Al-Shatti, Abdullah Mutawa, Talal Al-Fadel, Adhbi Shehab, Bader Al-Mutawa, Ahmed Boudi, and Abdullah Al-Awadhi. Mohammed Al-Omran later replaced Mutawa.

The match featured several young players, including Al-Omran, Boudi, Al-Awadhi, Al-Sharifi, and newcomer Al-Yahya. Goalkeeper Abdeen stood out with multiple key saves, preventing several dangerous attempts.

The game was intense and physical, leading to multiple stoppages by the UAE referees due to on-field altercations between the teams.

From a physical and tactical perspective, Al-Qadsiya benefited from the test against a well-prepared Al-Akhdood side, which ended its own training camp with this fixture. The first half finished 0-0, but Al-Akhdood scored midway through the second half. In the final moments, Bader Al-Mutawa missed a penalty kick that could have equalized.

Coach Maaloul used the match to evaluate player readiness and try out tactical ideas from recent training sessions, planning to give more players opportunities in the upcoming games.

Meanwhile, Al-Arabi will hold its final training session this evening in Male, Maldives, ahead of tomorrow's AFC Challenge League play-off match against Maziya Sports.

The Green Falcons arrived in the Maldives last Friday after concluding a training camp in Abu Dhabi, UAE, where they played three friendlies — all losses against Al Wahda (0-2), Bani Yas (0-1), and Hatta (1-2).

Henderson the hero, Palace stuns Liverpool to win Community Shield



Crystal Palace's Eberechi Eze in action between Crystal Palace's Nathaniel Clyne, left, and Maxence Lacroix during the FA Community Shield final soccer match between Liverpool and Crystal Palace at Wembley Stadium in London. (AP)

Mohamed Salah misses spot kick

LONDON, Aug 10, (Agencies): Crystal Palace won the Community Shield on Sunday by beating Premier League champion Liverpool in a penalty shootout at Wembley.

The curtain-raiser for the English top-flight season ended 2-2 after 90 minutes after FA Cup winner Palace twice came back to level against Liverpool before winning the shootout 3-2.

Palace goalkeeper Dean Henderson saved two penalties and Mohamed Salah fired over with another, while Justin Devenny converted the winning spot kick into the top corner.

New Liverpool signings Hugo Ekitike and Jeremie Frimpong had twice put the Merseyside club ahead in the fourth and 21st minutes.

But Palace fought back through Jean-Philippe Mateta's penalty in the 17th and Ismaila Sarr's close-range effort in the 77th.

Liverpool against the rest looks as if it could be the

motto for the 2025 Premier League title race when the new season kicks off next weekend, with four big candidates looking to knock Arne Slot's side off top spot.

Slot's first season at Anfield was a resounding success as Liverpool dominated the league, finishing 10 points clear of Arsenal despite relaxing in the closing weeks of the season with the title already confirmed.

Manchester City had its worst season in over a decade, but still finished third, while Chelsea ended up fourth and Newcastle United fifth, ahead of Aston Villa on goal difference.

Although Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur look to have improved after dreadful seasons, it's hard to see this season's title winner coming from beyond last season's top five.

There is a saying that when you win a title, the first thing you do is look to build on that and Liverpool has done just that: after a frugal 2024 in the transfer market, the club has spent big, with defenders Milos Kerkez and Jeremie Frimpong arriving, along with forwards Florian Wirtz and Hugo Ekitike and goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili.

So far, Liverpool has spent almost 300 million pounds (400 million U.S. dollars) on new players, and that could rise by at least 130 million more if Alexander Isak arrives from Newcastle.

Luis Diaz and Trent Alexander-Arnold have gone, but Liverpool looks stronger than ever, which puts the onus on their rivals to try and close the gap.

Arsenal has taken up the challenge with the club backing Mikel Arteta by bringing in Kepa Arrizabalaga, Martin Zubimendi, Christian Norgaard, Noni Madueke, Cristhian Mosquera and striker Viktor Gyokeres, with hopes that the big Swede will be the regular goalscorer who was missing last season.

If Bukayo Saka stays fit, Declan Rice will again provide the midfield lynchpin and Arsenal again looks a formidable rival, with width and a striker able to put the ball in the net.

Manchester City looked soft-centered last season as the club suffered after losing midfielder Rodri with a knee injury. Rodri is back this season and should give more midfield control, despite Pep Guardiola insisting he won't be 100 percent fit until mid-September.

Nunez leaves Liverpool for Al-Hilal

RIYADH, Aug 10: The Saudi Arabian soccer league has secured its latest marquee signing after Darwin Nunez completed a move from Liverpool to Al-Hilal.

The Uruguay international cost a reported 46.3 million pounds (\$62 million) and has signed a three-year contract.

Al-Hilal - Saudi Arabia's most successful team - has been searching for another star signing after releasing Brazil great Neymar in January. Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes rejected a move before the Club World Cup in June and there was also reported interest in former Napoli striker Victor Osimhen.

Nunez leaves Liverpool after a mixed time in the Premier League, where he produced some spectacular moments but could not establish himself as the Merseyside club's first-choice center forward. He scored 40 goals in 143 games and won the Premier League title last season.

But he made only one league start from the turn of the year and scored just seven goals in 47 total appearances last term.

In a summer when Liverpool has reinforced its attack with the signings of Hugo Ekitike and Florian Wirtz, along with reported interest in Newcastle striker Alexander Isak, Nunez's position had been in doubt.

He follows a slew of players who have left Europe's top leagues for Saudi Arabia since Cristiano Ronaldo's move to Al Nassr in 2022.

Karim Benzema, Sadio Mane and Riyad Mahrez are some of the high-profile names to make the switch as Saudi Arabia has mounted an ambitious recruitment drive to establish



Liverpool's Darwin Nunez celebrates scoring his side's second goal during the pre-season friendly soccer match between Liverpool and Athletic Bilbao, at Anfield, Liverpool, England. (AP)

itself as a major player in global soccer.

Al-Hilal, which produced one of the biggest upsets at the Club World Cup by eliminating Manchester City, already has a host of marquee players including Kalidou Koulibaly, Sergej Milinkovic-Savic, Joao Cancelo and Alesandar Mitrovic.

It is also coached by two-time Champions League runner up Simone Inzaghi.

It has won a record 19 Saudi league titles as well as four Asian championship, but was beaten to the title by Al-Ittihad last season.

China misses out on dragon boat gold medals, global competition rises

CHENGDU, Aug 10, (Xinhua): China failed to win any gold medals in dragon boat racing at The World Games 2025, despite the sport originating in the country and China's team being seen as a dominant force.

Concluding its debut as an official sport at the Chengdu World Games, the two-day dragon boat competition awarded six gold medals - but China only took two silvers.

Indonesia claimed the first gold on Saturday in the open 8-seater 2,000m pursuit race. They went on to win two more golds on Sunday in the open 8-seater 200m and the 10-seater 500m.

Ukraine secured golds in the open 8-seater 500m and the 10-seater 10-seater 200m gold.

China's team was mainly made up of athletes from Jilin and Sichuan

provinces. Ma Yongyao, director of the Jilin Provincial Water Sports Administration Center, told Xinhua that the result was not due to poor performance by China, but rather a reflection of the sport's widespread global popularity.

The 2024 International Canoe Federation (ICF) Dragon Boat World Cup, which served as the qualifier for the World Games, saw Indonesia and Thailand rank top two in points.

Statistics show there are approximately 50 million dragon boat enthusiasts globally, with the sport active in nearly 100 countries and regions. Dragon boat festivals were held this year across the United States, Brazil, Argentina and Thailand.

Chinese Taipei beat Switzerland in the final to claim the women's 500kg tug-of-war title at The World Games

2025 in Chengdu.

The start of the competition was delayed by half an hour due to heavy rain.

Chinese Taipei defeated Germany and Switzerland overcame Sweden in the semifinals.

In the final, Chinese Taipei swept Switzerland 3-0 for the victory. In the bronze medal match, Sweden defeated Germany with the same score.

Persistent rain Sunday forced the cancellation of the men's softball final at the Chengdu World Games, leaving the United States and Japan to share the gold medal.

The U.S. and Japan swept past their opponents to set up a final clash.

"It's no big deal to share the championship with Japan," U.S. captain Shaw Zachary said. "We are a great team with many great players. We did re-

ally well in this tournament, overcame a lot of challenges from the start, and played excellent on both offense and defense." Poland's Julia Malgorzata Kozerska electrified with a new world record in the freediving women's dynamic without fins event, while Chinese athletes delivered golden performance in para freediving competitions.

Kozerska's winning distance of 222.5 meters shattered her previous mark of 214.0m set at 2025 CMAS World Championship Freediving Indoor Masters in Athens, Greece this May.

The Chengdu Sport University Sancha Lake Campus Natatorium witnessed three world records on Sunday afternoon, as finswimming events opened at The World Games 2025, with host China clinching a relay gold after a thrilling comeback.

Best of the Rest

Valkyries move game ahead Sparks: Veronica Burton scored 16 points, Cecilia Zandalasini scored 14 before halftime and the Golden State Valkyries moved a game ahead of Los Angeles in the Western Conference beating the Sparks 72-59 on Saturday night.

Janelle Salaun scored 11 points and grabbed eight rebounds for Golden State (15-15). Zandalasini scored 14 points in the first half on 5-for-6 shooting including 4 for 5 from 3-point range and missed her only shot attempt after halftime.

Dearica Hamby scored 15 points for Los Angeles (14-16), and Julie Al-lemand and reserve Rae Burrell each scored 10.

Golden State built a 19-14 lead after one quarter, and the Valkyries took advantage of a nine-point quarter by Los Angeles for a 33-23 lead at halftime.

Los Angeles started the third with a 7-0 run with a pair of foul shots and a short shot by Kelsey Plum and a 3-pointer by Hamby. Golden State extended its lead to 41-32 before the Sparks rallied again to get within 43-40 but never got closer. (AP)