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## Kuwait set for largest legislative overhaul in history



KUNA photo  
A group photo with the Minister of Justice during an inspection tour at the Farwaniya Courts Complex in Al-Raqqa.

### Justice Minister pushes for Kuwaitization

By Jaber Al-Hamoud  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait has announced the imminent launch of the largest legislative development plan in the history of Kuwait.

Al-Sumait pointed out that the country witnessed two significant legislative renaissances: the first -- between 1959 and 1965 -- before the promulgation of the Constitution, which resulted in major laws such as the Nationality Law; and the second -- between 1978 and 1984, which witnessed the promulgation of most of the laws in effect today like the Civil Code, Code of Civil Procedure and the Personal Status Law.

The minister made the announcement on Wednesday while speaking to reporters following an inspection tour at the Farwaniya Courts Complex

in Al-Raqqa. He was accompanied by acting Undersecretary Awatif Al-Sanad and acting Assistant Undersecretary Nouf Al-Qabandi.

This inspection tour is part of the commitment of the minister to monitor and review services provided to the public.

He pointed out that "today, we have 983 laws in force. We announced at the beginning of our work that we would review 10 percent of the laws within one year. In just eight months, we have completed the review of 118 laws, exceeding the previously set number. We are now in the preparation phase to launch the second phase of the plan to review an additional 15 percent, bringing the total to 25 percent of the laws within one year. God willing, we will achieve this goal and perhaps more."

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### HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

**Hassan II to a French journalist – A monarchy governed by affection**

Trust between the monarch and the people, not fear, forms the foundation of governance.

I lead a nation that cannot be bought nor easily deceived.

One who relies on fear to maintain authority is unworthy of leadership.

A leader without affection for his people will not endure long.

Nur ad-Din Zengi seized 30,000 sheep from the Crusaders.

When asked if he needed the sheep, the judge of Damascus replied, "We have enough."

Egypt responded, "We have enough and will contribute an additional 30,000 sheep."

Scholars of the Hijaz warned, "The people are on the brink of ruin."

He sent all surplus provisions to them, bringing relief and enabling them to store the rest.

3

## APPROVED G.C.C. JOBS NOW ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY

# 'Kuwait welcomes everyone'

### Visa overhaul puts Kuwait on tourist map

By Munif Naif  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: Director of the Electronic Services Department at the General Directorate of Residency Affairs Colonel Abdulaziz Al-Kandari announced the removal of the national carrier requirement for entry visas to Kuwait, declaring that beneficiaries

can now enter Kuwait by land, sea, or air using any airline.

In a statement to Kuwait TV recently, Colonel Abdulaziz Al-Kandari explained that the "Kuwait Visa" platform, which was launched in cooperation with the General Directorate of Information Systems, enables the issuance of tourist, family, commercial, and government visas through the website and smartphone application, thus eliminating the need to visit Residency Affairs Departments.

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## Essentials win, construction slides in H1 subsidy shuffle

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: Subsidies for basic food supplies, milk and baby food, and construction materials increased by 0.9 percent during the first half of 2025, rising by KD 1.6 million compared to the subsidies for construction materials in the same period of 2024.

The total value of subsidies reached KD 181.7 million, including KD 95.5 million for construction materials (52.4 percent), KD 77.5 million for basic materials (42.6 percent), and KD 8.8 million for milk and baby food (5 percent) of the total food subsidies during the first half of the year.

Official statistics from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed that approximately 2.3 million individuals benefited from cumulative subsidies by the end of June 2025, along with the registration of about 272,134 cumulative ration cards during the same period.

Detailed data show that subsidies for basic commodities disbursed through ration cards during the first half of the year increased by 14.3 percent, about KD 11.1 million, compared to KD 66.4 million in the same period last year.

Subsidies for milk and baby food rose by 18 percent (KD 1.6 million) this year, up from KD 7.2 million in the first half of 2024.

Meanwhile, subsidies for construction materials declined by 10.5 percent (KD 11.2 million) to KD 95.2 million, compared to KD 106.4 million in the first half of last year.

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Photo by Samer Shiqer  
Motorists weave through dusty, sun-baked roads as Kuwait sizzles under 50°C heat on Wednesday.

### Emblems now legally protected

## Kuwait cracks down on Red Cross, Red Crescent misuse

By Jaber Al-Hamoud  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: The Cabinet approved a draft decree-law regulating the use and protection of the Red Crescent and Red Cross emblems during its recent meeting.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the draft law, which states that the Cabinet will issue the executive regulations within six months from the date the decree-law is published in the Official Gazette, based on a proposal from the Minister of Defense.

The draft law requires private sector civilian medical units, which are covered under the new legislation and currently operating in violation of its provisions, to rectify their status by removing any non-compliant elements within six months from the date the decree-law takes effect.

The explanatory memorandum emphasized that the emblems serve as the primary symbols of distinction to ensure the protection of the wounded, sick, medical personnel, medical facilities and means of medical transportation.

In accordance with this principle, the First Geneva Convention of 1949 for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, includes the provisions of Chapter VII titled "The Distinctive Emblem." This chapter spans Articles 38 to 44; while Article 53 addresses protection of the emblem, and Article 54 explicitly requires the parties to the Geneva Convention to adopt the necessary legislation to prevent misuse.

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### Experts suggest usufruct and tourism-only models for buyers

## Kuwait mulls controlled foreign property rights

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are accelerating their efforts to further open

up the real estate sector to foreign ownership as part of development strategies aimed at stimulating economic growth and attracting capital.

Each country's approach varies in defining the scope and conditions of this openness; reflecting natural differences in national visions, geographical contexts and population needs.

Real estate experts told the newspaper that these initiatives are important for investment and development throughout the region. However, implementing them in Kuwait requires careful analysis and a thorough review of existing legislation and local realities, particularly given Kuwait's unique nature. The country has a relatively small land area compared to a nation like Saudi Arabia, which is more akin to a continent in scale. Moreover, the real estate market in Kuwait is highly sensitive to sudden shifts in prices or ownership trends, which could result in price inflation and reduce citizens' future ability to purchase property. The experts proposed alternative models, such as long-term usufruct rights or ownership limited to commercial and tourism purposes. These measures will help strike a balance between encouraging investment and safeguarding national sovereignty. They also recommended restricting ownership to apartments; while simultaneously increasing their supply, establishing new investment zones, and converting selected residential areas into investment zones.

Imad Haidar, Head of the Real Estate Brokers Association, stated that Saudi Arabia's experience with foreign real estate ownership and the introduction of new regulatory re-

quirements has been successful and achieved its intended goals. Nevertheless, he believes replicating this experience in Kuwait presents challenges due to several factors; including differences in market size, land area, and the dynamics of supply and demand.

He explained that Saudi Arabia is a continent-sized country with vast, untapped land. For Saudi Arabia, the entry of foreign investors offers an opportunity to revitalize the real estate market and attract capital. In contrast, Kuwait's urban areas that suitable for development are limited, and demand exceeds supply in most regions. Given that prices are already high, Haidar questioned how much higher they might rise once foreign investors enter the market.

He warned about the potential risks associated with foreign ownership, such as inflated real estate prices and a reduced ability for citizens to buy property -- similar to situations observed in Türkiye and Spain, where local populations now oppose foreign ownership due to their children's inability to compete with international buyers. He pointed out that this proposal was discussed in Kuwait more than a decade ago, but failed to gain traction. Despite the potential social, economic and security benefits--such as allowing foreigners to settle with their families, reducing remittances, increasing domestic spending, and shifting Kuwait's demographic profile from predominantly single workers to families--Haidar stressed that any implementation must be preceded by careful legislative review to adapt to the new context. He emphasized that the experiment should be launched in a regulated and limited manner, restricted to apartments, alongside efforts to increase apartment supply, create new investment areas, and rezone parts of Salmiya, Farwaniya and Khaitan for investment purposes.

Real estate expert Alaa Behbehani expressed support for the idea of allowing non-Kuwaitis to own real estate, provided it occurs within a well-defined legal framework that preserves demographic identity and maintains social stability. He stated that this move could significantly contribute to economic growth through increased foreign direct investment, revitalization of the construction sector, and the creation of jobs in related fields like property management, engineering and legal services. "Controlled permission for foreign ownership could also boost both the tourism and real estate sectors, while improving Kuwait's image as an attractive destination for investment--especially in light of the government's ongoing efforts to diversify income sources and reduce reliance on oil," he explained.

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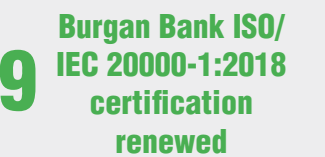
Photo by Samer Shiqer  
Ceremonial cutting of the cake during the celebration marking the 65th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Chad. -- See Page 5



2 Acting PM receives  
Antigua and  
Barbuda's FM



8 Zain Summer Pro-  
gram: a remarkable  
conclusion for a  
remarkable cohort



9 Burgan Bank ISO/  
IEC 20000-1:2018  
certification  
renewed



9 stc concludes  
summer training  
program for  
university students



9 UPAC posts H1  
profit of KD 497k

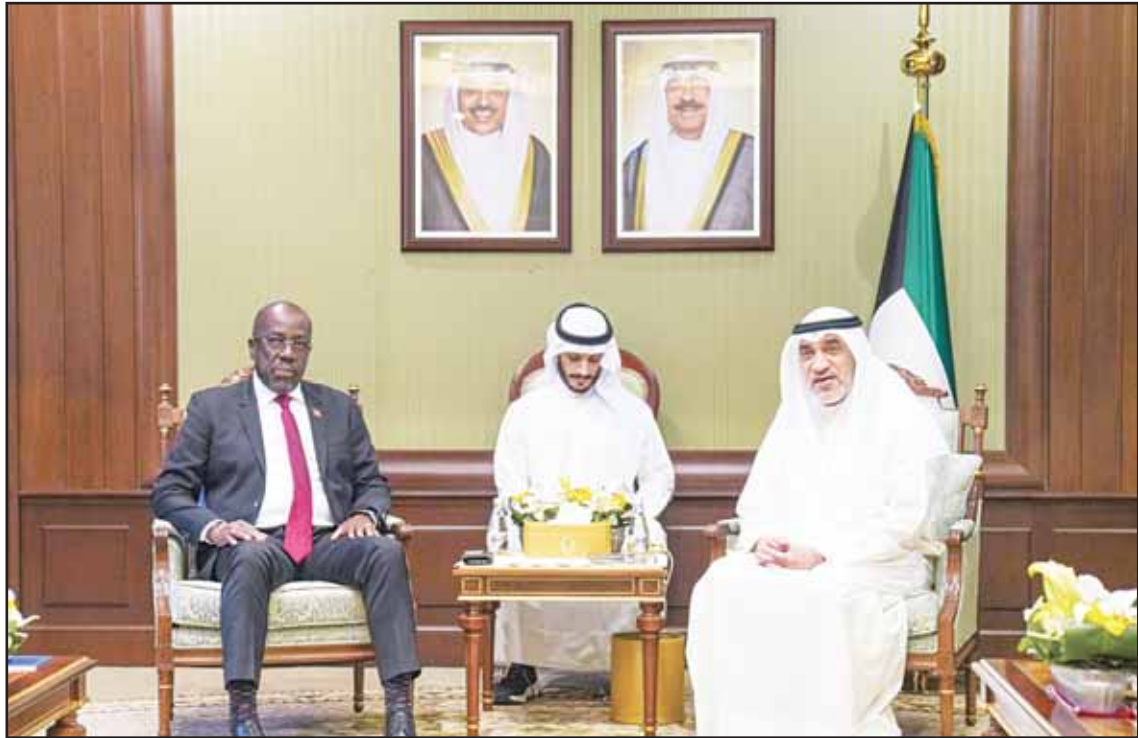


Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	03:49	Asr .....	15:28
Sunrise ..	05:15	Maghrib ..	18:31
Zohr .....	11:53	Isha .....	19:54

# Local

**Expected weather for next 24 hrs:**  
**By Day:** Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h.  
**By Night:** Hot to rather hot with light variable wind to light to mod-

Weather			
erate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h.	Jahra	51	34
<b>Station</b>	<b>Max Exp</b>	<b>Min Rec</b>	
Kuwait City	49	39	35
Kuwait Airport	50	30	31
Abdaly	51	32	31
Bubyan	40	24	32
			31



PM Diwan photo  
Kuwait's Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah receives the visiting Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Barbuda Affairs Everly Paul Chet Greene, along with his accompanying delegation.



KUNA photo  
Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya in talks with the visiting Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Barbuda Affairs Everly Paul Chet Greene, along with his accompanying delegation.

## Acting PM receives Antigua and Barbuda's FM

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13, (KUNA): Kuwait's Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah, received on Wednesday at Bayan Palace, in the presence of Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Barbuda Affairs Everly

Paul Chet Greene, along with his accompanying delegation, on the occasion of his visit to the country. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries and ways to strengthen them, in addition to exchanging views on issues of mutual interest.

## FM meets Antigua & Barbuda's counterpart

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13, (KUNA): Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya met on Wednesday Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Barbuda Affairs Everly Paul Chet Greene, along with his accompanying delegation, on the occa-

sion of his visit to the country. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries and ways to strengthen them, in addition to exchanging views on issues of mutual interest.

## KUWAIT EYES FIRST LUNG TRANSPLANT BY '25 END

# Kidney patients top list as 557 waiting for transplant

Posthumous donation card holders total 15,000

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

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13 : Dr. Turki Al-Otaibi, head of Kuwait Center for Organ Diseases and Transplantation, has unveiled preparations for the first lung transplant in the country by the end of this year at the Chest Diseases Hospital.**

Al-Otaibi made the announcement in a special interview on Kuwait TV on the occasion of World Organ Transplantation Day, which falls on Aug 13 of each year.

He affirmed that Kuwait focuses on developing and updating organ transplant programs of various types -- kidney, heart, pancreas, liver and other existing and emerging programs. He said the problem of organ shortage is one of the most difficult global and local challenges. "Despite the fact that around 158,000 organ transplants were performed worldwide in 2022; this does not exceed 10 percent of the

number of patients on the waiting lists," he added. He stated that 557 patients in Kuwait are on the organ transplant waiting list -- 500 kidney transplant patients, 30 liver transplant patients, 15 pancreas transplant patients, five combined pancreas-kidney transplant patients, and seven heart transplant patients. He stressed that the State of Kuwait, represented by the Ministry of Health, is committed to developing and modernizing the infrastructure for organ transplant programs and raising awareness on the importance of posthumous organ donation. He revealed that the number of posthumous organ donation card holders in Kuwait is around 15,000; clarifying the card is like a will that requires two fully qualified witnesses. He stated that only one percent of these individuals are eligible to donate organs posthumously; as donation requires brain death, not cardiac death. He emphasized the need for concerted efforts to increase the availability of donation cards and raise awareness on the importance in saving patients' lives. He pointed out that there are several organ trans-

plant programs in the country; some of which are fully operational, while others are suspended or under preparation. He added that the kidney transplant program, established in 1979, is one of the oldest programs in the Middle East. He stated that during the past year, 149 kidney transplants were performed, including 76 brain-dead organ donations, all of which were successful. He said that Kuwait also has heart and pancreas transplant programs. The first heart transplant in the country was performed in 2019, and since then, seven successful heart transplants have been performed. "The first pancreas transplant was performed in 2007, after which the program was suspended and resumed in 2023 with a combined pancreas and kidney transplant," he revealed. Regarding suspended programs, Al-Otaibi disclosed that the liver transplant program was launched in 2020; and the first liver transplant was performed during the COVID-19 crisis. "However, the program was halted for organizational and administrative reasons," he explained.



Farwaniya Governorate photo  
Farwaniya Governor and acting Capital Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah receives the Pakistani Ambassador to Kuwait, Dr Zafar Iqbal.

## Farwaniya Gov., Pakistan envoy hail mutual ties in goodwill visit

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: Farwaniya Governor and acting Capital Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah on Wednesday met with Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the State of Kuwait Dr. Zafar Iqbal at his office in the headquarters of Farwaniya Governorate on Wednesday. Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser warmly welcomed the Ambassador and praised the deep-rooted brotherly relations between

the two friendly countries and peoples. During the meeting, topics of mutual interest were discussed; with both sides praising the close relations between the two countries. On the other hand, the Ambassador thanked the Governor for the warm welcome and hospitality; wishing him success in his work and further development and prosperity for the State of Kuwait.

71,786 expats in 60-64 range

## Power surplus expected in Gulf grid project linkup by year end

By Mohammad Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: Around 70 to 80 percent of the overhead lines project linking the Gulf Interconnection Station (Al-Wafra) to Sabah Al-Ahmad Power Plants (3Z and 4Z) has been completed, say sources from the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.

Sources pointed out that this development is a significant phase in the implementation of the project by the contractor of the Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnection Authority (GCCIA), indicating the project is expected to be completed before the end of this year.

Sources confirmed that the ministry

will fully benefit from the project next summer, as strengthening the interconnection lines with the Gulf grid allows the import of up to 2,500 megawatts; depending on the surplus in the interconnection system.

In another development, the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) approved awarding the maintenance tender for the Doha Seawater Reverse Osmosis Desalination Plant, along with equipment to increase the alkalinity of the produced water (Phase One), to the company with the second-lowest bid that met the conditions and specifications with a total value of KD10.487 million. The lowest bid was excluded for not meeting the technical conditions and specifications.

## Kuwait new strategy stresses empowerment of youth: PAY

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13, (KUNA): Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Youth (PAY), Nasser Al-Sheikh, affirmed that the launch of the Authority's new strategy for 2025-2030 underscores Kuwait's ongoing commitment to youth development and to showcasing their potential as active contributors to national progress.

Speaking to KUNA on the occasion of International Youth Day, Al-Sheikh emphasized that youth are the cornerstone of any society and vital players in nation-building across all sectors. He noted that the newly unveiled strategy aims to further elevate the role of young people in shaping Kuwait's future.

The strategy was launched during a ceremony commemorating International Youth Day, which is observed annually on August 12. The event was held under the patronage and in the presence of the Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi.

Al-Sheikh highlighted the country's dedicated efforts to support its youth by



KUNA photo  
Nasser Al-Sheikh

organizing training programs, nurturing emerging talents, and providing an environment that fosters creativity, innovation, and personal development.

He also pointed out that the United Nations designated August 12 to celebrate youth globally, with the goal of focusing international attention on youth-related issues, unlocking their full potential, and involving them in achieving sustainable development goals.

## Defense urged to stick to time-frame for relocation

By Inaas Awadh  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: The Kuwait Municipality has submitted an official statement to the Municipal Council in response to the question of council member Abdullah Al-Enezi regarding military sites and camps affiliated with the Ministry of Defense; including the Administrative Support Command and the Land Forces Institute located between Saad Al-Abdullah City and Jahra residential area, as well as the surrounding vacant land.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the statement, indicating the Municipality addressed the Ministry of Defense in a letter dated April 30. This action was taken based on the request of the Council during its session held on Jan 27, urging adherence to the timeline set forth in its decision issued on Sept 7, 2020. The aim is to facilitate the handover of the current site to the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW).

The Municipality pointed out that it attached a series of letters and official correspondences related to the matter, which has been under discussion for more than four years between the Council, Municipality and ministry. One of the important communications is a letter from the ministry dated Sept 6, 2022, concerning the relocation of the Administrative Support Command in accordance with the decision of the Council.

This is in addition to a more recent letter, dated June 6, 2024, about the provision of an alternative site for the Administrative Support Command. This new location, covering 2.4 square kilometers, is adjacent to the alternative site for the Land Forces Institute and lies outside the boundaries of the designated residential expansion area.

The relocation timeline has also been revised, extending the transition period from three to eight years, starting from the commencement of construction on both camps.

The Municipality further stated that, in line with the decision of the Council on Jan 27, coordination is ongoing with the ministry to finalize a date for handing over the current site to the housing authority and receiving the designated alternative site. However, a formal response from the ministry is still pending.

## Justice ministry in major reshuffle of several directors

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Yousef Al-Sumait issued a decision on the transfer of several directors in the ministry, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily obtained a copy of the decision stating as follows:

■ Transfer of Ahlam Abdulaziz Ali Al-Muwail (General Grade B), Director of the Technical Of-

fice in the Information Technology and Statistics Sector (Management Level), to the position of Director of the Statistics and Research Department;

■ Transfer of Mansour Mufleh Khalaf Al-Mutairi (General Grade One), Director of the Court of First Instance Clerks Department, to the position of Director of the Jahra Governorate Implementation Department;

■ Transfer of Ahmad Abdullah Ahmad Al-Kandari (General Grade One), Director of the Administrative Affairs Department, to the position of Director of the Judges Club Affairs Department.

Article Two of the decision mandates all competent authorities to implement it and notify the concerned parties.



Al-Tawari

harmacy Awareness Week will be celebrated for five consecutive days, from Aug 17-21.

In a statement to the newspaper, Al-Tawari revealed the campaign slogan is "Health through Balanced Medication" that includes various awareness

activities in the governorates to emphasize the importance of reviewing medications to ensure their safe and effective use. She revealed that the activities will start on Sunday at the Capital Mall, then the Eye Center in Jahra

Governorate, Mahmoud Haider Center in Hawally Governorate and Bayat Center in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate.

She said the campaign will conclude next Thursday with a comprehensive awareness lecture for doctors and the public on the dangers of polypharmacy at Jaber Hospital. She confirmed that a group of pharmacists will participate to provide various tips and guidance on the optimal use of medications, methods for reminding people of medication times through medication boxes and other methods that help the elderly remember medication times; such as adding a list to their phones for reminders and periodic alerts, as well as linking medications to daily routines for prayer times, meals and other activities.



HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



Hassan II to a French journalist – A monarchy governed by affection

WHEN a French journalist sarcastically asked King Hassan II, “Do you fear for your throne?” the king’s response was striking.

With a smile, he replied, “I have no fear for the throne, because the bond between me and my people is built on mutual trust, not fear. It forms the foundation of governance.”

He further elaborated, “Anyone who needs fear to maintain authority was never worthy of leadership to begin with. I govern a people who cannot be bought, are not easily deceived, and who never forget those who show them genuine affection. Learn history ... A leader who lacks love for his people will never endure for long.”



Nur ad-Din Zengi and Eid al-Adha

Forty days before Eid al-Adha, Nur ad-Din Zengi (May Allah have mercy on him) captured 30,000 sheep from the Crusaders during a raid.

He sent a message to the judge of Damascus, requesting that the sheep be accepted and distributed among the people of the Levant.

The judge replied, “The people of Damascus have sufficient provisions; we will add another 10,000 sheep.”

- Trust between the monarch and the people, not fear, forms the foundation of governance.
- I lead a nation that cannot be bought nor easily deceived.
- One who relies on fear to maintain authority is unworthy of leadership.
- A leader without affection for his people will not endure long.
- Nur ad-Din Zengi seized 30,000 sheep from the Crusaders.
- When asked if he needed the sheep, the judge of Damascus replied, “We have enough.”
- Egypt responded, “We have enough and will contribute an additional 30,000 sheep.”
- Scholars of the Hijaz warned, “The people are on the brink of ruin.”
- He sent all surplus provisions to them, bringing relief and enabling them to store the rest.

This brought the total to 40,000. Nur ad-Din then sent the same message to the judge of Egypt, who responded that Egypt, too, had enough provisions and would contribute an additional 30,000 sheep, along with grains, crops, and clothing.

The total number of sheep distributed reached 70,000.

He then sent his message to the scholars of the Hijaz, who replied with a distressing plea, “Please send all necessary provisions. The people here are on the brink of ruin due to severe famine, drought, and grain shortages.”

Nur ad-Din responded by sending all the aid he had received and contributed from his own fortune until the people of the Hijaz were relieved.

They nourished the pilgrims and stored preserved meat and grain for times of hardship.

Reflect on the compassion that existed among the people of Islam, how they cared for one another and honored those in need.

Also reflect on how, during years of famine, the Hijaz itself received supplies from Somalia.

Ships would sail from the coasts of Africa laden with grain, dates, corn, clothing, and sheep to the land of the Two Holy Mosques, without borders, visas, nationalities, or expectation of payment.

Consider how much things have changed today. When will this nation return to the way Allah intended it to be?

“Take your adornment at every mosque...” That is, if you were visiting a king or head of state, you are seen adorning yourself, applying perfume, brushing your teeth, wearing your finest clothes, and wrapping yourself in a bisht (cloak) and the finest ghutra (headscarf). But when you go to the mosque to meet your Lord, you appear in ordinary clothes! Is this laziness or lack of mindfulness? There is no power nor strength except through Allah.



The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) has large financial reserves and grants annual awards that often benefit those far away, rather than locals. We rarely hear of a Kuwaiti being honored by the foundation. And if we do, it is only once every few years, or even once a century. In Allah we trust.



Keeping your distance from those who spoil your mood is your right. Avoid those whose chatter, jokes, or even kindness you find unpleasant. It is hard for a dullard to admit their estrangement.

Biometrics launched for ‘army personnel’

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: The Kuwait Army General Staff, under direct orders from the Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Pilot Sheikh Sabah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, has begun implementing the biometric fingerprint system for tracking the attendance and departure of all army personnel, including officers, non-commissioned officers, enlisted members, and professionals, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Sheikh Sabah

The General Staff called on all personnel to commit to using the biometric fingerprint system from Wednesday, August 13 to October 28.

The issued instructions emphasized the importance of monitoring the implementation of this procedure.

The Signal Corps has been tasked with preparing lists of those who fail to attend or comply, with appropriate action to be taken against violators.

Informed sources confirmed that this step is part of efforts to develop the administrative discipline system and strengthen governance and oversight within the military institution.

The Deputy Chief of Staff was the first to register his fingerprint on Sunday to officially launch the system.

He emphasized that this step is part of the military’s plan to reinforce job discipline and enhance the efficiency of human resource management.



Al-Seyassah photo  
The Kuwaiti woman arrested with talismans and other items used for sorcery.

Sorceress with quick fix to all problems nabbed

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: The General Department of Criminal Investigation’s Anti-Financial Crimes Department arrested a retired Kuwaiti woman on charges of practicing witchcraft, sorcery, divination, fraud, and deception in exchange for money, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that detectives received confidential information indicating that a Kuwaiti woman was engaging in criminal activities and luring victims by claiming she could solve family problems, break spells, bring luck, and grant wishes, for all of which she had demanded payment.

After verifying the information and completing the necessary investigations, legal permission was granted, and a team of detectives arrested the accused at her home in Mangaf.

Tainted booze kills 10 expats

Ex-MP hearing put off

By Jaber Al-Hamoud  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: A total of 10 expatriate workers in Ahmadi died and alcohol poisoning could be the cause as per the initial investigations, reports Al-Jarida daily.

A security source told the daily that the authorities received 10 separate reports on the deaths of these expatriates. The source confirmed that investigations are underway, indicating the results of preliminary investigations showed alcohol poisoning as the possible cause of death.



Hearing Sept 3: After three requests to dismiss the court panel in the “insulting the Amir” case, the Criminal Court has scheduled the trial of former MP Mohammad Al-Mutair for September 3. Al-Mutair is accused of insulting the Amir during a political symposium.

The case arises from statements attributed to Al-Mutair that were considered offensive to the Amir, leading the Public Prosecution to refer him to trial before the Criminal Court.

The court had previously postponed the hearing after Al-Mutair’s defense submitted three consecutive requests to dismiss the panel, headed by Counselor Abdullah Al-Asimi. This resulted in the case being referred to the Chief Justice to appoint a new circuit to hear the trial.

Kuwaiti preacher terminated for violating mosque charter

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: The Ministry of Islamic Affairs terminated a Kuwaiti from his duties as Imam and preacher, as it was proven that he violated the mosque charter and the organizing instructions.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the decision, requiring the Imam to vacate his

allocated housing unit within three months from the date of issuance, based on the ministerial decision regulating residential care for those occupying religious positions.

Sources told the newspaper that there are strict instructions regarding the need to hold accountable anyone who makes a mistake or violates the Mosque Charter, and to prevent their exploitation in a manner that deviates from the noble mission of preaching.

Gov. honors Jahra traffic police for keeping order in rush hour

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi honored the outstanding leaders, officers and personnel at the General Traffic Department in recognition of their exceptional efforts in maintaining traffic order and easing congestion throughout the governorate, reports Al-Rai daily.

The ceremony, held recently at the Jahra Traffic Department, is in line with the commitment of the governorate to recognize excellence and promote a culture of appreciation for public service. The awardees were commended for their effective contribu-

tions to enhancing traffic discipline, regulating vehicle flow, and ensuring smoother, safer commutes on the roads and streets of the governorate.

In a press statement, Al-Habashi expressed his sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Interior for its continuous cooperation. He praised the vital role played by the Traffic Department in safeguarding road users and reflecting the commitment of the governorate to maintain public order, safety, and a more civilized urban environment.

E-seizure of accounts on cards

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice Awatif Al-Sanad and Acting Assistant Undersecretary Nouf Al-Qabandi held a meeting on Wednesday with representatives of Kuwaiti banks, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement, the Ministry of Justice explained that the meeting reviewed banking and technical mechanisms to

enable electronic seizures of bank accounts and outstanding funds, ensuring faster, more accurate procedures as well as saving time and effort.

The discussions also focused on securely linking the ministry’s systems with the banking sector and unifying operational standards in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in the State of Kuwait.

Exotica Cafe

مقهى محل

MUGHAL MAHAL

We are OPEN for BREAKFAST AT 7:00 AM

تيراس مول السالمية - مظل على شارع الخليج شارع سالم المبارك

Terrace Mall Salmiya

Overlooking Gulf Road Salem Al Mubarak Street

1800 188 / 5501 1985



# SACGC unveils 2025 Silicon Valley ‘innovation acceleration’ program

Applications open until Aug 31 for citizens aged 21–35

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13, (KUNA): Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity announced Tuesday the launch of its acceleration program for the second consecutive year, in cooperation with Plug and Play in California’s Silicon Valley, one of the world’s leading innovation hubs, aiming to promote Kuwaiti innovation globally and integrate young talents into the international innovation ecosystem.

In a statement, the Center said the 10-day program, set to start next November, will offer participants a unique practical experience that includes direct engagement with entrepreneurs, investors, and global experts, as well as learning best practices in accelerating startups, building business models, and preparing for investment, culminating in a “Demo Day” pre-



KUNA photo  
Logo of Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity.

sentation before an audience of decision-makers and investors.

The statement added that the program is open to Kuwaiti citizens aged 21 to 35, with priority given to projects in the fields of education, health, food and water security, energy, environment,

and digital transformation. Applicants must be proficient in English, as the program is conducted entirely in the language.

The center noted that that applications were open since August 3, 2025, and due to close on August 31, 2025.

A briefing session for selected participants will be held on September 7, followed by two selection days on September 9 and 10.

The program will run from November 8 to 21, 2025, in Silicon Valley, California, with the final report on the experience to be submitted no later than December 4, 2025.

Participants will receive refining business models, validating product-market fit, enhancing pitching skills, and developing market entry and investment attraction strategies.

The program also includes one-on-one mentoring, field visits, and workshops within Silicon Valley’s innovation ecosystem.

The Center affirmed that this partnership is a significant step toward turning Kuwaiti creativity into tangible global impact, in line with its ongoing efforts to support national talents and open new horizons to global markets. It invited those interested to visit the Center’s official website or Instagram account [sagc\\_kw](#).



Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor and acting Hawally Governor Sheikh Sabah Bader Al-Salem, accompanied by Assistant Undersecretary for the Private and Special Education Sector Maryam Al-Enezi and other senior officials, visited the Private Education General Department in Mubarak Al-Kabeer.

## ‘Ongoing initiatives boost service standards’

### Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor hails achievements in private education

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: Governor of Mubarak Al-Kabeer and acting Governor of Hawally Sheikh Sabah Bader Al-Salem visited the Private Education General Department in Mubarak Al-Kabeer, along with Assistant Undersecretary for the Private and Special Education Sector Maryam Al-Enezi and a number of sector leaders and officials.

General Supervisor of Educational Activities and Support Services Aida Al-Wathiq, Supervisor of Administrative Affairs Altaf Al-Furaj, Supervisor of Foreign Schools Abdulaziz Jaber Al-Otaibi and Head of the Legal Affairs Department Anwar Yousef Al-Humaidi were also present at the meeting.

During the visit, the Governor was briefed on the progress of work in the departments and sections, as well as the nature of services

provided, particularly the certificate equivalency. He also listened to the presentation of Al-Enezi on the tasks and achievements of the Private and Special Education Sector and the projects that the department intends to implement to improve performance and enhance the quality of services.

Sheikh Sabah Bader Al-Salem praised the efforts of the officials and employees at the department, particularly in improving customer service and completing transactions efficiently; in line with the principles, objectives and strategies of the education system in Kuwait.

He also commended the teamwork among the officials and staff, stressing the importance of continuing to adopt development initiatives that contribute to raising the level of educational services provided to both the private and foreign sectors, in a way that better serves the educational process in the country.

## Other Voices

### Degrees’ hunter: Exposing fake grads

By Ahmad alsarraf

The title of this article is inspired by the famous movie “Butterfly Hunter” and the book “Spy Hunter” by British author Peter Wright.

The “degree hunter” is Saudi activist Muwafaq Al-Ruwaili, who never accepted the widespread allegations of forgery, impersonation, and false academic titles, including fake or unrecognized master’s and doctoral degrees that he saw.

Determined to take action, he has devoted much of his time to exposing such individuals and reporting them to the authorities to the best of his ability.

The latest revelation is a video of a so-called “non-gala” party held by a British university with the more enticing name “American” to celebrate the graduation of its final-year students.

The video showed a number of “graduates,” most of whom were from Kuwait, with their names and photos displayed as they received their degrees.

However, these individuals never left their offices or homes to attend any classes or receive any education in exchange for their degrees.

The university is commercial and unrecognized, yet its degrees are held by a “constellation” of influential, reputed, and respected individuals in society.

Recently, a citizen was sentenced to seven years in prison for using a forged high school diploma at his job, along with a fine of KD 143,000, equivalent to twice the salary he received based on his fake academic certificate.

This is part of the government’s efforts to verify academic certificates of employees in both the public and private sectors, albeit progressing slowly.

Government sources have reiterated the issue’s priority and promised to set a timetable for quick completion.

However, seven months have passed



alsarraf

since that announcement, and it remains unclear whether the wheels of reform have begun to turn with the urgency required.

It is worth noting that high-level directives have been issued to government agencies to identify employees who have refused to submit their certificates and to take legal action against them.

The inspection and verification process must also be expedited, with those involved referred to the Public Prosecution Office. They face serious charges, including embezzlement of public funds, forgery, and fraud to unlawfully obtain benefits and privileges.

These offenses carry prison terms of up to seven years, and those found guilty must repay double the salaries and bonuses they received.

Since the announcement of these strict measures, hundreds of employees who previously refused to submit their certificates have filed retirement applications, raising suspicions about their credentials.

Employment records will be thoroughly reviewed and scrutinized, even for those hired years ago.

Legal action will be taken against anyone suspected of forgery.

Also, the government has instructed cultural offices abroad to intensify communication with foreign universities to verify the authenticity of certificates issued by them.

Government sources have confirmed that the verification of certificates will extend beyond the public sector to include private sector employees as well.

The Public Authority for Manpower has already started requiring all non-Kuwaiti employees to submit their academic certificates for data verification as a condition for renewing work and residency permits.

The sources also stated that local certificates will be examined to ensure their authenticity and to detect any forgery.

They confirmed that all administrative procedures are being conducted in coordination with the relevant authorities.

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## All assets frozen pending liquidation

### Minister dissolves Elaph Charity Society

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah issued a ministerial decision to dissolve the Elaph Charity Society, based on the laws and regulations governing the work of public benefit associations, and as per the recommendation of the Committee for Dissolution and Liquidation of Associations.

The decision stipulates that the asso-

ciation’s board of directors and all its employees are prohibited from disposing funds and documents as of the date of its issuance, with all covenants and documents to be submitted to the committee to complete legal procedures.

This decision is part of the firm approach of the ministry in controlling institutional performance, enhancing transparency, and ensuring adherence to the laws in order to protect public funds and the reputation of charitable work in the State of Kuwait.



Al-Seyassah photo  
Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs

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## LOCAL

## Deal boosts oversight and cooperation

## CMA and GFSA sign landmark MoU

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: The Capital Markets Authority (CMA), represented by Chairman of the Board of Commissioners and Executive Director Emad Ahmed Tifuni, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Tuesday with the Guernsey Financial Services Authority (GFSA), represented by Director General William Mason.

The agreement reflects the mutual commitment of both regulators to establish a formal framework for cooperation; aimed at strengthening regulatory collaboration, facilitating information exchange, and enhancing investigative support. This partnership is expected to bolster the effectiveness and efficiency of both authorities in fulfilling their supervisory responsibilities.

Under the terms of the MoU, the two parties agreed to the voluntary exchange of information in line with their respective legal and regulatory frameworks.

The main areas of cooperation include the following:

Exchange of documents and information: Relevant to the mandates of both authorities, while ensuring that any data shared is used strictly for its intended purpose.



CMA photos  
Capital Markets Authority Chairman, Emad Tifuni and GFSA's William Mason sign MoU to enhance regulatory collaboration.



Investigative support: Each authority may conduct or arrange inspections or tests of financial services firms and allow representatives of the other party to participate in investigations where appropriate.

Consultation and assistance: The MoU provides for mutual advisory support on regulatory matters.

Data protection and confidentiality: The agreement outlines safeguards to ensure the privacy and protection of exchanged information.

This memorandum was built on the outcomes of the meeting held in January, during which both sides agreed to pursue joint cooperation and establish a regulatory framework to support their shared objectives.

The Guernsey Financial Services Authority is an independent regulator overseeing more than 2,000 licensed firms operating in banking, credit, investment and insurance sectors; in line with internationally recognized regulatory standards.

## MoCI shuts salons, tyre shops, café for violations

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: The Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched intensive inspection campaigns targeting commercial establishments; resulting in the closure of 13 establishments, including beauty salons, used car tyre shops and a café.

Director of the department Faisal

Al-Ansari stressed that the ministry has never been lenient towards those who violate the regulations and laws. He revealed to the newspaper that inspection teams recorded serious violations, resulting in the closure of five women's salons that used expired cosmetics and violation reports were issued against them.

He added the inspection teams closed five domestic worker recruitment offices, two used car tyre shops

and one café for failure to comply with decisions and regulations.

He said the department is keen on pursuing anyone who dares to violate the laws by intensifying inspection campaigns throughout the country; such that inspection campaigns will be carried out in industrial plots in the coming days to monitor the plots belonging to the ministry and take the necessary measures against violators.

## Continued from Page 1

## 'Kuwait welcomes

The tourist visa decision, which has been published in the official gazette "Kuwat Alyoum" was issued under the directives of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah. The decision followed a special study on visas conducted to meet the leadership's aspirations, under the supervision of the acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Major General Ali Al-Adwani.

The four categories of tourist visas are:

Category One - Citizens of approved countries, determined based on the Global Peace Index, passport strength, and per capita income.

These countries have no additional requirements and can choose from six tourist visa options - single or multiple entries, with stay durations of one, two, three, six months, or one year, provided each entry does not exceed one month.

Category Two - Residents of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, residents of countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and Schengen countries, as well as holders of tourist visas for these countries.

These individuals can obtain a tourist visa if they belong to approved medium- or high-level professions that demonstrate the financial solvency necessary for tourism, residence, and travel in Kuwait. Currently, no proof of income is required as long as they reside in a Gulf country.

Category Three (Under study) - This will be an open visa for anyone wishing to visit Kuwait for tourism who does not fall under categories one or two. It will require proof of financial solvency, such as a bank statement.

Category Four - For local and international events and activities. Its requirements and duration are determined at the time of each event, such as the Gulf Cup, Asian Cup, or exhibitions held in Kuwait, based on the event's needs.

Colonel Al-Kandari went on to explain that any resident can now apply for family visits and bring their relatives to stay in Kuwait, as the salary requirement has been abolished. Kinship ties have been expanded to include relatives up to the third and fourth degrees, allowing the entire family to be brought in.

In addition, any commercial institution or company in Kuwait can apply for business visits through the "Kuwat Visa" platform to submit visa applications. The process begins with approval, followed by payment, after which the visa is issued electronically. Once the application is submitted and the form completed with a passport photo, the visa is typically issued within approximately five minutes and is ready for the applicant.

Colonel Al-Kandari emphasized that no nationality is barred from entry, provided the applicant meets the established requirements and regulations.

He said Kuwait welcomes everyone and urges people to obtain information from official sources via the Kuwait Visa platform, which offers full details on the four types of visas and operates 24/7 with technical support staff available to answer any inquiries.

During a visual presentation at the Center for Government Communication (CGC), Al-Kandari detailed the electronic visa process, highlighting necessary documents, security restrictions, and the requirements for each visa category. He underscored that tourists, business visitors, and government guests must comply with all instructions to ensure smooth processing.

The Interior Ministry reaffirmed its

commitment to enhancing visa procedures and promoting Kuwait as an attractive destination for tourism, business, and international events.

Below is a list of professions approved for obtaining tourist visas to Kuwait for residents of GCC countries:

- Presidents, their deputies and assistants, with all their titles.
- Ministers, their deputies and assistants, with all their titles.
- Council members, their deputies and assistants, with all their titles.
- Secretaries-General, their deputies and assistants, with all their titles.
- Undersecretaries, their deputies and assistants of all titles.
- Governors, their deputies and assistants, with all their titles.
- Members of the diplomatic corps and staff of embassies and diplomatic consulates.
- General managers, directors, their deputies and assistants, with all their titles.
- Judges, prosecutors and lawyers.
- Muftis, their deputies and assistants, with all their titles.
- A member of the academic and university education, his deputies and assistants, with all their titles (Dean of the College - Assistant Dean - University Teaching Assistant - University Professor - Lecturer - etc.).
- Holders of golden residency (permanent or temporary) in the GCC countries.
- Investors, businessmen, employers and partners.
- Owners of companies and commercial establishments.
- Representatives of companies and commercial institutions.
- Property owners.
- Advisors, their deputies and assistants of all titles.
- Experts, their deputies and assistants, with all their titles.
- Senior jobs in tourism, travel and hospitality.
- Financial intermediaries for bonds and securities.
- Accountants, auditors, regulators, economic and financial analysts.
- Physicians, surgeons, their deputies and assistants of all titles.
- Pharmacists, their deputies and assistants of all titles.
- Nurses, their deputies and assistants of all titles.
- Medical and paramedical technicians and assistants.
- Medical and paramedical technicians and assistants.
- Engineers, their deputies and assistants of all titles.
- Professors, teachers, scholars, their deputies and assistants, with all their titles.
- Basic and technical functions of information systems, networks, computers and websites.
- Pilots, flight attendants, their deputies and assistants of all titles.
- Referees, sports coaches, their deputies and assistants, of all titles.
- Journalists and media professionals.
- Professions with the following titles: physicist, chemist, astronomer, geologist, statistician, specialist, commercial agent, commercial broker, liaison officer, sales officer, marketing officer, consultant, ship captain, architectural draftsman, aircraft mechanic.

## Kuwait set

He affirmed that all major laws will be subject to evaluation and development; indicating that eight specialized committees are working on the laws; including economic courts, rental system and landlords' unions, penal code and criminal procedures, and labor.

## Kuwait, Chad seek stronger trade ties

## KFAED backs \$110 mln projects

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for African Affairs Nayef Al-Mudhaf confirmed that the annual trade exchange between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Chad currently amounts to approximately KD80,000.

In a press statement, Al-Mudhaf expressed his aspiration that this amount will increase in the future; while affirming the two sides' commitment to strengthen trade cooperation.

He indicated that Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) has so far provided eight loans to the Republic of Chad -- a total of more than \$110 million -- to support infrastructure projects.

Regarding cooperation in recruiting Chadian workers, Al-Mudhaf explained that there is no such agreement yet; but Kuwait is prepared to look into the matter if the Chadian side wishes to do so and will work hard to complete it.

He pointed out the tremendous efforts exerted by Kuwaiti charitable organizations to support Sudanese refugees, stressing that these efforts will expand with the support and follow-up of the Chadian Embassy.

He also revealed that the coming period will witness discussions with the



Photo by Samer Shaqir

Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for African Affairs Nayef Al-Mudhaf and Chadian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Taher Al-Nazif Khater at a cake-cutting ceremony.

Chadian ambassador to Kuwait to discuss opportunities to increase Kuwaiti investments in Chad and present these opportunities to Kuwaiti investors wishing to expand there. He wished the Republic of Chad further progress and prosperity.

On the other hand, Chadian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Taher Al-Nazif Khater said the relationship with Kuwait is deeply rooted; dating back to the independence of the two countries in the early 1960s. "It continues steadily and confidently; reflecting the importance that the leaders of both countries -- President of the Republic Marshal Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal

Al-Ahmad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah -- put in the relationship. The two parties are keen on strengthening this relationship and developing it to a broader level. The coming period will witness mutual visits to study projects for fruitful cooperation and partnership agreements that will benefit the people of both countries. Kuwait is a strategic partner and a central and pioneering friend that supports development in Africa, especially in Chad."

He recalled the role of KFAED, which supports numerous development projects in Chad; praising the great humanitarian work carried out by Kuwaiti charitable societies in various humanitarian fields in his country.

ward migration of investors, many of whom are leaving the country due to their inability to own property. "This step could also help reduce capital flight, which is currently a concern," he asserted.

On the other hand, he acknowledged the possible drawbacks of this approach, including increased pressure on infrastructure in certain areas and rise in property prices. He called for clear implementation of the initiative, with well-defined conditions to ensure a proper balance between attracting foreign investment and protecting national interests.

## Advantages of Foreign Ownership

1. Influx of foreign direct investment and the revitalization of the economy, construction and building sectors;

2. Generate job opportunities in related service sectors such as property management, engineering and legal services;

3. Attract foreign capital, reduce remittances abroad and spend them domestically;

4. Support social and security stability by transforming Kuwait into a country for families;

5. Diversify sources of income and support the State's real estate, tourism and commercial sectors.

## Disadvantages of Foreign Ownership

1. Increased real estate prices, which may weaken citizens' purchasing power and reduce consumer spending;

2. Rental or resale revenues exit Kuwait, reducing the impact of these funds on the local economy;

3. Competition with foreign capital may push local investors away from the real estate sector and reduce their contribution to GDP growth;

4. Excessive weight of the real estate sector within the GDP may expose the Kuwaiti economy to fluctuations in the event of a real estate crisis;

5. Pressure on infrastructure in some areas;

6. Freezing real estate properties if foreigners purchase real estate for investment or as assets without actual use.

Elements for the Success of the Experiment in Kuwait

■ Review real estate legislation and amend it to suit the new situation;

■ Initiate alternative models such as long-term usufruct rights or ownership for commercial and tourism purposes only;

■ Start with specific areas and on a narrow scale, including apartments only;

■ Increase the number of apartments and convert some residential plots into investment plots;

■ Balance encouraging investment and protecting national sovereignty.

## Essentials win,

Statistics also recorded that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry supported food commodities in June with a total of KD 32 million, of which KD 17 million (55 percent) was allocated to basic commodities, which is a 26 percent increase compared to May.

Milk and baby food subsidies totaled about KD 2 million, representing 7 percent of the total subsidies disbursed and marking an 84 percent increase compared to the previous month.

Subsidies for construction materials amounted to approximately KD 12 million, accounting for 39 percent of the total disbursed and reflecting a 24 percent decrease compared to May.

Data from the Construction Supply Department for June 2025 showed that 333 new requests for subsidized con-

struction materials were issued, which is a 46 percent decrease compared to the previous month.

Renewals of subsidized construction material transactions numbered 26, down ten percent, while three requests for exchanging subsidized materials were submitted, a 67 percent decrease.

Requests for certificates of receipt of materials totaled 26, a four percent increase, and requests for certificates of non-receipt of materials reached 72, a three percent increase.

## Kuwait cracks

Similarly, the Second Geneva Convention of 1949, concerning the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick, and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea, includes a dedicated chapter—Chapter VI—for the emblem's protection, specifically in Articles 41 to 45. Article 45 obliges the High Contracting Parties to issue legislation to prevent and penalize the misuse of the emblem.

The Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which deals with the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War, outlines the importance of distinguishing civilian hospitals, aircraft, trains, convoys and medical vessels intended solely for transporting the wounded and sick in Articles 18 to 22.

The memorandum stated that the First Additional Protocol of 1977 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 further elaborated on emblem use. Article Eight provides a definition of the word 'emblem'; while Article Nine specifies its scope of application. Articles 37, 38 and 39 regulate the provisions for emblem protection. Article 37, Clause D criminalizes acts of perfidy involving misuse of humanitarian emblems and clarifies that military laws, orders and instructions apply to such acts. The licensing procedures, usage conditions, and governing rules will be defined in the executive regulations of the law.

According to the memorandum, Article Six of the draft law authorizes the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and affiliated societies to use the emblems in activities conducted in Kuwait; provided they obtain a license from the relevant authorities in accordance with the executive regulations.

Article Seven of the draft law, which is included in the executive regulations, stipulates the standards and conditions for the use of emblems, arm-bands and identification cards by the categories specified in Article Three. It emphasizes compliance with specific size and design requirements as detailed in the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

Article Eight prohibits the use of these emblems or their names in advertisements; the registration of trade names, trademarks, industrial designs or patents; and the use of any similar symbols or names that could cause confusion or association with the protected emblems.

Article Nine criminalizes the intentional misuse of protective symbols or their names; including placing them on shop signs, advertisements, brochures, commercial papers, goods or packaging. It bans the sale, promotion or distribution of products bearing these symbols, as well as the intentional destruction or inappropriate use of the emblems. The article authorizes the removal of violations at the expense of the violator, and permits the confiscation or destruction of any items or tools used in the offense; while protecting the rights of third parties acting in good faith.





A canoe, bottom right, glides on Mendenhall Lake, in front of the Mendenhall Glacier, on May 18, in Juneau, Alaska. (AP)

### Evacuation warnings intensify in Alaska’s capital

Sections of Alaska’s capital city are bracing for the arrival of what could be record floodwaters due to rain-water and snowmelt flowing downstream from a basin dammed by the Mendenhall Glacier.

Some Juneau residents in the flood zone have evacuated, heeding warnings. On Tuesday morning, authorities confirmed water had started escaping the ice dam, with flooding expected into Wednesday.

The Mendenhall Glacier is about 12 miles (19 kilometers) from Juneau, home to 30,000 people, and is a

popular tourist attraction due to its proximity to Alaska’s capital city and easy access on walking trails. Homes on the city’s outskirts are within miles of Mendenhall Lake, which sits below the glacier, and many front the Mendenhall River, into which the glacial outburst is flowing.

The National Weather Service said it expected flooding to peak around 8 a.m. to noon on Wednesday.

“This will be a new record, based on all of the information that we have,” Nicole Ferrin, a weather service meteorologist, told a news conference Tuesday. (AP)

### Bowser pledges to work alongside federal officials

## Trump’s takeover of Washington law enforcement begins as Nat’l Guard troops arrive

WASHINGTON, Aug 13, (AP): The new picture of law enforcement in the nation’s capital began taking shape Tuesday as some of the 800 National Guard members deployed by the Trump administration began arriving. The city’s police and federal officials, projecting cooperation, took the first steps in an uneasy partnership to reduce crime in what President Donald Trump called - without substantiation - a lawless city.

The influx came the morning after the Republican president announced he would be activating the guard members and taking over the District’s police department, something the law allows him to do temporarily. He cited a crime emergency - but referred to the same crime that city officials stress is already falling noticeably.

By evening, the administration was saying that National Guard members were expected to be on the streets starting Tuesday night, according to a White House official who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The Army said

there were no specifics on the locations they will be patrolling, according to an official who spoke on condition of anonymity for the same reason.

Mayor Muriel Bowser pledged to work alongside the federal officials Trump has tasked with overseeing the city’s law enforcement, while insisting the police chief remained in charge of the department and its officers.

“How we got here or what we think about the circumstances - right now we have more police, and we want to make sure we use them,” she told reporters.

The tone was a shift from the day before, when Bowser said Trump’s plan to take over the Metropolitan Police Department and call in the National Guard was not a productive step and argued his perceived state of emergency simply doesn’t match the declining crime numbers. Still, the law gives the federal government more sway over the capital city than in U.S. states, and Bowser said her administration’s ability to push back is limited.

Attorney General Pam Bondi posted



Troops depart the District of Columbia National Guard Headquarters as President Donald Trump implements his order to use federal law enforcement and the National Guard to expel homeless people and rid the nation’s capital of violent crime, in Washington on Aug 12. (AP)

on social media that the meeting was productive.

The law allows Trump to take over

## Texas’ Senate passes GOP-dominated congressional redistricting map

HOUSTON, Aug 13, (Agencies): Texas’ state Senate on Tuesday passed a Republican-desired congressional redistricting map, as the state House has been in a quorum break since Aug. 4 after dozens of Democratic state lawmakers left for other states in protest.

Nine Democrats walked out of the state Senate on Tuesday while two stayed in the room. The controversial bill, which may give Republicans five more congressional seats in the 2026 midterm elections, was easily passed by a 19-2 vote in the upper chamber.

“We walked out because this session should be about flood relief, not politics. Texans deserve leaders who put people first,” said the Senate Democrats who left the session.

Also on Tuesday, Texas Governor Greg Abbott said he will call for another special session this week for the state House redistricting voting.

“There will be no reprieve for the derelict Democrats who fled the state and abandoned their duty to the people who elected them. I will continue to call special session after special session until we get this Texas first agenda passed,” he said.

Local media outlet ABC13 confirmed on Tuesday night that state House Democrats will return to the state, citing flooding relief as their priority. However, so far it is not clear when they will return.

The current congressional map in Texas was drawn in 2021, with Republicans having 25 seats out of Texas’s



US Speaker of the House Rep Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, speaks to Rep. Richard Hayes (R-Hickory Creek) as The House of Representatives attempts to convene but cannot due to Texas Democrats breaking quorum at the Texas Capitol in Austin on Aug 12. (AP)

38. Pushed directly by US President Donald Trump, Texas Republicans proposed new congressional lines in late July to divide up existing districts in Austin, Houston and Dallas in a bid to garner five more seats.

**Also:**

**MONTGOMERY, Ala:** Republican US Rep **Barry Moore** of Alabama announced Tuesday that he is running for the US Senate, seeking the position being vacated by Sen **Tommy Tuberville** who is running for governor.

Moore is in his third term in Con-

gress and is a member of the conservative Freedom Caucus. In a campaign video announcing his candidacy, he emphasized his history as an early supporter of President **Donald Trump**.

“I’m running for Senate because the people of Alabama deserve a Trump conservative and a working man who will defend their freedoms,” Moore, who’s in the construction and demolition business, said.

He promised to “defend the MAGA agenda in the Senate, just like I have as a member of the Freedom Caucus in the House of Representatives.”

### EU leaders, Zelenskyy speak with Trump

## ‘US wants to achieve ceasefire at summit’

BERLIN, Aug 13, (AP): US President Donald Trump was “very clear” in a meeting Wednesday with European leaders that the US wants to achieve a ceasefire at the summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska, French President Emmanuel Macron said.

Speaking after the virtual meeting between Trump, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other European leaders, Macron said Trump was prioritizing a ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia. He added that Trump had been clear that “territorial issues relating to Ukraine ... will only be negotiated by the Ukrainian president.”

Following his meeting Friday with the Russian leader, Trump will also “seek a future trilateral meeting” - one involving Trump, Putin and Zelenskyy, Macron said.

“I think that’s a very important point in this regard. And we hope that it can be held in Europe, in a neutral country that is acceptable to all parties,” Macron said.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz described the meeting with Zelenskyy and Trump as “constructive.”

Speaking alongside Zelenskyy, Merz said after the videoconference that “important decisions” could be made in Anchorage, but stressed that “fundamental European and Ukrainian security interests must be protected” at the meeting.

Merz convened the virtual meetings in an attempt to make sure European and Ukraine’s leaders are heard ahead of the summit, where Trump and Putin are expected to discuss a path toward ending Moscow’s war in Ukraine.

Zelenskyy and the Europeans have been sidelined from that summit. German government spokesperson Steffen Meyer said the intention of Wednes-



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, (right), is welcomed by German Chancellor Friedrich Merz upon arrival in the garden of the chancellery in Berlin, Germany on Aug 13, 2025 to join a video conference of European leaders with the US President on the Ukraine war. (AP)

day’s meetings was to “make clear the position of the Europeans.”

Zelenskyy was scheduled to have a virtual call with Trump and Vice President JD Vance later in the day. A call among leaders of countries involved in the “coalition of the willing” - those who are prepared to help police any future peace agreement between Moscow and Kyiv - will also take place.

The Ukrainian leader on Wednesday said his government has had over 30 conversations with partners ahead of the summit in Alaska, but reiterated his doubt that Putin would negotiate in good faith.

Writing on his official Telegram

channel, Zelenskyy said there was “currently no sign that the Russians are preparing to end the war,” and urged Ukraine’s partners in the United States and Europe to coordinate efforts and “force Russia to peace.”

“Pressure must be applied on Russia for an honest peace. We must take the experience of Ukraine and our partners to prevent deception by Russia,” Zelenskyy said.

Trump has said he wants to see whether Putin is serious about ending the war, now in its fourth year, describing Friday’s summit as “a feel-out meeting” where he can assess the Russian leader’s intentions.

Yet Trump has disappointed allies in Europe by saying Ukraine will have to give up some Russian-held territory. He has also said Russia must accept land swaps, although it was unclear what Putin might be expected to surrender.

European allies have pushed for Ukraine’s involvement in any peace talks, fearful that discussions that exclude Kyiv could otherwise favor Moscow.

Trump on Monday ducked repeated chances to say that he would push for Zelenskyy to take part in his discussions with Putin, and was dismissive of Zelenskyy and his need to be part of an effort to seek peace. Trump said that following Friday’s summit, a meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian leaders could be arranged, or that it could also be a meeting with “Putin and Zelenskyy and me.”

The Europeans and Ukraine are wary that Putin, who has waged the biggest land war in Europe since 1945 and used Russia’s energy might to try to intimidate the European Union, might secure favorable concessions and set the outlines of a peace deal without them.



An image taken from video shows fireworks flying as clashes erupted at protests in Vrbas, Serbia on Aug 12, between opponents and supporters of the government in an escalation of tensions following more than nine months of persistent demonstrations against populist President Aleksandar Vucic. (AP)

### Clashes erupt at Serbian anti-govt protests, with dozens injured

Clashes erupted at protests in Serbia between opponents and supporters of the government in an escalation of tensions following more than nine months of persistent demonstrations against populist President Aleksandar Vucic.

Incidents first started on Tuesday evening in Vrbas, northwest of the capital Belgrade, where riot police separated protesters from the opposed camps outside

the ruling Serbian Progressive Party offices in the town.

Video footages from the scene showed government supporters throwing flares, rocks and bottles at the protesters, who hurled back various objects. Police said dozens of people were injured, including 16 policemen. Similar incidents were reported at protests in other parts of the country. (AP)

## 3 people dead, thousands displaced as wildfires rage across Europe

ATHENS, Greece, Aug 13, (AP): Wildfires intensified across southern Europe on Wednesday after a night-long battle to protect the perimeter of Greece’s third-largest city, with at least three more deaths reported in Spain, Turkey and Albania.

Outside the Greek port city of Patras, firefighters struggled to protect homes and agricultural facilities as flames tore through olive groves.

As water-dropping planes and helicopters swooped overhead, residents joined the effort, beating back flames with cut branches or dousing them with buckets of water.

Firefighting resources were stretched thin in many affected countries as they battled multiple outbreaks following weeks of heat waves and temperature spikes across Mediterranean Europe.

Aircraft rotated between blazes on the western Greek mainland, the Patras area and the island of Zakynthos. Athens also sent assistance to neighboring Albania, joining an international effort to combat dozens of wildfires. An 80-year-old man died in one blaze south of the capital, Tirana, officials



Burned cars are seen at an impound lot in Kato Achaia, during a wildfire near Patras city, western Greece on Aug 13. (AP)

said Wednesday.

Residents of four villages were evacuated in central Albania near a former army ammunition depot. In the southern Korca district, near the Greek border, explosions were reported from buried World War II-era artillery

shells.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez expressed condolences after the death of a firefighting volunteer in the hard-hit Castile and León region north of Madrid, where thousands have been displaced by evacuations.

### Europe

**Court replaces Dodik prison term with fine:** The Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) on Tuesday replaced a one-year prison sentence for Republika Srpska President **Milorad Dodik** with a fine.

Dodik will now pay 36,500 convertible marks (21,664 U.S. dollars) instead of serving time behind bars. The decision followed a proposal from Dodik’s defense and the opinion of the BiH Prosecutor’s Office.

He was convicted earlier this month for refusing to implement decisions issued in 2023 by Bosnia’s High Representative, Christian Schmidt. The court also confirmed a six-year ban on Dodik from holding the office of Republika Srpska president.

Dodik has served as president of Republika Srpska since 2022 and was previously the Serb member of Bosnia’s tri-



Dodik

partite presidency from 2018 to 2022.

BiH consists of two autonomous entities, Republika Srpska, with a predominantly Serbian population, and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, mainly inhabited by Bosniaks and Croats. The two entities operate under a weak central government. (Xinhua)

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**Belarus, Russia to conduct joint drills:** The joint military drills of Belarusian and Russian forces will take place from Sept. 12 to 16, the Belarusian Defense Ministry said on Tuesday.

The “Zapad-2025” military exercise will be held on Belarusian territory, focusing on the assessment of both countries’ capabilities in ensuring the military security of the Union State and their readiness to counter potential aggression, the ministry said.

During the exercises, participants will practice repelling enemy air attacks, conducting defensive battles, defeating breakthrough enemy forces, restoring territorial integrity, providing air support to troops, and combating illegal formations and sabotage groups.

The event will involve around 13,000 personnel, according to media reports. (Xinhua)



Two leaders hold talks

N.Korea’s Kim voices support for Russia

TOKYO, Aug 13, (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has expressed his full support for Russia during a phone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, as North Korea’s state media reported on Wednesday.

The two leaders held talks during a phone call on Tuesday, it is the first time Pyongyang has disclosed details of a phone call between its leader and a foreign head of state, according to the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

The conversation took place ahead of Putin’s planned summit with US President Donald Trump in Alaska on Friday. Putin congratulated Kim on the upcoming 80th anniversary of Korea’s liberation from Japanese colonial rule on Aug 15, the KCNA said.

Kim “expressed firm conviction that the DPRK would always remain faithful to the spirit of the DPRK-Russia treaty and fully support all measures to be taken by the Russian leadership in the future,” the KCNA reported. The treaty, signed in June 2024, includes a mutual defense clause requiring military assistance without delay if either side comes under attack.

Putin lauded the “bravery” and “heroism” of Korean People’s Army personnel in operations to liberate Kursk, part of Russian territory, the KCNA said. North Korea has deployed troops



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, its leader Kim Jong Un speaks with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the phone at an undisclosed location in North Korea on Aug 12. (AP)

and provided weapons to support Russia’s war effort in Ukraine.

Both leaders reviewed progress in bilateral cooperation the signing of the comprehensive strategic partnership treaty and agreed to further strengthen coordination, KCNA added.

Putin has recently held phone talks with leaders of other nations, including China, India, South Africa, and Brazil, ahead of his Alaska meeting with Trump.

Leaders held a phone call to discuss

their deepening ties and war efforts against Ukraine, the countries’ state media said Wednesday.

Putin also shared with Kim information about his upcoming talks with Trump scheduled to take place Friday in Alaska, according to Russia’s TASS news agency, citing the Kremlin. The North Korean reports did not mention the Trump meeting.

Since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Kim has made Moscow the priority of his foreign policy as he aims to break out of diplomatic isolation and expand relations with countries confronting Washington. His government has dismissed Washington and Seoul’s stated desires to restart diplomacy aimed at defusing the North’s nuclear program, which derailed in 2019 following a collapsed summit with Trump during his first term.

According to South Korean assessments, North Korea has sent around 15,000 troops to Russia since last fall and also supplied large quantities of military equipment, including artillery and ballistic missiles, in support of Putin’s war efforts against Ukraine. Kim has also agreed to send thousands of military construction workers and deminers to Russia’s Kursk region, a deployment South Korean intelligence believes could happen soon.



In this image made from video released by Taitung County Government, strong waves and heavy rain pounded the Samsilantai tourist spot on Aug 13 as Typhoon Podul reaches Taitung, eastern Taiwan. (AP)

Typhoon brings no major damage as it crosses Taiwan, heads for China

Typhoon Podul crossed southern Taiwan, where authorities closed schools and government offices as heavy rain threatened more damage to agriculture in the island’s southeast. No major damage was reported.

The storm hit Taitung county on the east coast shortly after noon, moving across the south of the island at about 36 kilometers (22 miles)

per hour. By 5:00 p.m. (0900 GMT) its center was just off Taiwan’s west coast, churning out into the Taiwan Strait and China, according to the Central Weather Administration.

In China, the coastal provinces of Fujian and Guangdong recalled fishing boats to port and evacuated around 15,000 people living near the coast to shelters further inland. Taiwanese media reported one

person missing on the east coast. Typhoons like Podul typically hit Taiwan’s east coast hard before losing speed and strength as they pass over the Central Mountain Range before continuing toward the Chinese coast. Podul measured 120 kilometers (75 miles) across and was expected to broaden even while losing strength as the storm moved westward. (AP)

India’s Prime Minister Modi to meet Trump next month in US, says media

NEW DELHI, Aug 13, (Xinhua) Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to meet US President Donald Trump during his visit to attend the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York next month, local newspaper Indian Express said Wednesday.

According to the newspaper, preparations are underway to schedule a visit by Modi to the US in the last week of September.

“The key objective will be to iron out the issues on trade and arrive at a common ground on tariffs,” the newspaper said.

**Also:**

**NEW DELHI:** At least 11 persons, including seven children and four women, died and 12 others were injured when the private vehicle they were aboard collided with a heavy vehicle parked by the roadside in India’s western state of Rajasthan on Wednesday, a local police officer said.

The private vehicle was said to be moving in a high speed when it rammed into the stationary heavy vehicle from behind.

There were 31 persons in the ill-fated vehicle when the accident occurred. Meanwhile, over 1.7 million people were affected by the ongoing flooding in India’s eastern state of Bihar, officials said Tuesday.

The floods have hit the state’s 10 districts, including the capital city of Patna.

**NEW DELHI:** Two policemen were wounded Tuesday in a gunfight with Naxals rebels in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh, police said.

The gunfight between Naxals and joint contingents of government forces broke out in Gangalur forest area of Bijapur district, about 420 km south of Raipur, the capital city of Chhattisgarh.

According to police, the condition of the wounded was stable.



US President Donald Trump, (right), speaks with India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a news conference in the East Room of the White House on Feb 13, in Washington. (AP)

S.Korean leader to meet Japanese PM

Wife of S.Korea’s ex-president Yoon arrested

SEOUL, South Korea, Aug 13, (AP): The wife of South Korea’s jailed former President Yoon Suk Yeol has been arrested as investigators seek to charge her over various suspected crimes, including bribery, stock manipulation and meddling in the selection of a candidate.

In granting a special prosecutor’s request for an arrest warrant late Tuesday, the Seoul Central District Court said Kim Keon Hee posed a risk of destroying evidence.

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

**Also:**

**SEOUL:** South Korean President Lee Jae Myung will meet Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba in Tokyo next week before flying to Washington for a summit with President Donald Trump, underscoring how Trump’s push to reset global trade is drawing the often-feuding neighbors closer.

Lee’s two-day visit to Japan Aug. 23-24 will be an opportunity to deepen personal ties with Ishiba and put bilateral relations on firmer ground. Their



South Korea’s former first lady Kim Keon Hee, (center), wife of impeached president Yoon Suk Yeol, arrives at a court to attend a hearing to review her arrest warrant requested by special prosecutors, in Seoul, South Korea on Aug 12. (AP)

talks will center on strengthening trilateral cooperation with Washington, promoting “regional peace and stability,” and addressing other international issues, presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung said Wednesday.

**SEOUL:** Heavy rain pounded South Korea’s greater capital region on Wednesday, turning roads into chocolate-

colored rivers and disrupting traffic, as authorities issued flood and landslide warnings near water sources and hills.

One person was reported as missing in the city of Gimpo, near the capital city of Seoul, while more than 60 roads were flooded and at least five houses were damaged, according to the Ministry of the Interior and Safety. About 50 people were forced to evacuate from their homes.

Mexico transfers 26 cartel figures wanted by US authorities in deal with White House

WASHINGTON, Aug 13, (AP): Mexico sent 26 high-ranking cartel figures to the United States Tuesday in the latest major deal with the Trump administration as American authorities ratchet up pressure on criminal networks smuggling drugs across the border.

Those handed over to US custody include Abigael González Valencia, a leader of “Los Cuinis,” a group closely aligned with notorious cartel Jalisco New Generation or CJNG. Another defendant, Roberto Salazar, is wanted in connection to the 2008 killing of a Los Angeles County sheriff’s deputy. Other prominent figures have ties to the Sinaloa Cartel and other violent drug trafficking groups.

The transfers are a milestone for the Trump administration, which is made dismantling dangerous drug cartels a key Justice Department priority. It’s the second time in months that Mexico has expelled cartel figures accused of narcotics smuggling, murder and other crimes amid mounting pressure from the Trump administration to curb the flow of drugs onto American shores.

“These 26 men have all played a role in bringing violence and drugs to American shores - under this Department of Justice, they will face severe consequences for their crimes against this country,” Attorney General Pam Bondi said in a statement. “We are grateful to



Mexican federal police escort who they identify as Servando ‘La Tuta’ Gómez, leader of the Knights Templar cartel, as he sits inside a helicopter at a Federal hangar in Mexico City on Feb. 27, 2015. (AP)

Mexico’s National Security team for their collaboration in this matter.”

The cartel figures were put on planes to the U.S. after the Justice Department agreed not to seek the death penalty against any of the defendants or against any cartel leaders and members sent to the US in February. That transfer was of 29 cartel figures, including drug lord Rafael Caro Quintero, who was behind

the killing of a US DEA agent in 1985.

“This transfer is yet another example of what is possible when two governments stand united against violence and impunity.” US Ambassador to Mexico Ronald Johnson said in a statement. “These fugitives will now face justice in US courts, and the citizens of both of our nations will be safer from these common enemies.”

Bangladeshi officials testify against ex-UK minister in anti-corruption trial

DHAKA, Bangladesh, Aug 13, (AP): Bangladeshi anti-corruption officials testified in court on Wednesday against former British minister Tulip Siddiq, accused of using her familial connection to deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to obtain state-owned land plots in the South Asian country.

Siddiq, who is Hasina’s niece, resigned from her post as an anti-corruption minister in Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s government in January following reports that she lived in London properties linked to her aunt and was named in an anti-corruption investigation in Bangladesh.

She is being tried together with her mother, Sheikh Rehana, brother, Radwan Mujib, and sister, Azmina. Siddiq has been charged with facilitating their receipt of state land in a township project near the capital, Dhaka. The four were indicted earlier and asked to appear in court, however, the prosecution said they absconded and would be tried in absentia.

The trial at the Dhaka Special Judge Court-4 formally began Wednesday with testimonies by officials of the



Tulip Siddiq, (left), stands beside Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia on Jan 15, 2013. (AP)

country’s Anti-Corruption Commission. By Wednesday afternoon, the court had heard from two officials and a third is expected to testify later in the day, said Muhammad Tariqul Islam, a public prosecutor.

Siddiq’s lawyers had previously called the charges baseless and po-

litically motivated.

Separately, the anti-corruption investigation has also alleged that Siddiq’s family was involved in brokering a 2013 deal with Russia for a nuclear power plant in Bangladesh in which large sums of money were said to have been embezzled.

Macron admits France’s repressive violence in Cameroon’s war for independence

DAKAR, Senegal, Aug 13, (AP): French President Emmanuel Macron acknowledged that France waged a war marked by “repressive violence” in Cameroon before and after the country’s independence in 1960 in a letter made public Tuesday.

It is France’s first official acknowledgment of its repression of Cameroon’s independence movement as a war.

The letter sent last month to Cameroonian President Paul Biya, follows a report released in January by a French-Cameroonian commission of historians. The report revealed that France carried out mass forced displacements, detained hundreds of thousands of Cameroonians in internment camps, and backed brutal militias to suppress the country’s fight for independence and sovereignty between 1945 and 1971.

The commission was established by Macron during a 2022 visit to the capital Yaoundé. It examined France’s role leading up to Cameroon’s independence on Jan. 1, 1960, and in the years



Cameroon President Paul Biya, (left), and France’s President Emmanuel Macron shake hands prior to bilateral talks at the Lyon’s congress hall, central France on Oct 10, 2019. (AP)

that followed.

“At the end of their work, the historians of the Commission clearly highlighted that a war had taken place in Cameroon, during which the colonial authorities and the French army carried

out multiple forms of repressive violence in certain regions of the country - a war that continued beyond 1960 with France’s support for actions carried out by the independent Cameroonian authorities,” the letter from Macron read.

Mali’s ex-prime minister Maiga taken into custody amid corruption probe

BAMAKO, Mali, Aug 13, (AP): Former Malian prime minister Choguel Kokalla Maiga was taken into custody on Tuesday on accusations of corruption, his lawyer said, as the West African country’s military junta has ramped up arrests of top politicians in recent weeks.

Maiga’s lawyer, Cheick Oumar Konaré, told The Associated Press the former prime minister was taken in for questioning earlier this month by the National Economic and Financial Unit, which is responsible for fighting corruption, as part of an investigation into allegations of misuse of public property.

“Former Prime Minister Choguel Kokalla Maiga has been taken into custody by officers from the brigade of the National Economic and Financial Unit,” Konaré said.

“We are contesting his detention because the former prime minister has no intention of fleeing the country or destroying evidence,” he added.

In November 2024, Maiga was dismissed from his role as prime minister, days after he criticized the military regime for postponing elections. Following his dismissal, Maiga continued to criticize the military regime in the



Mali’s Prime Minister Choguel Maiga addresses the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters on Sept. 25, 2021. (AP)

media.

Earlier this month, another former prime minister, Moussa Mara, was imprisoned after tweeting his support for jailed critics of the ruling military junta.



## Kuwait oil price up to \$69.78 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13, (KUNA): Price of Kuwaiti oil rose by 47 cents, reaching US 69.78 per barrel in Tuesday's trading, compared to USD 69.31 per barrel on Monday, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Wednesday. Globally, price of Brent crude dropped by 51 cents to USD 66.12 pb, while West Texas Intermediate crude fell by 79 cents to USD 63.17 pb.

# Business

One of the first programs of its kind inspiring similar initiatives to empower national talents

## Zain Summer Program: a remarkable conclusion for a remarkable cohort

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: With great success, Zain Kuwait concluded the sixth season of its Summer Program — one of the first comprehensive summer training programs of its kind in the Kuwaiti private sector — with a closing ceremony held at its main headquarters in Shuwaikh.

The ceremony was attended by students and partners and featured on-stage recognition of all 35 participating students in appreciation of their efforts throughout the program, in addition to honoring the partners who contributed to the success of this distinguished experience. This year's partners included Kuwait News, Kuwait Times, INJAZ Kuwait, and the new partner V-Thru, the leading virtual drive-thru service platform.

To further encourage the participants, Zain recognized the most outstanding students in several categories: the top three students achieving the highest sales at Zain branches, the best content creator at Kuwait News and Kuwait Times, and the most efficient student at V-Thru. Valuable prizes were awarded to the winners in recognition of their dedication and exceptional performance.

Launched six years ago under the umbrella of Zain's Future University Network – FUN program, the Summer Program stands out as one of the earliest interactive summer initiatives of its kind to train young people in the Kuwaiti private sector. It has successfully inspired many other entities to launch similar programs aimed at supporting young national talents.

Over its six seasons, the program has trained more than 250 students from various academic disciplines, offering them a unique opportunity



Zain executives and program partners with the sixth cohort graduates.



Honoring one of the students.



Honoring a distinguished student.

to gain practical experience and professional skills in an environment that mirrors the private sector work environment.

This year's participants were distributed across three main training tracks: Zain's branches, media institutions Kuwait News and Kuwait Times, and the new operational and technical track with V-Thru. They gained diverse experiences in customer service, sales, digital marketing, content creation, logistics, and journalistic reporting.

The program extended beyond hands-on training to include theoretical workshops delivered by INJAZ Kuwait to enhance personal skills, as well as recreational activities and interactive events to foster team spirit, such as go-kart racing, a shooting competition, and a special session hosted by director Ya'roub Bourahma and young content creator Aws Ya'roub Bourahma on modern media strategies and challenges, and how to communicate messages creatively and artistically.

An additional interactive workshop on creative smartphone photography was presented by Kuwait Times and Kuwait News Production Manager Nasser Hayati, introducing students to the basics of smartphone videography, creative content production, and directing and artistic production skills.

This program reflects Zain's deep belief in the importance of investing in youth as the cornerstone for building a more prosperous future for Kuwait. Through this initiative, the company continues its pioneering role in providing high-quality training opportunities that contribute to developing national talents, preparing a generation equipped with the skills and expertise to compete and excel in the local job market.

### All Share Index up 59.54 points

## Boursa Kuwait closes higher

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Wednesday's trading session on a positive note, with the All Share Index climbing 59.54 points – an increase of 0.69% – to close at 8,689.35 points. Trading activity saw 430.7 million shares change hands through 26,317 transactions, with a total value of KD 99.2 million (approximately USD 302.5 million).

The Main Market Index advanced by 65 points (up 0.84%) to settle at 7,779.54 points, as 229.15 million shares were traded across 15,725 transactions, worth KD 38.5 million (about USD 117.4 million).

Similarly, the Premier Market Index rose 61.12 points (an increase of 0.66%) to end at 9,345.65 points, with a trading volume of 201.5 million shares executed in 10,592 transactions, totaling KD 60.6 million (around USD 184.8 million).

The Main 50 Index posted the strongest percentage gain, jumping 116.71 points (1.52%) to reach 7,818.10 points. Trading in this segment involved 179.8 million shares exchanged through 9,555 cash transactions, valued at KD 28.9 million (approximately USD 88.14 million).

### Saudi, UAE drive retail fund growth

## GCC asset management industry reaches \$2.2 trillion AUM in 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: The GCC's asset management industry grew to \$2.2trillion in Assets under Management (AUM) in 2024, a 9% increase from the previous year, according to the 23rd edition of the Global Asset Management report, titled "From Recovery to Reinvention" by Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

In the retail mutual fund sector, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have been the principal contributors to growth. As for sovereign wealth funds (SWFs), the largest volumes of assets have been managed by major players in Kuwait and Abu Dhabi.

Lukasz Rey, Managing Director & Partner and Middle East Head of Financial Institutions at BCG, said: "The next decade's leaders will be those who redefine their future, not just endure challenges. The region's 9% AUM growth in 2024 underscores its rising prominence as a hub for institutional and retail capital. With Saudi Arabia and the UAE anchoring regional momentum, the GCC's strategic diversification and SWF dominance signal a future where local asset managers could rival global giants. Recent market volatility offers a chance for change, prompting asset managers to move from recovery to innovation - reimagining value delivery, client engagement, and business operations."

According to the report, the revenue growth in 2024 was driven by market performance rather than investor inflows, underscoring the industry's vulnerability to external forces. Meanwhile, persistent fee compression, shifts in investor preferences, and digital disruption are pushing firms to redesign their business models, accelerate cost innovation, and sharpen their strategic focus.

Mohammad Khan, Managing Director & Partner at BCG, said: "The GCC's asset management industry has demonstrated remarkable resilience and strategic growth, achieving \$2.2 trillion in Assets Under Management (AUM) in 2024. With Saudi Arabia and the UAE driving retail mutual fund expansion and Kuwait and Abu Dhabi leading in sovereign wealth fund dominance, the region



Lukasz Rey, Managing Director and Partner BCG



Mohammad Khan, Managing Director & Partner, BCG

is steadily establishing itself as a global financial powerhouse. As highlighted in BCG's research, this growth reflects not only recovery but a strategic pivot towards innovation and operational excellence. The next decade will be defined by asset managers who prioritize client-centric transformation, technological advancement, and leaner business models, positioning the GCC as a formidable force capable of rivaling global industry leaders."

The report highlights three forces reshaping the industry globally:

1. Opportunities to Create New Products in Response to Changing Investor Demands

Looking forward, asset managers have two opportunities to win in an evolving product and distribution landscape. First, they can claim a larger portion of a shrinking but important pool of actively managed assets - specifically, in active exchange-traded funds (ETFs), model portfolios, and separately managed accounts. Second, they can mobilize to play a key role in the growing market for delivering private assets to retail clients.

Retail access to private markets is an expanding frontier, with semi-liquid private asset funds expanding over five times in four years, surpassing \$300 billion. This growth is fueled by the demand for better risk-adjusted returns and solid long-term performance, though challenges include navigating regulatory barriers, simplifying product design, and enhancing in-

vestor education.

2. A Critical Need for Consolidation and Digital Transformation

Strategic partnerships and M&A are reshaping the landscape as firms race to gain scale, broaden offerings, and build technology capabilities. Those overseeing the largest amount of assets can drive costs down through technological synergies, streamlined operations, and process efficiencies, while those managing less than \$300 billion must emphasize leaner models.

3. A Renewed Focus on Cost

As asset managers emphasize operational efficiency, enhanced decision making, and client engagement, AI has emerged as a key accelerator. GenAI is transforming process automation and product delivery - especially in complex areas such as illiquid and alternative assets - and is now being deployed across the front, middle, and back offices.

Nabil Saadallah, Managing Director & Partner at BCG, said: "While currency adjustments and methodology revisions cloud historical comparisons, the consistency of 9% annual growth across the region and GCC reveals a resilient market. Pension funds and SWFs, led by Saudi and Kuwaiti institutions, are quietly reshaping the region's financial architecture, blending tradition with global asset management rigor. Notably, cost discipline is now a strategic focus with firms prioritizing unique value creation, embracing lean practices, and investing heavily in transformative technologies."

### Under its commitment to social responsibility

## NBK sponsors the 'Green Adventure' program in collaboration with LOYAC

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: As part of its strategic partnership with LOYAC, and within its ongoing commitment to youth and society development, NBK sponsored the "Green Adventure" program aimed to build future leaders.

The "Green Adventure" program, which is a unique initiative that combines physical and educational sustainability-related activities, took place in Portugal for seven days.

Through interactive theoretical sessions and practical field activities, the program targeted instilling values of environmental responsibility and sustainability for the youth to become future leaders and change makers. In the program, the students learned sustainable natural landscape and garden designing, in addition to applying sustainable daily agricultural practices to make a positive environmental impact.

The adventure opened many golden opportunities for the participants, such as exploring Portugal's charming nature, diverse wildlife, and unique environmental systems. They also visited the ancient Moorish castle, and they were able to build connections with same-interest individuals and experts in the field, in addition to achieving a deeper understanding of the relationship between nature and society.

This sponsorship comes as an emphasis of NBK's leadership in social responsibility and its commitment to investing in future generations, as it firmly believes in the effectiveness of such initiatives that contribute to



NBK's Green Adventure program.

- The program aims to instill environmental responsibility and sustainability values.
- NBK strives to enable the youth to become future leaders and change-makers.

shaping deeper understandings of global environmental issues, which consequently builds a generation that is strongly aware and capable of facing future sustainability-related challenges.

Additionally, NBK highlights the importance of private sector and non-profit organizations collaborations that aim to achieve sustainable development, and this sponsorship is part of a wider strategy that supports initiatives of youth education and environmental development for a better future for Kuwait and the region.

In this light, NBK will continue to promote social responsibility and support all society's segments and non-profit organizations, particularly those institutions and programs that care for the youth and address their needs and requirements for a better future, as it strongly believes in the effective role of these programs in serving society and people.

LOYAC is a non-profit organization that aims to support the youth by providing training opportunities and specialized educational and volunteer development programs.

## China: Stop harassing commercial ships, uphold international law

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 13, (Xinhua): A Chinese envoy said Tuesday that the security of the Red Sea shipping lanes must be maintained.

Last month, the Houthis claimed responsibility for sinking two commercial vessels -- Magic Seas and Eternity C -- in the Red Sea.

China finds it deeply concerning and calls on the Houthis to respect the navigational rights of commercial vessels of all countries in the Red Sea in accordance with international law, and to stop harassing or attacking them, said Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations.

"The shipping lanes in the Red Sea should be kept safe, and the safety and security of civilians, including seafarers, should be protected. Yemen's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity should also be respected," he told a UN Security Council meeting on the situation in Yemen.

Active efforts should be made to move the Yemeni peace process forward, said Geng, calling on the two parties to the conflict to resume engagement, move in the same direction, demonstrate the greatest sincerity in resolving their differences, build the greatest possible consensus for reconciliation, and make the

greatest efforts to restore peace.

The humanitarian crisis must be eased as soon as possible, he added, noting that Yemen is experiencing one of the worst food security crises in the world, with nearly half of its population facing acute food insecurity and about 4.8 million people displaced.

Life is particularly hard for vulnerable groups, including women and children.

"The international community must ramp up humanitarian assistance to Yemen, support the country's economic development and efforts to improve livelihood, and help the Yemeni people tide over these hard times," said Geng.





Abdulaziz Al-Tammar from the company's media team during the practical application of the photography and editing course.



Students partaking in specialized coffee brewing course.



Omar AlSanea from the company's cybersecurity team lectured during the cybersecurity course.

Over 600 students join stc's 'Upgrade' educational initiative

# stc concludes summer training program for university students

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers enabling digital transformation in Kuwait, announced the conclusion of its summer training program that it designed to equip university students with practical skills across various fields. The program was launched by stc under the umbrella of its educational ‘upgrade’ initiative, which falls under one of the key pillars of stc’s extensive corporate social responsibility (CSR) program.

The summer training program is designed for university students between the ages of 17-24 and has attracted over 600 registered students from various universities and academic institutions across Kuwait. To provide a unique learning experience, the program aimed to equip participants with practical and industry focused skills through specialized courses that include photography & videography, cybersecurity, and specialty coffee brewing.

In collaboration with the COFE App& 48 East Roastery, a leading platform for coffee lovers, the specialty coffee brewing course offers an introduction to the fundamentals of brewing coffee, followed by hands-on training at select coffee shops that are featured on the COFE app. The photography & editing course,

on the other hand, aimed to explore the art of visual storytelling and video editing, while also providing the participants to potentially join stc’s media team. Meanwhile, the cybersecurity course, led by stc’s cybersecurity team under the supervision of Omar AlSanea, introduces students to the core principles of securing digital environments and protecting information systems.

Each course spans one week, combining both theoretical instruction and practical application to deliver a well-rounded educational experience. The program kicked off with the photography & videography course, followed by the specialized coffee brewing course, and concluded with the cybersecurity course.

In a statement, stc expressed that the summer training program focuses on various areas that can add value to students, whether it is brewing their own unique coffee blends, editing videos for content, or becoming cybersecurity experts. Each course identified under the Summer Training Program holds significant value to the evolving interests and career aspirations of today’s youth, equipping them with the tools and experiences needed to thrive in both creative and technical fields.

stc also highlighted its continued dedication to supporting the national education ecosystem by offering opportunities for youth to engage in enriching

and experiential learning programs. Through its educational ‘upgrade’ initiative, stc continues to invest in skill development and talent empowerment to prepare the next generation of leaders and innovators in Kuwait. This initiative marks one of several programs that have been launched under the educational ‘upgrade’ initiative to provide students with unique learning experiences that extend beyond traditional education.

**About stc**  
Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) is a Kuwaiti shareholding company incorporated pursuant to Amiri Decree No. 187 on 22 July, 2008, to operate and manage the third GSM mobile network in Kuwait as per Law No. 2 of 2008. Accordingly, stc launched its operations in December 2008 and was listed on Boursa Kuwait in December 2014.

stc Kuwait is a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and solutions to customers, both for individuals and enterprises, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, and is a subsidiary of stc Group. stc Kuwait has expanded its portfolio by acquiring companies such as Qualitynet General Trading and Contracting Company (solutions by stc) in Kuwait, and e-portal Holding Company and its subsidiaries.



Kuwait Finance House branch

Expanding service to Egypt, Bahrain & UK

## KFH provides free, hassle-free communication for customers

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: In line with its commitment to advanced, secure, and high-quality services, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) provides diverse communication channels for both existing customers and those seeking to learn more about the Bank’s offerings.

Among its latest initiatives, KFH has recently introduced a new service enabling customers to make fast and free calls to the Group’s subsidiaries in three countries: Egypt, Bahrain and the UK, in addition to Turkey which was introduced by KFH earlier.

Customers in Kuwait can simply dial 1803333 at no cost. The complimentary service further strengthens connections between KFH Group customers in Kuwait with subsidiaries abroad.

KFH also offers free access from several countries through the following numbers

- 1. USA & Canada: 1-800-818-8608
- 2. UK: 0-800-014-8898
- 3. France: 0805-086620

- 4. Germany: 0800-181-7080
- 5. Spain: 900-905-440
- 6. Turkey: 00908507712154 (Local tariff charges in Turkey might be applied by local Turkish service providers when calling this number)

Calling the numbers is free exclusively for mobiles & landline users in the countries mentioned above only. This service does not apply to the Roaming Service.

Additionally, customers can contact KFH through KFHOnline inbox, or through WhatsApp for general inquiries. Moreover, the contact center at 1803333 operates 24/7, ensuring constant support and availability of a range of services at any time.

It serves to note that such communication initiatives help build and reinforce customer trust by simplifying communication with the Group subsidiaries. KFH customer service agents respond to inquiries promptly and deliver services efficiently, with international calls receiving prioritized handling.

## Committing top ITSM standards in its digital transformation strategy

## Burgan Bank ISO/IEC 20000-1:2018 certification renewed

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: In a testament to the success of the Bank’s ongoing digital transformation, Burgan Bank announced the successful renewal of its International Organization for Standardization and International Electrotechnical Commission ISO/IEC 20000-1:2018 certification, reaffirming the strength of its digital infrastructure and its alignment with global best practices for information technology system management. The recertification followed a rigorous external audit, which validated the efficiency, scalability, and continuous improvement of Burgan Bank’s IT operations, underscoring its commitment to delivering a consistently high-quality digital banking experience.

Commenting on the achievement, Mr. Barrak AlMattar, General Manager-Information Technology at Burgan Bank said: “One of our main strategic goals is to lead with innovation and deliver an outstanding banking experience that is seamless, secure, and responsive to our customers’ evolving needs. This requires that we remain agile and dynamic, constantly upgrading our IT capabilities to deliver a world-class experience. The renewal of our ISO/IEC 20000-1:2018 certification is a clear indicator of the operational ex-



Barrak AlMattar, General Manager - Information Technology at Burgan Bank

cellence we’ve built into our digital infrastructure — one that supports both customer satisfaction and long-term business growth.

He added: “Inline with the bank slogan ‘Driven by You’, every system upgrade and service enhancement is designed with our customers at the center—to safeguard their data, earn their trust, and empower their ambitions.”

The ISO/IEC 20000-1:2018 certification adds to Burgan Bank’s



growing list of global certifications, including ISO/IEC 27001: 2022 Information Security Management Systems certificate (ISMS), ISO / IEC 27701:2019 Privacy Information Management Systems (PIMS), ISO 22301:2019 Business Continuity Management (BCMS) and ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS). Burgan Bank remains one of the few financial institutions in Kuwait and the GCC to

maintain these certifications for five consecutive cycles — a testament to its disciplined governance and operational rigor. Moreover, the Bank achieved the LEED v4.1 O+M: EB Gold Certification in recognition for the green building design and architecture standards applied at its Head Office in Kuwait City, further attesting to its compliance with the highest environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards.

## ‘Adjust spending, avoid credit traps, and use community resources’

## Expert tips for managing finances and stress after a layoff

By Adriana Morga

NEW YORK, Aug 13, (AP): Recent layoffs from technology and media companies and government agencies might have you thinking about job security.

Losing your job is a difficult thing to process and you might feel the impact in several parts of your life. But there are things you can do to alleviate some of the stress and anxiety.

If you’ve been laid off, experts recommend that you first take a moment to process and then move on with a plan for your job search.

“A layoff can feel so personal but it’s not a reflection of your value or what you contributed. Especially in the U.S., the work we do is so tied to our identity,” said Lindsay Bryan-Podvin, a financial therapist.

Here are some expert recommendations to help you take care of your finances and your mental health if you’ve lost your job:

### Take a break to process

Losing your job can cause a lot of stress and financial anxiety, so it’s important that you take time to emotionally process.

“Acknowledge and normalize that they’re going to feel a range of emotions, whether it’s anger or sadness,” Bryan-Podvin said.

Whether you are feeling sadness, shock, anger or even relief, taking a moment to feel those emotions can help you move forward.

### Review your current financial situation

To make plans for the future, it’s essential that you review your current financial situation, said career coach Marlo Lyons.

If you have a budget, take a closer look and review whether you have expenses that you can temporarily cut to save money. Lyons recommends that you know how long your severance package will last if you’re receiving one.

Applying for unemployment benefits as soon as possible can



In this Monday, Dec. 12, 2016 photo, a woman types on her laptop, in Miami. (AP)

help alleviate some of the financial stress of a layoff. While the amount you get for unemployment might not be as much as your salary, it can help you to stay afloat for some time, Lyons said.

The Labor Department has tips on applying for unemployment.

### Remember that you are not your job

Getting laid off from a job can affect your self-esteem, so Bryan-Podvin recommends that you create a list of good qualities about yourself that add to your overall value as a person. Bryan-Podvin calls this a “non-financial asset list.”

“If I were doing a non-financial asset list on myself I might say I’m a pretty good partner and a fun aunt,” she said.

When working with her clients, Bryan-Podvin recommends that they create this list to remind them that their self-worth is part of their net worth.

### Adjust spending

If you lose your job, you’ll need to be more strategic about your spending, said Jesse Mecham, founder of the money management app YNAB.

“In a layoff, it becomes even

more imperative that you treat every dollar with more attention than you have in the past,” Mecham said. Part of YNAB’s budgeting strategy is giving each dollar a job, whether it is to pay rent, buy groceries or add to your savings account.

When adjusting your spending, Bryan-Podvin also recommends that you approach this with some compassion. Since cutting back can bleed into not doing activities that make you happy, she recommends reminding yourself that this is a temporary pause rather than a permanent change in your lifestyle.

### Avoid overusing your credit card

While utilizing your credit card to pay for some expenses is almost inevitable, it’s best to not completely lean on credit while you’re searching for a new job.

“If getting a new job takes them a little longer than they thought, that credit card has just become an anchor for them,” Mecham said.

Even though unemployment is temporary, Mecham recommends cutting expenses rather than keeping them at the same level and leaning on credit.

### Find community resources

Look for community resources, whether that means finding a food bank near you or applying for a temporary hardship program.

“Lots of communities offer temporary hardship programs when it comes to necessary bills, such as electricity or water,” Bryan-Podvin said.

USA.Gov offers a benefit finder where you can find available programs and how to apply.

### Approach your job search with a plan

As you are applying to new jobs, Lyons recommends that you take some time to assess if your professional goals are still the same.

If you’re continuing in the same field, Lyons recommends that you make your resume “forward-looking,” which means showing your future employer what you can do, not just what you have done.

“You want to show the employer what you can do, what unique value you can bring to that particular job that no other candidate can bring because of your previous experience,” Lyons said.

Lyons also recommends that you activate your network by reaching out to past colleagues on LinkedIn or attending industry networking events. Online certifications are another great way to make yourself a better candidate, she added.

### Create and maintain a routine

Having a routine can help you take care of your mental health and keep a cadence of applying to jobs.

Plan your days so they include eating at your usual time, exercising and applying for jobs for a specific amount of time.

“When we are laid off, unemployment can feel really aimless, especially if it came at us kind of out of nowhere,” Bryan-Podvin said.

It’s also important to avoid isolating yourself and lean on your support system for emotional support, she added.

## UPAC posts H1 profit of KD 497k

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: United Projects for Aviation Services Company (UPAC), a commercial real estate and facilities management company, today announced its financial results for the second quarter of 2025. For the six months ended June 2025, the company reported net profits of KD 497 thousand, down 62% from 2024, or 0.94 fils per share, with revenues of KD 3.29 million down 25.6% from 2024.

Eng. Hamad Malallah, Chief Executive Officer at UPAC, said: “The second quarter presented a transitional period as we successfully concluded the project to manage and operate Terminal 1 at Kuwait International Airport, officially handing it over to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in May 2025. While this shift has naturally impacted the company’s revenues, it also paves the way for new avenues of growth and development as we focus on future projects and strategic partnerships. It is important to note that UPAC built the entire project and operated it throughout the contract term before transferring it to the DGCA under the Build, Operate, and Transfer (BOT) system. We take great pride in the success of this national project over 26-year and in delivering it to the State.”

Malallah continued: “I’m pleased to share that in July, we welcomed our first operator at Messilah Beach: Villa Shams, Kuwait’s first ladies-only beach club. Officially opened on 10 July 2025, Villa Shams offers a premium, private experience designed exclusively for women, in a secure and refined setting. This milestone reflects UPAC’s vision to create inclusive recreational environments that cater to all segments of society.”

“Planning for other areas on the Messilah Beach site has also been progressing steadily. Our teams are actively working alongside confirmed operators, both global and local brands, to support their on-ground preparations for upcoming openings with a list of exciting tenants. We are looking forward to bringing an exceptional, family-friendly beach destination experience to Kuwait through Messilah Beach, which is set to become a vibrant, year-round destination,” added Malallah.

Malallah concluded: “We remain committed to identifying and pursuing strategic business opportunities within our industry that drive growth and create value for the company and its shareholders.”

Al Messilah Beach, one of Kuwait’s prime family entertainment destinations, was developed by Touristic Enterprises



Hamad Malallah

Company as part of its role in spearheading growth of Kuwait’s tourism sector. UPAC is managing all aspects of the site including leasing, entertainment activities, facility management, and overall project operations.

UPAC is a co-investor in Abu Dhabi’s \$1.3 billion Reem Mall on Reem Island. Reem Mall is Abu Dhabi’s latest signature shopping, dining, and entertainment family destination spanning an impressive 183.4K sqm GLA. Anchored by a hyper-market and various notable entertainment and home furnishing concepts, the mall will be home to around 400 international and local brands. Snow Abu Dhabi, one of the mall’s entertainment anchors, is the city’s only snow park. The mall also has one of the largest home furnishing offerings in Abu Dhabi as well as one of the largest Carrefour outlets in the city. One of the prominent new openings was Sharaf DG, an expansive 3,334sqm electronics retail space with 34 brand experience zones making it the largest store of its kind in Abu Dhabi.

The mall is one of the region’s first fully integrated omnichannel retail ecosystems with digital, e-commerce, and logistics capabilities. It brings together all consumer and retail services to ensure a seamless customer experience.

As of June 2025, around 66% of GLA is open and trading, with an additional 14% under fit-out, bringing the effective leased GLA to 80%. As of date, Reem Mall has also secured signed proposals covering a further 4% of GLA. Key performance metrics continue to show strong momentum, with footfall and tenant sales increasing by 30% to 40% year-on-year. Notably, the mall achieved two consecutive record-breaking months in May and June 2025, setting new highs for both visitor numbers and sales.



Economists warn tariffs could raise consumer costs and limit hiring

# US inflation held steady as mild tariff hit offset by cheaper gas, food

WASHINGTON, Aug 13, (AP): U.S. inflation was unchanged in July as rising prices for some imported goods were balanced by falling gas and grocery prices, leaving overall prices modestly higher than a year ago.

Consumer prices rose 2.7% in July from a year earlier, the Labor Department said Tuesday, the same as the previous month and up from a post-pandemic low of 2.3% in April. Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, core prices rose 3.1%, up from 2.9% in June. Both figures are above the Federal Reserve’s 2% target.

The new numbers suggest that slowing rent increases and cheaper gas are offsetting some impacts of President Donald Trump’s sweeping tariffs. Many businesses are also likely still absorbing much of the cost of the duties. Tuesday’s figures probably reflect some impact from the 10% universal tariff Trump imposed in April, as well as higher duties on countries such as China and Canada.

Brian Bethune, an economist at Boston College, said that overall U.S. tariffs - calculated as the amount of duties paid by U.S. companies divided by overall imports - has reached 10%, the highest in decades, and will likely keep rising for months.

“Those cost increases will be passed on to the consumer in some way, shape, or form,” Bethune said. Some companies could return to “shrinkflation,” he added, in which they reduce the package size of a good while keeping the price the same.

And companies that are absorbing tariff costs, which would cut into their profit margins, are less likely to hire new employees, he said.

The Federal Reserve may now be in a difficult spot. Hiring slowed sharply in the spring, after Trump announced tariffs in April. The stalling out of job gains has boosted financial market expectations for an interest rate cut by the central bank at its next meeting in September, and some Fed officials have raised concerns about the health of the job market. A rate cut by the Fed often, but not always, lowers borrowing costs for mortgages, car loans, and business loans.

Economists are divided over how Fed officials will read the data in the coming months. Some argued that the worsening jobs picture will outweigh lingering inflation concerns and lead the Fed to cut at its next meeting in September. Yet some say that with core inflation notably above 2% and rising, the Fed will postpone that decision.



Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, speaks during a news conference following the Federal Open Market Committee meeting, Wednesday, July 30, 2025, in Washington. (AP)

Chair Jerome Powell has warned that worsening inflation could keep the Fed on the sidelines - a stance that has enraged Trump, who has defied traditional norms of central bank independence and demanded lower borrowing costs.

On Tuesday, Trump attacked Powell again for not cutting rates and suggested he would allow a lawsuit against the Fed to proceed because of the rising costs of its extensive building renovation. It wasn’t clear what lawsuit he was referring to.

On a monthly basis, prices rose 0.2% in July, down from 0.3% the previous month, while core prices ticked up 0.3%, a bit faster than the 0.2% in June.

Gas prices fell 2.2% from June to July and have plunged 9.5% from a year earlier, the government’s report said. Grocery prices slipped 0.1% last month, though they are still 2.2% higher than a year ago.

Tariffs appeared to raise the cost of some imported items: Shoe prices jumped 1.4% from June to July,

though they are still just 0.9% more expensive than a year ago. The cost of furniture leapt 0.9% in July and is 3.2% higher than a year earlier.

Coffee costs nearly 15% more than a year earlier, mostly because of troubled harvests overseas, though steep duties on imports from Brazil could push those prices higher in the coming months. Nearly all U.S. coffee is imported.

Tuesday’s data arrives at a highly-charged moment for the Labor Department’s Bureau of Labor Statistics, which collects and publishes the inflation data. Trump fired Erika McEntarfer, then the head of BLS, after the Aug. 1 jobs report also showed sharply lower hiring for May and June than had previously been reported.

The president posted on social media Monday that he has picked E.J. Antoni, an economist at the conservative Heritage Foundation and a frequent critic of the jobs report, to replace McEntarfer.

Adding to the turmoil at BLS is a government hiring freeze that has forced it to cut back on the data it collects for each inflation report, the agency has said. UBS economist Alan Detmeister estimates that BLS is now collecting about 18% fewer price quotes for the inflation report than it did earlier this year. He thinks the report will produce more volatile results, though averaged out over time, still reliable.

Smaller companies are trying to avoid raising prices and some have turned to novel ways of raising funds.

Clothing maker Princess Awesome, which designs matching clothes for children and adults, has seen its costs jump 15% to 20% because of the tariffs. The company has joined a lawsuit seeking to block the duties. Rebecca Melsky, CEO and co-founder of the firm, says it is prohibitively expensive to make the cotton blend fabrics it uses in the United States.

For now, the company has instituted a “tip jar” on its website where it asks customers to help defray the cost of goods.

“We have not across the board raised prices because of the tariffs -- yet,” she said.

Trump has insisted that overseas manufacturers will pay the tariffs by reducing their prices to offset the duties. Yet the pre-tariff prices of imports haven’t fallen much since the levies were put in place.

Economists at Goldman Sachs estimate that foreign manufacturers have absorbed just 14% of the duties through June, while 22% has been paid by consumers and 64% by U.S. companies. Yet the economists expect that by this fall consumers will bear two-thirds of the burden, while foreign exporters pay a quarter and U.S. companies handle less than a tenth.

Many large corporations are raising prices, including apparel makers Ralph Lauren and Under Armour, and eyewear company Warby Parker. Most of those increases weren’t in place for Tuesday’s inflation report.

Consumer products giant Procter & Gamble, maker of Crest toothpaste, Tide detergent and Charmin toilet paper, said late last month that it would lift prices in August on about a quarter of its products by mid-single-digit percentages. Walmart has also raised prices.

And cosmetics maker e.l.f. Beauty, which makes a majority of its products in China, said on Wednesday that it had raised prices by a dollar on its entire product assortment as of Aug. 1 because of tariff costs, the third price hike in its 21-year history.

## US budget deficit climbs 20% in July despite tariff windfall

Customs revenue soars 273%

WASHINGTON, Aug 13, (AP): The U.S. budget deficit in July climbed 20% this fiscal year compared to the last despite the U.S. taking in record income from President Donald Trump’s tariffs, according to Treasury Department data released Tuesday.

The U.S. saw a 273% increase - or \$21 billion - in customs revenue in July over the same period last year, the data showed.

A Treasury official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview the data said overall increased spending is in part due to a mix of expenditures, including growing interest payments on the public debt and cost-of-living increases to Social Security payouts, among other costs. This comes as the federal government’s gross national debt creeps up to the \$37 trillion mark.

Even as Trump talks about America becoming rich because of his import tax hikes, federal spending keeps outpacing the revenues collected by the government. That financial picture might change as companies exhaust their pre-tariff inventories, forcing them to import more goods and generate even more in tax revenues that could whittle away at the deficit without meaningfully reducing it as promised.

If tariffs fail to deliver on Trump’s pledge to improve the government’s balance sheet, the American public could be faced with fewer job options, more inflationary pressures and higher interest rates on mortgages, auto loans and credit cards. The budget deficit is the annual gap between what the U.S. government raises in taxes and what it spends, over time feeding into the overall national debt.

While organizations like the Committee for a Re-

sponsible Federal Budget say that tariff income can be a stream of meaningful revenue - estimated to generate about \$1.3 trillion over the course of President Trump’s four-year term in office; some economists like Kent Smetters of the University of Pennsylvania’s Penn Wharton Budget Model say tariffs are likely to result “in only modest reductions in federal debt.”

In June, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that President Donald Trump’s sweeping tariff plan would cut deficits by \$2.8 trillion over a 10-year period while shrinking the economy, raising the inflation rate and reducing the purchasing power of households overall. But revenue estimates are also difficult to predict as the president has changed his tariff rates repeatedly and the taxes declared as part of an economic emergency are currently under appeal in a U.S. court.

A Treasury official did not respond to an Associated Press request for comment on when the U.S. could begin to see tariff revenue start to put a dent in the deficit.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said last month on Fox Business Network’s “Mornings with Maria” that the administration is “laser-focused on bringing this deficit down.” The Trump administration expects to make more trade deals with other nations, including China and other major economies.

For instance, on Monday, Trump extended a trade truce with China for another 90 days, which preserves the 30% tariffs he had imposed as a condition for negotiations. The previous deadline was set to expire at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday.

Trump posted on his Truth Social platform that he signed the executive order for the extension, and that “all other elements of the Agreement will remain the same.” Beijing, at the same time, also announced the extension of the tariff pause, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

## Debt rises \$1 trillion every 5 months

# US national debt tops \$37 trillion, accelerating faster than expected

WASHINGTON, Aug 13, (AP): The U.S. government’s gross national debt has surpassed \$37 trillion, a record number that highlights the accelerating debt on America’s balance sheet and increased cost pressures on taxpayers.

The \$37 trillion update is found in the latest Treasury Department report issued Tuesday which logs the nation’s daily finances.

The national debt eclipsed \$37 trillion years sooner than pre-pandemic projections. The Congressional Budget Office’s January 2020 projections had gross federal debt eclipsing \$37 trillion after fiscal year 2030. But the debt grew faster than expected because of a multi-year COVID-19 pandemic starting in 2020 that shut down much of the U.S. economy, where the federal government borrowed heavily under then-President Donald Trump and former President Joe Biden to stabilize the national economy and support a recovery.

And now, more government spending has been approved after Trump signed into law Republicans’ tax cut and spending legislation earlier this year. The law set to add \$4.1 trillion to the national debt over the next decade, according to Congressional Budget Office estimates.

Chair and CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, Michael Peterson said in a statement that government borrowing puts upward pressure on interest rates, “adding costs for everyone and reducing private sector investment. Within the federal budget, the debt crowds out important priorities and creates a damaging cycle of more borrowing, more interest costs, and even more

borrowing.”

Wendy Edelberg, a senior fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution said Congress has a major role in setting in motion spending and revenue policy and the result of the Republicans’ tax law “means that we’re going to borrow a lot over the course of 2026, we’re going to borrow a lot over the course of 2027, and it’s just going to keep going.”

The Government Accountability Office outlines some of the impacts of rising government debt on Americans - including higher borrowing costs for things like mortgages and cars, lower wages from businesses having less money available to invest, and more expensive goods and services.

Peterson points out how the trillion-dollar milestones are “piling up at a rapid rate.”

The U.S. hit \$34 trillion in debt in January 2024, \$35 trillion in July 2024 and \$36 trillion in November 2024. “We are now adding a trillion more to the national debt every 5 months,” Peterson said. “That’s more than twice as fast as the average rate over the last 25 years.”

The Joint Economic Committee estimates at the current average daily rate of growth an increase of another trillion dollars to the debt would be reached in approximately 173 days.

Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget said in a statement that “hopefully this milestone is enough to wake up policymakers to the reality that we need to do something, and we need to do it quickly.”

## Money supply M2 up 8.8%

# China’s yuan loans rise \$1.8 trillion in 7 months

BEIJING, Aug 13, (Xinhua): China’s yuan-denominated loans rose 12.87 trillion yuan (1.8 trillion U.S. dollars) in the first seven months of the year, central bank data showed on Wednesday.

Outstanding yuan loans stood at 268.51 trillion yuan at the end of July, which was up 6.9 percent year on year, according to the People’s Bank of China.

In the first seven months, household loans grew 680.7 billion yuan, and loans to enterprises and public institutions rose 11.63 trillion yuan, including 6.91 trillion yuan in medium-term and long-term loans.

The M2 -- a broad measure of money supply that covers cash in circulation and all deposits -- increased 8.8 percent year on year to come in at 329.94 trillion yuan at the end of July.

The M1, which covers cash

in circulation, demand deposits, and client reserves of non-bank payment institutions, stood at 111.06 trillion yuan at the end of July -- up 5.6 percent year on year.

And the M0, which indicates the amount of cash in circulation, increased 11.8 percent year on year to 13.28 trillion yuan at the end of July.

Yuan deposits rose 18.44 trillion yuan in the first seven months. Of that figure, household deposits increased 9.66 trillion yuan.

The aggregate financing to the real economy was 23.99 trillion yuan in the first seven months, which was 5.12 trillion yuan more than the same period last year.

The outstanding aggregate financing to the real economy stood at 431.26 trillion yuan at the end of July, registering 9 percent year-on-year growth.

## Musk says he plans to sue Apple for not featuring X or Grok among its top apps

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 13, (AP): Billionaire SpaceX, Tesla and X owner Elon Musk says he plans to sue Apple for not featuring X and its Grok artificial intelligence chatbot app in its top recommended apps in its App Store.

Musk posted the comments on X late Monday, saying, “Hey @Apple App Store, why do you refuse to put either X or Grok in your ‘Must Have’ section when X is the #1 news app in the world and Grok is #5 among all apps? Are you playing politics? What gives? Inquiring minds want to know.”

Grok is owned by Musk’s artificial intelligence startup xAI.

Musk went on to say that “Apple is behaving in a manner that makes it impossible for any AI company besides OpenAI to reach #1 in the App Store, which is an unequivocal antitrust violation. xAI will take immediate legal action.”

He gave no further details.

In an emailed statement, Apple de-



The opening page of X is displayed on a computer and phone in Sydney on Oct. 16, 2023. (AP)

fended the fairness of its App Store.

“The App Store is designed to be fair and free of bias,” it said. “We feature thousands of apps through charts, algorithmic recommendations, and curated lists selected by experts using objective criteria. Our goal is to offer safe discovery for users and valuable opportunities for developers, collaborating with many

to increase app visibility in rapidly evolving categories.”

The company has faced various allegations of antitrust violations in recent years.

A federal judge recently found that Apple violated a court injunction in an antitrust case filed by Fortnite maker Epic Games.

Regulators of the 27-nation European Union fined Apple 500 million euros in April for breaking competition rules by preventing app makers from pointing users to cheaper options outside its App Store.

Last year, the EU fined the U.S. tech giant nearly \$2 billion for unfairly favoring its own music streaming service by forbidding rivals like Spotify from telling users how they could pay for cheaper subscriptions outside of iPhone apps.

As of early Tuesday, the top app in Apple’s App Store was TikTok, followed by Tinder, Duolingo, YouTube and Bumble. Open AI’s ChatGPT was ranked 7th.



**‘Bring your light to the children who are suffering’**

## Madonna urges pope to visit Gaza ‘before it’s too late’

LONDON, Aug 13, (AP): Madonna has urged the pope to travel to Gaza and “bring your light to the children before it’s too late.”

The superstar posted her appeal to the pontiff on social media Monday, saying her son Rocco’s birthday prompted her to make the post. Rocco turned 25 Monday.

Addressing Pope Leo XIV, she wrote: “Most Holy Father. Please go to Gaza and bring your light to the children before it’s too late. As a mother, I cannot bear to watch their suffering.

“The children of the world belong to everyone. You are the only one of us who cannot be denied entry,” she added. “We need the humanitarian gates to be fully opened to save these innocent children. There is no more time. Please say you will go. Love, Madonna.”

The singer added that she wasn’t taking sides in

the war.

“I am not pointing fingers, placing blame or taking sides. Everyone is suffering. Including the mothers of the hostages,” she wrote. “I pray that they are released as well. I am merely trying to do what I can to keep these children from dying of starvation.”

The pope recently renewed his call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, asking the international community to respect humanitarian laws and the obligation to protect civilians.

“I once again call for an immediate end to the barbarity of this war and for a peaceful resolution to the conflict,” the pontiff said last month.

Aid workers and doctors have said that after months of Israeli blockade and turmoil in the distribution of supplies, children in Gaza with no previous

conditions are starting to die from malnutrition.

Israel’s air and ground offensive, sparked by Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023 attack into Israel, has displaced most of the some 2 million Palestinians in Gaza and pushed the territory toward famine.

The United Nations said that across Gaza, more than 5,000 children were diagnosed with malnutrition in May, though that is likely an undercount. Malnutrition was virtually nonexistent before the war. Doctors struggle to treat the children because many supplies have run out, the UN says.

Israel denies a famine is taking place or that children are starving. It says it has supplied enough food throughout the war and accuses Hamas of causing shortages by stealing aid and trying to control food distribution.



Madonna performs in the final show of her The Celebration Tour, on Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Saturday, May 4, 2024. (AP)

### People

Jail avoided

## Kamimura found guilty of assault

HONG KONG, Aug 13, (AP): Japanese pop idol Kenshin Kamimura was found guilty of a charge of indecent assault on a female interpreter in a Hong Kong court Wednesday before some emotional fans.

Kamimura, a former member of a Japanese boy group named ONE N’ ONLY, was arrested in the southern Chinese city in March. In the same month, his contract was terminated due to a serious compliance violation. In April, he pleaded not guilty.

He allegedly touched the interpreter’s thigh repeatedly during a celebratory dinner at a restaurant.

During the trial last month, the interpreter testified through a live video link that Kamimura had invited her to a bathroom elsewhere. After she dismissed the request and told him she had a boyfriend, Kamimura continued to touch her thigh, she said.

The defense argued the interpreter exaggerated her claims and the alleged bathroom invitation might not have been based on improper motives.

Judge Peter Yu handed down the conviction Wednesday, saying Kamimura touched the interpreter in a caressing nature that implicitly carried a sexual undertone and had indecent intent.

### Verdict

After the verdict was announced, a few of Kamimura’s fans wept in the courtroom. But Kamimura looked relieved when the judge issued a fine of 15,000 Hong Kong dollars (about \$1,900) and no prison term. The maximum penalty for the charge is 10 years of imprisonment.

The singer’s supporters, including some from Japan and mainland China, formed long lines inside the court building to secure a seat in the main courtroom before the hearing.

Others from mainland China who attended said they were not fans but wanted to learn more about the case, especially after seeing criticism of the female interpreter online.

University student Betty Zhong from the Chinese city of Shenzhen said she was not a Kamimura fan but had attended the court hearings in Hong Kong because a friend likes the J-pop idol and she wanted to know what happened. She said she was surprised Kamimura was charged during a visit to Hong Kong.

“News reports are not so comprehensive. When I come here, I can understand it holistically and the explanations from both sides,” she said.

Kamimura also is an actor who appeared in several TV dramas including the boys’ love series “Our Youth” and the popular drama “Ossan’s Love Returns.”



J-pop star Kenshin Kamimura arrives at the West Kowloon Magistrates’ Courts to hear verdict over his indecent assault case in Hong Kong, Wednesday, August 13. (AP)

### Music



Beyoncé, (center), is joined by her daughter Blue Ivy, (right), during a halftime performance in an NFL football game between the Baltimore Ravens and the Houston Texans, Dec. 25, 2024, in Houston. (AP)

## Beyoncé wins first Emmy, for ‘Beyoncé Bowl’ halftime show

Beyoncé has an Emmy to go with her 35 Grammys.

Beyoncé Knowles-Carter, her legal name, was listed as one of a half dozen people on a team that won outstanding costumes for a variety, nonfiction or reality show for “Beyoncé Bowl,” her Western-themed halftime show on Netflix’s Christmas NFL game between the Baltimore Ravens and Houston Texans.

The show in her hometown of Houston brought the live debut of songs from her

“Cowboy Carter” album.

The special Emmy is Beyoncé’s first. She has been nominated for 10 others without a victory. And it takes her halfway to an EGOT with her 35 Grammys. She still needs a Tony and an Oscar to complete the quartet.

The award was among a handful of so-called juried Emmys announced Tuesday that are determined outside the regular voting process and given out by committees, with no official nominees. They are usually

highly technical - several involve individual elements of the animation process - and rarely go to famous names. They are announced in advance and handed out at the Creative Arts Emmy Awards ceremony next month.

Beyoncé is also nominated for best variety special as a producer of “Beyoncé Bowl” and for best direction of a variety special. Her husband, Jay-Z, is competing against her as an executive producer of Kendrick Lamar’s Super Bowl halftime show. (AP)

## Rappers embrace new chapters in their careers

## JID and Offset rebrand with new albums

NEW YORK, Aug 13, (AP): On paper, the song might be an unusual pairing, or something resembling Mad Libs. Two Atlanta rappers with idiosyncratic styles - Offset’s melodic, aggressive flow and the dexterous lyricist JID - speaking the same language on “Bodies.”

Their collaboration, largely recorded in China, arrives atop a sample of nu-metal band Drowning Pool’s 2001 cut “Bodies.” It’s become a 2025 Billboard Hot 100 hit of their own, and it doubles as an ode to self-determination - standing your ground and working toward evolution.

“As soon as he played it, it was like history,” JID says of hearing their “Bodies” for the first time. “The production is one of my favorite compositions I ever recorded over.”

It also serves as a kind of introduction of a new era for both artists, who both have new albums this month.

In the post-“Bodies” glow, JID released his fourth album, “... Does Like Ugly” last week. The title is a play on his grandmother’s Southern colloquialism, “... don’t like ugly.”

“It’s more intentional,” he says of his new release. “The last project was more of an origin story, where I came from until now,” he says of 2022’s elastic “The Forever Story.”

“This one is closer, up to date, of where I am mentally - and my perspective of the industry.”

That’s immediately clear on the virtuosic “... Does Like Ugly” and its formidable list of collaborators, Clipse, Ciara, Don Toliver and Vince Staples among them.

It’s also evident on the lead single, “WRK,” an examination of ambition, and the surprising run up to his album release. JID embarked on the J. Cole-inspired “Dollar & A Dream” Tour, a series of exclusive performances across the US, where attendees only needed to pay a buck for entry.



This combination of images shows Offset, (left), and JID during a portrait session on Tuesday, Aug. 5, in New York. (AP)

“I just thought it was a cool idea. A great way to be intimate and see your fans,” he says. “Getting to perform the new songs for them every night is perfect.”

Drive is certainly something the pair have in common, but when it comes to their new releases, the comparisons end there. Offset will release “Kiari,” his third solo album on Aug. 22. The title is his legal name - a direct reflection of the album he calls “a look in the mirror.” He says it’s a collection of “different versions of Offset, which comes from Kiari ... I’m always trying to rebrand and recreate.”

Where his last release, “Set It Off,” sought to “bring rap back, not so much melody,” as he told The Associated Press in 2023, “Kiari” combines the best of both worlds.

He says he’s pulling from “life events” on the album. “It feels very personal,” he says. “Not just about what I’m speaking on, but how serious the moment in time is for me to prevail.”

“‘Set It Off’ was a freedom,” he adds,

proof that he could shine as a solo artist outside of Migos, the group that launched his career.

“Kiari,” instead, is “me, for what I am. And recognizing who I am, because I feel like sometimes you could get lost in trying to please other people and trying to do what they want you to do.

“So, this is like my rebellion. My rebellion album.”

And he’s got an A-list crew of collaborations helping him rebel: Not just JID, but also Gunna, Key Glock, YoungBoy Never Broke Again, Ty Dolla \$ign, Teezo Touchdown and perhaps most surprising of all, John Legend on the emotive “Never Let Go.”

He says it is for the late Takeoff, his Migos bandmate and cousin, who died in a 2022 shooting.

“It’s a song for him,” says Offset. “The last album, I had not did a song (for him) because I couldn’t during the time.”

Even still, “Never Let Go” was a challenge. “The song is beautiful. I was able to be vulnerable on the song and speak and say certain things I’ve never said out loud.”

“Kiari” is also Offset’s first new album since the birth of his third daughter with rapper Cardi B in September, shortly after she filed for divorce from him.

It is likely fans will read the final track on the album, “Move On,” to be about their relationship.

He says it’s simply “about moving on peacefully. That’s what the message is supposed to be: moving on peacefully.”

He chosen to end the album that way to “end that chapter, just move on.

“It’s over and done with. It was great while it lasted. That shouldn’t be the topic for neither one of us no more. It’s a book that’s closed.”

### Variety

NEW YORK: Taylor Swift’s latest era is almost upon us. The superstar isn’t just releasing new music - she’s appearing Wednesday on “New Heights” for the first time.

Part of the rollout for Tuesday’s announcement of “The Life of a Showgirl” involved the popular, typically football-focused podcast hosted by Travis Kelce - Swift’s boyfriend and Kansas City Chiefs tight end - and his brother, Jason Kelce, the former Philadelphia Eagles center.

The show teased “a special episode with a VERY special guest” on social media Monday, sharing an orange background and a mysterious silhouette that many believed to be Swift. It turned out to be true, the show’s social media accounts confirmed later, at the same time Swift announced her 12th studio album.

Here’s everything you need to know about Swift’s episode.

Swift’s episode of the “New Heights” podcast will premiere at 7 p.m. Eastern. It will be available to stream in full on YouTube.

Fans who would prefer to listen to the show, instead, can do so via most podcast-streaming platforms: Apple Podcasts, Amazon Music, Audible, Spotify and Wondery, which produces the show, among them.

Episodes can run up to two hours. It is unclear how long Swift’s episode will be or how long she will be present.

Not a whole lot.

After the initial tease, the podcast shared a short video clip to its social media platforms early Tuesday. In it, Swift told the Kelce brothers she wanted to show them something, revealing a mint-green briefcase that featured her initials in orange. Jason Kelce asked what’s in it, prompting her to pull out a vinyl record with a blurred cover. (AP)

□ □ □

NEW YORK: Venus Williams has a new Barbie, this one part of the dollmaker’s Inspiring Women collection.

Williams’ doll, to be released Friday, will celebrate the tennis great and pay equity champion with a doll wearing the uniform she wore while winning Wimbledon in 2007.

Williams’ win for the fifth of her seven grand slam titles was the first time a woman received equal prize money as the men at a top-level tournament. The doll, suggested to retail for \$38, will feature Williams in all white with a green gem necklace, wristband, racket and tennis ball. (AP)

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TOKYO: Fast-food chain McDonald’s Japan has canceled a Happy Meal campaign that came with coveted Pokemon cards, apologizing after resellers rushed to buy the meals and then discarded the food, leaving trash outside stores.

The meals, called Happy Sets in Japan, were meant for children. They came with a toy, such as a tiny plastic Pikachu, and a Pokemon card. They sold out in a day, according to Japanese media reports.

Mounds of wasted food were found near the stores.

“We do not believe in abandoning and discarding food. This situation goes against our longtime philosophy that we have cherished as a restaurant to ‘offer a fun dining experience for children and families.’ We sincerely accept that our preparations had not been adequate,” the company said in a statement Monday. (AP)

□ □ □

CHINO, Calif.: A police department in Southern California recovered about \$30,000 worth of Labubu dolls that were stolen from a warehouse, the agency announced this week.

The collectible items have recently surged in popularity. The Labubus were stolen in a series of trips that spanned multiple days, the Chino Police Department said in a social media post. Two suspects, both minors, were later identified as workers at the warehouse, the department said.

Law enforcement found the items at a home in Upland, a city in the state’s Inland Empire.

The announcement comes as authorities in Los Angeles County investigate a separate incident in which thieves stole about \$7,000 worth of the toothy little monsters from a store in La Puente. (AP)



From sitcom star to veterinarian: Spencer’s remarkable journey

Danielle Spencer, TV’s Dee on ‘What’s Happening!’, dies at 60

LOS ANGELES, Aug 13, (AP): Danielle Spencer, who played the wisecracking and tattling little sister Dee Thomas on the 1970s sitcom “What’s Happening!!” has died at 60.

Spencer, who became a veterinarian later in life, died Monday at a hospital in Richmond, Virginia, after a years-long battle with cancer, family spokesperson Sandra Jones said.

As Dee, Spencer was the smarter, more serious younger sister who offered a steady stream of deadpan roasts of big brother Roger “Raj” Thomas and his friends Dwayne Nelson and Freddie “Rerun” Stubbs.

“Ooh, I’m gonna tell mama,” would become Dee’s catchphrase.

The show, set in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Watts and among the first on television to focus on the lives of Black teenagers, was based on the movie “Cooley High” and ran on ABC from 1976 to 1979. It had a long legacy thanks to its memorable characters, including the geeky Raj, the catchphrase-spouting Dwayne, the red-bereted dancing phenom Rerun, and Dee with her eyerolls and icy stare.



This Aug. 2019 image provided by Sandra Jones, shows Danielle Spencer posing for a photograph in Midlothian, Va. (AP)

Early in the production of the show’s first season, Spencer, then 12, was in a major car accident on the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, California, that left her in a coma for three weeks and killed her stepfather, Tim Pelt. She would have spinal and neurological problems that would require multiple surgeries in the years afterward.

Born in Trenton, New Jersey, and raised in New York, Spencer began acting when she was about 9. “What’s Happening!!” would be her first credited role.

“Imagine being plucked from obscurity to star in a TV show,” she told Jet magazine in 2014. “I had never seen any young Black girl in that type of spotlight, so I didn’t have a reference point in the media as to how to deal with this opportunity. I was from the Bronx.”

Haywood Nelson, who played Dwayne on the show, paid tribute Tuesday to “Dr. Dee, our brilliant, loving, positive, pragmatic warrior.”

“We have lost a daughter, sister, family member, ‘What’s Happening’ cast member, veterinarian animal rights proponent and healer, and cancer heroine. Our She-

ro,” Nelson said on Instagram. “Danielle is loved.”

Spencer also appeared on a mid-1980s reboot of the show, “What’s Happening Now!!,” which ran for three seasons.

In 2018, she had emergency surgery for a bleeding hematoma, which stemmed from that 1977 car crash. In the immediate aftermath, a family spokesperson said she could only speak slightly and had to use crutches to walk. She had been suffering symptoms from at least 2004, when she had to use a wheelchair and relearn how to walk. In 2014, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and had a double mastectomy.

She went on to become a veterinarian and advocate for animals. She attended the University of California, Davis, and UCLA, and got a doctorate in veterinary medicine from Tuskegee University in 1993.

Spencer continued to dabble in acting in her later years, including an appearance as a veterinarian in the 1997 Jack Nicholson film “As Good as it Gets.”

She is survived by her brother, musician Jeremy Pelt, and her mother, Cheryl Pelt.

Museum



Moussa the Architect’s Castle: A story of struggle spanning decades in the Lebanese Shouf Mountains.



A wax model depicting a family feast in ancient Lebanese villages.



The castle’s entrance, with a wooden bridge evoking medieval designs.



KUNA photos  
The castle entrance, featuring lions carved by architect Moussa Al-Maamari.

Moussa castle ... Lebanese architect’s vision brought to life

The Moussa Castle Museum, located between the towns of Deir Al-Kamar and Beiteddine, came to fruition due to the relentless efforts of Moussa Al-Maamari, a renowned Lebanese architect.

Al-Maamari, born on July 27, 1930, and died on January 31, 2018, established the Museum housing numerous artifacts, gemstones and antique weapons taken straight out of books of

legends and stories.

It has been said that Al-Maamari’s dream of establishing this particular museum was inspired by his love of the Middle Ages. Hence, the museum’s design, which emulates castles from that period. (KUNA)

Exhibits to align with Trump’s vision of American history

Smithsonian gets review ahead of US 250th celebration

WASHINGTON, Aug 13, (AP): The White House is ordering a wide-ranging review of the Smithsonian museums and exhibitions ahead of the country’s 250th birthday with a goal of aligning the institution’s content with President Donald Trump’s interpretation of American history.

In a letter sent Tuesday to Smithsonian Institution Secretary Lonnie Bunch III, the White House laid out in detail the steps it expects the organization to take as part of the announced review. The examination will look at all public-facing content, such as social media, exhibition text and educational materials, to “assess tone, historical framing, and alignment with American ideals,” according to the letter.

“This initiative aims to ensure alignment with the President’s directive to celebrate American exceptionalism, remove divisive or partisan narratives, and restore confidence in our shared cultural institutions,” the letter said.

The Smithsonian said it remained committed to “scholarly excellence, rigorous research, and the accurate,

factual presentation of history.”

“We are reviewing the letter with this commitment in mind and will continue to collaborate constructively with the White House, Congress, and our governing Board of Regents,” it said in a statement.

The review, first reported by The Wall Street Journal, is the latest attempt by the president to bring the country’s cultural institutions in line with his vision. In March, Trump signed an executive order titled “Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History,” which accused the Smithsonian of coming under the influence of a “divisive, race-centered ideology” and called upon it to “remove improper ideology” from the institution’s museums.

In February, Trump removed the Kennedy Center’s Board of Trustees, replaced them with his supporters and named himself chairman. He vowed to end events featuring performers in drag, indicating he would take on a larger role in dictating the institution’s programming schedule.

The review of the Smithsonian



People visit the Smithsonian Museum of American History on the National Mall in Washington, April 3, 2019. (AP)

will initially focus on eight museums - the National Museum of American History, the National Museum of Natural History, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the National Museum of the American Indian, the National Air and Space Museum, the Smithsonian American Art

Museum, the National Portrait Gallery and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.

The letter said additional museums would be reviewed in subsequent phases.

Civil rights leaders have criticized the administration’s particular focus on the National Museum of African

American History and Culture as efforts to minimize Black Americans’ contributions to the country and to recast the obstacles they faced throughout history.

The Smithsonian has repeatedly denied allegations that it has changed or removed exhibit details in response to pressure from the administration. Recently, the institution removed references to Trump’s two impeachments from an exhibit on the American presidency.

A spokesman for the museum said the references, which were added in 2021, were intended to be a temporary measure and said a future exhibit would include details on all presidential impeachments.

The review ordered by the White House directs the museums to submit materials from exhibits and drafts for upcoming events within 30 days. Within 120 days, the letter said, museums will be expected to take corrective action, “replacing divisive or ideologically driven language with unifying, historically accurate, and constructive descriptions.”

Books

Debut novel

In ‘Loved One,’ grief meets wit

By Rob Merrill

**I** picked up a copy of “Loved One” based solely on the fact that its first-time author, Aisha Muharrar, was involved in three television comedies that made me laugh: “Hacks,” “Parks and Recreation” and “The Good Place.”

The opening scene of “Loved One” could be a set piece on any of those shows, as we jump inside the head of our narrator, 30-year-old Julia, who is delivering the eulogy at a friend’s funeral, a popular indie musician at the time of his death. She thinks in pop culture tropes. “Gabe and I were actual friends... We weren’t the kind of friends who were never really friends. The kind of friends you see in a romantic comedy where there are two incredibly attractive people who are deeply emotionally invested in each other, and we’re supposed to believe they have never once considered the idea of sexual intercourse.”

Julia next goes to the bathroom and ends up needing to borrow a tampon from Elizabeth, a British woman Gabe had been dating for more than a year at the time of his accidental death. (He slipped and hit his head on a marble sink when exiting the shower of an L.A. hotel.) Elizabeth’s words to Julia in their brief bathroom encounter set the rest of the story in motion: “I know exactly who you were to Gabe.”

Purpose

After some required background about how Julia and Gabe met at a program for arts and architectural students in Barcelona in the summer between high school and college, Julia is on her way to London to retrieve a few of Gabe’s things at the request of Gabe’s grieving mother. “I was a set of house keys buried at the bottom of a purse, finally plucked out, jangling with a purpose,” is the poetic way Muharrar describes Julia’s feelings as she heads overseas.

Once in London, the story takes on an almost buddy comedy feel, with Julia and Elizabeth warily befriend one another as they attempt to collect mementos of Gabe’s - from a guitar he once played to a Mets cap he wore. We stay inside Julia’s head most of the time, as she travels around London, still delivering inner monologues wrapped in her pop-culture sensibility: “I liked learning a new tidbit about him. It was never-before-seen footage that kept the movie of his life rolling.”

As the two women get to know one another, we as readers get to know more about their relationships with Gabe, and especially what happened in the final month or so before his death. Muharrar’s work developing her main characters throughout the story allows her to explore deeper themes of grief and loss in the final third of the book without too much sentimentality. Closure may be too much to ask for these grieving women, but it’s enough that they realize they still have lives to live without the object of the book’s title. (AP)



This cover image released by Viking shows ‘Loved One’ by Aisha Muharrar. (AP)



Poliovirus detected in sewage samples from 42 sites across Pakistan

Türkiye races to contain foot-and-mouth disease outbreak

KIRKLARELI, Türkiye, Aug 13, (Xinhua): Turkish authorities and veterinarians are warning of the swift spread of foot-and-mouth disease, which has placed farmers nationwide, particularly in the Thrace region, on high alert, and forced local livestock markets to close.

The outbreak, first detected on July 10 in Ardahan province, is rapidly advancing westward from the eastern provinces of Ardahan, Kars, and Iğdir, noted Gulay Erturk, president of the Turkish Veterinary Association.

Emphasizing the high risk in Thrace, Erturk said close monitoring is required as even vaccinated animals are showing mild signs of the virus.

More veterinarians need to be deployed swiftly to reach and vaccinate animals in the field, she said.



A veterinarian vaccinates a cow against the foot-and-mouth disease in a barn in Limankoy village, Kırklareli province, Türkiye, on Aug. 11. (Xinhua)

In response to experts’ call of swift action, the Ardahan Governorship has imposed quarantine measures in over 50 villages and restricted animal movements. Local teams are collecting and burying deceased

animals to protect public health.

On Sunday, Turkish Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Ahmet Gumen visited the affected areas in Ardahan, informing producers about containment efforts and emphasizing the importance of vaccination.

In Limankoy village, Thrace’s Kırklareli province, efforts began early Monday with veterinarians working to inoculate all scheduled cattle.

“In the Demirkoy district we have 4,000 cows to be vaccinated this week,” one veterinarian reported, adding that concerning reports of sick cows in Thrace are pending test results.

Local authorities have urged all livestock owners to vaccinate their animals immediately and prevent outsiders from entering barns, noting the disease spreads rapidly, potentially even via tire tracks.

The highly-contagious viral illness is affecting cloven-hoofed animals like cattle, sheep, and goats, veterinarian Metin Orenel told Xinhua.

“The disease causes fever, blisters, and painful sores in the mouth and on the feet, making it difficult for animals to eat or walk,” he said.

Meanwhile, farmers are facing a difficult choice. Nurcan Gokyildiz, a livestock farmer in Limankoy, told Xinhua on Monday that she is caught “between a rock and a hard place,” torn between protecting her pregnant cows and the threat to her herd.

“I have five cows, four of them pregnant, and the district agriculture and forestry office sent me a message saying they all need to be vaccinated this week,” she said.

“The vaccination is risky for the pregnant cows, which can cause miscarriages, while the disease itself is dangerous too,” she noted.

Despite these fears, Gokyildiz said she decides to vaccinate all her pregnant cows by the end of the day, hoping the difficult choice will protect her herd from the disease.

**Also:**

**ISLAMABAD:** Wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) has been detected in sewage samples from 42 sites across Pakistan, health authorities said on Tuesday.

A total of 127 sewage samples were collected from 87 districts during July, according to testing by the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health in Islamabad.

Of these, 75 samples tested negative, 42 were positive, and 10 are still under process.

Lack of alternatives undermines ban’s effectiveness

Lagos has banned single-use plastics, but struggles with implementation

LAGOS, Nigeria, Aug 13, (AP): Nigerian shop manager Olarewanju Ogunbona says he uses Styrofoam and plastic packs at least five times a day - nothing unusual in the megacity of Lagos, one of the world’s most plastics-polluted urban areas.

The city’s over 20 million people contributed 870,000 tons of the world’s 57 million tons of plastic waste in 2024. Lagos state authorities last month imposed a ban on single-use plastics, but residents say weak enforcement and the absence of alternatives have weakened its effectiveness.

Under the law that kicked off on July 1, the use of single-use plastics such as cutlery, plates and straws is banned and offenders risk their businesses being shut down. However, other forms of plastics, which make up a smaller percentage of the city’s waste, are still in use.

The ban is far from being fully implemented, as some shops still display Styrofoam packs on their shelves.

“Sellers are still using it very well,” said Ogunbona, who continues to buy his Styrofoam-packed meals.

In Geneva this week, countries including Nigeria are negotiating a treaty to end plastic pollution. Such talks broke down last year, with oil-producing countries opposed to any limits on plastic production. In large part, plastics are made from fossil fuels like oil and gas.

Lagos generates at least 13,000 tons of waste daily, almost a fifth of which is plastics, officials have said. In the absence of a proper waste management system, most of it ends up in waterways, clogging canals, polluting beaches and contributing to devastating floods.

Although the state government has promoted the ban on single-use plastics as a major step, watchdogs are skeptical.

“Its effectiveness is limited without strong enforcement, affordable alternatives for low-income vendors and meaningful improvements in the city’s overwhelmed waste management systems,” Olumide Idowu, a Lagos-based environmental activist, told The Associated Press.

The Lagos state government did not respond to a request for comment.

With the quest for a better life driving millions of Nigerians to Lagos, some in the city are finding ways to manage the pollution. Recent years have seen a rise of private waste managers and sustainability groups helping to tackle the crisis.

At a sorting site in Obalende, a bustling commercial suburb adjacent to the upscale Ikoyi neighborhood, two women with razor blades scraped labels from plastic soft drink bottles. They uncapped the bottles and threw them into different nets, ready to be compressed and sold for recycling.

Competition has become tougher as more people join the work, the women said. The informal network of waste collectors sell to, or sort for, private waste management companies. They can make around around 5,000 naira (\$3.26) a day.

But far more work is needed.

Manufacturers have a key role to play in tackling the plastic waste problem, according to Omohi Alokwe, co-founder of the Street Waste Company that operates in Obalende.

“They need to ... ensure that the plastics being produced into the environment are collected back and recycled,” Alokwe said.

Experts also call for a behavioral change among residents for the law banning single-use plastics to be effective.

More women switching to reusable menstrual products

Research shows women with more children have lower risk of cancer

OSLO, Aug. 13, (Agencies): Women who have given birth to multiple children have a significantly lower risk of developing certain cancers, according to a new large-scale Norwegian study.

The research, conducted by the Arctic University of Norway (UiT), found that the risk of breast, ovarian, and uterine cancer decreases by approximately 10 percent with each childbirth. Women who have had six children face nearly half the risk compared to women who have not given birth, the Norwegian broadcaster NRK reported on Wednesday.

Led by Eiliv Lund, professor emeritus at UiT, the study analyzed historical data from Norway’s 1960 census and cancer registry records of more than 385,000 women born between 1870 and 1915. Researchers went far back in time to gather sufficient data on women with large numbers of children, as high fertility rates are rare in Norway today.

“Our analysis shows a consistent decrease in cancer risk with each childbirth, and the effect extends up to 15 children, something no previous studies have documented,” Lund told NRK.

The study attributes this protective effect to hormonal and immunological changes that occur during pregnancy. Researchers observed nearly identical risk-reduction patterns across the three cancer types.

According to Lund, pregnancy requires the mother’s immune system to adjust significantly, as the fetus is genetically distinct. This immune modulation is believed to play a role in



Tammy Compton restocks tampons at Compton’s Market, in Sacramento, Calif., June 22, 2016. (AP)

reducing cancer risk later in life.

It was six months ago that Selin Celikoyar bought her last tampon and switched to a reusable menstrual disc.

“I had already been wary of tampons from an environmental perspective and also from a biological perspective. I felt that they were very wasteful and expensive to consistently keep buying,” she said.

The flexible discs and other reusable menstrual products are gaining traction as alternatives to the billions of single-use pads and tampons that get tossed into

landfills every year. Products such as the discs, silicone cups and period underwear can be reused for years, so they’re cost-effective and long-lasting in addition to helping people reduce waste. The popularity of the reusable alternatives has grown since the pandemic, when it was easier to experiment with period products in the privacy of a home bathroom, according to women’s health experts.

Celikoyar said she used tampons and pads for years because those are the options she grew up knowing about. But when she saw her friend make the switch to a menstrual disc, she decided to try it too.

Largest coral loss in 40 years

Great Barrier Reef sees worst coral loss

MELBOURNE, Australia, Aug 13, (AP): The Great Barrier Reef has experienced its greatest annual loss of live coral across most of its expanse in four decades of record-keeping, Australian authorities say.

But due to increasing coral cover since 2017, the coral deaths - caused mainly by bleaching last year associated with climate change - have left the area of living coral across the iconic reef system close to its long-term average, the Australian Institute of Marine Science said in its annual survey recently.

The change underscores a new level of volatility on the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the report said.

Mike Emslie, who heads the tropical marine research agency’s long-term monitoring program, said the live coral cover measured in 2024 was the largest recorded in 39 years of surveys.

The losses from such a high base of coral cover had partially cushioned the



Minor bleaching is seen to a Acropora colony at Lagoon Reef at the northern Great Barrier Reef in far North Queensland, Australia, Dec. 18, 2024. (AP)

serious climate impacts on the world’s largest reef ecosystem, which covers 344,000 square kilometers (133,000 square miles) off the northeast Australian coast, he said.

“These are substantial impacts and evidence that the increasing frequency of coral bleaching is really starting to have detrimental effects on the Great Barrier Reef,” Emslie said on Thurs-

day.

“While there’s still a lot of coral cover out there, these are record declines that we have seen in any one year of monitoring,” he added.

Emslie’s agency divides the Great Barrier Reef, which extends 1,500 kilometers (900 miles) along the Queensland state coast, into three similarly-sized regions: northern, central and southern.

Living coral cover shrunk by almost a third in the south in a year, a quarter in the north and by 14% in the central region, the report said.

Because of record global heat in 2023 and 2024, the world is still going through its biggest - and fourth ever recorded - mass coral bleaching event on record, with heat stress hurting nearly 84% of the world’s coral reef area, including the Great Barrier Reef, according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s coral reef watch. So far at least 83 countries have been impacted.



A Long March-5B carrier rocket carrying a group of low Earth orbit satellites blasts off from the Wenchang Space Launch Site in south China’s Hainan Province, Aug. 13. (Xinhua)

China launches new satellites

WENCHANG, Hainan, Aug 13, (Xinhua): China successfully launched a new group of low Earth orbit satellites from the Wenchang Space Launch Site in the southern island province of Hainan on Wednesday.

This satellite group, the eighth of its kind that will constitute an internet constellation, was launched at 2:43 p.m. (Beijing Time) aboard a Long March-5B carrier rocket, featuring a Yuanzheng-2 (Expedition-2) upper stage at the top of the rocket.

The satellites successfully entered their preset orbit.

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# Windies clinch landmark ODI series victory

Pakistan crumbles for 92; Hope strokes unbeaten 120

**TAROUBA, Trinidad and Tobago, Aug 13, (AP): Shai Hope helped deliver some long overdue good news for the West Indies with a century to inspire the Caribbean cricketers to a series-clinching, 202-run over Pakistan.**

It was the first bilateral ODI series won by West Indies against Pakistan since 1991 and ended a run of home series defeats across the test and Twenty20 formats to Australia and Pakistan.

Hope stroked an unbeaten 120 before pace bowler Jayden Seales destroyed Pakistan’s chase with six wickets in the third and final one-day cricket international.

The West Indies captain said he was extremely proud of his team.

Hope added there’d been a lot of stress on negatives in the game but now there was “positives to shout about” for West Indies cricket.

The big win came in the wake of a two-day emergency summit for Ca-

ribbean cricket. Hope attended part of the summit, along with greats including Brian Lara and Clive Lloyd, to help create strategies to lift West Indies back toward the top of the international game.

The summit was called after a West Indian lineup scored just 27 runs in its second innings - one run short of the all-time test record for low totals - while losing the third of three tests to Australia.

After losing eight straight matches to Australia and then losing a Twenty20 series 2-1 to Pakistan in Florida, West Indies lost the ODI series-opener to Pakistan last week by five wickets.

West Indies leveled the series with a five-wicket victory in the second ODI to stoke hope of a revival and dominated the third.

Pakistan was dismissed for 92 in 29.2 overs after West Indies posted 294-6 at Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago.

Hope hit five sixes and 10 fours in his 94-ball knock, sharing an unbroken seventh-wicket stand with Justin Greaves of 110 runs in around eight overs.

Greaves was 43 not out in only 24 deliveries, including two sixes and four fours.

Pakistan collapsed early in its chase to 23-4 in the ninth over, with three ducks from its top four batters. Opener Saim Ayub was caught behind on the third ball of the innings, Abdullah Shafique also failed to score, and Pakistan was 8-3 when captain Mohammad Rizwan was bowled by Seales for a golden duck in the third over.

Seales took his fourth wicket by trapping Babar Azam (9) lbw. Seales finished with figures of 6-18 from 7.2 overs.

Hasan Nawaz (13) advanced and was stumped against the bowling of Gudakesh Motie and Roston Chase bowled Hussain Talat (1), leaving Pakistan on 62-6 in the 21st over. Salman Agha top-scored for Pakistan with a 49-ball 30.

The match and series ended with another golden duck when Abrar Ahmed was run out by Chase.

Liberty sinks Sparks with season-high points

# Dallas holds off Indiana Fever to end five-game losing streak



Dallas Wings forward Maddy Siegrist (20) shoots in front of Indiana Fever forward Damiris Dantas (12) in the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Indianapolis. (AP)

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug 13, (AP): Maddy Siegrist tied a career high with 22 points in her first start since June 6, Li Yueru added 20 points off the bench, and the Dallas Wings held off the Indiana Fever 81-80 to end a five-game losing streak.

Paige Bueckers’ wraparound pass to Myisha Hines-Allen for a 3-pointer gave the Wings a 78-61 lead with 6:38 left in the fourth quarter. But Dallas made only one more field goal the rest of the way - a three-point play by Yueru with 2:31 left.

Indiana - again playing without Caitlin Clark (groin) who missed her 20th game this season - scored 13 straight points to begin a game-closing 19-3 run that Kelsey Mitchell capped with 33.4 seconds left on a tough shot in the lane. Bueckers missed a jumper from the free-throw

line with 14 seconds left and the Fever grabbed the defensive rebound.

Mitchell was surrounded at the other end leading to a timeout with 1.7 seconds left. Mitchell got the ball again, but her 3-pointer from the corner hit the side of the backboard as time expired.

**Liberty 105, Sparks 97**

In Los Angeles, Emma Meesseman scored a season-high 24 points, Jonquel Jones had 21 points and 11 rebounds, and New York scored a season high in points in a victory over Los Angeles.

Sandy Brondello won her 100th game as coach of the Liberty, tying Richie Adubato for the most in franchise history.

Natasha Cloud made back-to-back layups to give New York a 96-85 lead - tied for the

largest advantage of the game. Sabrina Ionescu added a layup with 1:22 remaining and, after a missed 3-pointer by Los Angeles, Cloud made another basket in the lane for a 102-91 lead.

Leonie Fiebich added 20 points, Ionescu had 14 points and six assists, and Cloud scored 11 for New York (21-11), which was coming off an 83-71 loss to Minnesota on Sunday. Breanna Stewart (knee), Isabelle Harrison (concussion) and Nyara Sabally (knee) did not play.

Kelsey Plum scored 26 points for Los Angeles (15-17), which played its fifth game in eight days. Dearica Hamby had 21 points, eight rebounds and four steals. Azura Stevens scored 17 and Rickea Jackson had 16. Cameron Brink did not play in the second half.

## Guinea rains 3-pointers to upset top-ranked S.Sudan at AfroBasket

NAIROBI, Aug 13, (Xinhua): The 31st edition of FIBA AfroBasket kicked off in Angola’s Luanda and Namibe, with Guinea’s 88-80 victory over favorites South Sudan standing out as a key highlight of the opening day.

Ranked No. 1 in Africa and No. 23 globally in the FIBA men’s rankings, South Sudan’s Bright Stars are placed in the highly competitive Group C, which also includes 11-time champions and hosts Angola, 2023 FIBA Africa U16 Champions Guinea, and five-time participants Libya.

Guinea wasted no time showcasing aggressive offense in their opening clash against South Sudan. Headlined by 2021 NBA champion Mamadi Diakite and EuroLeague star Alpha Diallo, the West African team unleashed an unstoppable barrage of three-pointers, establishing a 45-38 lead by halftime.

In the second half, Guinea extended the winning margin to 15 points with a 12-2 scoring run in the third quarter, then sealed the victory with crucial free throws at the buzzer.

Guinea made 14 out of 28 three-point attempts, with four players

reaching double digits in scoring. Diallo led all players with a game-high 28 points, while South Sudan’s Nuni Omot finished with a team-high 27 points.

“It was an important win for us to go out there, set the tone against a really tough opponent, South Sudan. They played really well; kept us on our heels,” Diallo said after the match.

“C o a c h drew us a few plays and we got a lot of defensive stops; Some of our young guys came in and brought us some energy,” he added, calling the win “an overall team contribution.” In another Group C matchup, 11-time champions Angola crashed Libya 85-53 on home soil. The Angolans are currently standing atop the group, followed by Guinea.

In Group D, last edition’s third-place finisher Senegal overwhelmed Uganda 88-53 to lead the group, while Egypt defeated Mali 74-59.



Diakite

### Best of the Rest

**Bournemouth signs Diakite:** Bournemouth bolstered its creaking defense by signing center back Bafodé Diakité from Lille in a deal worth up to a reported 40 million euros (\$55 million).

Bournemouth has sold almost its entire first-choice backline over the off-season - center backs Dean Huijsen and Illia Zabarnyi and left back Milos Kerkez, as well as goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga - to generate around \$200 million.

The 24-year-old Diakité previously played for Toulouse and featured 107 times for Lille in all competitions.

He could make his debut for Bournemouth at Liverpool on Friday in the opening game of the Premier League season. (AP)

□ □ □

**Paredes hit by another setback:** United States winger Kevin Paredes is facing another spell on the sidelines with a foot injury at Wolfsburg after missing almost all of last season.

The German club said that Paredes had undergone successful surgery the day before on his foot and would be out “for the time being.”

The 22-year-old Virginia-born Paredes was a rising star for Wolfsburg and the U.S. after making his national team debut in 2023 but injuries have affected his development.

Paredes only played twice in the Bundesliga last season after a foot injury sidelined him for months. Wolfsburg didn’t specify if his latest operation was related to that problem. (AP)

□ □ □

**Court reinstates suspended officials:** A court in the Central African Republic (CAR) has reinstated the president of the country’s football federation, his three deputies and secretary general, less than two months after they were suspended by Sports Minister Rodolphe Heritier Doneng Wanzoumon.

The Administrative Court of Bangui, the CAR capital, delivered the judgment.

In a statement, FA secretary general Octave Mahamat Adialo welcomed “the substance of this court decision” and said the body’s priority remains the development of football in CAR. (Xinhua)

## Tomé questions decision to end contract after a successful stint

MADRID, Aug 13, (AP): **Montse Tomé** had been expecting to keep her job as coach of Spain’s women’s national team after leading it to the final of the European Championship last month and says she doesn’t know why her contract wasn’t extended.

“Things happen in soccer that you don’t expect,” Tome said in an interview with Spanish radio Cadena Ser.

The Spanish soccer federation announced Monday that it was not extending Tomé’s contract and will replace her with former player Sonia Bermúdez. The announcement came two weeks after Spain lost the Euro 2025 final to England in a penalty shootout.

Tomé, who took over the job after Spain won the 2023 World Cup, also led Spain to the title of the inaugural Women’s Nations League last year.

Tomé said she was taken by surprise with the federation’s decision to not extend her contract that expires at the end of the month.

She said federation president Rafael Louzán had told her that she would remain in charge if Spain did well at Euro 2025.

“He has always shown a lot of confidence in me, but I’m a little disappointed about how everything



Tomé

was handled. He didn’t keep his word about the continuity. I felt that he was happy with my work,” Tomé said. “It was hard to understand everything that happened since the final. It’s understandable that the federation wants to go into a new direction, but that message wasn’t really clear for me. They had given me a different impression.”

Tomé said she was not bothered by not receiving goodbye messages from her players on social media.

“I received many messages from them,” she said. “I felt very respected by everyone. I’m not concerned about whether they posted them online or not.”

The decision to replace Tomé - the first woman to coach the senior women’s team in Spain - was made by the federation’s board members.

She had been an assistant to former coach Jorge Vilda during the World Cup and was promoted in the fallout of former federation president Luis Rubiales’ nonconsensual kiss of player Jenni Hermoso.

Tomé had been criticized by some for not including Hermoso in recent call-ups, but she always maintained it was a decision based on sporting performances.

“I don’t want to think it had anything to do with it,” Tomé said. “Since I was appointed, they have allowed me to make decisions based on my sporting criteria. No one told me to bring in this player or another. I’ve never had to send the list of players to a president.”

NEW YORK, Aug 13, (AP): The Oklahoma City Thunder felt slighted last season when they were left off the NBA’s Christmas schedule.

That won’t be an issue this year.

MVP Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and the NBA champion Thunder will be working at home for Christmas this season, playing host to Victor Wembanyama and the San Antonio Spurs as part of the league’s annual Dec. 25 quintupleheader. BetMGM Sportsbook has the Thunder favored by 9.5 points.

The other Christmas games, released by the NBA on Tuesday: Cleveland at New York (favored at -2.5), Houston at LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers (-1.5), No. 1 pick Cooper Flagg and Dallas visiting Golden State (-4.5), and Minnesota playing at Denver (-4.5).

Some NBA Cup games are scheduled to be released on Wednesday, and the full schedule - 80 of the 82 games for all teams - is to be released on Thursday. The remaining two games for each club will be filled in December based on how teams fare in the NBA Cup.

“They make the schedule. We play it,” Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said last season, when asked about his club not being picked for the Dec. 25 lineup. “Our players, I know, would have liked to play on Christmas because that’s such a staple day in the NBA season. But we can’t control that.”

Well, they sort of did control their Christmas scheduling fate this season.



Oklahoma City Thunder’s Shai Gilgeous-Alexander holds up the Larry O’Brien Trophy during a ceremony honoring the NBA basketball champion in Hamilton, Ontario. (AP)

The NBA champions typically get invited to play on Christmas the following season; Oklahoma City beat Indiana in a seven-game NBA Finals last season. The Eastern Conference champion Pacers are among the Christmas snubs this year, after losing Tyrese Haliburton to an Achilles tear that will sideline him for the entirety of this season and seeing Myles Turner opt to sign with Milwaukee in free agency.

The Knicks will be playing their 58th Christmas game, extending their NBA record. The first Christ-

mas game in league history was at Madison Square Garden in 1947.

Boston, Philadelphia, and Phoenix played on Christmas last season and didn’t make the Dec. 25 cut this season, replaced by Cleveland (which was the East’s No. 1 seed), Houston (which landed Kevin Durant in an offseason blockbuster from the Suns), and the Thunder.

Cleveland and the Thunder are playing on Christmas for the first time since 2018. The Rockets have a Christmas game for the first time since 2019.

James, if he plays on the holiday, will be making his 20th Christmas appearance in his record 23rd NBA season. Only 12 NBA franchises have played 20 Christmas games, and James could soon join that exclusive group as a player.

And it’ll be a big NBA holiday in Texas: All three of the state’s teams are playing on Christmas for the first time.

NBC’s return to the NBA broadcast world officially starts with opening night on Oct. 21, when the Thunder (favored by 6.5 points) will receive their championship rings before playing host to Durant and the Rockets in the first game of the season.

That will be followed by Stephen Curry, Jimmy Butler, and Golden State taking on James, Luka Doncic, and the Lakers (-3.5) in the second game of the NBC doubleheader. Those are the only two games on opening night.

Peacock and NBC will have four games on Jan. 19, which is Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The matchups: Milwaukee at Atlanta on Peacock at 1 p.m. ET, followed by three games on NBC: Oklahoma City at Cleveland at 2:30 p.m. ET, Dallas at New York at 5 p.m. ET, and Boston at Detroit at 8 p.m. ET.

Memphis, which typically plays on the holiday, is not this season. The Grizzlies will be returning from Europe, after facing Orlando on Jan. 15 in Berlin and Jan. 18 in London.

## Boston, Philadelphia, and Phoenix fail to make cut this season

## Thunder headlining opening night, Christmas schedule



Halasz set a meet record with a season-best throw of 83.18m

# Duplantis breaks pole vault world record

BUDAPEST, Aug 13, (Xinhua): Swedish Olympic champion Armand Duplantis set his 13th world record by clearing 6.29 meters in men’s pole vault at the Istvan Gyulai Memorial, a World Athletics Continental Tour Gold event.

Duplantis, the 2023 world champion and 2024 Paris Olympic winner, tied at 6.02m with Greek athlete Emmanouil Karalis on their first attempts. Karalis failed to clear 6.11m after two attempts, while Duplantis succeeded before surpassing his own world record by one centimeter, which he had set in Stockholm in June.

The 25-year-old achieved the new mark on his second attempt, making it the first world record at the National Athletic Center.

“It was really special. I felt it from the start, even though not all my jumps were perfect. There was something in the air today. I’ve had a fantastic week in Budapest. I fell in love with the city,” Duplantis said after his record-breaking jump at the Hungarian Athletics Grand Prix.

Duplantis also praised Hungar-



Armand Duplantis of Sweden poses with the scoreboard after setting a new pole vault world record at 6.29 meters in the Men’s Pole Vault event at the Gyulai Istvan Memorial - Hungarian Athletics Grand Prix in Budapest, Hungary. (Xinhua)

ian cuisine.

“Maybe the Hungarian Goulash is the perfect recipe for the world record. I had some really nice goulash two days ago, and that’s prob-

ably not a coincidence for jumping so high today. I think it’s really nice. I’m probably going to have some goulash tonight too and celebrate with Hungarian beer,” he said with a laugh.

Hungarian hammer throw world and Olympic medalist Bence Halasz set a meet record with a season-best throw of 83.18m. Jamaican sprinter Bryan Levell won the men’s 200m in 19.69 seconds. Kenya’s Laban Kipkorir Chepkwony dominated the men’s 800m with a personal best of 1:42.96, breaking the meeting record set nine years ago by world record-holder David Rudisha.

In the women’s events, Australian Georgia Griffith claimed victory in the 1500m with a meet record of 3:58.25, while Tina Sutej from Slovenia renewed the pole vault meet record at 4.73m. Femke Bol of the Netherlands won the women’s 400m hurdles in 52.24.

“I’m happy with the win and with how consistent I’ve been in the low 52s. I feel better than before. Tokyo is coming, and I hope to bring an even stronger performance there,” said Bol.

The World Athletics Championships will be held from Sept. 13 to 21 in Tokyo, Japan.

# Al-Salmiya, Kazma begin Turkish training camps ahead of League

By Hassan Mosa  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

ISTANBUL, Aug 13: Al-Salmiya kicked off its first training session in Turkey, where the team will remain until August 30. During the camp, it will play three friendly matches: against Sirik Spor on Sunday, Magosa Turk Gusu on August 21, and Antalya Spor on August 27.

The club delegation is led by President Sheikh Turki Al-Yousef and includes the technical, administrative, and medical staff, along with 25 players.

Al-Salmiya is preparing for the start of the Zain Premier League, opening on September 12 with a first-round match against Kazma. The team began training in mid-July and has already played one

friendly, defeating Al-Jazeera 2-0.

Kazma departed early today for a training camp in Izmit, Turkey, which will continue until the end of August and feature four friendly matches.

Croatian coach Dragan Tadic is focused on preparing his squad ahead of the Zain Premier League opener against Al-Salmiya on September 12.

The delegation is led by treasurer and head of football Omar Al-Mulla, and includes technical, administrative, and medical staff, along with 25 players.

Kazma has strengthened its roster with new signings Sultan Al-Anzi and Khalifa Rahil, welcomed back Shbib Al-Khalidi, and added Osman Al-Shammari. Foreign reinforcements include Algerian Idriss Chaoubi and Jordanians Ali Azaiza and Yousef Abu Al-Jazar.



Sheikh Turki Al-Yousef poses with players ahead of departure.

‘It will hurt integrity of the competition’

# Madrid rejects US-hosted match

MADRID, Aug 13, (AP): Real Madrid said it “firmly rejects” having a regular-season Spanish league game played in the United States and warned of “a turning point in the world of football.”

Villarreal, in contrast, is promising free travel and tickets for season-ticket holders if its match against Barcelona in Miami is approved in what would be a first for the league. The 17th-round match in La Liga would be played at the Hard Rock Stadium.

Madrid said Tuesday it has taken action to keep the Dec. 20 match from happening in the U.S., claiming it would hurt the “integrity of the competition” and the “legitimacy of the results.”

“The measure, which was taken without prior information or consultation of the clubs participating in the competition, infringes the essential principle of territorial reciprocity, which applies in two-legged league competitions (one match at home and the other at the home of the opposing team), upsetting the competitive balance and giving an undue sporting advantage to the applicant clubs,” Madrid said.

The club said the match would set “an unacceptable precedent that opens the door to exceptions based on non-sporting interests, clearly affecting sporting integrity and risking the adulteration of the competition.”

“If this proposal were to be carried out, its consequences would be so serious that it would be a turning point in the world of football,” Madrid said.

The Europe-wide fan group Football Supporters Europe, or FSE, said it was “liaising” with members, soccer stakeholders, affected groups, and partner organizations to “collectively resist the latest threat to the very nature of football.”

“We are following the broader impact on football with the utmost concern,” the group said. “Moving games from their domestic territories strikes at the heart of the relationship between fans and their teams, breaking vital links between clubs and their communities.”

The group also criticized a similar move by the Italian league to play a match abroad.

The Italian soccer federation said in July that a plan was in motion to play the Serie A match between AC Milan and Como in the Australian city of Perth in February.

Madrid said it has asked FIFA, UEFA and Spain’s top sports body to not authorize the game in the U.S. The Spanish soccer federation on Monday approved a request for the match to be played in Miami. UEFA and FIFA now have to approve the request before it can be made official.

“Any modification of this nature must, in any case, have the express and unanimous agreement of all the clubs participating in

the competition, as well as strictly respecting the national and international rules governing the organization of official competitions,” Madrid said.

Madrid and Spanish league president Javier Tebas have often been at odds on various issues.

The club said UEFA should deny the request to play the game abroad based on the “criterion established in 2018 that prevents official matches in domestic competitions from being played outside national territory, except in duly justified exceptional circumstances, which are not present here.”

Madrid said it asked the country’s high sports council “not to grant the necessary administrative authorization without such unanimous consent.”

“Real Madrid reaffirms its commitment to respect the national and international rules that guarantee the fairness and proper functioning of official competitions, and will defend its compliance with them before all competent bodies,” the club said.

Villarreal earlier Tuesday said its season ticket-holders can travel for free and receive free tickets for the match. It said those who don’t want to go, or can’t go, will get a 20% discount on their season tickets.

“We would be the first (Spanish) team to play a league match abroad,” Villarreal president Fernando Roig told a news conference. “It would greatly help us expand our brand in a key market like the United States.”

Staging a match abroad has long been part of the league’s goal to promote soccer and its brand in other countries.

It first tried to stage a match in the U.S. in 2018, with a game between Barcelona and Girona, but the idea was dismissed after criticism from players, fans and clubs. Subsequent attempts to play there also failed.

The league had offered compensation packages for Girona fans in 2018.

It wasn’t clear whether it would be Villarreal or the league paying for the travel and tickets for the club’s fans this time.

The attempts to play in the U.S. are part of the league’s long-term partnership with sports and entertainment group Relevant Sports, which is part of Stephen Ross’ portfolio of companies including Hard Rock Stadium, the Miami Dolphins, the Formula 1’s Miami Grand Prix and the Miami Open tennis tournament.



Javier Tebas



Fenerbahce’s Youssef En-Nesyri, center, attempts a shot at goal against Feyenoord’s Tsuyoshi Watanabe during a Champions League third qualifying round second leg soccer match between Fenerbahce and Feyenoord at the Ulker stadium, in Istanbul, Turkey. (AP)

Rangers advances 4-2 on aggregate

ISTANBUL, Turkey, Aug 13, (AP): Jose Mourinho is now one round away from taking Fenerbahce back into the Champions League for the first time in 17 years.

The storied coach’s team surged into the Champions League qualifying playoffs by overturning a two-goal deficit on aggregate with a 5-2 win against Feyenoord coached by Robin van Persie.

Fenerbahce advanced 6-4 on aggregate score and next faces Benfica - where Mourinho got his first head coach job 25 years ago - with a place in the 36-team league phase at stake.

The first leg is in Istanbul on Wednesday next week with the return on Aug. 27 at the Stadium of Light in Lisbon where future two-time Champions League winner Mourinho lasted less than three months in 2000.

Benfica advanced after beating Nice 2-0 at home after winning the first leg by the same score in France last week.

Fenerbahce last played in the old group stage of the Champions League in the 2008-09 season and its biggest rival, Galatasaray, already is in the Aug. 28 main draw as the Turkish league champion.

Feyenoord had lost 2-1 in the Netherlands last week and fell further behind in the second leg of the third qualifying round clash when Feyenoord defender Tsuyoshi Watanabe scored the opener in the 41st minute.

Mourinho saw his players rally quickly with two goals before halftime - the second by Colombia forward Jhon Durán, on a season-long loan from Saudi club Al Nassr. Former Manchester United midfielder Fred padded the lead early in the second half and the scoring was completed by Talisca, another teammate last season of Cristiano Ronaldo at Al Nassr.

Rangers advanced to the playoffs 4-2 on aggregate against Viktoria Plzen despite a 2-1 loss in the Czech Republic.

The Scottish club will host the first leg of its playoff next week against Club Brugge, which got three second-half goals in a 3-2 comeback

win Tuesday over Salzburg to advance 4-2 on aggregate.

Salzburg was playing in the FIFA Club World Cup just six weeks ago but is unlikely to qualify for the next one in 2029, now missing out on Champions League play for the first time in seven seasons.

Russian-owned Pafos, the champion of Cyprus, beat Dynamo Kyiv of Ukraine 2-0 to advance 3-0 on aggregate. Pafos next faces Red Star Belgrade, the 1991 European Cup winner, which beat Lech Poznan 4-2 on aggregate after a 1-1 draw Tuesday in Serbia.

Copenhagen beat its near neighbor Malmö 5-0, one week after a scoreless draw on the other side of the Øresund Bridge that connects Denmark and Sweden. Copenhagen’s reward is a two-legged playoff against Swiss champion Basel.

Qarabag of Azerbaijan routed North Macedonian champion Shkendija 5-1, and 6-1 on aggregate, to earn a playoff against Ferencváros, a 3-0 winner in Budapest against Ludogorets of Bulgaria.

Colombia forward Moreno joins Fluminense

# Penarol edges toward Copa Libertadores quarterfinals

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug 13, (Xinhua): Uruguay international forward David Terans struck late as Penarol secured a 1-0 home win over Racing Club in their Copa Libertadores round-of-16 first leg on Tuesday.

Terans put the Uruguayan side ahead in the 78th minute by nodding home from close range after Matias Arezo’s headed pass.

The Argentine outfit controlled 54 percent of the total possession but failed to have a single shot on target against Penarol’s compact defense.

Penarol now only needs to draw next Tuesday’s return leg in Buenos Aires to advance to the competition’s last eight.

In Tuesday’s other Copa Libertadores round of 16 first leg matches, Fortaleza was held to a goalless home draw by Vélez Sarsfield and Sao Paulo drew 0-0 at Atletico Nacional.

Fluminense has completed the signing of Colombian forward Santiago Moreno from Portland Timbers, the Brazilian Serie A club said.

The 25-year-old agreed to a deal

that runs until December 2029, with Portland having reportedly agreed to receive a transfer fee of 5.2 million euros (around six million U.S. dollars).

“My family and I are very excited to be here at Fluminense,” Moreno told Fluminense’s official website. “I hope to be able to perform at the

level that this great club demands.”

Moreno, who predominantly plays on the right wing, made 146 appearances for Portland and scored 22 goals following his 2021 move from America de Cali.

He has been capped twice for Colombia’s national team, having

made his international debut in a 2-0 friendly win over Paraguay in November 2022.

Argentine **Diego Cocca** has been appointed manager of **Atlas** for a second time, the Mexican top-flight club said.

The 53-year-old replaces **Gonzalo Pineda**, who resigned on Sunday after a 3-0 home loss to **Pachuca**.

“Let’s sing together again, dear friend. Welcome home,” Atlas said on social media.

Cocca, who represented Atlas as a player, guided the Guadalajara-based club to the 2021 Apertura and 2022 Clausura titles during his first spell in charge.

He has since had stints as manager of Tigres UANL, Mexico, **Valadolid** and **Talleres Cordoba**.

Atlas is currently 12th in the 18-team Liga MX Apertura tournament standings with just one win from the first four games.

The first game of Cocca’s new tenure will be an away clash against last-placed Queretaro on Saturday.



Mateo Castillo of Colombia’s America, left, and Kevin Serna of Brazil’s Fluminense compete for the ball during a Copa Sudamericana round of sixteen first leg soccer match at Pascual Guerrero stadium in Cali, Colombia, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025. (AP)

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NEWS





Gabriel Petry Heck of Brazil competes during the Fistball Men's Gold Medal Match between Brazil and Germany at The World Games 2025 in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province. (Xinhua)

# Sports

## Salwa Club wins 9 medals at Jordan International Open



Salwa Sports Club taekwondo team poses with the national flag.

AMMAN, Aug 13: Salwa Sports Club celebrated a major success at the Jordan International Open for Sons of Jordan, held in Amman from August 7-9. The tournament featured over 1,000 athletes from 10 Arab countries, and Salwa's taekwondo team secured nine medals across various categories.

**Medal Winners: Women's Category:**  
Shahd Al-Amri – Gold, under 62 kg; Mariam Hijazi – Silver, under 62 kg; Hawraa Al-Damkhi – Silver, under 53 kg  
**Girls' Category:**

Al-Misk Muhammad – Silver, under 59 kg; Fatima Al-Zahraa – Bronze, under 55 kg; Nour Al-Ostadh – Bronze, under 55 kg  
**Juniors Category:** Ghalla Al-Assaf – Gold, over 59 kg; Zainab Al-Hawraa – Bronze, under 55 kg; Layal Al-Ghaib – Bronze, under 44 kg  
In addition, Ghalla Al-Assaf was named Best Female Athlete of the Tournament, while coach Raed Mohammed Naji earned the Best Coach award for his leadership during both the camp and the competition.  
This remarkable performance highlights Salwa Sports Club's growing presence in regional taekwondo and its commitment to nurturing top-level athletes.

## Al-Mutawa scores twice for Qadsia in draw with Al-Faisaly

**By Hassan Mosa**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff  
ISTANBUL, Aug 13: Qadsia secured a 2-2 draw against Saudi Arabia's Al-Faisaly in its second friendly of the Turkish training camp, with Bader Al-Mutawa netting both goals for the team.  
Qadsia's Libyan professional Mohamed Soula received a red card, but Al-Faisaly's coaching staff requested that Coach Nabil Maaloul allow a substitute to maintain 11 players on the field. Al-Mutawa returned, scored two goals, and was substituted again after his contributions.  
Maaloul rotated his squad each half to give more players match experience. Qadsia is set to play a third preparatory match against UAE's Al-Emarat on August 19, with two more friendlies planned before the camp concludes on August 29. Qadsia lost its first friendly 0-1 to Saudi Arabia's Al-Okhdood.  
Meanwhile, Libyan Hamdou El-houni, linked to a potential move to Qadsia, did not comment on his next destination after helping Al-Ahly Tripoli secure the league title. El-houni expressed his gratitude to his club's board, teammates, technical and medical staff, and fans following the championship.  
Al-Arabi returned from the Maldives after defeating Maziya Sports 4-0 in the AFC Challenge League playoff, booking its spot in the group stage along with Kuwait Club, they await the group stage draw on August 28, with the tournament starting in October.  
The team will depart for a 10-day training camp in Dubai next Monday, which will include two friendly matches as preparation for the Zain Premier League, kicking off on September 12 against Al-Shabab.  
Portuguese coach Marco Alves praised his team's strategy, saying, "High pressing and scoring early allowed us to control the game better against Maziya. The team deserved the win, and we dedicate it to Al-Arabi fans."  
Kuwait Club's deputy head of football, Adel Aqla, highlighted the benefits of its 0-2 loss to Czech side Dukla Prague during its training camp.  
"The team benefited greatly from this match. We used two different lineups across the halves. My only concern is the injury to Yousef Nasser," Aqla said.  
He added, "I don't want to play a team and win by 4 or 5 goals; I need matches that expose our mistakes so we can improve."



Bader Al-Mutawa is congratulated by teammates at the end of the game.

# Guzman breaks roller sports world record at World Games

China falls to Netherlands as US, Japan win softball openers

CHENGDU, Aug 13, (Xinhua): Spanish athlete Jhoan Sebastian Bitar Guzman claimed gold in the men's 100m sprint in roller sports at The World Games 2025, setting a new world record of 9.53 seconds.

It was Guzman's second gold at The World Games. He also won the men's one lap event in 34.372 seconds.

The roller sports competitions, featuring inline hockey, inline speed skating road and inline speed skating track, will conclude on Aug. 17.

China fell 3-1 to the Netherlands in its opening women's softball game.

"At this level, the margin for error is very small. The team that makes fewer mistakes has a chance to win," China head coach Tang Changdong said. "We don't get many opportunities to play at this stage, so improvement can only come through real competition." Suka Van Gurp hit a two-run homer to right field, scoring Britt Agatha Vonk. China responded when Ren Min scored on a fielding error after Li Jiaqi reached base and Wang Bei advanced to third. The Netherlands added a solo homer in the bottom of the second by Cindy van der Zanden and won 3-1.

"It was hot, but manageable," Netherlands utility player Sietske



Gold medalists team Brazil pose during the awarding ceremony for the Men's Fistball at The World Games 2025 in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province. (Xinhua)

Drijvers said. "We want to win a medal, and we're going for at least the top three." In other games, Tiare Jennings homered as the United States beat Chinese Taipei 4-0 to open their gold medal defense, Canada scored eight runs in the third inning to edge Puerto Rico 11-9 for its first Group B win, and Japan defeated Australia 10-3.

Cleaning robots patrol pools, AR glasses break language barriers, and misting systems beat summer heat as cutting-edge technology transforms operations and athletes' life at the Chengdu World Games.

At the Donglai Impression Sports Center in Jianyang, two unusual staff

members - pool-cleaning robots - handle daily maintenance. Yang Xiaoyang, marketing director at Chasing Co., said six units in total have been installed to maintain water quality at professional competition standards.

"Maintaining a competition pool is far more complex than routine cleaning," a venue worker said. "With the robots in our system, we can quickly target problem areas via an app without disrupting events."

The technological upgrades extend beyond the pool to the beach handball venue by Xinglong Lake, where rows of misting devices along the stands release fine sprays of water over the crowd, offering relief from the summer sun.

"We worked to refine the misting devices to make them more efficient, economical and safe," said Leng Ru-song, an official with Chengdu Tianfu Investment Group. "It's like wrapping the stands in a cooling shield that instantly sweeps away the heat."

At the World Games Village, technology is also changing daily life for athletes. Smart translation glasses from a local tech company provide real-time subtitles in 40 languages, while nearby, a weatherproof robot dog named GoGo hauls luggage under the blazing sun, carrying up to 50 kilograms and serving as an all-weather guide.

As the competition progresses, athletes are setting new event and world records across multiple disciplines, aided not only by advancements in their sports but also by state-of-the-art technology.

"Even a 0.1-second error could affect results," said Wang Jinyang, venue official for life saving and freediving. "We installed smart starting blocks with touch panels and chips to ensure precise timing."

"I've been coming to China since the 1980s, and I've seen tremendous changes," said Patrick Van Campenhout, vice president of the International Wushu Federation. "Many things can now be done through technology, such as digital systems and robotics. These innovations have brought our competitions to a high level, making them both convenient and safe."

## Zhao and Ding advance to last 16 at Saudi Arabia Snooker Masters



Zhao Xintong of China competes during the round 5 match between Zhao Xintong of China and Steven Hallworth of England at the Saudi Arabia Snooker Masters 2025 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. (Xinhua)

JEDDAH, Aug 13, (Xinhua): The Saudi Arabia Snooker Masters 2025 completed its round of 32 matches in Jeddah on Tuesday, with World Championship winner Zhao Xintong and fellow Chinese player Ding Junhui advancing to the last 16, while world number one Judd Trump suffered a surprise early exit, ending his title defense hopes.

Making his debut in the tournament, Zhao swept England's Steven Hallworth five-zero in just 55 minutes in the best-of-nine contest, producing breaks of over 90 points in every frame, including a high break of 132 in the second frame.

"I played quite well today, and basically had decent breaks in every frame," Zhao said. "This is my first time playing in Saudi Arabia. For a debut, I think I did pretty well and really enjoyed the stage." Ding recovered from a slow start against Stephen Maguire, overturning a 1-2 deficit to win four straight frames and seal a 5-2 victory.

"At the beginning, I hadn't yet adapted to the pace of the match, but I gradually found my rhythm and touch after getting a few chances," Ding said.

The Saudi Snooker Masters was inaugurated in 2024, and this year marks Ding's second consecutive appearance.

In an all-Chinese clash, Si Jiahui rallied to beat Wu Yize 5-3 and will face Kyren Wilson for a place in the quarterfinals. Chang Bingyu edged world number 10 Mark Allen 5-4 and will take on Ronnie O'Sullivan next.

Trump, aiming to defend his title, fell 3-5 to world number 68 Oliver Lines, while world number four John Higgins exited after a 4-5 loss to Elliot Slessor.

# Premier League title race set to be wide open as clubs spend big

MANCHESTER, England, Aug 13, (AP): The Premier League is back after one of the most unpredictable seasons in recent memory saw Liverpool win a record-equaling 20th title, Manchester City go into meltdown and Manchester United hit new lows.

The new campaign kicks off on Friday and teams have spent big in an attempt to capitalize on what looks like being a wide open title race after City's dominance was ended.

Defending champion Liverpool hasn't stood still, with Florian Wirtz the pick of its signings for a fee that could rise to a British record \$156 million.

Pep Guardiola's rebuild at City began in January with around \$450 million spent since then on revamping a team that saw its four-year title-winning run snapped last term.

And perennial runner-up Arsenal has finally secured a

top-class striker in Viktor Gyokeres as it looks to win its first title since 2004. Chelsea has continued its heavy-spending policy under American owners Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital and, fresh from being crowned world club champion, will expect to challenge for the biggest prizes again.

Liverpool knows just how difficult it is to win back-to-back championships.

Not since 1984 has the club successfully defended the title and it is not alone in struggling to hold onto the trophy. Only Guardiola's City - champion in six out of seven seasons between 2018 and 2024 - has managed to retain the title since Alex Ferguson's Man United retained its title in 2009.

But Liverpool coach Arne Slot already defied the odds by joining an elite group of coaches to win the title in their first year in the Premier League, following Jose Mourinho,

Carlo Ancelotti, Manuel Pellegrini and Antonio Conte. He has brought in high-quality additions, with Wirtz and Hugo Ekitike adding more firepower to Liverpool's attack.

City endured a sudden and dramatic decline last season when its title defense unraveled before Christmas.

Defeat in the FA Cup final against Crystal Palace consigned City to its first trophyless season in eight years.

There were mitigating factors - mainly the injury to Balon d'Or winner Rodri. But Guardiola's extensive rebuild, including the signings of Omar Marmoush and Rayan Cherki, suggest City's problems were more deeply rooted.

The last time Guardiola relinquished a title, he went on to win the next four. City's Premier League rivals have been warned.

No team has been more consistent than Arsenal over the past three seasons - but that still hasn't delivered a title.

The signing of Gyokeres could be the last piece of the puzzle. The Sweden striker outscored Kylian Mbappe, Haaland and Mohamed Salah last term. His overall record for Sporting Lisbon was 97 goals in 102 games. Arsenal will hope he can reproduce that form in England.

United recorded its lowest finish in the Premier League era (15th) last season, the most losses (18) and its lowest points total (42). Add to that the failure to qualify for any European competition and it was a year to forget.

Coach Ruben Amorim has vowed to bring the good times back. He's signed Premier League-proven forwards in Matheus Cunha and Bryan Mbeumo, along with highly rated Slovenia striker Benjamin Sesko. He's also had a full offseason to work with his squad - something he was denied when hired midway through last season.