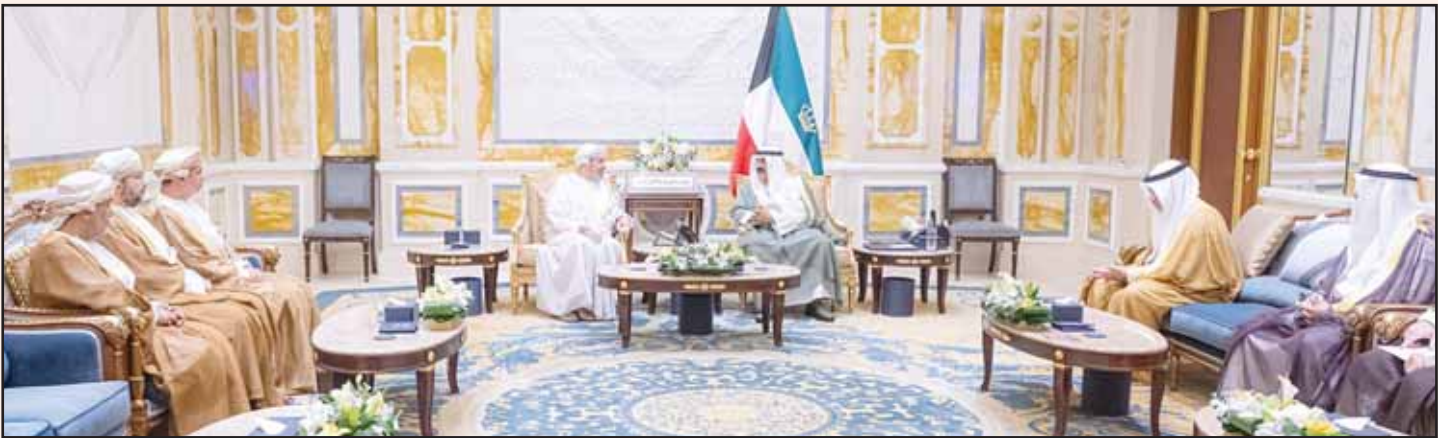




Kuwait Amir receives visiting Omani Interior Minister



Amiri Diwan photo

HH the Amir receives Omani Minister of Interior and accompanying delegation. Attending the meeting were Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, and top Amiri Diwan officials.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Monday Omani Minister of Interior Humoud Al-Busaïdi and accompanying delegation on occasion of visit to the country.

The Omani Minister relayed the greetings of Sultan Haitham bin Tariq to His Highness the Amir and his wishes of good health and wellbeing, and to the people of Kuwait further progress and prosperity, as well as the sur-

dy fraternal relations between the two nations and ways of bolstering them across a variety of sectors.

His Highness the Amir of Kuwait in return conveyed his greetings to the Sultan, his wishes of good health and to the people of Oman further growth and development under his wise leadership.

Attending the meeting were Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, and top Amiri Diwan officials. — See Also Page 5

Minister of Justice forms panel to revamp insurance regulations

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11, (KUNA): Justice Minister Nasser Al-Sumait issued a decision on Monday to establish a committee developing the legislative system governing the insurance sector within a broader plan to update economic laws and bolster local business atmosphere.

In a statement to KUNA, Minister Al-Sumait affirmed that the new decision would protect all parties involved in the insurance sector in accordance with local and international laws of concern, adding that it would bolster trust in the national insurance sector.

The committee will include competent legal and technical staff tasked with reviewing all insurance laws as well as providing recommendations to update current legislation via exploring draft documents of concern, he asserted, adding that resulting proposals would be delivered to specialized authorities in preparation for constitutional procedures.

All types of insurance are on the table including obligatory vehicle insurance, real estate, fire and crisis insurance and



Justice Minister Nasser Al-Sumait

so on, he revealed.

The minister reiterated the need for establishing the committee to follow up on the latest legislative framework within the ever-developing regional and global economic sectors.

SPONSORS IN KUWAIT ALERTED TO FRAUDULENT USE OF WORKERS' IDENTITIES

Scammers exploit domestic workers

Calls grow for tighter oversight amid growing installment scams

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: At the departure lounge of Kuwait International Airport, a traveler believed his journey would begin uneventfully. His bags were packed, tickets in hand, and his domestic worker stood quietly behind him with the luggage cart. But the calm quickly dissolved into confusion when a passport officer approached them and halted their departure.

The officer informed him that his domestic worker was barred from leaving the country due to an unresolved financial case. The traveler, shocked and unaware of any such issue, soon discovered the root of the problem: his employee's name had been used – without his knowledge – in fraudulent installment contracts for expensive smartphones and electronic devices.

Speaking to the newspaper, the traveler recounted: “While completing our departure procedures, I was suddenly stopped by the passport officer and told me my maid had a financial case against her. I had no prior knowledge of this. Later, I discovered the contracts and the amount of money registered in her name, and realized she had been taken advantage of.”

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait mourns loss of esteemed political, media figure Al-Nafisi

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Ahmed Yousef Al-Nafisi, journalist and former member of the National Assembly, has passed away, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Born in Kuwait, Al-Nafisi was elected to the National Assembly in 1971 from the sixth constituency (Qadisiya) with 570 votes, representing the Kuwait Progressive Democratic Movement.

During his tenure, he was known for his bold political stances. He notably supported a vote of no confidence in Minister of Finance and Oil Abdulrahman Al-Ateeqi in 1974, and backed the interpellation of Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Sulaiman Al-Adsani, in response to rising prices and issues related to the Companies Law and commercial and industrial licensing.



Ahmed Yousef Al-Nafisi

Al-Nafisi also served as editor-in-chief of “Al-Tali’aa” newspaper, where he played a significant role in enriching Kuwait’s journalistic and intellectual discourse.

Continued on Page 5

Day by Day

IF you are feeling distressed, remember that God tests you only to guide you from hardship to ease, from darkness to light.

He sees your pain and knows your patience. He sees your tears and knows that your heart will find peace when you remember Him.

“Indeed, in the remembrance of God hearts find peace.” ... Yet, tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



Photo by Samer Shiqer

Motorists navigate through thick humid haze en route to Shuwaikh Industrial Area, as Kuwait’s steamy weather cloaks the roads in a misty veil.

PAM launches online staffing norm service

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) announced the launch of the “Request for Basic Needs Assessment” service via the “Ashal” corporate services portal, starting next Sunday, as part of its efforts to develop its electronic services provided to business owners.

It explained that the service enables business owners to submit requests for staffing norms, whether for the first time, or to reassess existing norms, or in case of changes to the facility’s address or activity, entirely online through the portal.

PAM also stated that paper-based staffing norm requests will be suspended starting Tuesday, August 12, in preparation for the full transition to digital transactions.

Kuwait blasts Israeli actions as Australia recognizes Palestine

NEW YORK, Aug 11, (Agencies): The State of Kuwait, on behalf of the Gulf Group at the United Nations warned Sunday of the “dangerous” decision of the Israeli occupation to reoccupy Gaza Strip, including plans to fully occupy it and control it.

This came in a speech by the Kuwaiti Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai, on behalf of the Gulf Group, during a session held by the UN Security Council regarding the Palestinian issue.

Al-Bannai reaffirmed the Gulf group’s stance in supporting the Palestinian cause and rejecting all forms of occupation, warning that a full-scale invasion of Gaza will impact the entire region, leading to more violence, “as the international community will bear the consequences of silence and inaction.”

He added that the ongoing violations by the Israeli occupation send a devastating message that international laws are applied selectively, emphasizing the need for urgent action to ensure protection for the Palestinian people and their aid, and to support the UNRWA and reject any attempts to undermine its role.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait, Jordan commit to advancing military judicial ties



KUNA photo

Major General Owaid Al-Hatlatani, Head of Kuwait Military Judiciary Authority, meets with Jordanian military officials in Amman.

AMMAN, Aug 11, (KUNA): The head of the Kuwait Military Judiciary Authority, Major General Owaid Al-Hatlatani, said Monday that Kuwaiti-Jordanian relations represent a model of excellence in various areas of cooperation, especially in the military field.

This came in a statement to KUNA by Al-Hatlatani following his arrival in Amman, Jordan, at the head of a delegation from the Military Judiciary Authority, to meet with a number of officials from the Jordanian military judiciary.

The bilateral relations between the two countries are strong and built on the visions and future aspirations established by the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and King Abdullah II of Jordan.

Continued on Page 5

Al-Faqan focuses on excellence

Fleet expansion, tech upgrades propel Kuwait Airways forward

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Kuwait Airways approved all items on the agenda, including the financial and administrative reports, during its Ordinary General Assembly for the fiscal year ending Dec 31, 2024 -- held Monday at its headquarters with 100 percent attendance.

In his speech, Chairman of the Board of Directors Abdul Mohsen Salem Al-Faqan affirmed that the Board is working hard to develop the national carrier in ways that benefit the country as a whole. He said “as a

fully State-owned company, Kuwait Airways is committed to elevating its position among the leading and most competitive airlines in the region.”

He emphasized that the goals of the airline include providing exceptional customer experience, achieving operational excellence, and driving sustainable growth to build a world-class airline that prioritizes customer satisfaction, operational efficiency and sustainability.

He revealed the Board has laid down a comprehensive strategic plan, which has already started to yield

Continued on Page 5



Photo by Mohamed Morsi

Kuwait Airways General Assembly chaired by Abdul Mohsen Salem Al-Faqan (center), reviewing 2024 performance and strategic outlook.



2 Kuwait, Pakistan to enhance humanitarian and social ties



8 Zain celebrates 10 years of the KON Social Entrepreneurship Program

8 The Commercial Real Estate Company achieves profit of KD 9.06 mln in H1 2025



9 Jazeera Airways reports strong H1 2025 results

| Prayer Timings | | | |
|----------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Fajr | 03:47 | Asr | 15:29 |
| Sunrise .. | 05:14 | Maghrib .. | 18:32 |
| Zohr | 11:53 | Isha | 19:56 |

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 northeasterly wind, with speeds of 06-40 km/h.

By Night: Hot to rather hot, hu-

Weather

mid especially over coastal areas and partly cloudy with light variable wind changing to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h with a chance for fog forming over some areas.

| Station | Max Exp | Min Rec |
|-------------|---------|---------|
| Kuwait City | 43 | 35 |

| | | |
|----------------|----|----|
| Kuwait Airport | 45 | 32 |
| Abdaly | 46 | 33 |
| Jahra | 46 | 33 |
| Salmiyah | 37 | 33 |
| Ahmadi | 40 | 29 |
| Nuwaisib | 43 | 31 |
| Wafra | 46 | 31 |
| Salmiya | 47 | 30 |



HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince



HH the Prime Minister

Kuwait Amir congratulates Chad on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, sent a cable of congratulations to President Marshal Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno, President of Chad, in which His Highness expressed his sincere congratulations on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

His Highness wished the President continued good health and well-being, and further progress and prosperity for the Republic of Chad and its friendly people.

Crown Prince

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-

Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Marshal Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno, President of Chad on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

His Highness wished the President continued good health and well-being, and further progress and prosperity for the Republic of Chad and its friendly people.

Prime Minister

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Marshal Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno, President of Chad and Head, on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

Kuwait relief supply for Gaza residents begins



Food supplies are loaded on the Kuwaiti plane.



KUNA photos
The Kuwaiti plane with relief aid lands in Arish, Egypt.

ARISH, Egypt, Aug 11, (KUNA): The first relief plane belonging to Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) arrived on Sunday in Egypt's Al-Arish Airport, carrying 10 tons of food supplies to alleviate the suffering of civilians in Gaza, amid a devastating humanitarian crisis.

Kuwait Ambassador to Egypt, Ghanim Al-Ghanim, in a statement to KUNA, thanked His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah for their guidance and response to the tragedy in Gaza Strip.

Al-Ghanim also expressed his gratitude and thanks to the Kuwaiti people for their constant support of their Palestinian brothers, especially in light of the difficult circumstances they are currently experiencing.

The Ambassador added that "the urgent relief supplies to our Palestinian brothers in the Gaza Strip are the result of a call launched by the Kuwaiti government, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and charitable societies in the State of Kuwait, to operate an air-bridge to provide relief and support to Palestinians."

The relief plane took off at Abdullah Al-

Mubarak Air Base, heading to Egypt's Al-Arish Airport, carrying 10 tons of food supplies to alleviate the suffering of civilians in Gaza, amid a devastating humanitarian crisis.

In a statement to KUNA, Director General of the KRCS Fawaz Al-Mazrouei said that coordination is ongoing with the Egyptian and Palestinian Red Crescents to deliver aid, and that more arrangements are being planned.

He added that such efforts stem from the State of Kuwait's firm humanitarian vision and unwavering support for the needy worldwide, noting that it mainly aims at easing the anguish of Gazans and answering their basic needs.

'Tashkent eyes strategic ties with Kuwait'

No visa for Kuwaitis; direct flights resume

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Kuwaiti-Uzbek relations have witnessed a qualitative leap over the past two years, culminating in the historic official visit of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Kuwait in February 2025.

This visit resulted in the signing of nine agreements and memoranda of understanding covering trade, investment, energy, infrastructure, transportation, tourism, health and culture; along with the adoption of an expanded joint statement.

In an exclusive interview with the newspaper, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Kuwait Ayub Khan Yunusov revealed qualitative initiatives; most notably the establishment of a regional center in Kuwait to market Uzbek products, visa exemption for Kuwaitis, resumption of direct flights in September, and an agreement to exchange medical personnel and strengthen academic and cultural cooperation.

He affirmed that his country aspires to elevate relations to the level of a strategic partnership over the next five years.

Following is an excerpt of the interview:

Question: How do you describe the relationship between Uzbekistan and Kuwait after the recent official visits?

Answer: The visit of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Kuwait on Feb 17-18, 2025 was a turning point in our relationship. It resulted in the signing of important agreements in various fields like trade, investment, energy, infrastructure, transportation, tourism and health. It opened broader horizons for cooperation between ministries and agencies, and increased the pace of delegation exchange between the two countries.

Q: You recently announced a project to establish a regional center for Uzbek products in Kuwait. What are its goals and priorities?

A: The center will serve as a gateway for marketing Uzbek products and exporting them to Gulf markets through Kuwait. In the first phase, the focus will be on Uzbek textiles, given their high quality and growing demand in the region.

Q: Is there interest among Kuwaiti companies in establishing partnerships to import or distribute Uzbek products in the local market? What role does the Uzbek Embassy or government play in supporting this cooperation?

A: The embassy, in cooperation with Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), organized business forums in 2024 and 2025; which resulted in the signing of trade agreements between companies from both countries. Fresh Uzbek agricultural products were exported to the Kuwaiti market; including cherries, peaches, apricots, watermelons, cantaloupes and lemons, in addition to meat and sweets. Kuwaiti consumers are showing growing interest in these products. The embassy continues to support the expansion of trade cooperation.

Q: How do you evaluate the Kuwaiti private sector's response to the initiatives presented by the embassy in the recent economic forums among businesspersons from both countries?

A: The years 2024 and 2025 witnessed the organization of four business forums in Kuwait, as well as two exhibitions under the slogan, "Made in Uzbekistan". These events have provided opportunities for business-to-business (B2B) meetings between businesspeople from both sides, and identifying promising cooperation opportunities. Kuwaiti import companies have shown significant interest in importing fresh and dried fruits, meat and sweets from Uzbekistan. For example, more than 20 tons of fresh Uzbek fruits were exported to Kuwait in 2024, and this quantity is expected to increase this year.

Q: What are your future plans in terms of organizing business forums or exhibitions to promote trade between Uzbekistan and Kuwait -- whether in Kuwait or



Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Kuwait Ayub Khan Yunusov talking to the Al-Seyassah reporter.

Uzbekistan?

A: As part of efforts to trade cooperation, the second Governmental Commitment-end of this year; coinciding the 'Made in Uzbekistan' with broad participation of countries. Once the dates will be sent to all Kuwaiti panies to participate in

Q: Kuwaiti citizens have requirements for 30 days upon has this decision impacted interest in visiting Uzbekistan increased since the implementation of this system?

A: The 30-day visa waiver for Kuwaiti citizens took effect on June 1, 2025; thereby, simplifying travel procedures and encouraging increased demand. The decision was widely welcomed by Kuwaiti tourism companies and travelers, especially adventure travelers. Kuwaiti tourists can safely and comfortably visit Uzbekistan's historical cities and cultural landmarks, while enjoying traditional Uzbek cuisine in a safe and stable environment.

Q: Are you working on having direct flights from Kuwait to cities such as Tashkent, Samarkand and Namangan? How ready is the tourism infrastructure to receive visitors from the Gulf countries?

A: In 2024 and 2025, Kuwait's Jazeera Airways operated direct flights to Tashkent, Samarkand and Namangan. During the Hajj season, these flights were temporarily suspended; but will resume on Sept 16. We invite citizens and tourists to take advantage of these convenient flights to visit Uzbekistan.

Major Uzbek cities have comprehensive infrastructure and are ready to welcome visitors from the Gulf states; including three to five-star hotels, year-round mountain resorts, and tour programs to historical sites. These visits also provide an opportunity to gain firsthand insight into the country's investment and commercial potential.

Q: You previously discussed the possibility of recruiting medical and nursing personnel from Uzbekistan to work in the healthcare sector in Kuwait. Has this project been implemented?

A: During the official visit of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Kuwait on Feb 17-18, 2025; a bilateral government agreement on 'labor exchange' was signed



Ayub K. Yunusov

strengthen economic and ond meeting of the Joint tee will be held before the with a business forum and exhibition in Kuwait City, business people from both are set, official invitations investors and import com- these events.

been exempted from visa re- entry to Uzbekistan. How the tourism sector? Has

MoE set to fill up top jobs; list announced

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: A large number of candidates who passed the supervisory job tests for the positions of school principal and assistant principal have received official notifications via the Sahel app confirming their success.

Their statuses on the promotion lists have also been updated accordingly.

According to informed educational sources, the Ministry of Education has begun identifying vacancies for these supervisory roles, especially in light of the wave of resignations at several schools toward the end of the last academic year.

This resulted in a huge number of vacancies within the administrative structures of educational institutions.

Filling these vacancies is part of early preparations for the upcoming academic year, with the aim of ensuring its stability by appointing qualified supervisory personnel according to the newly approved arrangement following the announcement of results.

The sources emphasized that the ministry is committed to ensuring that promotions and appointments adhere to criteria that guarantee the eligibility of those selected to assume leadership roles within schools.

They highlighted that filling supervisory positions will be a top priority in the coming period, with the goal of providing stable school leadership capable of efficiently managing the academic year.

The sources confirmed that the ministry is closely monitoring the process to ensure all procedures are completed before the start of the school year.



Farwaniya Governorate photo
Farwaniya Governor and the acting Capital Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah receives Executive Director of the 'Kafou' Platform Dr. Fatima Al-Mousawi.

'Kafou Platform' team wins Gov. praise for serving Kuwait public

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Farwaniya Governor and the acting Capital Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received Executive Director of the 'Kafou' Platform Dr. Fatima Al-Mousawi at the Farwaniya Governorate General Diwan on Monday morning.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, they discussed ways to enhance cooperation and strengthen volunteer efforts in community service.

Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser reaffirmed the governorate's commitment to supporting community volunteer initiatives. He praised

their vital role in promoting environmental awareness and improving quality of life.

During the meeting, they also discussed plans to organize targeted campaigns and initiatives focused on cleaning and preserving the environment.

At the end of the meeting, the governor expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Kafou Platform team for their outstanding efforts in serving the community and raising awareness among citizens and residents about the benefits to the nation and society.



KUNA photo
Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila receives the Pakistani Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Zafar Iqbal.

Kuwait, Pakistan to enhance humanitarian and social ties

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila discussed Monday with Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the State of Kuwait Dr. Zafar Iqbal ways to enhance joint cooperation.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Social Affairs said the meeting addressed several issues of common interest, affirming the keenness of both sides to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in

humanitarian and social fields.

The minister also discussed with Brazil's Ambassador to Kuwait Rodrigo Gab-sch a number of issues of mutual interest.

In a press statement, the ministry said the meeting addressed ways to enhance cooperation in the humanitarian and social fields, in addition to discussing the "Eradication of Global Poverty" initiative (CIT), as part of Kuwait's keenness to support initiatives and programs that improve quality of life and bolster sustainable development.

diwaniya

كيوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Magic of educational reform ... a quick fix?

“I HAD mistakenly believed that education reform was a shared responsibility between the Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, the education system, society, and even the writer of these lines - a citizen far removed from the realms of politics, magic, sorcery, and charlatan-ism,” columnist **Khaled Ahmad Al-Tarrah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.



Dr. Al-Tarrah

“Yet the magi- cian, Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, with all due respect to his titles, has, in an exceptional mo- ment, achieved an educational feat so magical that neither those before him even knew about it, nor will those after him. It appears he has carried the bur- den of education reform long before as- suming his ministerial role, perhaps even since his days as a student!

“The Minister of Education has already loaded his ammunition for the 2025/2026 academic year, before even pausing to consider the thoughts and ideas of others.

“He is the political and educational magi- cian who prepared the new curricula for the coming academic year, not after thorough re- view by specialists and stakeholders outside the ministry, but by issuing an irrevocable ministerial decree.

“Minister Al-Tabtabaei’s spell, meta- phorically speaking, turned against me personally, after I wrote a two-part article titled “The Education Document.”

“He assumed I was proposing a not-so- impossible blueprint for educational reform, one that could be transformed into a national vision endorsed by the Council of Ministers, so that his back would be covered, both in the realms of government and education.

“The Ministry of Education has achieved what veteran ministers and seasoned educa- tional leaders failed to accomplish, which is the “gradual transition from rote learning to active and effective education,” all without public engagement or transparency regarding the identity of the external partners involved in this so-called historic achievement.

“Clearly, I was mistaken in both thought and expression. I extend my apologies to the brilliant Minister Al-Tabtabaei, who has completed the monumental task of “compos- ing” new curricula, which now only await covers and illustrations for printing, with a reported education reform rate exceeding 61 percent.

“I was, in fact, on the verge of writing an article on national education, aiming to explain its political, constitutional, social, and historical dimensions.

“However, after news spread about the readiness of the school curricula from kin- dergarten to ninth grade, within an excep- tional timeframe unmatched by any previous minister or distinguished academic, modest yet pressing questions began to arise in my bewildered mind, limited to the following:

1. Do the new curricula include the his- tory of the Shura Council and the 1921 Pledge of Allegiance Document?

2. Does the curriculum development cover the historical events and political factors that led to the obstruction of the National Assembly in the years 1967, 1976, and 1986?

3. Do the curricula include the speeches of Kuwait’s rulers such as Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, and Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad (may Allah have mercy on them) regarding democracy, leg- islative authority, the single-vote electoral system, and electoral constituencies?

4. Did the curricula address, in a simplified and clear manner, the cir- cumstances and political context lead- ing up to the dissolution of the 2020 Parliament, and the reasons behind the late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad’s intervention to dissolve it following the parliamentary sit-in?

5. Did the new curricula address the speeches and directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad (may Allah protect and preserve him) delivered prior to the 2024 elections, including the suspension of certain articles of the Constitution, the dis- solution of the 2024 Parliament, as well as the circumstances surrounding the dissolution of the 2023 Parliament and the annulled 2022 Parliament?

6. Has the subject of national education been reinstated in the curriculum? And if so, will the focus remain limited to flag- raising and saluting, or will the curriculum be expanded to include academic foundations aimed at instilling a sense of belonging, loy- alty, and the preservation of national identity? How can these principles and concepts be simplified and presented as core social, edu- cational, and political values?

7. Do the hastily prepared curricula include content on constitutional rights, national duties, and Kuwait’s political his- tory, excluding only the Iraqi invasion and popular activism both inside and outside the country?

8. Do the new curricula address the impact of social media and digital platforms on soci- ety, students, and youth, including issues of misuse, abuse, and the legal consequences associated with them?

“Last but not least, will the Ministry of Education’s efforts to develop and imple- ment these curricula also include forecast- ing test results for the 2025/2026 academic year, since, by some miracle, the new curricula were completed in a “magical moment”? Truly, from you we witness an “educational magic” unprecedented in history!”

Also:

“The position of the Minister of Fi- nance is regarded as a sovereign position. The first to assume this role after inde- pendence was His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad, followed by Abdulrahman Al-Ateeqi, who held both the Finance and Oil portfolios,” Kuwaiti journalist **Has- san Ali Karam** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“One must recognize Al-Ateeqi’s sta- ture in government and his respect among senior sheikhs. He was succeeded by Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al-Adhbi, who also held the Finance and Oil ministries, fol- lowed by Sheikh Salem Abdulaziz Al- Saud Al-Sabah, and then Sheikh Ali Sa-

lem Al-Ali.

“Subsequent ministers who took over were, for the most part, political heavy- weights. The Ministry of Finance is not merely a ministerial role but it is Kuwait’s fi- nancial nerve center. It should not be entrust- ed to someone who struggles to differentiate between the dollar and the dinar.

“The crises that swept the country, es- pecially during the Iraqi invasion, exposed Kuwait’s finances, particularly its invest- ment funds, to tampering and manipula- tion, which severely damaged the state’s financial reserves.

“Despite the rumors that spread throughout the country, in reality, the citizen, emerging from the furnace of oc- cupation, the smoke of burning oil wells, war, and a terrifying security situation, did not experience financial hardship, neither during the invasion nor after liberation. Salaries were paid on time, citizens’ loans were canceled, and, on top of that, finan- cial grants were provided to every family. This meant that citizens were relieved from worries about debts and loans, and they were able to remain financially stable.

“Kuwait, by the grace of Almighty Allah and the wisdom of its leaders, will continue to thrive without worry or hardship for its cit- izens. The resignation of Minister of Finance Noura Al-Fassam took many by surprise. It is uncommon in Kuwaiti government tradi- tion for a minister to resign and openly dis- close the reasons to the media, regardless of whether her resignation was voluntary or un- der pressure. In such circumstances, citizens tend not to dwell on rumors or hearsay.

“However, I am certain that her appoint- ment to this high-ranking, important, and challenging ministerial role was not based on the notion that “there was no one else” to fill the position, nor was it simply to honor her or Kuwaiti women, who have already rightfully earned their place. Rather, there were specific reasons that led the government to select her for this dangerous and important position.

□ □ □

“Lifestyle reflects an awareness of the true meaning of happiness through the cultivation of good health. A person needs a balanced life that nurtures both physical and psycho- logical well-being. Yet, many neglect one or both aspects, often blaming a lack of time for their inaction,” columnist Sheikh Eng. **Fahad Dawood Al-Sabah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“What led me to say this is that a large percentage of Kuwaitis do not know how to properly care for themselves, and this neglect is evident in society. In one way or another, it reflects a disregard for personal health. While the common excuse is that time is scarce, the real obstacle is poor time management, which lies at the heart of many problems.

“We must acknowledge that current curricula lack incentives to build aware- ness and provide training on making smart lifestyle choices.

“Moreover, there is a widespread lack of knowledge, or what could be called self-education. A large number of Arabs, Gulf citizens, and Kuwaitis do not fol- low reputable media sources or engage with reliable books and articles on public health.

“Here, I am not referring to a con- sumer issue but rather a national cogni- tive necessity. If, in the previous article, we discussed how to build a productive society, it becomes clear that this re- quires awareness, specifically, invest- ing in health and harnessing it for cog- nitive development.

“Awareness is not an intellectual lux- ury; it is an existential necessity. A con- scious person lives with depth, discerning what is beneficial from what is harmful,

and builds their life on solid founda- tions. In contrast, those who live without awareness are often driven by whims or the in- fluence of others, often without even realizing it.

“That is why, centuries ago, the French thinker René Descartes said, “I think, there- fore I am,” express- ing the idea that the existence of the self is an undeniable, fundamental truth. As long as thinking occurs, it signifies vitality and active participation in society.

“Today, in an ever-changing world, we must be effective within our environment by building a Kuwaiti cognitive force rooted in productive, creative, and innova- tive knowledge, not in useless or ineffec- tive information.

“We now have the opportunity, as a society, to create collective knowledge initiatives, engaging national cultural in- stitutions in community activities for both children and adults, and to promote sports development as a catalyst for movement and growth.”

“Therefore, I say that her appointment as minister was a surprise, and her resignation midway through the process, under normal circumstances, was equally surprising.

“Was this a temporary situation, a mistake, or was her mid-term resigna- tion a misstep? It is worth noting that Al- Fassam’s resignation is the second within Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah’s Cabinet, the first being Minister of Electricity Ma- hmond Boushahri’s resignation, who was subsequently replaced by someone with no prior experience in the electricity sec- tor.

“In any case, Al-Fassam’s resignation does not mark the end of hope for Kuwaiti women. Nearly half of the country’s lead- ership positions are held by women, which is a positive sign and good news for Al- Fassam. We may no longer be surprised by a woman assuming such a position, as women constitute half of society. They hold crucial roles in the judiciary, munic- ipality, universities, the military, police, ambassadorial posts, and the courts.

“I believe the Ministry of Finance is an experiment on the declaration of women’s qualifications for even more advanced re- sponsibilities.”

— Compiled by Mohammad Wangengi/ Simi K. Kutty

Kuwaiti citizen, Iraqi held with 9mm pistols, bullets and shells

‘Zero-tolerance towards arms smuggling’

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Customs inspectors at the Abdali border checkpoint thwarted an attempt to smuggle unlicensed weapons and ammunition following a search of a Kuwaiti citizen arriving from Iraq.

The individual was found in possession of two unlicensed 9mm Glock firearms, along with 50 rounds of ammunition of the same caliber.

In a separate incident, the General Administration of Customs reported that inspection procedures led to the arrest of an Iraqi national working as a passenger transport driver while attempting to leave Kuwait for Iraq. A total of 1,395 12mm shotgun shells were discovered hidden in secret compartments within his vehicle. All seized items were handed over to the Ministry of Interior.

Customs authorities affirmed their zero-tolerance policy toward any at- tempt to smuggle weapons or ammunition, emphasizing their ongoing efforts to strengthen inspections at all land, sea, and air entry points, and to take all necessary legal measures to protect the country’s security and public safety.



Al-Seyassah photo The two Glock pistols and bullets apprehended by the Kuwait cus- toms.



Al-Seyassah photo The Jordanian woman and her husband to be deported for begging.

Woman, sponsor to be deported for ‘begging’

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Criminal Security Sector, through the Public Morals Protection and Anti-Human Trafficking Department and in cooperation with the Public Security Sector, arrested a 2004-born Jordanian woman on charges of begging in Al-Hajan, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

She has been detained in the West Abdullah Al-Mubarak Police Station.

The Ministry of Interior explained that the woman was under the sponsorship of her husband, a 1990-born Jordanian citizen. Investigations led to his arrest as well, and necessary legal measures have been taken against both in preparation for their deportation from the country.

The ministry affirmed that legal actions will be enforced against the violator and the sponsor, resulting in their depor- tation, and those responsible will be held accountable.

It stressed that security services will continue their efforts to combat all forms of begging, which harm society and vio- late the law, adding that citizens and residents are urged to cooperate with security personnel and immediately report any similar cases via the hotline Nos. 25582581, 97288200 and 97288211 or the emergency No. 112.



A file photo of an accident.

Driver in custody

One dead as 2 people run over near Dajeej

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: A 39-year-old Egyptian expatri- ate died, and his companion sustained multiple fractures, following a run-over accident on the Sixth Ring Road near Al-Dajeej.

According to a security source , when the Ministry of Interior’s Operations Room received a report of a run-over accident involving two individuals, security and emergency teams rushed to the scene, where they confirmed the death of one Egyptian man and the injury of another.

The deceased’s body was transferred to the Forensic Medicine Department, and a case has been registered. The injured individual was referred to Farwaniya Hospital for treatment.

The driver, identified as an African national, has been de- tained pending investigation, and legal procedures are un- derway.

Doctors’ attacker stays in detention for 21 days

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Public Prosecution ordered the detention of a citizen in the Central Prison for 21 days, pending investigation into the case of insulting a doctor and breaking another’s hand with a screwdriver at North Sabah Al-Salem Center.

Case files indicate that the accused followed the two doc- tors when their official work hours ended after midnight, because they refused to grant him medical leave due to the end of work hours. He insulted one of them and assaulted the other in the parking lot, using a screwdriver to break the doctor’s hand.

Detectives were able to apprehend the accused and re- ferred him to the Public Prosecution, which issued a decision to detain him pending referral to the Criminal Court.

Attorney Elaf Al-Saleh, in her capacity as the legal rep- resentative of Kuwait Medical Association and the two victims, praised the speedy response of the security and in- vestigation personnel in arresting the perpetrator. She added she will file a civil claim against the perpetrator during his trial, demanding the application of the maximum penalty stipulated by law to serve as deterrent to anyone who attacks medical personnel or endangers them.

Municipality picks up 489 forgotten vehicles, boats

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Public Re- lations Department at the Kuwait Muni- cipality revealed the accomplishments of the Public Sanitation and Road Occupancy Department at the Farwaniya Governorate Municipality branch for the month of July, reports Al-Anba daily.

These accomplishments include exten- sive inspections in residential and invest- ment areas in order to maintain cleanliness, removal of obstructions on the road or any- thing that spoils the overall appearance of

the governorate, and preventing the dump- ing of waste outside the containers.

Director of the Public Sanitation and Road Occupancy Department at the gover- norate Mohammad Al-Jabaa disclosed that 489 abandoned vehicles, scrap materials and boats were removed and sent to the Muni- cipality site.

He also confirmed the issuance of 288 warning stickers, 516 citations for road and public cleanliness violations, and 358 pledges.

Minister gets tough on auditors for violating professional ethics

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Minister of Com- merce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel has formed three special- ized committees to in- vestigate the alleged violations of auditors, decide on auditor reg- istration applications, and establish account- ing rules and audit and investigation evidence.

Ministerial Resolu- tion No. 152/2025 stipu- lates the formation of a committee to investigate violations allegedly com- mitted by auditors. It is headed by the director of the Joint Stock Companies Department, with three members representing the Accountants As- sociation, Legal Affairs Sector and Joint Stock Companies Department. The committee is responsible for investigating violations referred by the undersecretary of the ministry; in cases where the auditors violate Law No. 103/2019 regulating the ministry and professional ethics, commit gross negligence, commit an act that violates honor or integrity, or practice the profession despite failing to meet one of the conditions stipulated in the law.

The second committee was formed as per



Al-Ajeel

Ministerial Resolution No. 149/2025, pub- lished in the Official Gazette ‘Kuwait Al- Youm’ on Sunday. It is chaired by Undersec- retary Marwa Al-Jaidan, with five members representing the Accountants Association and the legal and administrative sectors. It is responsible for reviewing registration ap- plications submitted by interested parties for inclusion in the auditors’ register, as it is the registration committee, in accordance with Ar- ticle Six of Decree No. 103/2019 regulating the ministry. Its term is three years, renewable for a similar period.

Ministerial Resolution No. 150/2025 states the formation of the third committee -- Per- manent Technical Committee for Establishing Accounting Rules and Audit Guides, chaired by the director of the Joint Stock Companies Department; with nine members representing the Accountants Association, Capital Markets Authority, Central Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait University, Public Authority for Applied Edu- cation and Training, Legal Affairs Sector and Kuwait Economic Society. The committee is responsible for setting the rules on professional ethics that must be adhered to in practicing the auditing profession, determining the minimum data that appear in the financial statements which must be published, periodically review- ing the accounting rules and foundations, and conducting research and studies to develop the auditing profession.

Exotica Cafe

مفـل محـل
MUGHAL MAHAL
SINCE 1980

We are OPEN for BREAKFAST AT 7:00 AM

تيراس مول السالمية - مطل على شارع الخليج شارع سالم المبارك

Terrace Mall Salmiya

Overlooking Gulf Road Salem Al Mubarak Street

1800 188 / 5501 1985

Kuwait gears up for 11th GCC Social Affairs Ministers' meet

Al-Huwaila reviews preparation plans

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila discussed Sunday preparations for Kuwait's hosting of the 11th meeting of GCC Ministers of Social and Development Affairs due on September 1-14.

The minister said in a press statement that hosting this meeting represents an opportunity to enhance cooperation and exchange expertise among GCC member states on social and developmental matters, affirming Kuwait's keenness to provide all necessary resources to ensure the events success and achieve its goals.

The meeting was attended by the Undersecretary of the Ministry, representatives from the Public Authority for Manpower and the Civil Service Commission, and included a review of the work plan and timeline for logistical, technical and organizational preparations to ensure the event is presented in a manner that reflects Kuwait's status and role in supporting joint GCC action in social and developmental fields.



KUNA photo
Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila, discusses preparations for hosting the 11th meeting of the Ministers of Social Affairs and Development of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Two bids under review for system upgrade

CAPT opens Kuwait Airport navigation tender

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) has opened bids for the operation, management, training, monitoring and control of maintenance and development of air navigation services at Kuwait International Airport, say reliable sources.

Sources told the newspaper that this is part of a plan to modernize the aviation infrastructure and improve services provided to passengers.

Sources revealed two specialized companies submitted their bids and the envelopes were opened in accordance with the procedures, while ensuring compliance with the laws and regulations governing public tenders.

Sources added that CAPT referred the technical tender documents to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for detailed review by the relevant technical committees, and to ensure their compliance with the technical specifications and conditions approved in the tender document.

Sources said the DGCA will submit its technical recommendations to the agency within 30 days from the date of referral, so the financial evaluation procedures will be completed and the best offer will be selected from a technical and financial standpoint.

Sources added this move is in line with ongoing efforts to develop the air navigation system in accordance with international standards in air safety, and contribute to the improvement of air traffic management and development of logistical and technical services at the airport.

List grows with top-ranked institutions

MoHE expands US study options with 13 new academic programs

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal on Sunday issued Ministerial Resolution No. 213/2025, stipulating the addition of a number of academic programs and degrees to the list of higher education institutions in the United States recommended by the National Bureau for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education.

Following are the new additions:

- Wayne State University
 - Bachelor of Engineering – Welding Engineering and Metallurgical Technology
 - Bachelor, Master and Doctorate in Computer Science
- State University of New York (SUNY) - University at Albany
 - Master and Doctorate in Computer Science
- Oregon State University
 - Bachelor of Business Administration - Supply Chain Management and Logistics.
- University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh (Merit University)
 - Bachelor's in Data Science
 - Bachelor's in Computer Science
- Florida State University
 - Bachelor's in Civil Engineering
- University of Wisconsin - Madison



Dr. Al-Jalal

(Merit University)

- Bachelor's in Journalism
- Doctorate in Mass Communication

- University of Virginia (Merit University)
 - Master and Doctorate in Computer Engineering
- Texas A&M University - College Station
 - Master and Doctorate in Computer Engineering
- Rutgers University - State University of New Jersey - Newark
 - Bachelor's in Physical Therapy
- Boston University (Merit University)
 - Bachelor's and Doctorate in Human Physiology
 - Master's in Human Physiology (Research Track)
 - Master's in Pathology Laboratory Science
- Doctorate in Pathology.
- University of New York - SUNY - University at Albany
 - Master's in Medical Anatomy and Experimental Pathology
- George Washington University
 - Doctorate in Exercise Physiology and Applied Nutrition
- West Virginia University
 - Bachelor's in Immunology and Medical Microbiology

The decision confirmed that these specializations will be added to the list of recommended and accredited specializations, providing Kuwaiti students with more opportunities to study at high-quality American educational institutions with international academic standards.

1,938 disability cases revoked

PADA tightens eligibility rules

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Official spokesperson and Legal Affairs Department Director at the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA) Dr. Mubarak Al-Badah has confirmed the withdrawal of the disability recognition of 1,938 cases over the past three years for medical and administrative reasons; as per the decisions of specialized technical committees.

Al-Badah revealed that the number of persons with disabilities officially registered with PADA reached 68,782; pointing out the gradual increase compared to previous years. He said 6,914 new cases were registered in 2024; indicating that the age group -- one day to 10 years old -- has the highest number with 2,344. Most of the new registrants are males -- 1,636; while five employees were suspended for administrative and disciplinary reasons in recent years.

He confirmed that the number of those whose citizenship was revoked reached 2,276; and that Cabinet directives are being implemented regarding their eligibility for services after the revocation of citizenship.

He stated that PADA provides educational and rehabilitation services to about 9,000 students registered in schools, nurseries, rehabilitation centers and institutions. He disclosed that PADA is coordinating with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to include the data of people with disabilities in the employment lists, as the authority does not respond to official complaints regarding the non-compliance of any entity.

On the plan to reduce the waiting period for services such as prosthetic devices and financial allocations, he indicated that PADA is working hard to expedite the documentation cycle by adopting the 'practice' system for procurement after obtaining approval from the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT). He stressed that mechanisms for verifying eligibility have also been improved and applications are processed more efficiently.

Regarding the number of beneficiaries of monthly financial allocations monthly and the mechanism for verifying eligibility, he explained that "the number of beneficiaries changes monthly according to updates on cases. Eligibility is verified through a documentary process that begins with the submission of the application, with the supporting documents; followed by a review of the data in accordance with the executive regulations of Law No. 8/2010."

About the shortage of specialized staff, he said there is a shortage of social and psychological specialists due to low financial

benefits. He added PADA is currently coordinating with the CSC to improve the incentives in order to cover this deficit.

He affirmed that PADA conducts periodic field visits to all educational and rehabilitation institutions under it, and had earlier revoked the licenses of two institutions for violations related to the level of services.

He continued saying that when forgery is discovered in medical reports, the authority refers the matter to the Public Prosecution in accordance with legal procedures.

He conveyed a message to the families of persons with disabilities: We express our deep appreciation for every person with disability and every guardian who bears this responsibility. We affirm our commitment to provide more services and facilities to support this dear group."

Asked about the delayed disbursement of allocations or medical aid, Al-Badah pointed out "the usual reason is the failure of the applicant to provide all the required documents or failure to attend assessments. Expired contracts with supply companies also delay the disbursement of equipment until the contracting and necessary procedures are completed."

On cases that do not receive adequate care, he clarified that "as per the law, a caregiver is appointed for each person with a disability. The 'Friends of the Disabled' Team also follows up care-related complaints."

About the assessment of schools' commitment to provide an inclusive educational environment, he stressed "the schools affiliated with PADA are committed to provide inclusive educational and rehabilitation programs. Periodic field visits are conducted by technical committees to monitor and evaluate their compliance. Delays in issuing or renewing disability cards are due to the applicant's failure to visit the authority in a timely manner or the late submission of the required medical reports late. All these are beyond the jurisdiction of the authority."

He added the authority received 161 complaints from the Regulations Section in the Legal Affairs Department last year, and all of them have been dealt with.

Al-Badah also confirmed that PADA approved the 'Kuwaiti Code for Accessibility', in cooperation with the Municipal Council. He explained the code is the national standard for developing infrastructure in State institutions to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.



Dr. Al-Badah

Charges could rise up to 17-fold

Commerce ministry plans major fee increases on 67 free services

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has proposed fees for 67 services; which it currently provides free of charge, reports Al-Rai daily.

The proposal includes re-pricing of all services with varying increase rates, some of which could rise 17-fold.

This move is in response to the Council of Ministers' mandate for government agencies to coordinate with the Ministry of Finance to review their service fees.

According to the proposal, services provided by the ministry free of charge; such as company establishment applications, will be charged. The fee for any company establishment application, regardless of type, will be KD20, even if the company is non-profit. The list of services to be converted from free to fee-based includes requests to amend the fiscal year of partnerships, write off mortgages and commercial agencies, and brokerage services for fish, fodder, livestock, vegetables, fruits and poultry.

Among the major increases is the issuance of a temporary commercial license, proposed to increase from KD30 to KD500 for a real estate or temporary

jewelry showroom -- 17 times increase.

The proposal includes 25 percent increase in the fee for approval of capital increase, decrease, share modifications, entry or exit of a partner, and dissolution and liquidation of a company; as well as amendment of the trade name and management clauses of a commercial entity.

The fee for issuing a license to practice the accounting profession will be raised from KD150 to KD200.

This is in addition to 25 percent increase in the fee for renewing a company license and granting a certificate to members of a company's board of directors. The fee for a representative of the Ministry of Commerce to attend general assemblies will increase from KD100 to KD125, while the fee for issuing and renewing ration cards will be doubled from KD5 to KD10.

Ministry officials, who prepared the proposal, disclosed that the reconsideration of the fees stems from the disproportionate nature of the costs incurred by the ministry, results of a comparative study in the Gulf, and the fact that the fees have not been amended for many years, with some remaining unchanged for nearly 53 years.

AUGUST

Room Promotion

| Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday) | |
|--|--|
| Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night. | 2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night. |
| NOW | NOW |
| BHD 57.173 | BHD 128.000/-net |
| Weekends (Thursday & Friday) | |
| Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night. | 2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night. |
| NOW | NOW |
| BHD 76.230 -net | BHD 170.247-net |

Promo period from 1st August to 31st August 2025

Terms & conditions apply*

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351

Email: reservation@albander.com

www.albander.com

@albanderhotelandresort

Leaders express readiness to face regional threats unitedly

Kuwait, Oman seek to strengthen security partnership

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11, (KUNA): Kuwait's Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah met with visiting Omani Minister of Interior Humoud Al-Busaiddi Monday on ways of promoting the bilateral security partnership. During the meeting, they also looked into how to fur-

ther bolster bilateral cooperation and coordination to address regional and international security challenges, said the Ministry of Interior in a press release. A number of issues and matters that concern both sides were also considered to serve the mutual interests of both

countries and their brotherly peoples, according to the release. Omani Ambassador in Kuwait Dr. Saleh Al-Kharousi, Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Maj. Gen. Ali Al-Adwani and several senior security officials were present at the meeting.

Earlier in the day, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah welcomed the Omani Minister of Interior and his accompanying delegation. The Omani minister has left the country following his official visit.



Left: Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya receives the United Kingdom Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Belinda Lewis, on the occasion of the end of her term. Right: Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya receives the Canadian Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Aliya Mawani, on the occasion of the end of her term.



KUNA photos

Kuwait FM receives outgoing UK and Canadian Ambassadors

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received on Monday the outgoing United Kingdom Ambassador to Kuwait, Belinda Lewis. In a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Al-Yahya commended the ambassador's efforts and contributions to strengthening bilat-

eral ties between the two countries and wished her success in her future endeavors. Minister Al-Yahya also received on Tuesday the outgoing Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait, Aliya Mawani.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Al-Yahya commended the ambassador's efforts and contributions to strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries and wished her success in her future endeavors. (KUNA)

Efforts underway to revive key projects

Kuwait Fund looks into progress on Lebanon projects during visit

BEIRUT, Aug 11, (KUNA): The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development's (KFAED) visit to Lebanon aims to follow up on the progress of development projects it is financing there, its acting chief said on Monday. These development projects are highly instrumental in keeping Lebanon's economy on an upward trajectory, Waleed Al-Bahar told KUNA amid a visit to the Lebanese capital Beirut, citing the improvement of infrastructure and basic services as the core goal the KFAED-funded projects. The KFAED acting chief went on to say that he intends on meeting a number of top Lebanese officials in a bid to bolster bilateral economic cooperation, subsequently serving the "best interests" of Kuwait and Beirut, he underlined. On talks with the visiting KFAED acting chief, Lebanon's Finance Minister Yassine Jaber spoke of the need to salvage some development projects that may have been hampered by long-standing civil unrest in Lebanon, hoping that some key projects funded by the Kuwait-based fund would come to fruition shortly.



KUNA photo

The Acting Director General of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Waleed Al-Bahar, meets with Lebanese Finance Minister Yassine Jaber in Beirut.

Islamic Affairs unveils new framework

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Ministry of Islamic Affairs has announced the approval of its new organizational structure, reports Al-Anba daily. In a press statement, the ministry revealed that the reorganization of departments in its new organizational structure includes two assistant under-secretaries and five directors general. The ministry also confirmed that the new organizational structure is in line with the directive of the Cabi-

net on the development of the administrative system of the State and improvement of institutional performance. It aims to raise work efficiency, enhance the quality of services provided to the public, and distribute responsibilities in a manner that guarantees integration among various departments. It unveiled a comprehensive plan to implement the new organizational structure, which includes updating

internal procedures and conducting training programs to qualify human resources in order to meet the requirements of the next phase. It added that the new organizational structure was approved after a comprehensive technical and organizational study aimed at activating coordination between the sectors and simplify procedures; thus, speeding up the completion of work and raising the level of performance.

Shuwaikh Beach dev't nears completion for 2025 opening

Jahra Corniche project progresses

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The development of Shuwaikh Beach – one of the most prominent waterfront sites in the Capital – has reached its final stages, say sources from the Kuwait Municipality.

Sources said the final touches for the project are underway; including the completion of service facilities, and installation of signage and marine safety systems, in preparation for its official opening in the last quarter of 2025. Sources disclosed that the Capital Governorate Committee in the Municipality will approve the final opening date for the project in its meeting scheduled for early September. Sources pointed out this came after three official postponements due to the need to complete infrastructure and

services, particularly with regard to marine safety, walkways and other finishing touches. Sources confirmed that coordination is underway with the Tourism Enterprises Company (TEC) to determine the opening date; indicating that the project extends over a coastal area estimated at 150,000 square meters, with a commercial percentage of 1.5 percent and a recreational percentage of three percent. Sources said consists of distinct areas like sports fields and playgrounds, a sandy beach, an enclosed garden, multi-purpose areas and an interactive checkers game. In another development, sources also talked about the progress of the Jahra Corniche project. They said the environmental studies and the master plan were completed in the first quarter of 2025, and infrastructure work has started, reaching about 30 percent completion by the end of July. The project includes establishing the foundations for the seaside promenade, storm water drainage

network, green areas and initial planting. Sources pointed out that there was a delay in some construction packages due to the redesign of certain parts of the path based on the comments of the Environment Public Authority in order to reduce the environmental impact on the beach, along with the removal of 116 chalets obstructing the project. Sources affirmed that the Municipality is close to completing the preparation of the specifications booklet for the project; which includes a sea walkway, bicycle paths, green areas and recreational facilities to offer it to the private sector before the end of this year, in accordance with the rules and regulations. Sources added the first phase, which includes the walkway and basic facilities, is scheduled to open in the first quarter of 2026; while the remaining phases will be completed by the end of the same year.

Continued from Page 1

Scammers exploit

Through the newspaper, he appealed to the Ministry of Commerce and other relevant authorities to tighten oversight over installment-based sales and ensure that the identity and eligibility of buyers are thoroughly verified. He also highlighted a critical legal concern: under current regulations, sponsors may be held accountable for debts incurred by workers under their sponsorship. What seemed like a simple misunderstanding revealed a deeper, disturbing reality. The incident unraveled a sophisticated fraud scheme targeting domestic workers, orchestrated by organized criminal networks exploiting legal and financial loopholes. According to regulatory sources, these criminal groups prey on low-income expatriate workers, particularly domestic workers and drivers with limited legal knowledge. Meanwhile, Attorney Israa Al-Haddad confirmed that the activities of such networks fall under fraud and deception as defined by the Kuwaiti Penal Code. "If it is proven that documents or signatures were manipulated, these actions could also qualify as forgery of customary documents," she explained. Al-Haddad emphasized that sponsors have the right to pursue legal action for compensation due to both material and moral damages. She called for legislative reforms to enhance protection for domestic workers and advocated for educating the workers; warning workers against signing any documents without prior consultation with their sponsors. Sources speaking to the newspaper warned that this tactic is becoming increasingly common; detailing how the organized gangs operate as follows:

1. Luring workers: Targeting domestic and drivers who lack legal knowledge.
2. Small financial inducement: Offering small sums (KD50-KD100) in exchange for signing contracts to purchase devices on installment.
3. Photographic documentation: Filming the victim while signing to prove "seriousness of the contract" and prevent subsequent denial.
4. Immediate disposal: Selling phones and devices immediately at reduced prices, leaving the debts under the name of the victim.

Kuwait, Jordan

Al-Hatlani explained that military cooperation with Jordan, especially in the field of military judiciary, is distinguished and has witnessed significant modernization and development, noting the importance of strengthening the strategic partnership between the two armies. He noted that during his visit to the Jordanian Army's Military Judiciary Directorate, they discussed completing and following up on the joint legal cooperation protocol signed between the two sides in November 2023. He indicated that the directives of the Kuwaiti military leadership are keen to exchange expertise and enhance joint cooperation in various legal and military fields to develop the legal framework of the Kuwaiti army. Al-Hatlani stated that the visit program includes visits by the delegation to the military courts, the Court of Appeal, and the State Security Courts to review and learn about the nature of judicial work in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Major General Owaid Al-Hatlani was accompanied on the visit by

Brigadier General Qunais Al-Adwani, Brigadier General Nawaf Al-Shammari, Colonel Talal Al-Khashab, and Major Faisal Al-Sallal.

Kuwait mourns

The daily, deeply saddened by this loss, prays for God's mercy upon the deceased and extends its heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. "To God we belong and to Him we shall return."

Fleet expansion,

positive results. He expressed confidence in the continuous improvement of the performance of the airline in terms of services and revenues. He also affirmed the commitment of the airline to address all the comments and requests of the State Audit Bureau (SAB), stressing full cooperation in resolving past financial violations. He stated these violations have been reduced from 16 to seven that are currently under investigation, asserting the airline is taking all the necessary legal measures. On the achievements in 2024, he disclosed that "Kuwait Airways received its first Airbus A330-900NEO aircraft, named 'Boubyan'. The airline ranked first globally for the best in-flight meal quality, according to a report published by the Money Super Market website. It ranked third in the Middle East and Africa for flight punctuality, achieving a 91.13 percent on-time performance rate, based on the June 2024 report from CRIUM. It ranked 20th among the world's top 109 airlines and fifth in the Middle East, as per AirHelp's 2024 annual report."

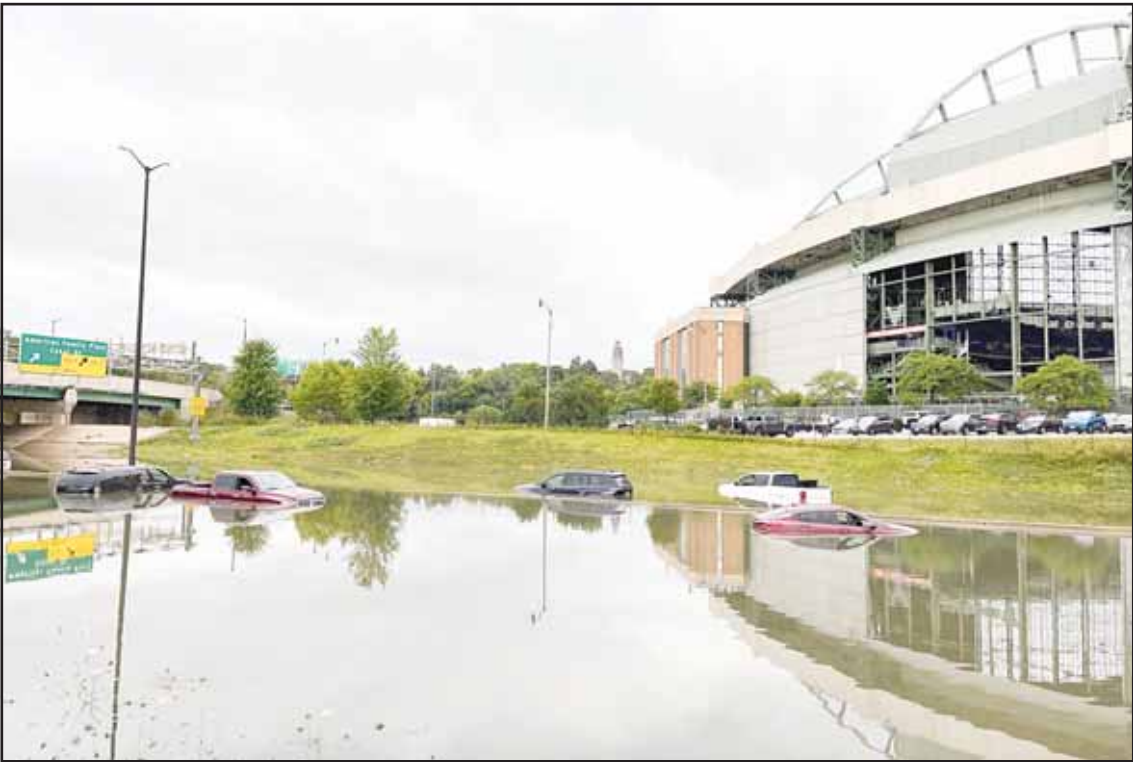
Al-Faqan added that Kuwait Airways signed several important partnership and cooperation agreements. One such agreement was with the Saudi Railways Company (SAR), enabling Kuwait's national carrier to sell tickets for the Haramain High-Speed Rail. The airline also strengthened its code-share agreement with Saudi Arabian Airlines, allowing the Kuwait Airways code to be used on Saudi flights to the United States. Furthermore, Kuwait Airways expanded its partnership with Amadeus – a company specializing in technology and innovation for the aviation sector – to enhance its electronic reservation systems. In addition, a cooperation agreement was signed with German airline FlexFlight (W2), enabling 'Blue Bird' customers to book train services operated by Deutsche Bahn AG. It signed a cooperation protocol with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) to offer a diploma program in Aviation and Air Transport Sciences at the Institute of Communications and Navigation. This program will train graduates of applied sciences for operational roles within the company. The agreement includes provisions for future employment opportunities at Kuwait Airways, subject to specific training and operational needs. He stressed that Kuwait Airways, as the national carrier of the State of Kuwait, is proud of its role in strengthening the country's position on the global aviation map and contributing to its economic and social development. He reaffirmed the commitment to achieve positive results, deliver top-tier services, and offer innovative and diverse travel solutions. He stated that Kuwait Airways is actively modernizing its services and aligning with developments in the aviation industry, whether by upgrading passenger services or enhancing

its technological infrastructure. He affirmed that the Board of Directors is expanding operations to improve financial performance and the airline's reputation. "The strategic plan is guided by core principles: upholding the highest standards of safety and security, ensuring top punctuality rates, and delivering superior customer service." In response to the question of the newspaper about the impact of the national carrier requirement for visitors entering Kuwait on 2024 profits, Al-Faqan said Kuwait Airways welcomes the opening of the country to all types of visits, as this supports Kuwait's economic interests. He noted that the requirement had only a slight effect on the airline's profits and was not significantly impactful.

Kuwait blasts

Al-Bannai affirmed the support of the GCC countries for these efforts and the keenness to enhance them in coordination with relevant international parties, in a way that contributes to breaking the cycle of violence. The Kuwaiti delegate referred to the high-level international conference for the peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue and the implementation of the two-state solution, welcoming the recognition of Palestine by a number of countries. Al-Bannai expressed the Gulf group's condemnation of the continued Israeli occupation violations in Jerusalem and the West Bank, including expansion of settlements, eviction and displacement, and repeated incursions into Islamic and Christian holy sites. Elsewhere, Australia will recognize a Palestinian state, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Monday, join-

ing the leaders of France, Britain and Canada in signaling they would do so. His remarks followed weeks of urging from within his Cabinet and from many in Australia to recognize a Palestinian state and amid growing criticism from officials in his government over suffering in Gaza, which Albanese on Monday referred to as a "humanitarian catastrophe." Australia's government has also criticized plans announced in recent days by Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu for a sweeping new military offensive in Gaza. Albanese told reporters after a Cabinet meeting Monday that Australia's decision to recognize a Palestinian state will be formalized at the United Nations General Assembly in September. The acknowledgement was "predicated on commitments Australia has received from the Palestinian Authority," Albanese said. Those commitments included no role for Hamas in a Palestinian government, demilitarization of Gaza and the holding of elections, he said. "A two-state solution is humanity's best hope to break the cycle of violence in the Middle East and to bring an end to the conflict, suffering and starvation in Gaza," Albanese said. "The situation in Gaza has gone beyond the world's worst fears," he said. "The Israeli government continues to defy international law and deny sufficient aid, food and water to desperate people, including children." Ahead of Albanese's announcement, Netanyahu on Sunday criticized Australia and other European countries that have moved to recognize a Palestinian state. "To have European countries and Australia march into that rabbit hole ... this canard, is disappointing and I think it's actually shameful," the Israeli leader said.



This image provided by CBS58 (WDJT) shows flooding through the streets of Milwaukee on Aug 10. (AP)

Severe storms knock out power, close roads in Midwest

Flash flooding canceled the final day of the Wisconsin State Fair on Sunday as continued heavy rainfall in half a dozen Midwest states forced motorists to abandon their vehicles, cut power to thousands of households and closed busy roadways.

Organizers of the Wisconsin State Fair said they were scrapping

the final day of the 11-day event after rains flooded the fairgrounds in West Allis, which is just outside Milwaukee.

“We are saddened we cannot deliver this final day of the Wisconsin State Fair, but know that this is the best decision with current conditions and the forecast ahead,” organizers said in a statement.

The National Weather Service issued flood watches and warnings for parts of Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin. After rainfall began on Saturday in some areas forecasters predicted “repeated rounds of heavy rain,” along with hail, damaging winds and isolated tornadoes into Monday. (AP)

US president promises new steps to tackle homelessness

Trump placing Washington police under federal control, deploying Nat’l Guard

WASHINGTON, Aug 11, (AP): US President Donald Trump said Monday he’s placing the Washington, DC, police department under federal control and deploying the National Guard to make the nation’s capital safer.

Trump has promised new steps to tackle homelessness and crime in Washington, prompting the city’s mayor to voice concerns about the potential use of the National Guard to patrol the streets.

Ahead of a news conference, Trump said Monday on social media that the nation’s capital would be “LIBERATED today!” He said he would end the “days of ruthlessly killing, or hurting, innocent people.”

For Trump, the effort to take over public safety in Washington reflects a next step in his law enforcement agenda after his aggressive push to stop illegal border crossings. But the move involves at least 500 federal law enforcement officials, raising fundamental questions about how an increasingly emboldened federal government will interact with its state and

local counterparts.

The president has used his social media and White House megaphones to message that his administration is tough on crime, yet his ability to shape policy might be limited outside of Washington, which has a unique status as a congressionally established federal district. Nor is it clear how his push would address the root causes of homelessness and crime.

About 500 federal law enforcement officers are being tasked with deploying throughout the nation’s capital as part of the Trump administration’s effort to combat crime, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Monday.

More than 100 FBI agents and about 40 agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are among federal law enforcement personnel being assigned to patrols in Washington, the person briefed on the plans said. The Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Marshals



The US Capitol building gives backdrop to a homeless man resting on a steam vent on the National Mall, Dec 18, 2019, on Capitol Hill in Washington. (AP)

Service are also contributing officers.

The person was not authorized to publicly discuss personnel matters

Congress starts to ask questions

Trump big bill powering mass deportations

WASHINGTON, Aug 11, (AP): US President Donald Trump’s border czar Tom Homan visited Capitol Hill just weeks after Inauguration Day, with other administration officials and a singular message: They needed money for the White House’s border security and mass deportation agenda.

By summer, Congress delivered.

The Republican Party’s big bill of tax breaks and spending cuts that Trump signed into law July 4 included what’s arguably the biggest boost of funds yet to the Department of Homeland Security - nearly \$170 billion, almost double its annual budget.

The staggering sum is powering the nation’s sweeping new Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations, delivering gripping scenes of people being pulled off city streets and from job sites across the nation - the cornerstone of Trump’s promise for the largest domestic deportation operation in American history. Homeland Security confirmed over the weekend ICE is working to set up detention sites at certain military bases.

“We’re getting them out at record numbers,” Trump said at the White House bill signing ceremony. “We have an obligation to, and we’re doing it.”

The crush of new money is setting off alarms in Congress and beyond, raising questions from lawmakers in both major political parties who are expected to provide oversight. The bill text provided general funding categories - almost \$30 billion for ICE officers, \$45 billion for detention facilities,



Federal agents escort a family to a transport bus after they were detained following an appearance at immigration court on July 22, in San Antonio, Texas. (AP)

\$10 billion for the office of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem - but few policy details or directives. Homeland Security recently announced \$50,000 ICE hiring bonuses.

And it’s not just the big bill’s fresh infusion of funds fueling the president’s agenda of 1 million deportations a year.

In the months since Trump took office, his administration has been shifting as much as \$1 billion from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other accounts to pay for immigration enforcement and deportation operations, lawmakers said.

“Your agency is out of control,” Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., told Noem during a Senate committee hearing in the spring.

The senator warned that Homeland Security would “go broke” by July.

Noem quickly responded that she always lives within her budget.

But Murphy said later in a letter to Homeland Security, objecting to its repurposing funds, that ICE was being directed to spend at an “indefensible and unsustainable rate to build a mass deportation army,” often without approval from Congress.

US-Russia summit can’t decide on Ukraine land swaps, says Europe

BRUSSELS, Aug 11, (AP): Ukraine and its backers in Europe insist that the United States and Russia cannot decide on land swaps behind their backs at a summit this week, but the Europeans concede that Moscow is unlikely to give up control of Ukrainian land it holds.

Ahead of the summit in Alaska on Friday, US President Donald Trump suggested that a peace deal could include “some swapping of territories,” but the Europeans see no sign that Russia will offer anything to swap. Europeans and Ukrainians so far are not invited to the summit.

European Union foreign ministers are meeting on Monday following talks on Ukraine among US and European security advisers over the weekend. They are concerned that President Vladimir Putin will try to claim a political victory by portraying Ukraine as inflexible.

Concerns have mounted in Europe and Ukraine that Kyiv may be pressed to give up land or accept other curbs on its sovereignty. Ukraine and its European allies reject the notion that Putin



Ukrainian soldiers from air-defence unit of 59th brigade fire at Russian strike drones in Dnipropetrovsk region, Ukraine on Aug 10. (AP)

should lay claim to any territory even before agreeing to a ceasefire.

“As we work towards a sustainable and just peace, international law is clear: All temporarily occupied territories belong to Ukraine,” EU foreign

policy chief Kaja Kallas said ahead of the ministerial meeting.

“A sustainable peace also means that aggression cannot be rewarded,” Kallas said.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said “it must be obvious to Poland and our European partners - and I hope to all of NATO - that state borders cannot be changed by force.” Any land swaps or peace terms “must be agreed upon with Ukraine’s participation,” he said, according to Polish news agency PAP.

On Sunday, Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Germany would not accept that territorial issues be discussed or decided by Russia and the United States “over the heads” of Europeans or Ukrainians.

Still, it’s hard to ignore the reality on the ground.

Russia in 2022 illegally annexed the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in Ukraine’s east, and Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in the south, even though it doesn’t fully control them. It also occupies the Crimean Peninsula, which it seized in 2014.



A view of a fire on Arthur’s Seat in Holyrood Park, in Edinburgh, Scotland on Aug 10. (AP)

Firefighters battle large gorse fire at Scottish tourist attraction

Firefighters battled overnight to tackle a large gorse fire that spread across a landmark hill in Edinburgh.

Emergency services were alerted to the blaze at Arthur’s Seat late Sunday afternoon. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service said early Monday two fire appliances remained at the scene and crews were helping dampen down hotspots.

There have been no reports of any casualties.

Plumes of black smoke could be seen billowing into the sky from the extinct volcano in Holyrood Park as the fire burned.

“Operations Control mobilized four fire appliances and specialist resources to a fire affecting a large area of gorse,” an SFRS spokesperson said. The cause of the blaze is currently unclear.

Arthur’s Seat is a popular tourist attraction in the Scottish capital. From the hill’s peak, visitors can enjoy panoramic views of the old city and the surrounding area, including the sea to the east.

The fire came as the city kicked off its annual Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the world’s largest performance arts festival. (AP)

Kosovo vets rally against EU-backed court prosecuting former independence fighters

PRISTINA, Kosovo, Aug 11, (AP): Kosovo war veterans held a protest against a European Union-backed court prosecuting their former fighters who waged the 1998-99 war for independence from Serbia, claiming the tribunal is biased and unjust.

Thousands gathered in Kosovo’s capital of Pristina, at the main Scanderbeg Square, to chant in support of arrested former leaders of the Kosovo Liberation Army, or KLA - a Kosovo Albanian guerrilla group that led the pro-independence fight.

The protest was organized by the veterans association known as OVL-UCK under the motto: “Together against injustice. KLA is glory, not indictment. Today KLA, tomorrow our whole history.”

No violence was reported.

“They are heroes,” read one poster, with the names of the four KLA leaders facing trial at the EU-backed Kosovo Specialist Chambers court, based in The Hague, Netherlands.

“The special court is deforming our history, it is showing injustice toward those who fought for human freedom and dignity,” said Hysni Gucati, head



Former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) member Pjeter Shala attends his trial as judges at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers will hand down a judgment in The Hague, Netherlands on July 16, 2024. (AP)

Veseli and Jakup Krasniqi, and ex-lawmaker Rexhep Selimi. They face charges that include murder, torture and persecution of civilians during and after the war.

The court and an associated prosecutor’s office were created after a 2011 report by the Council of Europe, a human rights body, that included allegations that KLA fighters trafficked human organs taken from prisoners and killed Serbs and fellow ethnic Albanians. The organ harvesting allegations haven’t been included in indictments issued by the court.

Two other former KLA members have already been sentenced by The Hague court, including Pjeter Shala. Also, Gucati, and another official of the organization have been convicted by the court in the Netherlands of witness intimidation and obstructing justice.

Some 11,400 people, mostly ethnic Albanians, died during the war, before a NATO bombing campaign forced Serbia to pull its troops out of Kosovo and to cede control of its former province to the United Nations and NATO.

America

Six killed in Maryland house fire: A fire ripped through a house in Charles County, Maryland, on Sunday, killing four children and two adults, authorities said.

One person managed to escape the blaze reported around 8:40 a.m. at the home in Waldorf, about 55 miles (88 kilometers) south of Baltimore, WTOP-TV reported.

It took about 70 firefighters more than an hour to control the flames. One firefighter was hospitalized and another first responder was treated at the scene for unspecified injuries.

The cause of the fire was under investigation. Master Deputy State Fire Marshal **Oliver Alkire** said the blaze originated on the right side of the home within an enclosed porch.

The ages and names of the victims were not released as of Sunday evening.

Alkire said officials didn’t immediately know if the residence had working smoke alarms. (AP)



Alkire

Colorado prison evacuated: A Colorado prison was evacuated as one of the largest wildfires in state history continued to grow, and officials warned residents of remote areas to be ready to leave Sunday as gusty winds and low humidity fed the flames.

Evacuation orders were already in place for mountain communities as the Lee Fire charred more than 167 square miles (433 square kilometers) across Garfield and Rio Blanco counties, with just 6% containment. No injuries or structural damage has been reported.

All 179 incarcerated people were safely removed from the Rifle Correctional Center on Saturday “out of an abundance of caution,” the Colorado Department of Corrections said in a statement. They were temporarily relocated about 150 miles (240 kilometers) away to the Buena Vista Correctional Complex, the department said.

The Lee Fire, churning through trees and brush about 250 miles (400 kilometers) west of Denver, is now the sixth-largest single fire in the state’s history, according to the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control.

More than a thousand firefighters are battling the blaze, working to keep the flames to the west of Colorado 13 and north of County Road 5, officials said.

Health officials issued air quality warnings related to smoke from the Lee Fire and the 23-square-mile (60-square-kilometer) Elk Fire burning just to the east. (AP)

Some lawmakers detained

India’s opposition parties protest against controversial electoral roll revision

NEW DELHI, Aug 11, (AP): India’s opposition parties held a protest Monday calling for the rollback of a controversial revision of the voter list in one of the country’s poorest states, where key elections are scheduled in November, and warning it could lead to voter disenfranchisement.

Hundreds of lawmakers and supporters began the protest from parliament and were confronted by police, who stopped them from marching towards the election commission office in the capital, New Delhi. Police briefly detained some lawmakers, including opposition leader Rahul Gandhi.

India’s opposition accuses the Election Commission of India of rushing through a mammoth electoral roll revision in eastern Bihar state, saying the exercise could render vast numbers of citizens unable to vote. The revision of nearly 80 million voters involves strict documenta-

tion requirements from citizens, triggering concerns it could lead to the exclusion of vulnerable groups, especially those who are unable to produce the paperwork required to prove their citizenship.

Some of the documents required include birth certificates, passports and matriculation records. Critics and opposition leaders say they are hard to come by in Bihar, where the literacy rate is among the lowest in India. They say the exercise will impact minorities the most, including Muslims, and disallow them from voting.

India does not have a unique national identity card. The widely used biometric-linked identity card, called “Aadhaar,” is not among the documents listed by the poll body as acceptable proof for the electoral roll revision.

The election agency has denied the allegations and said it has ensured no eligible voter is “left behind.” It has



Congress party leader and leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi, (center), and other parties lawmakers are stopped by police during a protest calling for the rollback of a controversial revision of the voter list in one of the country’s poorest states where key elections are scheduled in November, in New Delhi, India on Aug 11. (AP)

also said the “intensive revision” is a routine update to ensure the accuracy of electoral rolls and is needed

to avoid the “inclusion of the names of foreign illegal immigrants.” According to the commission,

some 49.6 million voters whose names were included in a similar exercise in 2003 are not required to submit any further documents. But that still leaves almost 30 million other voters potentially vulnerable. A similar roll revision of voters is scheduled to be replicated across the nation of 1.4 billion people.

Bihar is a crucial election battleground state where Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party has only ever governed in a coalition. Poll results there could likely impact the balance of power in India’s Parliament, where Modi’s government relies on coalition partners, including a regional party from Bihar.

Modi’s BJP has backed the revision and said it is necessary to update new voters and delete the names of those who have either died or moved to other states. It has also claimed the exercise is essential to weed out

undocumented Muslim immigrants from neighboring Bangladesh who have fraudulently entered India’s electoral rolls.

Critics and opposition leaders have warned that the exercise is similar to that of a controversial 2019 citizenship list in India’s eastern Assam state, which left nearly 2 million people at risk of statelessness. Many of those left off the final citizenship list were Muslims. They have been declared “foreigners” and some of them faced long periods of detention.

Gandhi, the opposition leader, made public last week his Congress Party’s analysis from southern Karnataka state that alleged nearly 100,000 votes cast for an assembly seat in the 2024 general election were fraudulent. India’s election commission dismissed his claims.

“A clean voter roll is imperative for free and fair elections,” Gandhi said Sunday in a post on X.

Massive mudslide kills 8 volunteers repairing flood damage in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Aug 11, (Agencies): At least eight people were killed and four others injured on Monday in a landslide incident in the Gilgit district in the northern region of Pakistan, the local police said.

According to the police, a group of volunteers was busy with restoration work on the flood-affected stream named Danyor in Gilgit, a district in the country’s Gilgit-Baltistan region, when the incident happened.

“The victims were part of a community team working to repair a water channel which was badly damaged by recent floods. Unfortunately, mud and rocks from the nearby mountain suddenly collapsed, burying several people under the debris,” said the police.

Rescue teams, police and locals rushed to the site and managed to pull out eight bodies and four wounded from the debris.

Bodies and the injured were shifted to the nearby hospital, where two of the wounded were reportedly in critical condition.

Search operations would continue for others feared trapped, said the police, adding that warnings had been issued to the public to keep themselves safe from the sliding areas.

Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan expressed deep



Local residents look at a damaged portion of Karakoram Highway following a flash flood triggered by a glacial lake outburst damaged highway and nearby areas, near Gilgit, in northern Pakistan on Aug 10. (AP)

after the mudslide hit the town of Danyor in Gilgit-Baltistan at dawn and transported the injured to a hospital, said Faizullah Faraq, a regional government spokesperson.

This came a day after a flash flood triggered by a glacial lake outburst damaged the key Karakoram Highway, which passes through Danyor, disrupting traffic and trade between Pakistan and China. Engineers and workers were deployed along with heavy machinery to start repairs, Faraq said Monday.

Meanwhile, several landslides near the damaged mountainous highway left homes damaged in Danyor and nearby areas as first responders evacuated those affected by the floods to safer areas, said Hassan Ali, a local police chief, adding that essential foods were being provided to those displaced.

Sunday’s glacial lake outburst was huge, Ali said, swelling the Hunza river and triggering flash flooding that battered crops. Authorities were still assessing the damage, he said.

Gilgit-Baltistan is known for its scenic glaciers that provide 75% of the country’s stored water supply, according to the region’s official website. Last month, it was hit by landslides, killing 18 tourists when flash floods swept away their vehicles.

South Korea’s President Lee Jae Myung to pardon jailed ex-Justice Minister Cho Kuk

SEOUL, South Korea, Aug 11, (Agencies): South Korea’s president will pardon jailed former justice minister and liberal ally Cho Kuk this week, officials said Monday, cutting short his two-year sentence for falsifying academic records to help his children enter prestigious schools. The decision will also reinstate Cho’s right to run in elections, likely reviving a political career once seen as having presidential aspirations. But it could also prove to be a divisive move for liberal President Lee Jae Myung, as the scandal surrounding Cho had struck a deep nerve in a country notorious for its educational zeal and fiercely competitive school environment.

Lee, who won an early election in June to replace ousted conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol, said pardoning Cho and some other convicted politicians and public officials, including some conservatives, would help promote political unity.

But the conservative People Power Party criticized the pardon, accusing Lee of arrogance and abusing his presidential powers to release and reinstate Cho, who “trampled on the fairness and common sense of future generations.”

The party was also critical of Lee’s decision to pardon former liberal lawmaker Yoon Meehyang, who was convicted of embezzling funds while leading a group supporting Korean survivors of Japan’s wartime sexual slavery. Cho will be among 2,188 people - including convicted politicians, business leaders, and former officials - receiving pardons on Friday’s Liberation Day, which marks the Korean Peninsula’s liberation from Japanese colonial rule at the end of World War II. Cho, who launched the minor Rebuilding Korea Party before last April’s legislative elections, had been serving a two-year prison term since December after the Supreme Court upheld various charges, including abuse of power and forging documents to help his children enter elite schools. The controversy, which erupted in 2019 and forced Cho to resign as justice minister, fueled public anger in a country grappling with widening inequality and an intensely competitive education



Cho Kuk, leader of the South Korean Rebuilding Korea Party, clenches his fist during a campaign rally for the upcoming parliamentary election on April 10, in Seoul, South Korea, on April 4. (AP)

system, and hurt the popularity of then-liberal President Moon Jae-in.

Cho’s party supported Lee’s candidacy during the June presidential election, which was set up after Yoon was formally removed from office in April over his short-lived martial law imposition in December.

Meanwhile, Lee’s approval rating fell 0.3 percentage points from a week earlier to 71.3 percent last week, a weekly poll showed Monday.

The negative assessment of Lee’s conduct of state affairs rose 1.6 percentage points to 27.7 percent, according to computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) by local pollster Flower Research.

The ruling liberal Democratic Party’s support increased 1.4 percentage points to 56.7 percent, while the conservative opposition People Power Party’s approval score gained 2.6 percentage points to 25.3 percent.

Asia

Torrential rains in Japan cause flooding: Downpours on Japan’s southern main island of Kyushu caused flooding and mudslides on Monday, injuring a number of people and disrupting travel during a Buddhist holiday week. Evacuation advisories were issued and several reported missing.

A low-pressure system has been stuck over the region since last week, dumping torrential rain over the southern prefecture of Kagoshima and the island’s northern part.

The Japan Meteorological Agency early Monday issued the highest-level warning in the prefecture of Kumamoto, saying rainfall had exceeded 40 centimeters (15.7 inches) in the last 24 hours and more was expected through Tuesday afternoon over Kyushu. The agency later downgraded the alert for Kumamoto as the showers moved east toward the Tokyo region, but kept a lower-level warning for western Japan, where up to 20 cm (7.8 inches) of rainfall was expected by noon Tuesday.

The Fire and Disaster Management Agency said local authorities have issued evacuation advisories to tens of thousands of people in Kumamoto and six other prefectures in the region. Defense troops were deployed to Kagoshima to provide fresh water to the residents in the affected areas, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said.

In Kumamoto, rescue workers were looking for three people: a family of three hit by a mudslide while driving to an evacuation center. Two were dug out alive, but a third person was still missing. Two others were missing elsewhere in the prefecture.

Several other people were also reported missing after falling into swollen rivers in Kumamoto and the nearby Fukuoka prefecture. (AP)



A person walks through a flooded parking lot of a store in Kumamoto, southern Japan on Aug 11. (AP)

rential rains have resulted in the evacuation of more than 15,000 residents in southwest China’s Chongqing Municipality, local authorities said on Monday.

According to the municipal meteorological department, heavy downpours hit 16 districts and counties in Chongqing from 7 a.m. on Sunday to 7 a.m. on Monday. The heaviest precipitation was recorded in Hechuan District, reaching 167 mm.

As of 6 a.m. on Monday, over 15,000 people had been evacuated in Chongqing, the municipal emergency management department said.

The municipal meteorological observatory and hydrological monitoring station forecast heavy to torrential rainfall across multiple regions of Chongqing from day to night on Monday, including the central urban area, central and southeastern parts, and southern sections of the northeastern section. (Xinhua)



Colombia Sen Uribe Turbay dies

Colombian conservative senator and presidential hopeful Miguel Uribe Turbay died Monday, more than two months after being shot during a campaign rally in western Bogotá.

His wife, María Claudia Tarazona, confirmed the 39-year-old’s death early Monday.

Uribe Turbay was critically wounded on June 7 during a campaign rally in the country’s capital, suffering gunshot wounds to the head and leg. He underwent emergency surgery and remained hospitalized in intensive care until his death.

A teenage suspect was arrested at the scene, and authorities have since detained several others.

The incident has raised renewed concerns about political violence in the country. (AP)

Africa

Thousands of Ivoirians protest: Thousands of Ivoirians took to the streets in Abidjan, the capital of the West African nation, to protest against the exclusion of opposition leaders from the upcoming presidential election.

Ivory Coast, a nation of 32 million that is the biggest economy of francophone West Africa, is due to hold a presidential vote in October. Earlier this year four main opposition figures, including former president Laurent Gbagbo and former Credit Suisse chief executive Tidjane Thiam, were barred from running by the electoral commission.

Protesters gathered Saturday morning in Yopougon, a densely populated suburb of the capital Abidjan, holding banners with messages such as: “Enough is enough!” and “No true democracy without true justice.”

Gbagbo and Thiam joined forces earlier this year to challenge incumbent President Alassane Ouattara. The 83-year-old leader announced last month that he would seek a fourth presidential term. His candidacy is contested after he changed the constitution in 2016 to remove presidential term limits. (AP)

‘Hand over Lungu’s body for burial at home’: South African court on Friday ruled in favor of the government of Zambia and ordered that it can repatriate the remains of its former president and bury him in his home country, against his family’s wishes.

The Zambian government and the family of the late Edgar Lungu, Zambian president from 2015 to 2021, have been embroiled in a legal battle over his remains and burial.

Lungu died in June, aged 68, at a South African hospital following an undisclosed illness. (AP)

South Sudanese president, Ugandan defense chief hold talks on security

KAMPALA, Aug 11, (Xinhua): South Sudanese President Salva Kiir and visiting Ugandan Chief of Defense Forces Muhoozi Kainerugaba have held talks on strengthening regional stability.

The Ugandan military said in a statement issued here late Saturday that during a meeting held in the South Sudanese capital of Juba on the same day, Kiir commended Uganda for its role in maintaining peace in South Sudan.

Uganda has its troops deployed in South Sudan at the request of the South Sudanese government following clashes between rebel forces and government troops.

Kainerugaba said Uganda will continue to foster stronger ties with South Sudan.

After meeting Kiir, Kainerugaba visited the tactical headquarters of Operation Mlinzi Wa Kimya, a Swahili phrase meaning “Silent Guardian,” where he interacted with Ugandan troops and commanders overseeing the mission.

These engagements underscore the deepening military and security partnership between Kampala and Juba, according to the statement.

The meeting came after at least four soldiers were killed late last month during clashes between Ugandan and South Sudanese troops at a disputed border area.



South Sudan President Salva Kiir addresses the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Sept 21, 2023. (AP)

The two neighboring East African countries have yet to resolve the land dispute in Uganda’s Yumbe and Moyo districts, which border South Sudan’s Kajo-Keji area.

Uganda and South Sudan established a working committee to settle ongoing tensions at the border area, which have involved confrontations between the two militaries and occasionally sparked diplomatic concern.

‘Defend regional sovereignty’

Mexico slams latest anti-migrant raids in US

MEXICO CITY, Aug 11, (Xinhua): Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum on criticized the latest anti-migrant raids in the United States, vowing to protect Mexican nationals staying in the neighboring country.

“We do not agree with the raids, and we will protect and help our compatriots,” the Mexican president said at her daily press conference.

Sheinbaum, who has urged efforts for the role of migrants in the U.S. economy to be recognized, has worked to strengthen Mexico’s consular service in the U.S. to protect Mexicans deported or detained, including the Mexicans being held at the “Alligator Alcatraz” detention center in the U.S. state of Florida, according to Rutilio Escandon Cadenas, the Mexican general consul in Miami, Florida.

From Jan. 20 to Aug. 1, more than 75,900 Mexicans were repatriated from the U.S., according to the Mexican government.

Also:

BOGOTA: Colombian President Gustavo Petro on Sunday called on Latin American countries to safeguard regional sovereignty against possible U.S. military operations to combat drug cartels in the region.



Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum gives her daily morning press conference at the National Palace in Mexico City on Feb 3. (AP)

“Any military operation that is not approved by our sister countries is an attack on Latin America and the Caribbean. It is a fundamental contradiction to our principle of freedom,” Petro warned in a post on social media platform X.

His warning comes after US newspaper The New York Times reported Friday that US President Donald Trump had signed an executive order authorizing the Pentagon to carry out military operations against drug cartels in Latin

America.

Petro, in his capacity as commander of the Colombian Armed Forces, announced that he had ordered the military to defend the country’s freedom from foreign incursions and expressed his strong support for the people of Venezuela to do the same.

The Colombian president responded to a Venezuelan Armed Forces video rejecting any US attempt to exploit anti-drug efforts as an excuse to destabilize the Venezuelan government led by President Nicolás Maduro, and called on both countries to work together to combat the scourge.

Petro said on X on Saturday that his government is willing to cooperate with the United States and any country to strengthen the fight against drug trafficking organizations through actions such as seizures and decisive blows to the finances of drug lords, as long as they are carried out based on respect for national sovereignty.

He called on the international community to focus on combating the most dangerous illegal drugs and to support vulnerable social groups such as farmers, indigenous communities, youth, and marginalized ethnic groups to help combat drug trafficking.

Dinar holds steady against US dollar

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11, (KUNA): The exchange rate of the US dollar remained stable at KD 0.305 on Monday, according to the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). Meanwhile, the euro edged higher by 0.25% to KD 0.356 compared to Sunday's rate. The British pound rose 0.08% to KD 0.411, and the Swiss franc gained 0.18% to KD 0.378. The Japanese yen held steady at KD 0.002.

Business

Return on equity at 3.04%, ROA 1.79%

The Commercial Real Estate Company achieves profit of KD 9.06 mln in H1 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Mr. Abdulfatah M.R. Marafie - Chairman of The Commercial Real Estate Company (Al-Tijaria) has stated that the business outcome of the company for the financial period which ended on 30.06.2025, resulted in achieving net profits of KD 9,062,343 (Kuwaiti Dinar Nine Million sixty-two thousand three hundred forty-three only).

According to the financial results of the 1st half of the year 2025, Marafie stated that the 1st half witnessed stability in the net operating revenues, and the results of associate companies' and reduction in the value of investment compared to the same period last year. In terms of financial indicators for the 1st half of current year the return on shareholders' equity reached 3.04%, return on total assets 1.79%, and return on the company's capital by 4.78%.

Mr. Marafie affirmed that Al-Tijaria remains committed to sustainable growth by enhancing performance, diversifying local and international income sources, and aligning its strategy with market conditions to strengthen its financial position and protect

shareholders' rights. In line with this vision, Al-Tijaria has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with China State Construction Engineering Corporation Ltd. (CSCEC), a global construction and engineering firm, to jointly explore and collaborate on a range of strategically selected development projects tendered by governmental authorities in Kuwait. Notably, Al-Tijaria has recently been qualified to participate in bids issued by Kuwait Municipality, including the development of Red Castle Village, the Educational, Cultural, and Entertainment Center Project on Abdullah Al-Ahmad Street, and the Development of Souq Al-Mubarakia and its associated parking facilities.

Recently, a subsidiary of Al-Tijaria has signed a partnership agreement with the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) to develop a 22-year project over a total plot size of 12,575 square meter in Qairawan area (Q1) of Kuwait. The project will comprise of a commercial complex, a health club and public parking to serve the project under the system of design, development, financing,



Abdulfatah M.R. Marafie, Chairman of The Commercial Real Estate Company (Al-Tijaria)

operation, management and maintenance.

Additionally, Al-Tijaria signed a strategic partnership agreement with GFH Capital

(GFHC), a Saudi-based subsidiary of GFH Financial Group. Under this agreement, Al-Tijaria will act as technical advisor to one of GFHC's Logistics Funds in Saudi Arabia and the GCC.

Mr. Marafie stated that The Commercial Real Estate Company continuously commits to enhancing its vital role in social responsibility and seeks to effectively implement corporate governance principles. In this context, the company is dedicated to organizing events that serve the community and encourage a spirit of support.

The Commercial Real Estate Company successfully hosted the "Ishraqat Amal 10" event, which focused on supporting children with special needs through art. This event provided a meaningful platform for the children to express their creativity, showcasing paintings, crafts, and handmade works. The initiative not only celebrated their artistic talents but also aimed to raise awareness and foster inclusion within the community. The event received overwhelming support, reflecting the company's ongoing commitment to creating positive changes and making a

lasting impact on the lives of children with special needs.

Mr. Abdulfatah Marafie extended his sincere gratitude and appreciation to the shareholders, the board of directors, and all employees of the company for their dedicated efforts and continuous support; reaffirming that The Commercial Real Estate Company is dedicating all its capabilities and capacities to achieve its future vision through ongoing efforts to develop and expand its investments in accordance with the established plans, aiming to foster continuous growth and deliver outstanding profits and added value to the shareholders.

Marafie concluded his statement by praying to God to protect Kuwait and its people from all harm, and for Kuwait to enjoy peace, prosperity and stability under the wise leadership of His Highness, the Emir of the country, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, may God preserve and protect them.



Jamal Al-Loughani, Secretary General of AEO

KUNA photo

Gas capacity up 38% since 2000

Arab states urged to invest in gas storage

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11, (KUNA): Secretary General of the Arab Energy Organization (AEO) Jamal Al-Loughani has affirmed that underground storage of natural gas is a strategic option considering its economic feasibility and positive ecological impact.

Al-Loughani noted that injection of the natural gas into underground strata such as depleted gas fields, salt caverns or deepwater reservoirs is an option at times of dwindling demand.

This process has also become a backup for energy transformation, integration of renewable energy resources and a contributor to attaining a sustainable energy system.

Mounting international demand for natural gas has led to rising interest in investing in underground storage as the process is helpful for balancing

supply and demand, Al-Loughani said in a statement to KUNA marking release of a study themed, "Underground gas storage and its role in achieving energy security."

These underground cavities have expanded to 15.44 trillion cubic feet in 2023 compared to 11.1 trillion cubic feet in 2000, a 38 percent increase, he said, backing up his statement.

Investment in the underground gas storage in the Arab states has become a strategic necessity for ensuring continuous supplies, coping with energy crises, backing up energy transformation and integration with hydrogen, said Al-Loughani, the Secretary General of the Arab Energy Organization, formerly known as the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

'Key to global energy stability'

OPEC stresses need for more crude oil, not less

VIENNA, Aug 11, (KUNA): The OPEC Secretariat has emphasized that short-term stability in energy markets is essential to ensuring a sustainable future for the global energy industry.

In a post on its official account on platform X, the Secretariat stressed that the world needs more crude oil and its derivatives, not less, in order to maintain economic and global energy stability.

OPEC reiterated its view that oil will remain a key component of the global energy mix for decades to come, adding that meeting the growing demand for crude is crucial to sustaining global economic growth and market stability.

The statement comes amid increasing international discussions on the transition to renewable energy sources, while oil markets continue to face challenges stemming from price fluctuations and global demand.

All Share Index gains 0.33% to 8,677.90

Boursa Kuwait closes higher on Monday

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11, (KUNA): Kuwait's stock market ended Monday's session in positive territory, with all major indices recording gains.

The All Share Index advanced 28.49 points, or 0.33%, to close at 8,677.90 points. Trading activity saw 461.2 million shares change hands in 29,450 transactions, with a total market value of KD 102.8 million (USD 313.5 million).

In the Main Market, the index climbed 71.02 points (or 0.93%) to reach 7,745.89 points, supported by active trading of 304.19 million shares carried

out through 20,342 transactions, worth KD 46.6 million (USD 142.13 million).

The Premier Market Index also posted a modest gain, rising 19.27 points (or 0.21%) to end at 9,339.22 points, with 157 million shares traded through 9,108 transactions, valued at KD 56.18 million (USD 171.3 million).

Meanwhile, the Main 50 Index added 25.58 points (or 0.34%) to close at 7,657.48 points, with 236.2 million shares traded in 13,360 cash transactions, worth KD 36 million (USD 109.8 million).

14 IPOs signal resilient regional markets

MENA IPOs raise \$2.5 bln in Q2 2025

DUBAI, Aug 11: According to the latest EY MENA IPO Eye report, markets in the MENA region saw 14 IPOs during Q2 2025, raising US\$2.5bn in proceeds. This marks a 4% increase in capital raised when compared to Q1 2025, demonstrating sustained investor appetite and the resilience of regional capital markets.

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the second quarter's largest IPO was flynas, which debuted on the Tadawul Main Market and accounted for 44% of Q2's total proceeds. This was followed by Specialized Medical Company, which raised US\$500m, and United Carton Industries Company with US\$160m.

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Dubai Financial Market (DFM) welcomed Dubai Residential REIT, which raised US\$584m. The listing marks a significant milestone as the largest Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) by market capitalization in the GCC and the first pure-play residential leasing REIT in the region.

Brad Watson, MENA EY-Parthenon Leader, says:

"The second quarter of this year has reinforced the MENA region's position as a resilient and dynamic IPO market. In spite of investors practicing caution, we have seen strong growth. The diversity of sectors represented, along with milestone listings such as Dubai Residential REIT, highlights the depth of opportunities across the region. With a healthy pipeline for the remainder of 2025, we expect this momentum to continue."



Gregory Hughes, MENA EY-Parthenon IPO Leader

- KSA led listing activity during Q2 2025 with 13 IPOs across sectors such as transportation and healthcare, raising a total of US\$1.9b
- The UAE saw the listing of Dubai Residential REIT, which raised US\$584m
- IPO momentum to continue across the MENA region with 14 companies intending to list during H2 2025, including 10 from KSA and offerings from non-GCC markets

While after-market performance varied, with 10 of the 14 IPOs closing below their offer price on debut, five listings recorded gains, reflecting a cautious investor sentiment. Companies are in-

creasingly strategic about market timing, carefully assessing investor sentiment and macroeconomic conditions before going public.

In terms of equity market performance, the Boursa Kuwait Premier Market Index led regional gains in Q2 2025, rising 17.2%, while other markets posted mixed results.

Shift toward secondary listings

The nature of IPO proceeds in Q2 2025 reflects a notable shift, with secondary listings accounting for 64.3% of all IPOs, up from 35.7% in Q1 2025. This suggests a preference among issuers for shareholder exits over new capital raising, further demonstrating a more cautious approach amid ongoing market uncertainty.

Gregory Hughes, MENA EY-Parthenon IPO Leader, says:

"KSA continues to set the pace for IPO activity in the MENA region, attracting strong interest across multiple sectors. At the same time, landmark transactions in the UAE show how regional exchanges are evolving to meet the needs of a broadening investor base. This diversity, combined with continued enhancements in market governance, is key to sustaining long-term growth."

The outlook for MENA IPOs in the second half of 2025 remains strong, supported by a healthy pipeline of 14 planned listings across a range of sectors. KSA continues to lead with 10 anticipated offerings, while upcoming activity from Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco highlights the region's expanding market depth and diversification.

Abu Dhabi AI sector grows 61% in one year

ABU DHABI, Aug 11, (Xinhua): Abu Dhabi's artificial intelligence (AI) sector grew 61 percent between June 2023 and June 2024, hosting 673 AI companies, the United Arab Emirates' state-run news agency WAM reported Monday.

Meanwhile, for the first six months of this year, the emirate saw the launch of 150 new AI companies, WAM reported, citing data from the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, adding that "over 58 percent of all AI firms in the emirate are dedicated to innova-

tion, research, and consultancy."

WAM noted that there were about 90,904 AI companies recorded globally as of 2024.

"Abu Dhabi's artificial intelligence sector is rapidly evolving from early adoption to real-world transformation, with a growing

share of activity rooted in research, strategic consultancy, and enterprise-level solutions," WAM quoted Shamis Al Khalafan Al Dhaheiri, second vice chairman and managing director of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as saying.

Company awarded winners of 'Most Innovative Idea' in partnership with LOYAC

Zain celebrates 10 years of the KON Social Entrepreneurship Program

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Zain Kuwait, the strategic partner of LOYAC, took part in the closing ceremony of the KON Social Entrepreneurship Program's 10th season, hosted by the American University of Kuwait (AUK). The event was attended by students, parents, partners, and academics.

During the ceremony, Hamad Al-Musaibeeh, Corporate Relations Department Manager at Zain Kuwait, honored the SweepTech team, winners of the "Most Innovative Idea" category, in recognition of their outstanding creativity in presenting solutions to social challenges and utilizing technology and artificial intelligence to serve environmental sustainability goals. The ceremony

was joined by LOYAC Board Member Fetouh Al-Dalali.

This season was a special milestone, marking ten years since the program's launch by LOYAC in partnership with Babson College in the United States, with Zain's active participation throughout the decade. The program offered a rich training journey over several weeks, featuring interactive workshops, mentoring sessions, and field visits to enhance students' social entrepreneurship skills.

Over the past decade, the program has empowered hundreds of students aged 12-16, nurturing their abilities in critical thinking, teamwork, innovation, and social entrepreneurship.

Zain expressed its pride in its long-standing partnership with LOYAC, which has spanned more than 21 years and resulted in numerous impactful initiatives that align with the company's sustainability strategy to support education, youth, and entrepreneurship. This reflects Zain's belief in the role of the next generation in shaping a brighter future for Kuwait.

Zain reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to supporting programs that instill innovation and social responsibility in youth, equipping them with the tools to turn their ideas into pioneering projects that contribute to community development.



Al-Dalali honoring Al-Musaibeeh for Zain's long-standing support of the program.



Hamad Al-Musaibeeh and Fetouh Al-Dalali honoring winners of the 'Most Innovative Idea' category.



A group photo of participants, organizers, and partners.

Net profit hits KD 9.6 mln, passenger traffic reaches 2.3 mln

Jazeera Airways reports strong H1 2025 results

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low-cost carrier, today announced its financial and operational results for the first half of 2025, reporting a solid performance despite regional geopolitical challenges and temporary airspace disruptions in Q2.

The airline posted a net profit of KD 9.6 million for 1H 2025, reflecting a remarkable 249.5% increase over the same period in 2024. Group operating revenue rose by 3.3% to KD 102.2 million, supported by capacity growth, a diversified portfolio business, and growing ancillary income.

Passenger traffic remained strong, reaching 2.3 million travelers in the first six months of the year — a 0.1% year-on-year increase — with a load factor of 75.5%. Jazeera also sustained its market leadership at Kuwait International Airport, capturing a 29.5% market share and operating a fleet of 24 aircraft to 63 destinations across the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Operational resilience remained a key strength, with the airline improving its on-time performance (OTP) from 79.7% in 1H 2024 to 82%, despite airspace impacts underscoring its continued commitment to reliability and customer satisfaction. Ancillary

revenue grew by 26.6%, reaching KD 10.9 million, reflecting sustained growth with product innovation strategies.

Despite unforeseen airspace closures and regional instability, Jazeera closed a strong second quarter in, with net profits of KD 4.8 million, 1 million passengers and a load factor of 72%.

Commenting on the results, Marwan Boodai, Chairman of Jazeera Airways, said: "These results reflect the resilience of our business model and the strength of our strategic direction.

Despite external headwinds, we have delivered strong profitability and reinforced our market leadership. As we continue to invest in expanding our network and customer experience, we remain firmly committed to supporting and strengthening Kuwait's position as a regional aviation hub."

Second Quarter 2025 – Operational Review:

In Q2 2025, Jazeera Airways continued expanding its network with the launch of new routes to Budapest (Hungary), Hurghada (Egypt), Sochi (Russia), and Yerevan (Armenia), offering travellers even more options for summer leisure



Marwan Boodai, Chairman of Jazeera Airways

travel. The airline also resumed flights to Damascus, Syria — a key milestone that re-established direct connectivity between Kuwait and Syria after 13 years. Alongside network growth, Jazeera remained focused on enhancing the digital travel experience through ongoing investment in passenger-centric innovations.

Outlook for 2025

The outlook for the second half of 2025 remains positive, with the airline closely monitoring regional geopolitical developments to ensure stable operations. Jazeera Airways remains focused on network expansion, digital transformation, and service enhancement — ensuring sustained progress across financial and operational metrics.

Jazeera Airways' fleet optimization remains on track, with the 180-seat configuration set for completion by Q4 2025. The airline is also preparing to receive 26 new aircraft from 2026, enabling network expansion, operational scale, and growth in commercial and e-commerce channels. With continued investments in customer experience, innovation, and Terminal 5 upgrades, Jazeera is well-positioned to drive future growth and reinforce its role in Kuwait's aviation sector.



Jazeera Airways financial outlook for H1 2025

| Financial and Operational Highlights | |
|---|--|
| 2Q 2025 | 1H 2025 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Operating revenue: KD 48.6 million, down 7.5% from 2Q 2024Operating profit: KD 4.8 million, down 28.4% from 2Q 2024Net profit: KD 4.8 million, down 11% from 2Q 2024Passengers: 1 million, down 7.9% from 2Q 2024Load factor: 72% | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Operating revenue: KD 102.2 million, up 3.3% from 1H 2024Operating profit: KD 11.6 million, up 45.1% from 1H 2024Net profit: KD 9.6 million, up 249.5% from 1H 2024Passengers: 2.3 million, up 0.1% from 1H 2024Load factor: 75.5% |

Tariffs weaken US trade influence

John Ross: US tariffs cut off globalization

LONDON, Aug 11, (Xinhua): By imposing tariffs worldwide, the United States will cut itself off from globalization, and the consequences, such as rising prices, will be borne by U.S. consumers, British economist John Ross has said.

The global economic and trade system is now divided due to U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs: the United States stands alone on a protectionist path, while China and other major Global South economies have embraced globalization and thrived, Ross, a senior fellow of Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

"The share of Global South economies in world trade continues to grow, and the overwhelming majority of countries remain committed to advancing globalization," he said.

Then there are a few economies, in Ross's view, that find themselves caught between the two sides: they are, at least in theory, committed to globalization but face political pressure from the United States.

For example, the European Union has agreed to a "very bad" trade deal with the United States, a deal widely recognized as poor by commentators on both sides of the Atlantic, he added.

Ross argued that the U.S. tariff policy is unlikely to succeed for two main reasons: First, in the short term, the American economy is slowing this year. Second, from a structural perspective, the United States is no longer strong enough to shape the overall direction of world trade. While it can still influence the share of global imports entering its own market, its proportion of world trade is expected to continue shrink-

ing, weakening its position.

"The effects are negative," said Ross, who once served as director of economic and business policy for the mayor of London. "Unless other countries make major mistakes, the United States is not in a strong enough position to dominate world trade."

Ross pointed out that for the United States, the direct effect of tariffs is to push up domestic prices, which amounts to a disguised tax on American consumers.

With the U.S. economy dominated by services, industries such as steel and aluminum that could benefit from tariffs make up only a tiny fraction of the economy, meaning most sectors and consumers will suffer from higher costs, he said.

Opinion polls show that a majority of Americans view tariffs as "harmful" because they have directly felt the rising living costs, while the economy has slowed from the high growth rates of the past few years, he noted.

While tariffs may temporarily protect a handful of industries, Ross argued, they will damage the broader U.S. economy by raising costs along supply chains.

He cited the example of U.S. restrictions on solar panel imports, which failed to create strong domestic producers, increased the cost of new energy projects, and ultimately hurt consumers.

"The key question is how the American public will respond, because Trump is attempting to overturn the pro-globalization policy the United States has pursued since World War II," said Ross. "That's a major historical question: will the public go along with it, or will they realize it's making their lives worse and vote against it?"

July auto sales up 14.7%

China's auto industry reports steady growth

BEIJING, Aug 11, (Xinhua): China's auto industry registered solid year-on-year growth in both output and sales in July, according to industry data released Monday.

In July alone, the country's auto output was 2.591 million units -- a 13.3 percent year-on-year increase -- while sales grew 14.7 percent to 2.593 million units, per data from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM).

China's total auto output in the first seven months of the year rose 12.7 percent to 18.24 million units, with sales up 12 percent to 18.27 million units.

Commercial vehicle output last month totaled 298,000 units -- a 16.3 percent increase from the same month a year earlier -- while sales climbed 14.1 percent to 306,000 units, according to the CAAM data.

Sales of natural-gas-powered vehicles, however, declined 5.9 percent year on year to 16,000 units in July.

Commercial vehicle production rose 6 percent year on year to 2.4 million units in the January-July period, while sales reached 2.43 million units -- up 3.9 percent.

CAAM data has also revealed that new energy vehicle (NEV) production in the first seven months of 2025 surged 39.2 percent to over 8.23 million units, while sales jumped 38.5 percent to 8.22 million units.

Monday's data also shows that the country's auto exports maintained steady growth momentum, with a year-on-year increase of 12.8 percent recorded during the January-July period. Notably, NEV exports during that time soared 84.6 percent to nearly 1.31 million units.

TAIPEI, Aug 11, (AP): A 90-day pause on imposing higher tariffs on China is due to expire on Tuesday and it is unclear if it will be extended.

After the most recent round of China-U.S. trade talks, held late last month in Stockholm, Chinese and U.S. officials said they expected the deadline to be extended for another 90 days. The U.S. side said the decision was up to President Donald Trump. So far there has been no formal announcement about whether he will endorse an extension or push ahead with the higher tariffs.

The uncertainty has left businesses in limbo and a decision to raise the import duties could jolt world markets.

Trump has repeatedly shifted deadlines and tariff rates, and neither side has indicated what it plans for Tuesday. Extending the Aug. 12 deadline for reaching a trade agreement with China would forestall earlier threats of tariffs of up to 245%.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Trump was deciding about another 90-day delay to allow time to work out details of an agreement setting tariffs on most products at 50%, including extra import duties related to illicit trade in the powerful opiate fentanyl.

Higher tariffs are aimed at offsetting the huge, chronic U.S. trade deficit with China, which hit a 21-year low in July as the threat of tariffs bit into Chinese exports.



Trucks move by a vessel docked at a container terminal in Qingdao in east China's Shandong province, Monday, Aug. 11, 2025. (AP)

the world's second largest, is still recovering from a prolonged downturn in its property market. Lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have left millions of people reliant on "gig work," crimping the job market. Higher import taxes on small parcels from China have also hurt smaller factories and layoffs have accelerated.

But the U.S. relies heavily on imports from China for all sorts of products, from household goods and clothing to wind turbines, basic computer chips, electric vehicle batteries and the rare earths needed to make them. That gives Beijing some powerful leverage in the negotiations with Washington.

Even with higher tariffs, China re-

mains competitive for many products. And its leaders are aware that the U.S. economy is only just beginning to feel the effects of higher prices from Trump's broad tariff hikes.

For now, imports from China are subject to a 10% baseline tariff and a 20% extra tariff related to the fentanyl issue. Some products are taxed at higher rates. U.S. exports to China are subject to tariffs of around 30%. Before the two sides called a truce, Trump had threatened to impose 245% import duties on Chinese goods. China retaliated by saying it would hike its tariff on U.S. products to 125%.

A trade war between the world's two largest economies has ramifications

across the global economy, affecting industrial supply chains, demand for commodities like copper and oil and geopolitical issues such as the war in Ukraine.

After a phone call with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in June, Trump said he hoped to meet with Xi later this year. That's an incentive for striking a deal with Beijing.

If the two sides fail to keep their truce, trade tensions could escalate and tariffs might rise to even higher levels, inflicting still more pain on both economies and rattling world markets. Businesses would refrain from making investment commitments and hiring, while inflation would surge higher.

US tariffs slash German carmakers' profits in H1 2025

BERLIN, Aug 11, (Xinhua): Since April, a sharp hike in U.S. tariffs on EU-made vehicles has dealt a heavy blow to Europe's auto industry, causing steep declines in the profits of Germany's biggest carmakers and prompting them to seek opportunities in Asia.

A recent deal between the EU and the United States lowered the tariff rate from 25 percent to 15 percent, easing immediate tensions. But experts warn the reprieve may be short-lived, as high export costs and lingering policy uncertainty continue to weigh on Germany's manufacturing sector and erode industry confidence.

Tariff shock drags down earnings

BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Volkswagen -- Germany's three largest automakers -- all reported steep declines in profits in the first half of 2025, citing U.S. tariffs as a major drag on earnings.

BMW said group revenue fell 8.2 percent year-on-year, while net profit dropped 29 percent. The company pointed to elevated tariffs as a key factor behind weaker margins in its core auto business. Mercedes-Benz saw net income plunge from around 6.1 billion euros (7.08 billion U.S. dollars) a year ago to roughly 2.7 billion euros (3.15 billion dollars).

Volkswagen Group reported a marginal 0.3 percent decline in sales revenue. Its premium brand, Porsche, was hit especially hard, incurring around 400 million euros (466 million dollars) in additional tariff-related costs in the first half alone.

Cash flow is also under pressure. According to the Financial Times, the combined free cash flow of the three companies could shrink by as much as 10 billion euros (11.65 billion dollars) this year, with tariff costs and broader economic headwinds both playing a role.

Despite the latest tariff cut, sentiment across the industry remains subdued. Several firms have already revised down their 2025 outlooks. Hildegard Mueller, president of the German Association of the

Automotive Industry (VDA), said the lower rate still leaves carmakers with billions of euros in added costs each year, a heavy burden as they navigate a pivotal transition toward electrification.

Sigrid de Vries, director general of the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, warned that continued high U.S. tariffs on vehicles and parts risk undermining the EU industry's global competitiveness, disrupting U.S. supply chains and hurting consumers.

Structural challenges run deep

The slump in earnings facing German carmakers stems not only from short-term tariff shocks but also from a broader set of structural challenges.

U.S. duties are rippling through the supply chain. With the United States imposing 50 percent tariffs on imported steel, aluminum and other materials, upstream suppliers are passing rising costs to manufacturers, further squeezing already tight margins.

According to the VDA, Germany exported around 450,000 vehicles to the United States in 2024. Over the same period, German carmakers produced more than 840,000 vehicles at U.S. facilities, roughly half of which were exported globally. This cross-border production model is especially vulnerable to abrupt policy shifts.

Volkswagen CEO Oliver Blume said the group's U.S. plants were heavily affected by the tariff hikes, incurring an extra 1.3 billion euros (1.51 billion dollars) in costs in the first half alone. Juergen Rittersberger, Audi's chief financial officer, put the brand's losses at around 600 million euros (699 million dollars) due to the tariffs.

Since early 2024, several automakers and suppliers, including Ford, Stellantis, Volkswagen, ZF and Bosch, have announced layoffs or plant closures in Germany and other European countries.

Shrinking order books, rising energy and labor

costs are undermining the region's industrial competitiveness. At the same time, German carmakers continue to trail their U.S. and Chinese rivals in the race to electrification.

Turning eastward for opportunities

Amid growing uncertainty and shifting trade policies in transatlantic markets, a growing number of German companies are pivoting to China, drawn by its regulatory stability and clearer growth outlook. Through local production, technology partnerships and targeted investment, automakers are seeking to strengthen their position in Asia and accelerate structural transformation.

Arno Antlitz, Volkswagen's chief finance officer and chief operating officer, recently voiced strong confidence in expanding local platforms and battery partnerships in the Chinese market.

BMW also announced a collaboration with Chinese tech firm Momenta to co-develop next-generation driver assistance systems tailored for local consumers.

"This powerhouse collaboration, with China's wisdom, underpins BMW's strategy of 'In China, for China and co-creation at China speed,' taking it to new heights," said Sean Green, president and CEO of BMW Group Region China, while stressing the importance of using complementary strengths and joint innovation to achieve breakthrough progress.

"The future of the auto industry is in China," said Ferdinand Dudenheffer, a renowned German automotive expert. He urged expanding cooperation between German and Chinese players across the vehicle and supply chain landscape.

BMW and Porsche offer performance advantages, while Mercedes-Benz leads in design and comfort, and all three are increasingly relying on China's edge in battery technology and scaled production to stay competitive, said Dudenheffer.

Experts call for data centers to pay larger share of transmission costs

States push back on big tech’s soaring power demands



Amazon Web Services data center is visible on Aug. 22, 2024, in Boardman, Oregon. (AP)

HARRISBURG, Aug 11, (AP): Amid rising electric bills, states are under pressure to insulate regular household and business ratepayers from the costs of feeding Big Tech’s energy-hungry data centers.

It’s not clear that any state has a solution and the actual effect of data centers on electricity bills is difficult to pin down. Some critics question whether states have the spine to take a hard line against tech behemoths like Microsoft, Google, Amazon and Meta.

But more than a dozen states have begun taking steps as data centers drive a rapid build-out of power plants and transmission lines.

That has meant pressuring the nation’s biggest power grid operator to clamp down on price increases, studying the effect of data centers on electricity bills or pushing data center owners to pay a larger share of local transmission costs.

Rising power bills are “something legislators have been hearing a lot about. It’s something we’ve been hearing a lot about. More people are speaking out at the public utility commission in the past year than I’ve ever seen before,” said Charlotte Shuff of the Oregon Citizens’

Utility Board, a consumer advocacy group. “There’s a massive outcry.”

Some data centers could require more electricity than cities the size of Pittsburgh, Cleveland or New Orleans, and make huge factories look tiny by comparison. That’s pushing policymakers to rethink a system that, historically, has spread transmission costs among classes of consumers that are proportional to electricity use.

“A lot of this infrastructure, billions of dollars of it, is being built just for a few customers and a few facilities and these happen to be the wealthiest companies in the world,” said Ari Peskoe, who directs the Electricity Law Initiative at Harvard University. “I think some of the fundamental assumptions behind all this just kind of breaks down.”

A fix, Peskoe said, is a “can of worms” that pits ratepayer classes against one another.

Some officials downplay the role of data centers in pushing up electric bills.

Tricia Pridemore, who sits on Georgia’s Public Service Commission and is president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, pointed to an

already tightened electricity supply and increasing costs for power lines, utility poles, transformers and generators as utilities replace aging equipment or harden it against extreme weather.

The data centers needed to accommodate the artificial intelligence boom are still in the regulatory planning stages, Pridemore said, and the Data Center Coalition, which represents Big Tech firms and data center developers, has said its members are committed to paying their fair share.

But growing evidence suggests that the electricity bills of some Americans are rising to subsidize the massive energy needs of Big Tech as the U.S. competes in a race against China for artificial intelligence superiority.

Data and analytics firm Wood Mackenzie published a report in recent weeks that suggested 20 proposed or effective specialized rates for data centers in 16 states it studied aren’t nearly enough to cover the cost of a new natural gas power plant.

In other words, unless utilities negotiate higher specialized rates, other ratepayer classes - residential, commercial and industrial - are

likely paying for data center power needs.

Meanwhile, Monitoring Analytics, the independent market watchdog for the mid-Atlantic grid, produced research in June showing that 70% - or \$9.3 billion - of last year’s increased electricity cost was the result of data center demand.

Last year, five governors led by Pennsylvania’s Josh Shapiro began pushing back against power prices set by the mid-Atlantic grid operator, PJM Interconnection, after that amount spiked nearly sevenfold. They warned of customers “paying billions more than is necessary.”

PJM has yet to propose ways to guarantee that data centers pay their freight, but Monitoring Analytics is floating the idea that data centers should be required to procure their own power.

In a filing last month, it said that would avoid a “massive wealth transfer” from average people to tech companies.

At least a dozen states are eyeing ways to make data centers pay higher local transmission costs.

In Oregon, a data center hot spot, lawmakers passed legislation in June ordering state utility regulators

to develop new - presumably higher - power rates for data centers.

The Oregon Citizens’ Utility Board says there is clear evidence that costs to serve data centers are being spread across all customers - at a time when some electric bills there are up 50% over the past four years and utilities are disconnecting more people than ever.

New Jersey’s governor signed legislation last month commissioning state utility regulators to study whether ratepayers are being hit with “unreasonable rate increases” to connect data centers and to develop a specialized rate to charge data centers.

In some other states, like Texas and Utah, governors and lawmakers are trying to avoid a supply-and-demand crisis that leaves ratepayers on the hook - or in the dark.

In Indiana, state utility regulators approved a settlement between Indiana Michigan Power Co., Amazon, Google, Microsoft and consumer advocates that set parameters for data center payments for service.

Kerwin Olsen, of the Citizens Action Council of Indiana, a consumer advocacy group, signed the settlement and called it a “pretty good deal” that contained more consumer protections than what state lawmakers passed.

But, he said, state law doesn’t force large power users like data centers to publicly reveal their electric usage, so pinning down whether they’re paying their fair share of transmission costs “will be a challenge.”

In a March report, the Environmental and Energy Law Program at Harvard University questioned the motivation of utilities and regulators to shield ratepayers from footing the cost of electricity for data centers.

Both utilities and states have incentives to attract big customers like data centers, it said.

To do it, utilities - which must get their rates approved by regulators - can offer “special deals to favored customers” like a data center and effectively shift the costs of those discounts to regular ratepayers, the authors wrote. Many state laws can shield disclosure of those rates, they said.

In Pennsylvania, an emerging data center hot spot, the state utility commission is drafting a model rate structure for utilities to consider adopting. An overarching goal is to get data center developers to put their money where their mouth is.

“We’re talking about real transmission upgrades, potentially hundreds of millions of dollars,” commission chairman Stephen DeFrank said. “And that’s what you don’t want the ratepayer to get stuck paying for.”

‘Customers are paying billions more than is necessary.’

Social connection and community vital for older adults

Tax, climate, and travel guide retirees’ relocation choices

NEW YORK, Aug 11, (AP): Debra Taylor has had a busy year or so: She’s going through a divorce while in the process of retiring - and she’s moving to Portugal from Southern California with one of her daughters.

After deciding her next home would be outside the U.S., she narrowed down her choices based on tax burdens (Spain was out with its wealth taxes), climate (no Costa Rica, too hot) and ease of travel within Europe, one of her favorite parts of the world. She then toured Portugal with a relocation company, Expatsi, and found her new home, Aveiro. It’s a striking city on the country’s west coast with lovely canals that earned it the nickname the Venice of Portugal.

It’s all logistics from there. Taylor signed a year lease on an apartment (a requirement for moving forward), hired the company Viv Europe to navigate bureaucracies and paperwork, signed up for the necessary FBI background check and has an appointment in late September to move ahead with visas.

Her youngest child gave her the idea to leave the country.

“After our current president was elected, my 18-year-old transgender daughter came to me and said, ‘I want to get out of this country ASAP,’” Taylor recalled. “That was just fine with me.”

Her oldest daughter, who’s 20, will stay in the U.S. to complete college.

“None of this means I have to live

there forever,” Taylor said. “I’ll use this as my jumping-off point to do more deeper dives, explore the rest of the region. I want to buy a place, but I’m not going to do that until I’m living there and spend more time in different communities.”

According to aging and relocation experts, Taylor has made the right decisions.

The number of people who relocate upon retirement fluctuates, based on such factors as politics, home affordability and cost-of-living rates. While older adults are less likely to move than younger populations, more than 3 million people age 65 and older relocated within the U.S. in the five years before the coronavirus pandemic, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

As for moving abroad, U.S. politics is now the No. 1 reason cited by people who use Expatsi, the company’s co-founder Jen Barnett said.

“The one downside is that a lot of countries retirees are interested in don’t want retirees, and that is to say wealthy, English-speaking countries, because they want laborers,” Barnett said.

While most U.S. retirees stay put in existing homes and locales, those who want to age in place face mounting challenges, said AARP Vice President Rodney Harrell, who focuses on housing and livable communities.

Challenges include rising rents or mortgages, costs for home modifications, and a lack of community

support services like adequate health care, reliable utilities and safe environments.

“One of the biggest challenges that we have is making sure that we take the future us into account, and not just look at our needs today,” Harrell said. “Are we driving today? Is our income where it is? Is our spouse and myself healthy right now? How able are we to walk around and use steps, etc.? Things can change.”

All of the above is crucial as the U.S. heads into a gray bubble.

“We’re going to have more people over 65 than under 18 by 2034. For the first time in U.S. history, we have more older adults than children,” Harrell said.

Do you want mountains, an ocean, to be closer to grandkids? Would you like a university town or city, a particular religious institution? Harrell suggests setting clear priorities when planning a relocation. And they should go well beyond those specifications.

Taking housing costs into consideration is generally universal, he said, but he urged a more subtle consideration.

“What are the neighbors like? Is it an active community, if that’s what you want. Do people keep to themselves more? That social connection is really important, too,” Harrell said.

The AARP’s livability index scores neighborhoods and communities across the U.S. for the services and amenities that impact older people. It’s easily searchable by address,

city, state or ZIP code.

“Think about all of the things that you might want collectively, and know that there’s no perfect place,” Harrell said. “Once you have those things in mind, you’ll get to the best possible outcome. Every place has trade-offs.”

If being close to children and grandchildren is high on the list, set clear expectations about how involved you want to be in such things as child care, said retirement transition planner Elizabeth Zelinka Parsons. Also, chat with adult children before making a move to determine how settled they are themselves.

Casey Bowers and her husband, Dave Bowers, recently relocated to Ericeira, northwest of Lisbon on Portugal’s beachy Silver Coast. They love it, but it’s not all ocean and sun.

“We have three adult children and their partners, and one grandbaby with another on the way,” Casey said. “We’re very close to our children. Learning the grocery store, getting new cellphones, those are just procedural things, but being away from family - that’s the hardest part.”

Sarah Friedell O’Connell, a retirement coach in Boston, looks at relocation this way: “You’re going to get a lot of hours back when you stop your full-time job. What are you going to do with that time?”

As a wealth manager, Chad Harmer has helped dozens of retirees relocate, from Ontario, Canada, to Arizona’s High Desert, from the

Boston suburbs to the Carolinas. And he’s dealt with some “boomerang” moves back home after grandchildren arrived.

“Start with a ‘lifestyle audit,’ not a tax table,” he said. “I ask clients to write a perfect Thursday five years from now. Where are they walking? Who are they meeting for coffee? How long is the drive to the grandkids? That exercise surfaces climate preferences, social networks, volunteer hobbies and healthcare priorities long before we argue over property tax millage rates.”

He also recommended budgeting for hidden inflators - such as higher insurance premiums in disaster-prone areas and frequent flights to see family - and considering less obvious weather complications, like pollen levels.

Parsons, who wrote “Encore: A High Achiever’s Guide to Thriving in Retirement,” is a staunch supporter of taking a short-term rental before deciding on a permanent move.

“It’s tempting to retire where you vacation, but that may not be the greatest idea,” she said.

Harmer’s rule of thumb: When 80 % of your desired daily routine is achievable in a new location for at least 80 % of the year, you’re in the right ZIP code.

“Anything less and you’re probably chasing an Instagram fantasy rather than a retirement reality,” he said.

‘Start with a lifestyle audit, not a tax table.’

editor’s choice



East China city gains popularity among Korean filmmakers

China charts new path to global film influence

BEIJING, Aug 11, (Xinhua): Multiple Chinese filmmakers outlined the means that can be used to amplify the overseas influence of Chinese film, speaking at a press conference that focused on the development of China's film industry.

The press conference, held by the State Council Information Office, gathered filmmakers who had worked on some of China's most popular films in recent years.

The international influence of films is an important criterion in evaluating the potency of a country's film industry, said Wang Jun, president of Shanghai Film Group. Its Shanghai Animation Film Studio subsidiary -- one of China's most prestigious animation studios -- released animated feature "Nobody" this year.

Speaking of boosting the influence of Chinese film worldwide, Wang emphasized the importance of greater opening-up, and of engaging proactively in international cooperation and exchange. "In addition, we must place more focus on the capabilities and methods of international film co-creation, while expanding our overseas markets, distribution channels and resources."

Shen Ao, director of "Dead to Rights," a Chinese summer box office hit which recounts the grim history of the Nanjing Massacre, placed greater emphasis on the content aspect of Chinese film when sharing his thoughts on the matter.

"I think the most pressing task is to show ethos instead of symbols," Shen said on how Chinese

films can gain success overseas. "It is necessary to avoid simply cramming Chinese elements into films and instead showcase the essence of Chinese culture and the Chinese spirit." He also suggested that the Chinese film industry should explore more genres.

Meanwhile, the Korean director Choi Sik-min, known for his screenplay work on popular TV series, has found a favored filming location: the small city of Yancheng in east China's Jiangsu Province.

After filming his first short, "The Drama Club," in Yancheng, Choi has shot over 20 collaborative Sino-Korean short films there, including the "The Forbidden Master," which has gained over 370 million views online to date.

Inspired

Choi's favorite place to film in the city is China-ROK International Street, also known as Dongdaemun KK-PARK, located in the Yancheng Economic and Technological Development Zone.

Inspired by the famed Dongdaemun Design Plaza in Seoul, the Republic of Korea (ROK), the block in Yancheng combines a streamlined modern design with traditional elements of Korean houses, creating a Korean-style international entertainment district that integrates amusement and commerce.

Since it opened in 2022, the block has aimed to style itself as the most Korean cultural landmark across the Yangtze River Delta region, according

to Dong Zhengxia, chairman of the Jiangsu Century New City Cultural Tourism Development Company.

Its Korean characteristics and diverse business models, including themed hotels, amusement parks, theaters and restaurants, offer a wide range of set locations for film crews. Additionally, the low costs and high efficiency of ready-made filming environments are significant factors in attracting Korean filmmakers, Dong said.

"The filming and labor costs in the ROK are relatively high, almost three times those here," Dong explained.

Long before the cameras roll each day, golf carts are already streaking across Yancheng's emerald fairways. Ryu Ku-keun, president of Yancheng's Korean chamber of commerce, quipped that in ROK, the three best-known Chinese destinations are Zhangjiajie, Shanghai and Yancheng.

"Zhangjiajie is for sightseeing, Shanghai is for shopping, and Yancheng is where Korean golfers come to swing," Ryu said.

Fueled by a booming Sino-Korean travel scene, the city's pristine golf courses and frequent flights have turned it into a golfer's paradise. Sheyang Island Golf Club now tops Korean social-media rankings and sits high on the destination of week-end golfers' trip to China.

With a population of about 50 million, the ROK counts roughly 5 million golf enthusiasts making the sport popular almost nationwide, Ryu said.

Film



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

'Freakier Friday' takes second spot

'Weapons' scores a box office victory

LOS ANGELES, Aug 11, (AP): It's August, and horror and humor came to play.

In a month that's long been known to let edgier movies thrive, Zach Cregger's highly anticipated horror film "Weapons" did not disappoint, topping the box office during its debut weekend with \$42.5 million domestically from 3,202 theaters. It made \$70 million internationally.

The film's success also handed its distributor, Warner Bros. Pictures, the seventh No. 1 opening of the year, and became the studio's sixth film in a row to debut with over \$40 million domestically.

"Freakier Friday," Disney's chaotic sequel to the 2003 classic, "Freaky Friday," took the second spot during its premiere weekend, earning \$29 million in 3,975 North American theaters. Lindsay Lohan and Jamie Lee Curtis return, this time for a double body-swapping between the mother-daughter duo and Lohan's teen daughter and soon-to-be stepdaughter.

Viral marketing tactics, coupled with strong social media word-of-mouth, boded well for both films' success, said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for the data firm Comscore.

"The top two films could not be more different, and that's what makes this weekend so appealing for moviegoers," Dergarabedian said. "Both are perfectly tailored for their audiences to react in real time over the weekend to these films and then post on social media."

"Weapons" transports audiences to the small

town of Maybrook, where 17 kids up and leave their homes at 2:17 a.m., leaving bewildered parents in their wake. The town is left to navigate the lingering effects of trauma through horror, paranoia and a touch of existential humor.

The film is Cregger's follow-up to his solo directorial debut with the 2022 genre-bending horror, "Barbarian." That critically-acclaimed film had a slower start and smaller budget, but still topped the charts during its premiere with \$10 million domestically and made a splash in the genre.

Distribution

"Weapons" generated a lot of buzz for its strong reviews (95% on Rotten Tomatoes).

"The internet's exploding right now between Friday and today. You just see that people are having a great time with it," said Jeffrey Goldstein, president of global distribution for Warner Bros. "It starts with an exceptional movie, an exceptional marketing campaign, and the date was exceptional too."

The success of the comedy-horror double premiere meant "The Fantastic Four: First Steps" surrendered its two-week run in the top spot and landed in the third position, bringing in \$15.5 million domestically. The superhero movie enjoyed a strong \$118 million debut, but stumbled in its second weekend.

"The Bad Guys 2," which got a healthy start at

the No. 2 spot during its premiere weekend, came in fourth place, earning \$10.4 million domestically. "The Naked Gun" had a similar fate, reaching the fifth position with \$8.4 million in North American theaters.

"Jurassic World Rebirth," which came in seventh this week, is expected to hit \$800 million globally by Monday, according to NBC Universal, following a successful run in theaters.

Warner Bros. started off slow this year, but made a comeback with the box-office hit, "A Minecraft Movie," which opened with \$157 million domestically. Since then, movies like "Sinners," "Superman" and now, "Weapons," have found success.

The studio set "a blueprint to how to create a perfect summer lineup," Dergarabedian said.

"Weapons" also joins a stream of successful horror movies this year, its opening numbers coming in just behind "Final Destination: Bloodlines" and "Sinners."

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore: 1. "Weapons," \$42.5 million; 2. "Freakier Friday," \$29 million; 3. "The Fantastic Four: First Steps," \$15.5 million; 4. "The Bad Guys 2," \$10.4 million; 5. "The Naked Gun," \$8.4 million; 6. "Superman," \$7.8 million; 7. "Jurassic World Rebirth," \$4.7 million; 8. "F1: The Movie," \$2.9 million; 9. "Together," \$2.6 million and 10. "Sketch," \$2.5 million.



This image released by A24 shows Helena Zengel in a scene from 'The Legend of Ochi.' (AP)

What to stream

Vanessa Kirby, Maroon 5 lead this week's releases

LOS ANGELES, Aug 11, (AP): Vanessa Kirby starring in a gritty film about the aspirations of home ownership, "Night Always Comes," and Maroon 5 releasing their eighth studio album with songs featuring Lil Wayne and Blackpink's LISA are some of the new television, films, music and games headed to a device near you.

Also among the streaming offerings worth your time, as selected by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists: Alicia Silverstone leading a new TV crime drama called "Irish Blood," the multigenerational, wholesome drama "The Chicken Sisters" rolls out its second season on Hallmark and EA Sports jumps aboard the artificial intelligence bandwagon with Madden NFL 26.

Film

■ Isaiah Saxon's "The Legend of Ochi" (streaming Friday, Aug. 15 on HBO Max) is a handcrafted fantasy throwback seeking to conjure the kind of magic once found in movies like "The Never Ending Story." The A24 film stars Helena Zengel as Yuri, a girl who runs away from the forest home she shared with her father (Willem Dafoe) and brother (Finn Wolfhard). She leaves with a baby Ochi, a creature hunted her father. In her review, AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr wrote that "The Legend of Ochi" "has the feeling of a film you might have stumbled on and loved as a kid."

■ Vanessa Kirby may be one of the standout performers of the summer blockbuster "The Fantastic Four: First Steps," but she also stars in a gritty new film about the aspirations of home ownership. In "Night Always Comes" (Thursday on Netflix), Kirby plays a woman going to extreme lengths to secure a home for her family. The movie, directed by Benjamin Caron and adapted from Willy Vlautin's best-selling novel, takes place over a single night.

Music

■ Maroon 5 will release their eighth studio album, "Love is Like," on Friday, Aug. 15, via Interscope Records. Expect smooth, funky pop music - like the sultry "All Night." Singer Adam Levine and Co. continue their trend of unexpected and delightful collaborations as well, with songs featuring Lil Wayne, Sexy Red and Blackpink's LISA. You read that correctly.

■ Clifford Antone opened Antone's, one of the most storied music venues in Austin, Texas, with an inaugural performance by the King of Zydeco, Clifton Chenier in 1975. In the decades since, Antone's has become the stuff of mythology; a performance space that embrac-

es its history and looks towards its future. On Friday, a new box set from New West Records seeks to celebrate Antone's legacy with "Antone's: 50 Years of the Blues."

Television

■ The multigenerational, wholesome drama "The Chicken Sisters" rolls out its second season on Hallmark. The series stars Schuyler Fisk, Lea Thompson, Wendie Malick and Genevieve Angelson as family members in a small town divided over their rival fried chicken businesses. It's based on a novel of the same name. The series streams new episodes beginning Monday on Hallmark+.

■ Alicia Silverstone leads the new crime drama called "Irish Blood." She plays Fiona, a woman who has been led to believe her father abandoned her as a child - and has carried around some heavy emotional baggage ever since. When she learns the truth is more complicated - not to mention dangerous - she heads to Ireland to investigate. The premiere of the six-part show drops Monday on Acorn TV.

■ A new one for the kid-dos is the Disney Jr. series "Iron Man and his Awesome Friends," coming to Disney+. The first 10 episodes drop Tuesday. The show follows besties and fellow geniuses, Tony Stark, Riri Williams and Amadeus Cho, who team up to solve problems.

■ Chris Hemsworth continues his quest to live a healthier, more present, and longer life in a second season of "Limitless," now called "Limitless: Live Better Now." The three-part docu-series sees Hemsworth learn more about brain power (with help from his friend and recording artist Ed Sheeran), risk and pain. The three episodes stream on Hulu and Disney+ beginning Friday, Aug. 15.

■ EA Sports is jumping aboard the artificial intelligence bandwagon with Madden NFL 26, promising "a new AI-powered machine learning system trained by real play calls and game situations over nearly a decade." The most intriguing additions are QB DNA and Coach DNA - so, for example, if you're playing the Kansas City Chiefs, you'll see the kind of moves you'd expect from Patrick Mahomes and Andy Reid. As always, the goal is to get ever closer to real-life football, with more dynamic weather effects, more details from pro stadiums and the return (at last!) of team mascots. The cover model this season is Philadelphia Eagles running back Saquon Barkley, who'll be ready to start leaping over defenders Thursday on PlayStation 5, Xbox X/S, Switch 2 and PC.

Variety

VIENTIANE: An exhibition highlighting media and publishing products has opened in Laos to mark the 75th anniversary of Mass Media and Publishing Day, offering visitors an insight into the industry's history and achievements.

The event took place here from Monday to Tuesday, organized by the Propaganda and Training Board of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) Central Committee in collaboration with the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, according to the Lao Security News report.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Lao Deputy Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Vansy Kuamua highlighted the event as not only a celebration of the sector's success but also a reflection of its steady growth and evolution.

Over the past 75 years, he noted, the media and publishing industry has transitioned from traditional print to the digital age, playing a vital role in sharing information, preserving cultural identity, promoting education, and fostering na-

tional unity.

A total of 31 booths were featured at the exhibition, including 12 print media and 19 electronic media outlets. (Xinhua)



ST. NIKOLAUS, Germany: Santa's elves start early in Germany.

Three postal workers set off Saturday on their nearly 3,000-kilometer (1,860-mile) bicycle journey from St. Nikolaus, Germany, to the small town of Rovaniemi, Finland, which is home to Santa Claus Village, according to German news agency dpa.

The cyclists are traveling north to bring letters and Christmas wish lists addressed to Santa Claus from St. Nikolaus, in Germany's Saarland state, to the winter-themed amusement park perched on the edge of the Arctic Circle.

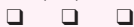
St. Nikolaus himself, with his long purple cape and a tall golden staff, was on hand Saturday to hand over the letters to the three elves. The trip will take roughly two weeks as the three cycle through Germany, Denmark and Sweden en route to Finland, dpa reported.

The group is among the Deutsche Post vol-

unteers who answer letters from children worldwide - more than 30,000 annually - that are addressed to the St. Nikolaus post office, which has its own postal code.

The tradition dates back to 1967, and each reply features a special stamp.

The town of St. Nikolaus is one of seven places in Germany with a Christmas-themed name, all of which receive letters addressed to Santa Claus or Saint Nick. (AP)



COLOMBO: Visitors to Sri Lankan national parks can purchase tickets online from Sunday, the Department of Wildlife Conservation announced.

The department said the measure was introduced after tourists experienced long delays due to queues at various parks. Tickets can be purchased through the official website of the department.

Sri Lankan national parks are popular among both local and foreign tourists. Official data showed that national parks earned a revenue of 3.08 billion rupees (about 10 million US dollars) in the first half of 2025. (Xinhua)



Darth Vader's primary duelling lightsaber, used in Star Wars films The Empire Strikes Back (1980), and Return of the Jedi (1983), on display at a pre-auction viewing in London, Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2025, it has an estimated value of \$1-3 million dollars, and will be sold at auction in Los Angeles on Sept 6. (AP)



A tourist drives down a coaster on Trebevic mountain near Sarajevo, Bosnia, Tuesday, Aug. 5. (AP)

Heatwaves boost Bosnia’s mountain escapes

Bosnia’s resorts pivot to summer tourism

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Aug 11, (AP): A short drive from the Mediterranean coast, mid-altitude mountain resorts near Sarajevo - traditionally dependent on snow sports - are slowly but steadily pivoting to attract summertime tourists.

Despite Bosnia’s notoriously poor record-keeping, tourism officials in the mountainous Balkan country of 3.3 million say a clear trend is emerging.

“We used to rely on snow, but there is no escaping the fact that snow is now likely to fall and accumulate at altitudes above 2,500 meters (8,000 feet) and our mountains are simply not that high,” said Haris Fazlagic, the Sarajevo tourism board president.

Fazlagic believes that by expanding their summer offerings, mountain resorts can lure tourists away from the scorching heat and high costs of traditional seaside vacations along the Adriatic coast of Croatia and Montenegro. He said increasing the area’s year-round appeal is “the future of tourism,” but acknowledged it’s a long-term strategy.

In 2017, after several winters with little snow, the Jahorina and Bjelasnica mountains near Sarajevo began to expand their summer offerings. These moun-

tain, which hosted the 1984 Winter Olympics, have elevations of 1,906 meters (6,253 feet) and 2,067 meters (6,781 feet), respectively.

They now operate ski lifts year-round for scenic views and are steadily adding new hiking, biking and ATV trails and tours.

“The weather here is fantastic - it’s not hot at all,” said Dusko Kurtovic, a visitor from the Bosnian town of Doboj, while on a walk during a short vacation in Jahorina last week.

Like other visitors exploring the forest trails and riding ski lifts around Sarajevo, Kurtovic was dressed for balmy summer weather. Temperatures here typically stay between 24 and 30 degrees Celsius (75-86 degrees Fahrenheit).

The weather is a welcome change for tourists, as coastal regions in Central and Eastern Europe have experienced increasingly frequent and prolonged heat waves, with daily temperatures often reaching 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in the past few years.

Vasilije Knezevic, who leads quad tours of Jahorina’s highest peaks, noted that while the ski season was “bleak” because of the snow shortage, they are

“having a fabulous summer so far.”

Business might be growing in the mountains of Sarajevo, but it remains far less profitable than seaside destinations in neighboring Croatia, where tourism accounts for up to 20% of the country’s gross domestic product.

Just a five-hour drive from Sarajevo, the ancient city of Dubrovnik is grappling with an abundance of tourists. Unlike their Bosnian counterparts who are trying to increase visitors, Dubrovnik’s tourism authorities are focused on managing crowds, limiting the number of tourists from cruise ships in the city to 4,000 at any one time during the day and restricting traffic around the Old Town to local permit holders.

Despite these restrictions and extreme summer heat, Dubrovnik recorded nearly two million overnight stays in the first seven months of 2025, almost double that of the Sarajevo region.

While climate change is driving Bosnia and Croatia toward different tourism strategies, both countries share a common objective: to “extend the season” and become “year-round tourist destination,” in the words of Aida Hodzic of the Dubrovnik tourism board.

Music



Cuban-American singer, songwriter Isabel LaRosa performs on the main stage at the 31st Sziget (Island) Festival on Shipyard Island, Budapest, Hungary, Sunday, Aug. 10. (AP)

‘KPop Demon Hunters’ spark global ‘hallyu’ wave

K-pop culture inspires innocence, joy

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

By A. Stefanie Ruiz, Clemson University; Femida Handy, University of Pennsylvania, and Sunwoo Park, Clemson University

Born with voices that could drive back the darkness,” the character Celine, a former K-pop idol, narrates at the start of Netflix’s new release “KPop Demon Hunters.” “Our music ignites the soul and brings people together.”

The breakout success of “KPop Demon Hunters,” Netflix’s most-watched original animated film, highlights how “hallyu,” or the Korean Wave, keeps expanding its pop cultural reach. The movie, which follows a fictional K-pop girl group whose members moonlight as demon slayers, amassed over 26 million views globally in a single week and topped streaming charts in at least 33 countries.

From K-pop and K-dramas to beauty products and e-sports, hallyu - which refers to the global popularity of South Korean culture - has drawn in millions of fans worldwide. But beyond entertainment, many young people describe how their engagement with Korean culture supports their mental health and sense of belonging.

We conducted interviews with 30 non-Korean hallyu fans aged 18-30 in Philadelphia in 2019 to understand how they experience Korean cultural content. Our findings were recently published in the peer-reviewed World Leisure Journal.

The core themes, such as the emotional support, community building and cultural exploration offered by hallyu, remain relevant today, especially as Korean media continues to expand their global influence and resonate with new generations of fans.

Participants described hallyu, especially K-pop and K-dramas, as a refuge from the stress and negativity they associate with mainstream Western media.

“I think Western music is a lot ... more mellow,” a 24-year-old social worker explained. “It’s like a

blunt kind of depression ... it doesn’t make you go out in the world and smile at everything.”

In contrast, K-pop was often described as uplifting, playful and emotionally resonant. This contrast was especially important for individuals who felt overwhelmed by the hypersexualized or violent content common in Western pop culture.

“I feel like the stories in [Korean dramas] make more of an effort to connect with people,” said a 22-year-old communications associate. “They’re not as explicit. [For instance, simply] holding hands is a huge deal.”

Another participant, a 19-year-old college student and part-time barista who identified as asexual, shared: “I really like seeing content where they portray a hug or simple kisses as extremely intimate. ... [I]t just makes me more comfortable.”

For many interviewees, hallyu had become a form of emotional self-care.

“It supplements my happiness,” a 25-year-old researcher said. “I’m a pretty optimistic person; it just kind of supplements that baseline optimism.”

Awareness

Others described how specific songs helped them through difficult times. The college student and barista recalled listening to the boy band BTS’ “Magic Shop” during a spell of depression. “I would just wrap a blanket around myself, sip tea ... and it made me feel immensely better,” she said.

This therapeutic effect is not accidental. BTS, one of the most globally recognized K-pop groups, has built its brand around messages of self-love and mental health awareness.

“They try to spread a message of loving yourself,” a 24-year-old medical assistant explained. “Like no one can love you unless you love yourself first.”

Another key benefit of hallyu culture is the sense of community it fosters. Individuals from all backgrounds and ages connect through social media, fan clubs and local events.

“I’ve met a lot of people through [the K-pop club] on Temple’s campus,” one participant said. “We’d watch K-pop and K-dramas together. ... [T]hat is still one of our major connections.”

Online platforms also play a crucial role. Indi-

viduals share translations, create fan art and organize charity projects in honor of their favorite idols.

“We do projects for BTS’ birthdays,” a 28-year-old government appraiser said. She also donated blood on the birthday of Mingyu, a member of the K-pop group Seventeen.

For many Asian American fans, hallyu has also become a way to explore and affirm their cultural identity.

“I think the Asian cultural dynamic ... is familiar to me,” a Chinese American participant said. “It encouraged me to be more proud of my own culture.”

Another Chinese American participant, a third-year college student, reflected on how Korean dramas helped her appreciate traditional values: “They made me more aware ... of how you should talk or act around people. It’s constantly reminding me of ways I can self-improve.”

Even non-Asian fans connected with the values portrayed in Korean media. One 26-year-old Ph.D. candidate noted the similarities between Korean and their own family structure: “Our morals, our values ... just fit very well together.”

While some fans acknowledged that their engagement with hallyu could be time-consuming, many saw it as a worthwhile investment.

“It’s probably an embarrassing amount of time,” one participant admitted. “But pretty much anytime I’m bored, I turn to K-pop.”

Another compared their hallyu consumption to “therapy sessions.”

Others described how, over time, they became more involved in fan communities or online content, and this deeper level of engagement often led to skill-building and personal growth as they learned video editing, translation, event planning and even fundraising. Participants who raised money for animal shelters or dance studios, for example, said they were inspired by the values promoted in hallyu culture. These efforts helped them feel more connected to both their idols and one another.

“I created a huge analysis on costuming in a certain music video for Seventeen,” a 26-year-old restaurant manager said. “I just couldn’t help myself.” (AP)

Variety

NORTH CAROLINA: Nearly a year after Hurricane Helene’s devastating pathway through western North Carolina, a vibrant tourist attraction offering visitors a serene escape in the Blue Ridge Mountains is being torn down.

Like many other beloved sites in the region, the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge in Rutherford County crumbled from the relentless floods and winds from remnants of Helene last September. Now, the town of Lake Lure said Thursday that it will start its demolition of the historic structure later this month.

While the three-arched bridge dates back to 1925, it didn’t become the

Lake Lure Flowering Bridge until almost a century later. Once the bridge was decommissioned, a group of local volunteers, Friends of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge, worked to enhance it by adding its iconic gardens in 2013, according to the group’s website. The bridge attracted more than 150,000 visitors annually, said Linda Reandeau, a master gardener and the group’s marketing chair.

But then Helene brought destruction to western North Carolina last year, with the Lake Lure area - which served as a backdrop for a few scenes in “Dirty Dancing” - sustaining some of the worst damage. The town of Lake Lure and Chimney Rock Village, as well as the lake itself, were covered in a layer of disfigured debris. (AP)

Education

Online joke sparks arrest

AI surveillance flags ‘innocent’ students

NEW YORK, Aug 11, (AP): Lesley Mathis knows what her daughter said was wrong. But she never expected the 13-year-old girl would get arrested for it.

The teenage girl made an offensive joke while chatting online with her classmates, triggering the school’s surveillance software.

Before the morning was even over, the Tennessee eighth grader was under arrest. She was interrogated, strip-searched and spent the night in a jail cell, her mother says.

Earlier in the day, her friends had teased the teen about her tanned complexion and called her “Mexican,” even though she’s not. When a friend asked what she was planning for Thursday, she wrote: “on Thursday we kill all the Mexico’s.”

Mathis said the comments were “wrong” and “stupid,” but context showed they were not a threat.

Surveillance systems in American schools increasingly monitor everything students write on school accounts and devices. Thousands of school districts across the country use software like Gaggle and Lightspeed Alert to track kids’ online activities, looking for signs they might hurt themselves or others. With the help of artificial intelligence, technology can dip into online conversations and immediately notify both school officials and law enforcement.

Educators say the technology has saved lives. But critics warn it can criminalize children for careless words.

“It has routinized law enforcement access and presence in students’ lives, including in their home,” said Elizabeth Laird, a director at the Center for Democracy and Technology.

In a country weary of school shootings, several states have taken a harder line on threats to schools. Among them is Tennessee, which passed a 2023 zero-tolerance law requiring any threat of mass violence against a school to be reported immediately to law enforcement.

Parents

The 13-year-old girl arrested in August 2023 had been texting with friends on a chat function tied to her school email at Fairview Middle School, which uses Gaggle to monitor students’ accounts.

Taken to jail, the teen was interrogated and strip-searched, and her parents weren’t allowed to talk to her until the next day, according to a lawsuit they filed against the school system. She didn’t know why her parents weren’t there.

“She told me afterwards, ‘I thought you hated me.’ That kind of haunts you,” said Mathis, the girl’s mother.

A court ordered eight weeks of house arrest, a psychological evaluation and 20 days at an alternative school for the girl.

Gaggle’s CEO, Jeff Patterson, said in an interview that the school system did not use Gaggle the way it is intended. The purpose is to find early warning signs and intervene before problems escalate to law enforcement, he said.

Students who think they are chatting privately among friends often do not realize they are under constant surveillance, said Shahrar Pasch, an education lawyer in Florida.

One teenage girl she represented made a joke about school shootings on a private Snapchat story. Snapchat’s automated detection software picked up the comment, the company alerted the FBI, and the girl was arrested on school grounds within hours.

Alexa Manganiotis, 16, said she was startled by how quickly monitoring software works. West Palm Beach’s Dreyfoos School of the Arts, which she attends, last year piloted Lightspeed Alert, a surveillance program. Interviewing a teacher for her school newspaper, Alexa discovered two students once typed something threatening about that teacher on a school computer, then deleted it. Lightspeed picked it up, and “they were taken away like five minutes later,” Alexa said.

Warning

Teenagers face steeper consequences than adults for what they write online, Alexa said.

Amy Bennett, chief of staff for Lightspeed Systems, said that the software helps understaffed schools “be proactive rather than punitive” by identifying early warning signs of bullying, self-harm, violence or abuse.

The technology can also involve law enforcement in responses to mental health crises. In Florida’s Polk County Schools, a district of more than 100,000 students, the school safety program received nearly 500 Gaggle alerts over four years, officers said in public Board of Education meetings. This led to 72 involuntary hospitalization cases under the Baker Act, a state law that allows authorities to require mental health evaluations for people against their will if they pose a risk to themselves or others.

“A really high number of children who experience involuntary examination remember it as a really traumatic and damaging experience - not something that helps them with their mental health care,” said Sam Boyd, an attorney with the Southern Poverty Law Center. The Polk and West Palm Beach school districts did not provide comments.

Students in one photography class were called to the principal’s office over concerns Gaggle had detected nudity. The photos had been automatically deleted from the students’ Google Drives, but students who had backups of the flagged images on their own devices showed it was a false alarm. District officials said they later adjusted the software’s settings to reduce false alerts.

Natasha Torkzaban, who graduated in 2024, said she was flagged for editing a friend’s college essay because it had the words “mental health.”

“I think ideally we wouldn’t stick a new and shiny solution of AI on a deep-rooted issue of teenage mental health and the suicide rates in America, but that’s where we’re at right now,” Torkzaban said.



Natasha Torkzaban stands outside Lawrence High School, where she and other students have filed a lawsuit against the school district’s use of digital surveillance software, Sunday, Aug. 3 in Lawrence, Kan. (AP)



Petunia and owner Shannon Nyman, right, celebrate winning first place in the World’s Ugliest Dog Contest at the Sonoma County Fair in Santa Rosa, Calif., on Friday, Aug. 8. (AP)



Benjamin Von Wong, a Canadian artist and activist, poses in front of a sculpture that he designed in front of the United Nations office in Geneva, Switzerland, Monday, Aug. 11. (AP)

New frontier in healthcare

China shows ambition in quest to lead BCI sector

BEIJING, Aug 11, (Xinhua): China is entering the race to develop brain-computer interface (BCI) technology, which enables communication between the brain and external devices by using thought alone.

The country has unveiled a roadmap to achieving breakthroughs in key technologies by 2027, and its complex strength should position it among global leaders in this field by 2030.

By then, China is expected to have built a safe and reliable industrial system, featuring two or three global leaders, backed by smaller firms with special, sophisticated technologies and novel, unique products.

China's maturity in medical scenarios and the certainty of its policies give it an edge in global competition, analysts say.

Notably, efforts underway in the country in this field have already delivered benefits to patients and their families.

At the Beijing-based Xuanwu Hospital under the Capital Medical University, a semi-invasive device has helped a patient with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, to communicate.

The device features independently developed, flexible cortical electrodes, which are capable of collecting signals from 128 channels simultaneously -- placing them among the world's leading technologies of their kind.

Li Yuan, who works at the company that developed the device in collaboration with the Chinese Institute for Brain Research in Beijing, said the patient has been able, after surgery and training, to decode over 60 commonly

used Chinese words and characters.

In southwest China's Sichuan Province, meanwhile, a medical team has successfully removed brain tumor tissue with the aid of BCI technology.

Glioma, one of the deadliest cancers, sends its cells creeping through brain neurons like the roots of a tree -- making conventional surgery perilous. The challenge lies in cutting away the tumor without harming brain functions.

During the operation, doctors placed a sheet of electrodes against the patient's brain tissue. The device captured neural signals in real time, allowing surgeons to distinguish the abnormal electrical activity of tumor cells from that of healthy neurons.

Once the boundary was clear, they swiftly and precisely removed the affected tissue. "It is like catching the electrical signals of tumor cells," said Yang Yuan, associate professor of the neurosurgery department at West China Hospital of Sichuan University.

With a history spanning more than a century, BCI technology has seen rapid growth in recent years. Its applications are expanding beyond healthcare into fields such as education and gaming.

A McKinsey forecast has predicted that the scale of the global BCI medical application market will reach 40 billion U.S. dollars by 2030 and 145 billion dollars by 2040.

By 2028, China's BCI market is projected to be valued at 6.1 billion yuan (around 854.28 million U.S. dollars) -- up from 3.2 billion yuan in 2024, according to CCID consulting under China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.



9-year-old Gracious Chikovo sits on the chair as she recovers from an open-heart surgery at Parirenyatwa Hospital, Harare, Zimbabwe, July 17, 2025. (AP)

Zimbabwe kids with heart disease find hope

HARARE, Zimbabwe, Aug 11, (AP): Tubes snaked across 3-year-old Gracious Chikova's bandaged chest in the intensive care unit of a government hospital in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare. Just a day earlier, surgeons had opened her tiny heart to repair a defect that threatened her life. Now she sipped a drink from a syringe, her mother anxiously watching her every breath.

"I had given up. Those with money have been taking their children to India for surgery, but I simply couldn't afford it," said Vimbainashe Chakanungwa as she helped her daughter sip her meal. Chakanungwa's monthly salary as a teacher is about \$300, barely enough for household basics, let alone surgery.

Gracious is one of 10 children who received free open-heart surgery in July at

Parirenyatwa Hospital from a visiting team of Egyptian surgeons working alongside Zimbabwean doctors.

In a country with just a handful of cardiothoracic specialists and chronic shortages of functioning equipment in public hospitals, the "heart camp" offered hope to families who can't imagine raising the \$15,000 needed for surgery abroad.

Zimbabwe has only five cardiothoracic surgeons, including Dr. Kudzai Kanyepe, the country's first and only female heart surgeon.

"There is no medication that can replace surgery. The burden of disease remains, and unfortunately some of the children pass away without getting the help they desperately need," Kanyepe said. "It is the reason why we continue to work in our country. There is nothing greater than helping your own people."

Zimbabwe resumed open-heart operations in 2023 after they were paused in 2018 due to economic turmoil. Since then, local surgeons have operated on 55 children.

Another 19 have benefited from two surgical camps last year and in July with Egyptian assistance and supported by nongovernmental organizations such as Gift of Life International.

Globally, about one in every 100 children is born with congenital heart disease, making it the world's most common birth defect, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In Zimbabwe, an estimated 4,500 children are born with heart disease each year, with many unable to access surgery, said Dr. Simukayi Machawira, head of cardiology at the hospital.

'Thinker's Burden' art highlights plastic crisis

Artist drowns sculpture in plastic waste at UN talks

GENEVA, Aug 11, (AP): As nations began a second week of negotiations Monday for a global accord to end plastic pollution, an artist heaped piles of plastic waste onto a large sculpture in front of the United Nations office.

Delegates to the treaty talks pass by the sculpture daily in a reminder of their responsibility to solve the plastic pollution crisis. The talks are scheduled to conclude Thursday.

Benjamin Von Wong, a Canadian artist and activist, designed the nearly 6 meter (18 foot) sculpture called the "Thinker's Burden" and built it with a team. It's his take on the famous sculpture by Auguste Rodin, "The Thinker" in Paris. There is a male figure in deep thought, like Rodin depicted. But instead of sitting atop a rock, Von Wong's figure sits atop Mother Earth while cradling a baby and clutching plastic bottles. A strand of DNA intertwines them to highlight the health impacts of plastic pollution.

With the help of volunteers, Von Wong is adding plastic waste to the installation over the course of the negotiations to reflect the growing cost of inaction. He climbed a ladder Monday to reach the top of the

sculpture and weave plastic bottles through the DNA. He put a plastic toy car in front.

"By the end of this week, we should have a sculpture almost completely drowned in plastics, however, the hope is, a strong and ambitious plastics treaty means that we can solve this problem once and for all," he said.

The Minderoo Foundation, an Australian philanthropic organization, was the largest donor for the project. Local nonprofits and community groups collected the plastic trash.

Standing by the sculpture, Maria Ivanova, an expert in international environmental governance, said it "wakes you up." Ivanova is the co-director of the Plastics Center at Northeastern University in Boston.

"People don't change their minds because of facts. They do because of feelings," she said. "And this is where I think art is absolutely critical to shift the needle on policy."

Delegates and tourists stopped to ask Von Wong about his work and pose for photos in front of it. Michael Bonser, head of the Canadian delegation, called the artwork "extraordinarily profound."

"It gives us a sense, every day, of what we need to

be doing inside the room, what we need to walk out with. And that's a deal that allows us to reverse the trend," he said. "That's going to be challenging, but I think it's possible."

About 3,700 people are taking part in the talks, representing 184 countries and more than 600 organizations. They are crafting the first global, legally binding treaty on plastics pollution.

Many agree the pace of the negotiations needs to speed up. They arrived in Geneva with hundreds of disagreements to be resolved. The number of unresolved issues grew last week, instead of shrinking.

European Commissioner Jessica Roswall said she's concerned about the lack of progress, and "it's time to get results." Roswall is commissioner for environment, water resilience and a competitive circular economy.

United Nations Environment Programme Executive Director Inger Andersen told reporters it's still possible to agree on a treaty this week that ends plastic pollution.

"This is within grasp," Andersen said. "The window remains open to leave Geneva with this treaty."

Clinic brings hope to displaced families

Mental health clinics in conflict-prone South Sudan are rare and endangered



Dr. Atong Ayuel Longar, a psychiatrist and director of the Mental Health Department in South Sudan's Ministry of Health, poses for a photo in front of the psychiatric ward at Juba Teaching Hospital in Juba, South Sudan, June 23, 2025. (AP)

health centers, Catholic parishes, local radio stations.

Across South Sudan, there has been massive displacement of people in the civil war that began in 2013 when government troops loyal to President Salva Kiir fought those loyal to Vice President Riek Machar.

The eruption of fighting was a major setback for the world's newest country, which became a major refugee-producing nation just over two years after independence from Sudan. Although a peace deal was reached in 2018, the resumption of hostilities since January led the U.N. to warn of a possible "relapse into large scale conflict."

The violence persists even today, with Machar under house arrest and government forces continuing with a campaign to weaken his ability to wage war. And poverty - over 90% of the country's people live on less than \$2.15 per day, according to the World Bank - is rampant in many areas, adding to the mental health pressures many people face, according to experts.

In a country heavily dependent on charity to keep the health sector running, access to mental health services lags far behind. The country has the fourth-highest suicide rate in Africa and is ranked thirteenth globally, World Health Organization figures show.

PFAS targeted

Finnish schools ban cell phones

HELSINKI, Aug. 11, (Xinhua): As the fall semester began this week in Finnish primary and secondary schools, new legislation took effect banning the use of personal mobile phones, laptops, and tablets during lessons.

Under the law approved by Finland's parliament, pupils in the comprehensive school system (grades 1-9) are only allowed to use digital devices with explicit permission from their teacher, for example, to support learning or meet health needs.

Teachers and principals are authorized to confiscate devices if their use disrupts teaching or learning. The reform is being fully implemented nationwide as of August 2025.

Educators have welcomed the move, echoing a recent poll by the Trade Union of Education in Finland (OAJ), which found that 70 percent of teachers believe the increasing presence of digital gadgets has impaired pupils' concentration. Although many schools have already attempted to limit phone use, inconsistent legal interpretations of students' rights have hampered enforcement.

Supporters hope the reform will help reverse Finland's long-term decline in educational performance. Once a global leader in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), Finland has seen steadily falling scores over the past two decades, especially in mathematics and reading.

□ □ □

Forever chemicals: Australian researchers have developed a sunlight-activated material that transforms toxic "forever chemicals" (PFAS) in water into harmless fluoride.

The innovation offers a low-energy approach to tackling toxic PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination, which has been linked to cancer, infertility, and developmental disorders, according to a statement released Friday by the University of Adelaide in South Australia.

PFAS are synthetic chemicals in cookware, firefighting foams and water-repellent fabrics that resist breakdown and build up in the environment and the human body, with over 85 percent of Australians carrying them in their blood, it said.

New drinking water guidelines have cut safe PFAS limits to mere nanograms per liter, researchers said.

"PFAS contamination continues to pose a global health risk, and this research represents a critical step toward safer communities and cleaner ecosystems," said the study's lead researcher Cameron Shearer from the University of Adelaide.

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

To advertise in this page please call: 69994428 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

For your ads on this page

Call: 69994428

E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

Medical

Health

Pharmacy

Dental

Optical

Physiotherapy

Mental Health

Acupuncture

Yoga

Massage

Nutrition

Herbal Medicine

Chiropractic

Podiatry

Speech Therapy

Occupational Therapy

Rehabilitation

Geriatrics

Pediatrics

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Cardiology

Neurology

Oncology

Endocrinology

Rheumatology

Immunology

Respiratory

Gastroenterology

Hepatology

Nephrology

Urology

Orthopedics

Plastic Surgery

Transplant

Intensive Care

Emergency Medicine

Preventive Medicine

Public Health

Population Science

Health Services Research

Health Economics

Health Law

Health Policy

Health Communication

Health Behavior

Health Equity

Health Justice

Health Innovation

Health Technology

Health Informatics

Health Data Science

Health Systems Research

Health Management

Health Leadership

Health Entrepreneurship

Health Social Science

Health Humanities

Health Arts

Health Literature

Health History

Health Geography

Health Anthropology

Health Sociology

Health Psychology

Health Education

Health Training

Health Career Development

Health Quality Improvement

Health Patient Safety

Health Clinical Research

Health Translational Research

Health Basic Research

Health Applied Research

Health Policy Research

Health Practice Research

Health Evaluation Research

Health Impact Research

Health Knowledge Translation

Health Implementation Research

Health Dissemination Research

Health Synthesis Research

Health Evidence Synthesis

Health System Evaluation

Health Policy Evaluation

Health Practice Evaluation

Health Research Evaluation

Health Knowledge Evaluation

Health Impact Evaluation

Health System Change

Health Policy Change

Health Practice Change

Health Research Change

Health Knowledge Change

Health Impact Change

Health System Innovation

Health Policy Innovation

Health Practice Innovation

Health Research Innovation

Health Knowledge Innovation

Health Impact Innovation

Health System Transformation

Health Policy Transformation

Health Practice Transformation

Health Research Transformation

Health Knowledge Transformation

Health Impact Transformation

Health System Development

Health Policy Development

Health Practice Development

Health Research Development

Health Knowledge Development

Health Impact Development

Health System Sustainability

Health Policy Sustainability

Health Practice Sustainability

Health Research Sustainability

Health Knowledge Sustainability

Health Impact Sustainability

Health System Resilience

Health Policy Resilience

Health Practice Resilience

Health Research Resilience

Health Knowledge Resilience

Health Impact Resilience

Health System Adaptability

Health Policy Adaptability

Health Practice Adaptability

Health Research Adaptability

Health Knowledge Adaptability

Health Impact Adaptability

Health System Flexibility

Health Policy Flexibility

Health Practice Flexibility

Health Research Flexibility

Health Knowledge Flexibility

Health Impact Flexibility

Health System Inclusivity

Health Policy Inclusivity

Health Practice Inclusivity

Health Research Inclusivity

Health Knowledge Inclusivity

Health Impact Inclusivity

Health System Accountability

Health Policy Accountability

Health Practice Accountability

Health Research Accountability

Health Knowledge Accountability

Health Impact Accountability

Health System Transparency

Health Policy Transparency

Health Practice Transparency

Health Research Transparency

Health Knowledge Transparency

Health Impact Transparency

Health System Integrity

Health Policy Integrity

Health Practice Integrity

Health Research Integrity

Health Knowledge Integrity

Health Impact Integrity

Health System Trust

Health Policy Trust

Health Practice Trust

Health Research Trust

Health Knowledge Trust

Health Impact Trust

Health System Collaboration

Health Policy Collaboration

Health Practice Collaboration

Health Research Collaboration

Health Knowledge Collaboration

Health Impact Collaboration

Health System Partnership

Health Policy Partnership

Health Practice Partnership

Health Research Partnership

Health Knowledge Partnership

Health Impact Partnership

Health System Engagement

Health Policy Engagement

Health Practice Engagement

Health Research Engagement

Health Knowledge Engagement

Health Impact Engagement

Health System Empowerment

Health Policy Empowerment

Health Practice Empowerment

Health Research Empowerment

Health Knowledge Empowerment

Health Impact Empowerment

Health System Participation

Health Policy Participation

Health Practice Participation

Health Research Participation

Health Knowledge Participation

Health Impact Participation

Health System Leadership

Health Policy Leadership

Health Practice Leadership

Health Research Leadership

Health Knowledge Leadership

Health Impact Leadership

Health System Governance

Health Policy Governance

Health Practice Governance

Health Research Governance

Health Knowledge Governance

Health Impact Governance

Health System Accountability

Health Policy Accountability

Health Practice Accountability

Health Research Accountability

Health Knowledge Accountability

Health Impact Accountability

Health System Transparency

Health Policy Transparency

Health Practice Transparency

Health Research Transparency

Health Knowledge Transparency

Health Impact Transparency

Health System Integrity

Health Policy Integrity

Health Practice Integrity

Health Research Integrity

Health Knowledge Integrity

Health Impact Integrity

Health System Trust

Health Policy Trust

Health Practice Trust

Health Research Trust

Health Knowledge Trust

Health Impact Trust

Health System Collaboration

Health Policy Collaboration

Health Practice Collaboration

Health Research Collaboration

Health Knowledge Collaboration

Health Impact Collaboration

Health System Partnership

Health Policy Partnership

Health Practice Partnership

Health Research Partnership

Health Knowledge Partnership

Health Impact Partnership

Health System Engagement

Health Policy Engagement

Health Practice Engagement

Health Research Engagement

Health Knowledge Engagement

Health Impact Engagement

Health System Empowerment

Health Policy Empowerment

Health Practice Empowerment

Health Research Empowerment

Health Knowledge Empowerment

Health Impact Empowerment

Health System Participation

Health Policy Participation

Health Practice Participation

Health Research Participation

Health Knowledge Participation

Health Impact Participation

Health System Leadership

Health Policy Leadership

Health Practice Leadership

Health Research Leadership

Health Knowledge Leadership

Health Impact Leadership

Health System Governance

Health Policy Governance

Health Practice Governance

Health Research Governance

Health Knowledge Governance

Health Impact Governance

DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

مرکز شفاء الجزيرة الطبي

SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE

الفحاحيل

Dr. Sabitha Venkitesh MBBS, DNB (Ophthal)

Dr. Vivek P.S MBBS, DO, DNB (Ophthal)

Dr. Reshma Ravindra MBBS, MS (Ophthal)

Special package for family available for eye check up

HOTLINE: 65 95 95 34

Comprehensive Eye screening

Paediatric visual assessment

Glaucoma screening

Diabetic Retinopathy Screening

Foreign Body removal

Mecca Street, Near Roundabout, Life Tower Fahaheel. Tel: +965 2391 9020 www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

Christopher Bell finishes 11.116 seconds behind

Van Gisbergen remains king of the road courses with 4th victory of season

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y., Aug 11, (AP): Shane van Gisbergen’s latest victory in NASCAR’s premier series was as historical as it was emotional. With his father, Robert, on hand for the first time this year, the Auckland, New Zealand, native set a Cup Series rookie record with his fourth victory, blowing out the competition again at Watkins Glen International. As amazing as van Gisbergen’s rookie season in the Cup series. The Trackhouse Racing driver joined 2020 champion Chase Elliott and NASCAR Hall of Famer Jeff Gordon as the only drivers to win four consecutive Cup races on road or street courses. Unlike his prior wins at Mexico City, Chicago and Sonoma, van Gisbergen was unable to start from the pole position after being edged by Ryan Blaney. After qualifying second, van Gisbergen bided his time and took his first lead on the 25th of the 90-lap race. He then settled into a typically flawless and smooth rhythm on the 2.45-mile road course. The 36-year-old rookie made his final pit stop with 27 laps remaining and cycled into first place on Lap 74 of a clean race with only three yellow flags. Cruising to a big lead while leading the final 17 laps, van Gisbergen beat Christopher Bell by 11.116 seconds. With five victories in only 38 career starts in NASCAR’s premier series, van Gisbergen trails only Elliott (seven wins) and Kyle Larson (six) among active drivers on street or road courses. He also is the fastest to five wins in Cup since the legendary Dan Gurney, who won his fifth race in his 13th start in January 1968. The win validated the decision by Trackhouse to sign van Gisbergen to a multiyear contract extension last week. Tied with Denny Hamlin for the series lead in victories, van Gisbergen holds the No. 2 seed in the playoffs

with two races remaining in the regular season. The first round will be held at three oval tracks, where the inexperienced van Gisbergen, who raced exclusively on road and street courses while winning three championships in the Australia-based Supercars, has an average finish of 26.9 this year. Third-place finisher Chris Buescher improved to 34 points ahead of Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing teammate Ryan Preece in the battle for the final playoff spot. Buescher outdueled van Gisbergen on the final lap to win at Watkins Glen last year. His team tailored its strategy Sunday toward amassing stage points instead of following the win-oriented strategy used by van Gisbergen. It was another frustrating race for Ty Gibbs, who spun John Hunter Nemechek late in Stage 2 and then complained about the handling and strategy of his No. 54 Toyota. Joe Gibbs Racing competition director Chris Gabehart, who recently began working as a strategist and consultant to Gibbs’ team, radioed the driver to “stay in the game” after the Nemechek wreck and later took issue after Gibbs questioned his team’s strategy. Gibbs, the grandson of team owner Joe Gibbs, finished 33rd and remained winless since moving into Cup after winning the 2022 Xfinity Series championship. Teammates Chase Briscoe, Denny Hamlin and Christopher Bell have qualified for the playoffs with victories this season. The Cup Series will race Saturday at Richmond Raceway, which will play host to its only NASCAR race weekend this season. The 0.75-mile oval had two annual races on the Cup schedule from 1959-2024.



Shane van Gisbergen (88) drives during a NASCAR Cup Series auto race in Watkins Glen, N.Y. (AP)

Wilson records historic 30-20 night in Las Vegas win over Connecticut



Las Vegas Aces center A’ja Wilson (22) drives against Connecticut Sun center Tina Charles, left, during the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Las Vegas. (AP)

Minnesota tops New York in WNBA Finals rematch

LAS VEGAS, Aug 11, (AP): A’ja Wilson scored 32 points and tied a career-high with 20 rebounds to become the first player in WNBA history with 30-plus points and at least 20 rebounds in a game as the Las Vegas Aces beat the Connecticut Sun 94-86 on Sunday night. Wilson grabbed almost as many boards as Connecticut had as a team (23) as Las Vegas (18-14) won its season-best fourth straight. Jackie Young scored 21 points and reserves Jewell Loyd and Dana Evans scored 12 and 10 respectively. Marina Mabrey scored 22 points, Saniya Rivers had 17 and Leila Lacan 13 for Connecticut. The Sun built a 31-27 lead at the end of the first quarter and extended their lead to 45-33 with with 5:46 left before halftime on Tina Charles’ jump shot. But the Aces outscored Connecticut 12-0 to close the half to tie it 45-all at the half. **Lynx 83, Liberty 71** In New York, Kayla McBride scored 18 points and Dijonai Carrington added 15 to help the Minnesota Lynx beat the New York Liberty. The teams will meet three times over the next nine days with New York having back-to-back games on the west coast before heading to Minnesota to play Saturday. The Lynx are off until that game. Both sides were short-handed with New York

missing Breanna Stewart (knee) and Minnesota playing without Napheesa Collier (ankle). This was the first game between the teams at Barclays Center since New York won the decisive Game 5 of the WNBA Finals last fall. New York (20-11) was up 47-40 early in the third quarter before Minnesota went on a 24-7 run over the next 6 minutes to go up 64-54 on Natisha Hiedeman’s 3-pointer from the wing. The Lynx (27-5) hit five 3-pointers and had one three-point play during the game-changing burst. Minnesota led 66-57 heading into the fourth quarter and put the game away early in the final period behind Carrington, who the Lynx picked up last week in a deal with Dallas before the trade deadline. **Sparks 94, Storm 91** In Los Angeles, Dearica Hamby scored seven of Los Angeles’ final nine points including the winning three-point play with 5.6 seconds left. Kelsey Plum scored 20 points, and the Sparks beat the Seattle Storm. Hamby, who scored 19 points, knotted it at 87-all with two free throws with 1:25 left. Plum sank a pair of free throws with 56.5 seconds to go for a two-point lead. Seattle’s Brittney Sykes hit a pair of late layups including one with 12.7 seconds left to tie it at 91-all, setting up Hamby’s layup to win it. Sykes scored 27 points, reserve Dominique Malonga scored 20, Skylar Diggins 17 and Nneka Ogwumike 15 for Seattle. **Dream 74, Mercury 66** In Phoenix, Allisha Gray scored 17 points and

the Atlanta Dream won their fifth straight, over the Phoenix Mercury. Brionna Jones scored 15 points and grabbed 11 rebounds and Naz Hillmon had 13 points and 13 boards for the Dream (20-11) , while Jordin Canada had a team-leading 13 points when she left due to injury. Before the end of the third quarter, the left-handed Canada drove the left side of the lane, missed the sweeping underhanded layup attempt and appeared to land awkwardly before hobbling off the court. Unable to stand on her own, she was carried to the locker room by two team staff members. Alyssa Thomas scored 21 points for Phoenix (19-12) and reserve DeWanna Bonner had 16. **Mystics 91, Wings 78** In Arlington, Kiki Iriafen scored a career-high 23 points and grabbed 10 rebounds and the Washington Mystics used a strong second half to beat the Dallas Wings. Sonia Citron scored 17 of her 18 points in the second half, Stefanie Dolson scored 14 and reserve Emily Engstler had 11 for the Mystics (14-17) who ended a four-game losing streak. Paige Bueckers scored 17 points to lead Dallas and move into a tie for fourth place in WNBA history with Ruthie Bolton with her 25th game scoring in double digits to start a career. Cynthia Cooper is the leader at 92 games, followed by A’ja Wilson with 37 and Candace Parker with 32. Arike Ogunbowale scored 12 points and Haley Jones 11 for Dallas, which has lost five straight.

Angola to face title-thirsty South Sudan early on home soil

NAIROBI, Aug 11, (Xinhua): The quadrennial AfroBasket men’s basketball championship returns to Africa on Tuesday, with a Group C clash between 11-time champion Angola and the continent’s top-ranked South Sudan set to be an early highlight. Luanda and Namibe will jointly stage the 31st edition of AfroBasket from Aug. 12 to 24, marking the fourth time Angola has hosted the premier event. In each of its previous hostings, Angola’s national team won the title. After a decade off the podium, the Black Antelopes will look to use home advantage to claim a record 12th championship. Following a runner-up finish in 1983, Angola dominated AfroBasket for more than three decades,

winning 11 titles, four silvers and two bronzes without missing the podium. However, the team failed to reach the semifinals in the last two editions, falling to Senegal on both occasions. This year, Angola is in Group C with South Sudan’s Bright Stars, ranked No. 1 in Africa, along with Guinea and Libya. South Sudan, which debuted in 2021 with a seventh-place finish, has quickly risen to prominence, becoming the youngest nation to qualify for both the 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup and the 2024 Paris Olympics. Coached by former NBA All-Star Luol Deng, the Bright Stars aim to back their top ranking with a first major title. Former Beijing Ducks player Nuni Omot is expected

to lead their roster. South Sudan opens against Guinea, the 2023 FIBA Africa U16 champion, while Angola faces Libya. Defending champion Tunisia will attempt a three-peat, a feat only Angola has achieved. Ranked fourth in Africa, Tunisia faces Nigeria, Cameroon and Madagascar in Group B. Nigeria’s men won their only AfroBasket title in 2015 and begin their 2025 campaign against Madagascar. Cameroon’s preliminary squad includes NBA players Yves Missi, Christian Koloko and Ulrich Chomche. Cameroon, which took silver in Luanda in 2007, will hope to repeat its past success on Angolan soil. In Group A, second-ranked Cote d’Ivoire has two titles and four runner-up finishes but lost the 2021

final to Tunisia 78-75. The Democratic Republic of Congo, which posted a 5-1 record in qualifiers including a win over South Sudan, will be among its main challengers. Former bronze medalist Cape Verde and 2021 host Rwanda also aim to improve on their best performances. Group D features Uganda, the only team yet to reach the podium. Senegal and Egypt, dominant forces before 2000, will look to return to form. Senegal, coming off consecutive third-place finishes, opens against Uganda, while Egypt faces the 1972 bronze medalist Mali. Preliminary group winners advance directly to the quarterfinals, while second- and third-placed teams will play in a qualification round for the remaining spots.

Hezly eyes 2028 Olympics Teen Rivera edges Wong to claim national crown

NEW ORLEANS, Aug 11, (AP): Hezly Rivera met the moment. The 17-year-old Olympic gold medalist pulled away for a victory at the U.S. gymnastics championships on Sunday, looking more than ready to be the standard-bearer for the women’s program in the early stages of the run-up to the 2028 Games in Los Angeles. Rivera, the youngest member of the five-woman team that finished atop the podium in Paris a year ago, posted a two-day total of 112.000 just eight-tenths (0.8) clear of runner-up Leanne Wong. Three weeks after a shaky meet at the U.S. Classic, where she finished a distant 12th, Rivera responded with the kind of polished performance that all but assured her of a spot on the four-woman world championship team that will head to Jakarta, Indonesia, in October. Rivera, at the very least, locked up a spot in the world championship selection camp next month. So did Wong, a four-time world championship medalist. Third-place finisher Joscelyn Roberson, an Olympic alternate last summer, also figures to be at the selection camp as the three veterans put significant distance between themselves and the rest of a remarkably young field. Unlike Asher Hong’s easy win in the men’s competition on Saturday, things did not come easily for Rivera. She was pushed through four rotations by Wong, a pre-med student at Florida and a budding entrepreneur who has been remarkably consistent over the last four-plus years. Wong put pressure on Rivera



Hezly Rivera of WOGA reacts after competing on the uneven bars during the senior women’s finals of the U.S. Gymnastics Championships in New Orleans. (AP)

from the start with a stuck Cheng vault and didn’t relent over two hours. Rivera responded each time - she posted the top scores on three of the four events - but it wasn’t until she walked off the podium following her floor routine with victory in hand that she could relax. Roberson looked ready to make it a three-woman race until she tweaked her ankle on the floor exercise during the second rotation. The rising sophomore at Arkansas, visibly limping at times, continued on anyway. She gritted her way through her vault dismount, though the five-tenths (0.5) deduction for using an additional pad for her protection took her out of contention for the all-around. Skye Blakely, who was injured at the Olympic Trials in both 2021 and 2024, was sublime on both uneven bars and balance beam to put herself in consideration to make the world team.

Argentinos Juniors earn first win Former Barcelona forward Roque strikes late, Palmeiras tops Ceara

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug 11, (Xinhua): Former Barcelona forward Victor Roque scored late as Palmeiras recovered from a goal down to secure a 2-1 home win over Ceara in Brazil’s Serie A . Midfielder Joao Lourenco put the visitors ahead on the stroke of halftime when he took a touch to control Antonio Galeano’s pass before firing a 20-yard shot into the top-far corner. Argentine forward Jose Lopez, who replaced Ramon Sosa just before the hour, equalized from the penalty spot in the 67th minute after a Willian Machado hand ball. Roque completed the turnaround two minutes later, side-footing home his fourth goal of the campaign following Mauricio Prado’s cross. “We weren’t bold enough in the first half and struggled to have shots on target,” Palmeiras manager Abel Ferreira told reporters after the match. “After halftime we changed our approach. Their goal set us back but we showed our fighting spirit by winning from the position that we were in. It’s a credit to the players.” Palmeiras is now third in the 20-team standings with 36 points, four behind leaders Flamengo but with a game in hand. In other fixtures on Sunday, Santos won 2-1 at Cruzeiro and Vasco da Gama was held to a 1-1 home draw by Atletico Mineiro.

Lescano strike earns Argentinos Juniors first win A first-half goal from Alan Lescano gave Argentinos Juniors a 1-0 home victory over Union Santa Fe in Argentina’s Primera Division. Lescano broke the deadlock in the 44th minute, angling a low first-time effort into the far corner after Diego Porcel’s cross from the right flank. The hosts controlled the match thereafter to ease to their first win of the campaign and rise to equal-seventh in Group A, level with Union on points and goal difference. Earlier, Facundo Bruera scored two goals and set up another as Barracas Central cruised to a 3-1 home victory over Aldosivi. Barracas leads Group A with nine points, ahead of second-placed Estudiantes by virtue of more goals scored. Aldosivi is last in the 15-team group with two points so far. In Sunday’s only other Primera Division fixture, Instituto Cordoba was held to a 1-1 home draw by Platense.

Kuwait U-23 dominates Yarmouk before heading to Thailand for training camp

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Kuwait's Olympic soccer team recorded a 3-0 victory over Yarmouk in a friendly match at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium. Goals came from Adel Al-Shammari, Moaz Al-Osaimea, and Abdulrahman Al-Rashidi.

The squad departs today for Thailand to begin an overseas training camp in preparation for the AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualifiers. Kuwait will compete in Group B, which features Japan, Afghanistan, and host nation Myanmar, with matches scheduled from September 1 to 9. The tournament finals will take place in Saudi Arabia in January next year. The delegation is headed by Kuwait Football Association board member Dr. Ahmad Ajab and includes the technical, administrative, and medical staff, along with 29 players:

Jassim Al-Mutair, Abdullah Al-Ghaniman, Ahmed Boudi, Mohammed Al-Shuraifi, Abdullah Mousa, Abdulreda Shehab, Badr Al-Mutairi, Yousef Majed, Hussein Al-Aryan, Mohammed Al-Kandari, Omar Al-Mutair, Khaled Al-Khurqawi, Mohammed Al-Surai'e, Saleh Al-Mathib, Jarrah Al-Hulailei, Salem Al-Khatlan, Omar Al-Sulaim,



Kuwait Olympic team player is sandwiched by two Al-Yarmouk players.

Montaser Abdulsalam, Omar Al-Azmi, Hussein Shehab, Abdulrahman Al-Rashidi, Ali Jabr, Nasser Al-Enezi, Bandar Al-Barazi, Abdulrahman Al-Harbi, Jassim Al-Enezi, Adel Al-Shammari, Dhari Al-Masri, Moaz Al-Osaimea, and Munir Al-Subaie.

Schwanke to lead Kuwait Club

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: Kuwait Club has announced the appointment of Brazilian coach Carlos Schwanke to lead its first volleyball team for the upcoming 2025-2026 season. Schwanke takes over from his compatriot Talmo Oliveira, who has moved to Saudi Arabia to coach Al-Ula Club.

Schwanke boasts an extensive and accomplished coaching career. In 2021, he guided the Brazilian national team to victory in the World League. His résumé also includes stints with the Bahraini national team, Kulaib Club, and Al-Rayyan Club of Qatar. Notably, he led Egypt's Zamalek SC to win the 43rd Arab Men's Volleyball Clubs Championship in Doha, defeating fellow Egyptian side Al-Ahly 3-0 in the final.

To strengthen the squad, Kuwait Club has signed two new foreign professionals: Estonian Oliver Finn, formerly of Al-Rayyan, and Canadian star Nicholas Hoag, captain of Qatar's Al-Arabi Club.

The team has also renewed contracts with key local players Abdullah Jassim, Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi, Amer Al-Saleem, and Abdullah Bouftin,

while adding Kuwaiti Al-Arabi player Abdullah Al-Muwaine to the roster.

Preparations for the new season began with a week of gym sessions and fitness training. Ball training will start next week, running alongside continued conditioning work until Coach Schwanke arrives.

Kuwait Club is expected to hold an overseas training camp ahead of the new season, which will kick off with the Federation Championship in mid-September. The volleyball season will conclude in May 2026.



Kuwait Club new coach Carlos Schwanke.

Charlotte completes season sweep of Cincinnati; Sounders rout Galaxy



Inter Miami defender Maximiliano Falcón, left, defends against a goal-attempt by Orlando City midfielder Martín Ojeda, right, during the second half of an MLS soccer match in Orlando, Fla. (AP)

Orlando City overcomes Inter Miami

CINCINNATI, Aug 11, (AP): Wilfried Zaha scored late in the second half and Kristijan Kahlina finished with seven saves as Charlotte FC beat FC Cincinnati 1-0 on Sunday night to run its win streak to five and complete a season sweep.

Cincinnati (15-7-4) was forced to play a man down after the 70th minute when midfielder Tah Brian Anunga was tagged with a red card.

Zaha gave Charlotte the lead in the 85th minute when he used an assist from Idran Toklomati to score his seventh goal. It was the third assist for Toklomati.

Kahlina earned his seventh clean sheet of the season for Charlotte (13-11-2). His final two saves came in stoppage time on shots by Evander Da Silva Ferreira and Miles Robinson. Kahlina had three saves in the first half.

Roman Celentano finished with three saves for Cincinnati. Celantano set a club record by playing his 12,390th minute. Luciano Acosta set the record with 12,381.

Danny Muscovski scored a goal in each half and 18-year-old Snyder Brunell scored in his league debut as the Seattle Sounders cruised to a

4-0 victory over the Los Angeles Galaxy.

Seattle grabbed the lead in the 25th minute on an own goal by defender Julián Aude.

The Sounders took a 2-0 lead in the 37th minute on Muscovski's unassisted goal.

Luis Muriel scored a goal in each half and Martín Ojeda had a goal and an assist to lead Orlando City to a 4-1 victory over Inter Miami.

Muriel scored in the 2nd minute to give Orlando City (9-6-8) a lead that lasted just three minutes after Yannick Bright scored unassisted for his first career goal in his 40th appearance to pull Inter Miami (12-5-6) even.

Ojeda collected his 13th assist on Muriel's goal, extending his club-record streak with a goal contribution to 14.

Orlando City took a 2-1 lead five minutes into the second half on Muriel's unassisted eighth goal of the season.

Ojeda found the net for the 14th time this season to give Orlando City a 3-1 lead in the 58th minute. His 27 goal contributions lead the league.

Marco Pašalić scored unassisted in the 88th minute for a three-goal advantage. It was his 10th goal in his first season in the league.

Inter Miami superstar Lionel Messi, who is tied with Nashville SC's Sam Surridge for the league lead with 18 goals, missed the match due to a right leg injury the 38-year-old suffered Aug. 2 in a

Leagues Cup match against Necaxa. Messi's 18 goals have come while playing in 18 of his club's 23 matches.

Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting scored early in the second half and again on a penalty kick late in stoppage time to rally the New York Red Bulls to a 2-1 victory over Real Salt Lake.

Real Salt Lake (9-12-4) grabbed the lead three minutes into the match and took it into halftime after 18-year-old rookie midfielder Xavier Gozo used assists from William Agada and Diego Luna to score his third goal of the season. Agada's assist was his second while Luna's was his fifth.

Darren Yapi scored twice in the second half to spark the Colorado Rapids to a 2-1 victory over Minnesota United.

Neither team scored until Yapi found the net in the 60th minute to give Colorado (9-11-6) the lead. Defender Sam Vines snagged his second assist this season and the third of his career.

Yapi scored his sixth goal of the season 10 minutes later with an assist from Rafael Navarro - his third - to give the Rapids a two-goal advantage.

Minnesota United (12-6-8) cut it to 2-1 in the 73rd minute when Tani Oluwaseyi took a pass from Joseph Rosales and scored his career-high 10th goal. It was the first assist for Rosales, who subbed in for defender Anthony Markanich in the 61st minute.

Spain replaces women's team coach Montse Tomé with Sonia Bermúdez

MADRID, Aug 11, (AP): Spain's women's national team is making a coaching change two weeks after reaching the final of the European Championship.

Montse Tomé will not have her contract renewed and will be replaced by former player Sonia Bermúdez, the Spanish soccer federation said Monday.

Another former Spain player, Iraia Iturregi, was named the team's second coach.

The decision was made by the federation's board members after Tomé led Spain to the Euro 2025 final, which it lost to England in a penalty shootout on July 27.

Tomé replaced former coach Jorge Vilda following the team's World Cup title in 2023. She led Spain to the title of the inaugural Women's Nations League in 2024. Her current contract with the national team was valid until the end of the month.

Tomé was the first woman to coach the senior women's team in Spain. She had been an assistant to Vilda during the World Cup and was promoted in the fall-

out of former federation president Luis Rubiales' nonconsensual kiss of player Jenni Hermoso during the World Cup's awards ceremony in Australia.

Spain has enjoyed some peace and stability since Rubiales was convicted of sexual assault for the kiss that ignited one of the worst crises in Spanish soccer.

The outrage surrounding the scandal led to widespread changes and improved conditions for the women's national team. Spanish society called for more support for women, and sports officials ultimately were forced to review outdated protocols related to the women's squad.

Bermúdez was a Spain international and also played for Barcelona and Atlético Madrid, among other clubs. She retired as a player in 2020.

Bermúdez had been coaching the youth squads of Spain's national team. She was currently with the under-23 squad.

The board that made the decision was composed of 30 members, half of them women.

Rose beats Spaun in Memphis playoff

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Aug 11, (AP): Justin Rose made up a three-shot deficit over the last five holes against hard-luck Tommy Fleetwood, and then made two birdies in a playoff against U.S. Open champion J.J. Spaun to win the FedEx St. Jude Championship on Sunday.

Rose delivered another sterling performance, closing with a 3-under 67 for his 24th victory worldwide that puts him back into the top 10 in the world at age 45 and secures his spot in another Ryder Cup.

He birdied four straight holes, and narrowly missed a 13-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole at the TPC Southwind for a win in regulation. Rose wound up making six birdies over the last eight holes he played, the last one a 10-foot putt on the 18th on the third playoff hole.

"An amazing last 90 minutes," Rose said. "I played unbelievable golf down the stretch. When I bring my best, I know I'm good enough to play and to compete, and to now win against the best players in the world. Very gratifying day for me."

Spaun showed plenty of moxie on his own. He made a 20-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole to pull into a share of the lead and closed with a 65. He also made a 30-foot birdie putt on the second extra hole with Rose in tight.

"I hung in there the best I could, and he beat me to the hole first. Just wasn't meant to be," said Spaun, who locked up a spot in his first Ryder Cup.

Lost in his remarkable rally was another setback for Fleetwood, who has become a sympathetic figure in golf for close calls and his graciousness in defeat. This looked to be



Justin Rose of England holds the trophy after winning the St. Jude Championship golf tournament. (AP)

his time to add a PGA Tour title to his wins around the world, especially when his 35-foot birdie on the 12th was the first of three birdies in a four-hole stretch that gave him a two-shot lead with three to play.

But he hit pitch through the green on the par-5 16th and had to scramble for par. He was between clubs on the 17th, hit a poor shot and a worse par attempt from 7 feet for bogey. Needing birdie on the 18th to have a chance, he drove into a bunker.

Fleetwood shot 69 and finished one shot out of the playoff along with Scottie Scheffler, who grazed the edge of so many putts on the back nine and had to settle a 67.

"There's a lot of positives to take, as much as I won't feel like that right now. I'm just going to look at what I feel like I could have done and how close it was," Fleetwood said.

UEFA regulations are clear: CAS

Palace loses appeal against demotion by UEFA

GENEVA, Aug 11, (AP): Crystal Palace lost its appeal at sport's highest court on Monday against demotion to the third-tier Conference League for breaching UEFA rules on club ownership with American investor John Textor.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport said its judges dismissed the English cup winner's request to stay in the more lucrative second-tier Europa League in a case that also involved Premier League rival Nottingham Forest and French club Lyon.

Forest and Lyon are confirmed taking entries directly into the Europa League in September and Palace must start in the Conference League qualifying playoff round next week. Palace was drawn last week to play Fredrikstad of Norway or Midtjylland of Denmark on Aug. 21 and Aug. 28.

Palace has become a victim in a complex case - which developed last month when Lyon avoided mandatory relegation in France for financial turmoil - that focused attention on long-standing UEFA rules being tested by more overseas investment in European soccer, especially from



Crystal Palace players celebrate after winning the FA Community Shield final soccer match between Liverpool and Crystal Palace at Wembley Stadium in London. (AP)

the United States.

UEFA demoted Palace because Textor had a 43% ownership stake last season while also owning Lyon. Palace missed a March deadline set by UEFA to solve the potential issue.

CAS said its judges decided Textor "was a board member with deci-

sive influence over both clubs at the time of UEFA's assessment date."

The panel of three judges "considered that the UEFA Regulations are clear and do not provide flexibility to clubs that are non-compliant on the assessment date," the court said in a statement.

The case proceeded despite Textor selling his stake in Palace last month to New York Jets owner Woody Johnson, reportedly for at least \$220 million. Johnson joins Palace chairman Steve Parish and fellow Americans Josh Harris and David Blitzner as partners and directors of the south London club.

Unlike Palace, Forest and Lyon remain part of multi-club ownership networks though do not currently conflict with UEFA rules for entry to the next editions of European competitions. Forest owner Evangelos Marinakis also has Greek title holder Olympiakos which plays in the Champions League this season.

Palace qualified on merit for the second-tier Europa League by winning the English FA cup against Manchester City in May - a first major trophy in the club's 120-year history.

The threat of UEFA sanctions for breaching multi-club ownership rules - drafted more than 25 years ago to protect the integrity of European competitions - cast a shadow over Palace's off-season celebrations and preparations for this season.

ARAB TIMES

Kuwait's No.1 English Newspaper

For Subscriptions and Complaints

Please Call

51508991

51526559



Qadsia goalkeeper makes a save during training session.

Sports

Qadsia aims for glory after tough draw in the Gulf Club Champions League

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DOHA, Aug 11: The draw for the second edition of the Gulf Club Champions League has placed Qadsia in Group A alongside Iraqi side Zakho, UAE's Al Ain, and Bahrain's Sitra. Meanwhile, Group B features Qatar's Al Rayyan, Saudi Arabia's Al Shabab, Oman's Al Nahda, and Yemen's Tadamon Hadramout.

The draw ceremony was held at the headquarters of the Gulf Football Federation in Doha, Qatar. The tournament will follow a home-and-away format and run from September 16, 2025, to April 14, 2026.

Qadsia is set to kick off its campaign on April 16 against Zakho. After narrowly missing out on the title last year – drawing 1-1 with Iraq's Duhok in the first leg before losing 1-2 in the second – Qadsia is determined to claim the championship this season.

Qadsia continues its preparations at a training camp in Turkey ahead of the new season. Tonight, it will play its second friendly match against Saudi Arabia's Al-Faisaly, followed by a game against UAE's Al-Itihad on August 19. Two additional friendlies are being arranged before the camp concludes on August 29.

The team began its preseason with a narrow 0-1 loss to Saudi Arabia's Al-Akhdoon.

Under the guidance of Tunisian coach Nabil Maaloul, Qadsia is focusing on intensive morning and evening training sessions as they prepare for their Zain Premier League opener against Al-Nasr on September 12.



KFA officials pose with the new coach Sousa.

KFA holds strategic talks with new coach Sousa

Mohammed Al-Fulaikawi, Director of the Technical Department at the Kuwait Football Association, met with Portuguese head Coach Hélio Sousa at the association's headquarters. The meeting was attended by Secretary-General Dr. Saleh Al-Majroub,

Director of National Teams Saud Al-Mujammed, and First Team Director Abdulrahman Al-Mousa.

Discussions focused on the Blues' preparations for the coming period, as well as the association's long-term strategy for developing youth

teams ahead of upcoming competitions. The meeting also covered the program for gradually promoting players through the various national team levels and outlined the future preparation plan for sustained success.

Kuwait records first win at Arab Championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

CAIRO, Aug 11: Kuwait claimed its first victory at the 22nd Arab Basketball Championship, defeating Qatar 61-59 in a tightly contested clash at the Cairo Stadium Indoor Halls Complex during the tournament's third round.

The Blues bounced back from a heavy 41-78 defeat to Tunisia in their opener, improving their tally to 3 points. In contrast, Qatar suffered its second straight loss, leaving them with just 2 points.

The round also produced a major upset, as Algeria stunned host nation Egypt 76-74 in a dramatic encounter that required two overtime periods to decide.

Kuwait will return to the court today at 1:00 p.m. for its third match of the championship, facing Bahrain.



A Kuwaiti player prepares to take a free throw.

Best of the Rest

Lopez wants to stay at Barca: FC Barcelona midfielder Fermin Lopez insisted he has no intention of leaving the club after producing a display that showed why he is important to coach Hansi Flick.

Lopez scored the opening two goals of Barca's 5-0 win over Como in the traditional pre-season Joan Gamper friendly and also helped his side create further chances with his constant pressure as the Italian side looked to play the ball out from defense.

There has been talk that Lopez could be sold to help the club raise much-needed fund. However, speaking after the game where he was named MVP, the 22-year-old insisted he was staying put.

"I want to stay here. It's my dream and I'll stay ... a lot of things have been said, but I'm going to continue defending these colors and working hard. The fans can rest easy," he insisted, before discussing the game.

"It was a great game from the entire team that will do us good," he said, adding that his high workrate on the pitch was "non-negotiable".

Barcelona will kick off its title defense in Mallorca on August 16th. (Xinhua)



Camavinga to miss start of campaign: Real Madrid has suffered its first injury setback ahead of the new La Liga season, with the club confirming that central midfielder Eduardo Camavinga will miss the start of the campaign with an ankle injury.

"Following tests conducted on Eduardo Camavinga by the Real Madrid Medical Services, the player has been diagnosed with a sprain to his right ankle. Awaiting further development," the club said on its website.

The injury means the Frenchman will miss the team's only friendly, against WSG Tirol on Tuesday, after returning to pre-season training following the Club World Cup. He will also sit out the opening game of the season at home to Osasuna on Aug. 19.

Camavinga is also doubtful for the second match of the campaign, away to newly promoted Oviedo the following weekend. (Xinhua)

CHENGDU, Aug 11, (Xinhua): The United States edged the Czech Republic 4-3 in overtime to claim the inline hockey gold medal - the first roller sports title awarded at the Chengdu World Games - here on Monday.

Earlier in the day, Namibia defeated France 3-2 to secure the bronze medal. China finished eighth after completing its five inline hockey matches.

In the final, the U.S. took control early, opening the scoring in the sixth minute and closing the first half with a 2-0 lead, while the Czech Republic created only limited chances. In the second half, however, the Americans were unable to build on their advantage, allowing the Czechs to level the game at 3-3 by full time. The U.S. struck again in extra time with an unstoppable attack to seal the victory.

Originating in the United States, inline hockey is popular in North America and Europe. The event has been part of The World Games since 1981. Scott Burnett, manager of the U.S. team, noted that the sport is gaining momentum worldwide.

Wei Yong, secretary-general of the China Roller Skate Association, acknowledged the considerable gap between China and the top teams. He said the host's participation was more about gaining experience.

Inline hockey is played on a flat, hard surface made of cement, wood or brick. Two teams of five players each, including a goalkeeper, wear single-row four-wheel skates, use curved sticks to control and pass a small hard ball, and aim to score by shooting it into the opponent's net.

Switzerland claimed the mixed 580kg tug of war title at The World Games 2025 in Chengdu on Monday.

In the round-robin qualifying rounds, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany and Italy secured the top four spots to advance to the semifinals, where Switzerland defeated Italy and Belgium overcame Germany to set up a gold-medal showdown.

In the final, Switzerland maintained its excellent form, securing a 3-0 victory over Belgium.



Chen Mengyue of China celebrates after defeating Ngo Thi Phuong Nga of Vietnam during the Women's Sanda 52kg Semifinals of Wushu event at The World Games 2025 in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province. (Xinhua)

In the bronze medal match, Germany beat Italy 3-0.

Chinese para athlete Long Dengxi claimed his second gold in freediving a , while Hungary's Zsafia Torocsik broke the world record of the women's dynamic with fins by 16 meters.

Following his win in the men's dynamic without fins - FFS1-FFS2 category on Sunday, the 18-year-old Long added gold in the dynamic with fins, reaching 181.5 meters. Denmark's Casper Marti-Beckmann took silver, and France's Alexandre Boscarri got bronze.

"Winning two golds leaves me thrilled. Huge thanks to our coach for guiding us through every training challenge," said Long, who has trained in freediving for less than a year. "My future goal? To keep pursuing this sport and hope to shatter my personal best from training." Chinese para athlete Huang Jingqiu rebounded from a disqualification on Sunday to win the women's dynamic without fins - FFS1-FFS2 event. Her compatriots Huang Shiyu and Kong Tianci were disqualified from their events for failing the surface protocol.

Poland's Mateusz Jan Malina, winner of the men's dynamic without fins on Sunday, also secured a double by winning the dynamic with fins. Al-

though he did not approach his world records in either event, the 39-year-old was satisfied.

"My legs are very tight. I have not fully recovered since yesterday. Today was a good fight. I was just trying to do my best. I'm satisfied both yesterday and today, I squeezed like a lemon," said Malina.

In the women's dynamic with fins, Torocsik improved the world record from 284.0 to 300.0 meters to win the gold. Former record holder Julia Malgorzata Kozerska of Poland took silver, and compatriot Magdalena Solich Talanda earned bronze.

"I still cannot believe it, but I wanted the world record so much," said Torocsik. "I just trained hard. I try to do my best every single time, doesn't matter what kind of conditions or what kind of mental or physical status. I think that's the key." The two-day freediving competition, featuring disciplines for athletes with and without impairments, saw two world records. China led the medal table with four golds, followed by Poland with three golds, one silver, and one bronze, and Italy on 2-2-3.

The Chinese women's team achieved a relay golden double in finswimming at The World Games 2025 on Monday, as Hungary's Nan-

dor Kiss set another world record in the pool.

Following their thrilling comeback victory in the women's surface relay 4x100m event on Sunday, China's team - consisting of Shu Chengjing, Xu Yichuan, Xie Wenmin, and Hu Yaoyao - aimed to surpass their own world record set at the Birmingham World Games in 2022.

Amid tremendous cheers from local supporters, the team led from start to finish in the surface relay 4x50m final, clocking a world-record time of one minute 7.99 seconds to secure the gold medal.

"We're so happy, so excited! This is the first time our four athletes have competed together, and we're really surprised and unexpected to achieve such great results," said Xu. "The audience at the venue also cheered us on and gave us a lot of motivation." "Over the past two weeks, we've been practicing our baton exchange techniques non-stop. If we could improve by even 0.1 or 0.2 seconds, it would be crucial for breaking the record," added the 33-year-old, who's competing at her fourth World Games.

Germany, winner of the men's surface relay 4x50m on Sunday, also claimed its second relay gold in the surface relay 4x100m. Ukraine and South Korea took the silver and bronze, respectively, while China finished sixth.

Kiss and compatriot Szebasztian Szabo Gyorgyei each set a new world record in the men's surface 200m and men's bi fins 50m, respectively. Meanwhile, Ukraine's Sofiia Hrechko secured the women's surface 400m gold with a new world record of 3:11.88.

"At first, I was just fighting for a podium position until my perfect second 50 meters gave me the lead. When it came to the final sprint, I had only one thing in my mind: going faster and faster!" said Kiss. "Since the last World Games in Birmingham, I've been dreaming of this gold medal. Even now, I can hardly believe I actually made it." The two-day finswimming competition saw seven world records and nine World Games records. Hungary topped the medal table with five golds, three silvers and one bronze, followed by Germany with 3-3-0, and Ukraine with 2-4-5, while China finished further behind with 2-1-1.

Premier League 'middle-class' looking for surprises and upsets

LONDON, Aug 11, (Xinhua): Crystal Palace's thrilling win on penalties against Liverpool in the Community Shield at Wembley on Sunday showed there is still room for surprises in an English top-flight and the ability of the so-called 'middle-class' to spring surprises will be a key factor in the coming season.

Although the Premier League title race does look as if it has four main candidates (Liverpool, Arsenal, Manchester City and Chelsea), Palace's win shows upsets can always happen.

It seems strange to consider Manchester United and Tottenham the "middle-class", but their performances last season in the Premier League were dreadful, with United finishing 15th and Tottenham an embarrassing 17th.

Although neither was in danger of relegation with the bottom three a long way adrift long before the end of the season, Spurs' 38 points from 38 matches, and Manchester United's 42

points leave them a world behind Liverpool's 84 points for the campaign.

Tottenham brought in Brentford coach Thomas Frank to replace Ange Postecoglou, made Mathys Tel's loan move permanent and has signed Mohammed Kudus from West Ham and Joao Palhinha on loan from Bayern Munich in what looks like a smart move.

Austrian international Kevin Danso should strengthen central defense, while Kota Takai is also an interesting prospect, although perhaps one for the future.

Tottenham has said goodbye to Son Heung-min as he moves to LA, while James Maddison's knee injury is a big setback for Tottenham with the aim of a top-six finish.

Manchester United has no European commitments, meaning Ruben Amorim's side can focus on the league. The jury is still out on the Portuguese coach, but the club has given him its

back in terms of arrivals and departures, adding considerable firepower in Bryan Mbeumo, Matheus Cunha and

Benjamin Sesko, while shipping out Marcus Rashford and others, such as Antonio Garnacho, also likely to leave.



Chelsea's Liam Delap scores their side's third goal during a pre-season friendly soccer match between Chelsea and AC Milan at Stamford Bridge, London. (AP)

Amorim could argue last season that he wasn't working with a squad of his making, but he has no excuses now and needs his team to perform from the start.

Nottingham Forest was last season's surprise package under Nuno Espirito Santo and will be happy to have fended off Tottenham's interest in Morgan Gibbs-White, with Dan Ndoye in to replace Anthony Elanga.

Playing in Europe may stretch Forest's squad, but under Nuno, they won't give much away, even though another top-seven finish looks difficult.

Crystal Palace has already shown its giant-killing abilities under coach Oliver Glasner, although uncertainly over which European competition it will play next season has limited summer signings to just Walter Benitez and Borna Sosa.

The good news is that so far, Palace has held on to key players, Marc Guehi and Eze Eberechi, although the rest of

the month could see more movement in the transfer market.

Everton begins life in its new Everton Stadium, which has created a buzz around the club, although coach David Moyes has indicated he wants more action in the transfer market, with activity speeding up in recent days with the arrival of midfielder Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall and striker Thierno Barry, who impressed last season at Villarreal.

Expect Moyes' side to be solid if unspectacular.

Brighton maintained its reputation for entertaining football last season under young coach Fabian Hurrzeler and although the club has lost Joao Pedro to Chelsea, youngster Tom Watson looked good at Sunderland last season, while the signing of teenager Charalampos Kostoulas, could be another example of Brighton moving early to sign a player who will earn it big money in the future.