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TOURISM PUSH SEEN AS KUWAIT'S CHANCE TO REJOIN GULF RACE

Hotels, cafes brace for visitor influx



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Openness is the right path ... the rest is just narrow-mindedness

THE decision to open up the country is a step toward strengthening economic power. Observers have already noted a revival in hotel activity, and markets are beginning to see renewed energy.

This decision was welcomed by a large segment of citizens. However, some voiced opposition, citing concerns such as the strain on infrastructure or the possibility that a visiting expatriate woman might give birth in a Kuwaiti hospital, arguments that reflect nothing more than narrow-mindedness and a lack of serious understanding of what it truly means to be open to the world.

Moreover, those calling for a lockdown are the same voices demanding that Kuwait become more like other Gulf states that are fully open to the world. They often compare Kuwait to these nations, especially in terms of tourism activity, revealing the inconsistency of their arguments and their short-sightedness on a strategic issue that directly contributes to boosting the gross domestic product.

If the concern is that the infrastructure cannot accommodate a growing population, then we must take a realistic approach. Kuwait's infrastructure has not seen meaningful development since 1992. There has been only maintenance, not comprehensive upgrades.

This is a responsibility that falls on past governments, but that does not justify keeping the country closed indefinitely.

Second, countries strive to open up to the world to strengthen their soft power, something Kuwait has significantly lost by yielding to an extremist vision and isolating itself.

If the argument against openness is based on preserving cheap services in an attempt to prolong the welfare state, then that is both unrealistic and unsustainable, and this should not be on everyone's mind.

A closed-off country has no future to lean on, as it quickly deteriorates under economic contraction and a lack of viable outlets for tourism and industry.

This is precisely what neighboring countries

have come to understand. Once closed-off, they are now embracing openness.

Indeed, these countries have strengthened their economies through a wide range of activities that lay the groundwork for a more advanced and sustainable future.

They are actively working to diversify their sources of national income in a deliberate and strategic manner.

Therefore, the narrow-mindedness and self-interest that shape some people's insistence on maintaining the status quo are far from realistic. They reflect a lack of understanding of the main factors that contribute to a state's strength and resilience.

Those who complain, for example, about electricity consumption, fearing that visitors and tourists will strain the system, are often the very same people who over consume it recklessly and protest when the government attempts to adjust pricing to curb waste.

So when some attempt to compare Kuwait to other Gulf states, we must ask - How is it that some of those countries welcomed over 30 million tourists in 2024, and others, smaller than Kuwait, received around 14 million, while Kuwait saw fewer than four million visitors, including transit passengers?

Does this reflect a vision that serves the country's economic future?

The decision to open up to the world has already been made. What is needed now is an open-minded view of what Kuwait can benefit from in the future. Otherwise, the country risks becoming a case of "tried, but never truly tried."

Demanding that Kuwait be like its Gulf neighbors is illogical, or, as the Levantine proverb puts it, "Don't eat what's broken, and if it isn't broken, don't break it. Or else, do as you wish."

Follow me on:
@Ahmedaljarallah
Ahmed aljarallah
ahmed@aljarallah.com



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aljarallah.com



Photo by Mohamad Morsi

Kuwait City dazzles beneath a blazing Monday sun, where scattered clouds and sweeping northwesterly breezes frame the skyline at 48°C. Despite the intense summer heat, the vibrant city continues to welcome visitors drawn by its unique blend of modern allure and desert charm.

Visa reform anchors push for diversified economy

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: After years of stagnation that led to many hotel closures, the Ministry of Interior's decision to allow expatriates residing in GCC countries to enter Kuwait, along with new tourist visa facilitations, has reignited the country's tourism sector.

Economic experts and hotel officials praised these steps as a huge step towards openness, expecting positive impacts on tourism and various commercial activities.

In interviews with the daily, they noted that hotel owners have invested over KD 1.25 billion but faced losses due to previous visit restrictions.

They expressed hope that the new measures will stimulate the economic cycle and recover from years of stagnation.

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Refusal equals positive: DGCA

Kuwait airport staff face 'drug, alcohol screening'

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has instructed some companies operating at Kuwait International Airport to conduct comprehensive medical tests for all individuals holding licenses issued by the directorate.

Sources informed the newspaper that these tests will include testing for the consumption of narcotics,

psychotropic substances and alcohol. Sources said these tests will be conducted by an accredited medical authority within this month.

Sources said the DGCA stressed the need to provide proof of compliance with these requirements; such as copies of test results or approved medical certificates in accordance with the established procedures on or before Sept 4.

Meanwhile, one company has

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IOM Kuwait highlights challenges and resilience on World Humanitarian Day

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Migration Agency in Kuwait, joins the global community in marking World Humanitarian Day.



AboulHosn

Observed annually on 19 August, World Humanitarian Day pays tribute to humanitarian workers who have been killed or injured in the line of duty and honors all aid and health workers who continue to provide life-saving support and protection to those most in need. The Day also highlights the importance, effectiveness, and positive impact of humanitarian work around the world.

This year the humanitarian system continues to face immense challenges. According to the Global Humanitarian Overview, an estimated 300 million people worldwide will require urgent humanitarian assistance and protection this year. Escalating crises — driven by conflict, climate change, poverty, and instability — are deepening vulnerabilities and triggering displacement.

At the same time, global funding for humanitarian operations has been drastically reduced, forcing agencies to scale back life-saving interventions. Aid workers are now facing the "cruel math" of doing less with less, even as needs continue to rise.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) emphasizes the need for long-term solutions that build resilience and address the root causes of fragility beyond emergency response. Despite growing demands and constrained resources, IOM staff continue to deliver life-saving assistance and long-term solutions with extraordinary dedication and agility.

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Kuwaiti Air Vice Marshal meets US Fifth Fleet commander

Kuwait's naval leadership praised in Bahrain visit



Kuwait Army photo
Vice Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Air Vice Marshal Staff Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with Commander of the US Fifth Fleet Vice Admiral George Wikoff at the US Naval Forces Central Command HQ.

MANAMA, Aug 18, (KUNA): Vice Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Air Vice Marshal Staff Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met with Chief of Staff of the Bahrain Defense Force Lt-Gen. Staff Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi to discuss ways of strengthening defense cooperation.

Air Vice Marshal Al-Sabah leads a military delegation on an official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain in the framework of the joint efforts to promote regional stability and security, a statement from the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army said on Sunday.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed the various aspects of the mutually beneficial defense cooperation.

The agenda of Air Vice Marshal Al-Sabah's visit included a meeting at the US Naval Forces Central Command HQ with Commander of the US Fifth Fleet Vice Admiral George Wikoff

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Kuwait's Foreign Minister welcomes new Canadian envoy



Ministry of Foreign Affairs photo

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya receives newly-appointed Canadian Ambassador Tara Scheurwater.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received on Monday a copy of the credentials of the newly-appointed Canadian Ambassador, Tara Scheurwater.

Minister Al-Yahya received Ambassador Scheurwater's credentials during a meeting that took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he wished the new ambassador the best of success and praised the bilateral relations between Kuwait and Canada.

Day by Day

WHY don't our governments allow us to visit Jerusalem and pray at Al-Aqsa Mosque? Has it now become Israel's property? When we try to go there to pray, we are told it is a form of "normalization" or a connection with the enemy. But are these lands and mosques ours, or theirs? Israel doesn't stop Muslims of any nationality from visiting Jerusalem. It is only we, in the Arab world, who prevent ourselves from going. We are the ones who label the visit as a betrayal or a forbidden act.

Why? Is it our land or theirs? Aren't we the ones who call it "occupied land"? ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



3 'Put nation's interest first'



8 Boursa Kuwait continues to earn recognition for leadership in governance, sustainability and women's empowerment



8 Warba Bank launches new community initiative with the General Administration of Coast Guard

QR codes to be added

Insurance gets transparency upgrade

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: The Insurance Regulatory Unit announced the issuance of Resolution No. 19/2025, which sets the rules for issuing mandatory insurance policies in Kuwait, excluding civil liability insurance resulting from traffic accidents (compulsory vehicle insurance), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This step aims to enhance transparency, protect policyholders' rights, and develop the local insurance market.

In a press release, Head of the In

Insurance Regulatory Unit Mohammed Al-Otaibi explained that the resolution includes several obligations for insurance companies, most notably the addition of a declaration and pledge clause to the general conditions of mandatory insurance policies.

This clause confirms that the insured or subscriber is aware of the terms, conditions, exceptions, and coverage limits.

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Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:53	Asr	15:27
Sunrise ..	05:18	Maghrib ..	18:26
Zohr	11:52	Isha	19:48

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-35 km/h.
By Night: Hot to rather hot with

Weather			
light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-38 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	47	37	
Kuwait Airport	48	36	
Abdaly	48	30	
Jahra	49	35	
Salmiyah	42	37	
Ahmadi	43	34	
Nuwaisib	42	33	
Wafra	46	32	
Salmy	47	30	
Managish	49	34	

Reconnaissance Research hosts Japanese professor for talks on Japan – GCC strategic ties



From left to right: Sheikh Sabah Talal Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Dr Adnan Hussein Al-Badr, Abdulaziz Mohammed Al-Anjeri, Sheikhha Anoud Al-Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah, Sheikh Mubarak Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah, Sheikh Sabah Abdullah Salem Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah.



From left to right: Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri, Founder and CEO of Reconnaissance Research, Professor Shinoda Kunihiro and Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Mukai Kenichiro.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: Reconnaissance Research, in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan in Kuwait, welcomed Professor Shinoda Kunihiro from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo for a special lecture titled “President Trump’s Economic Diplomacy and its Impact on the Indo-Pacific Region” on August 13th.

The professor traveled from Tokyo specifically for this event, which drew an audience of over 60 distinguished attendees, including academics, policy researchers, PhD scholars, business leaders, and diplomats. Professor Shinoda underscored that Japan’s ties with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have reached a pivotal moment, pointing to the ongoing negotiations for Japan–GCC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) as “a framework that could redefine economic cooperation beyond energy, opening doors in technology, water security, and the clean energy transition.”

He also addressed U.S. concerns over unfair trade practices, the limitations of the WTO’s dispute resolution mechanisms, and the Trump administration’s energy and environmental policy shifts.

Highlighting Kuwait specifically, Professor Shinoda praised its role as a ‘reliable and stable energy partner’ and identified opportunities for Kuwait to expand cooperation with Japan in clean energy, infrastructure modernization, and knowledge-based industries . He noted that the GCC’s demo-

graphic trends — including a fast-growing youth population — make it an ideal partner for Japanese expertise in innovation, employment generation, and advanced infrastructure.

He further emphasized that ‘Japan’s historically positive relations with Gulf countries are a strategic asset,’ adding that both sides should seize this moment to align long-term visions, particularly in green hydrogen, desalination, and high-tech industrial projects. Professor Shinoda also cautioned that regional geopolitical shifts — from Iran–Israel tensions to evolving energy market dynamics — will require Japan and the GCC to deepen strategic dialogues to safeguard stability while expanding economic cooperation.

H.E. Mr. Mukai Kenichiro, Ambassador of Japan to the State of Kuwait said: “Professor Shinoda is a renowned expert in Asian economic affairs, regional economic integration, and Indo-Pacific cooperation. He has also been deeply involved in multilateral negotiations and the development of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) strategies, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) between 15 Asian countries including Japan.

Today’s topic is very timely and offers an important perspective from which we can explore how the economic structure of the Indo-Pacific is evolving in today’s complex geopolitical environment. I hope this will serve as a valuable opportunity for all of us to gain new insights into these

changes.”

Professor Shinoda Kunihiro said: “Middle Eastern countries are working not only to maximize the value of their existing oil and gas assets, but also to shift toward growth models that don’t rely on oil. For Japan, it’s important to maintain and strengthen ties with these countries as stable suppliers of oil and gas, while also promoting cooperation on decarbonization and the energy transition. It’s also key to move forward with new businesses that address social issues like the environment and healthcare. The Japan–Kuwait bilateral cooperation fits right in with this approach.”

Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri, Founder and CEO of Reconnaissance Research, said: “Since our establishment in 2019, Reconnaissance Research has been committed to serving as a platform where individuals of expertise and merit can share their insights with knowledge-seeking professionals.”

He added: “Earlier this year, I had the privilege of visiting Tokyo and meeting with more than nine Japanese think tanks, leading academics, and current and former diplomats to explore ways of strengthening people-to-people engagement between Kuwait and Japan. Hosting Professor Shinoda reflects that mission in action — paving the way for more Kuwaiti researchers to visit Japan and more Japanese voices to contribute to Kuwait’s intellectual landscape.”

Eyes wide open, no to visa fraud

Strict verification on arrival

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: In parallel with the measures announced by the Ministry of Interior on the issuance of visas; the concerned authorities remain vigilant, efficiently playing their role as a safety valve protecting the country from fraud or manipulation attempts, such as the submission of false information or incorrect documents to obtain a visa, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources.

Sources clarified that while biometric fingerprinting helped in apprehending deportees attempting to enter the country using alternative passports or different entry visas; high-level security scrutiny of all travelers, particularly those arriving in Kuwait on electronic tourist visas, serves as a deterrent against any illegal entry attempt.

Sources pointed out that obtaining a visa electronically does not guarantee entry to Kuwait. “Upon arrival, the documents and identification of visa holders are scrutinized to ensure the validity and accuracy of the information and the validity of the residency permit in the Gulf state. Attempts to forge

residency permits in several countries are being carried out by international networks, but security personnel are vigilant against such criminal behavior and show zero tolerance in dealing with anything that threatens the security and stability of Kuwait,” sources affirmed.

Sources told the daily that with the recent increase in travel through Abdaly border, the officers assigned at the border have apprehended several travelers holding electronic tourist visas to enter Kuwait. It was discovered that they obtained these visas by presenting forged residency permits in Gulf countries.

Sources said the security scrutiny during the procedures prior to entry to Kuwait revealed that these individuals presented forged residency permits in Gulf countries in order to obtain Kuwaiti visas. They disclosed that the detainees’ confessions indicated that they obtained these visas after paying certain individuals and offices in Iraq.

Sources added that investigations revealed the presence of individuals and offices actively issuing fake residency permits to individuals, pretending to be residents of one of the Gulf countries. “These permits are then submitted electronically as part of the documents required to obtain a Kuwaiti visa. Legal action has been taken against those arrested, and the concerned authorities have been notified of the discovery of forged Gulf residency permits and attempts to use them,” sources added.



Farwaniya Governorate photo
Farwaniya Governor and acting Governor of the Capital Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah meets officials from various public bodies.

Meeting focuses on governorate beautification, greening projects

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: Farwaniya Governor and acting Governor of the Capital Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah met with acting Director General of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) Salem Al-Hai, and Director of the Engineering Services Department at PAAAFR and a member of the Farwaniya Governorate Council Falah Al-Enezi at his office in the headquarters of the governorate on Monday.

Also present at the meeting were Governorate Council members retired Lieutenant General Ali Abdulhadi Al-Shanfa, Saad Al-Hadba, Eng. Sarah Mohammad Al-Mutairi and Hessa Al-Mutawa.

They discussed the agricultural and beautification projects in the governorate, ways to enhance the aesthetic and environmental aspects of various areas, agricultural challenges and problems, and ways to address them in coordination with the relevant authorities.

During the meeting, the Governor affirmed his full support for the efforts of PAAAFR in implementing its projects in the governorate. He stressed the importance of ongoing coordination to make sure that work is completed in order to meet the needs of citizens and expatriates, and contribute to developing the urban appearance.

He also praised the active role played by the Farwaniya Governorate Council in monitoring service and development issues, affirming the commitment to listen to the comments and demands of residents and implement them in cooperation with concerned ministries and agencies.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the attendees thanked the Governor for his warm welcome and continuous interest in environmental issues, as well as the issues concerning the citizens and expatriates residing in the governorate.

CITRA inks deal to set up modern spectrum framework

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18, (KUNA): The Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) announced on Monday the signing of a contract with Future Integrated Technologies for Communications Equipment Company to implement the Automated Spectrum Monitoring and Analysis System, a comprehensive national project aimed at establishing a modern framework for spectrum monitoring in the State of Kuwait.

In a press release, CITRA said the project reflected its commitment to the continuous supervision of the radio spectrum across all frequency bands, detecting and locating unlicensed uses with precision, and identifying sources of harmful interference, to ensure the optimal utilization of spectrum resources in line with international best practices and the latest global recommendations.

The projects objectives include enhancing the quality of service through regular field measurements and advanced analytical indicators, and providing real-time spectrum monitoring to enable swift and effective action against violations.

Other objectives include strengthening regulatory efficiency and compliance with license conditions to preserve the sustainability of spectrum resources as well as the establishment of an integrated control center, fixed and mobile monitoring stations, handheld devices, and service quality measurement tools for telecommunications networks, in addition to covering all residential and border areas of the country to ensure comprehensive and effective monitoring.

This project will significantly enhance CITRA’s capabilities in monitoring the quality of telecommunications networks and reducing disruptions caused by interference and unauthorized usage, ultimately benefit-



KUNA photo
Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) at the signing of a contract with Future Integrated Technologies for Communications Equipment Company.

ing both service providers and end users.

CITRA reaffirms its continued commitment to developing Kuwait’s digital infrastructure and strengthening the telecommunications environment in line with national strategies and the highest international standards.

‘Gas cylinders distributed must be in good codition’

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: Chairperson of the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies Maryam Al-Awad issued three circulars addressed to all cooperative societies.

These circulars include clear instructions aimed at protecting consumers, supporting national products and ensuring quality services.

The first circular stipulates the need to maintain the cleanliness of gas cylinders. Branch managers are mandated not to receive cylinders from the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) if they are dirty or old, and to ensure that they are distributed to citizens in good and clean condition. This is due to the large number of complaints from citizens about the cleanliness of cylinders.

The second circular emphasizes the importance of displaying national products, by allocating prominent spaces for them in the central markets of cooperatives, and allocating appropriate spaces for their display and clear advertising on the front shelves to support national products.

The third circular obligates cooperatives to price all food and consumer goods in an organized and clear manner on the shelves to maintain uniform prices, given the large number of complaints from citizens and shareholders frequenting cooperatives that some goods do not have price labels.

The union affirmed that these circulars are under the directive of Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah; in continuation of the minister’s supervisory and cooperative role in developing work in cooperatives, which will positively impact community service and safeguard consumer rights.

‘Charities testimony to Kuwait’s humane role’

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18, (KUNA): The International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) reaffirmed Kuwait’s longstanding commitment to its humanitarian role through its charitable institutions, on the occasion of World Humanitarian Day, observed annually on August 19.

Speaking to KUNA, IICO Deputy Director General Ibrahim Al-Bader said the organization has worked to empower individuals economically, socially, and educationally, while also providing vital support to vulnerable communities around the world.

From 2020 to 2024, IICO implemented nearly 17,000 projects across key sectors including health, education, development, and relief, with total spending exceeding KD 66 million (USD 216 million), benefitting impoverished communities in more than 48 countries, he added.

Al-Bader noted that IICO’s efforts extend beyond direct aid to include impactful educational programs, such as the learning difficulties initiative targeting Syrian refugees and displaced persons in Jordan, Lebanon, and Türkiye.

The organization has also launched cultural projects and economic empowerment initiatives to support productive families and youth employment, in line with its vision for sustainable development.

Other Voices

Loss, loss ... gain, gain

By Ahmad alsarraf

ONE clear sign of backwardness is the sight of a “clique” of senior government officials gathered at the airport to bid farewell to a minister, only to return to receive him, even when the trip was just for one day.

It goes without saying that such displays are meaningless. They serve no purpose other than disrupting the public’s interests and sending a clear message that time, the most valuable resource anyone has, holds little value to us.

The government was right to put an end to such meaningless and useless practices for any party. It is a loss for all parties involved.

Another sign of backwardness, and equally meaningless, is when a minister inspects the work of his ministry or other entities he oversees, accompanied by the same entourage of undersecretaries, directors, inspectors, and journalists.

News of the minister’s visit often reaches the targeted area well in advance, giving ample time to clean and polish the site, remove debris, pave roads, arrange bouquets, ensure everyone remains at their desks, and prepare for souvenir photos with the honored guest.

This, too, is loss upon loss. In an advanced country, oversight agencies are expected to do their jobs consistently, making such ministerial visits little more than opportunities for empty praise and flattery, bordering on hypocrisy.

What the minister sees will inevitably be tailored to his preferences and requests.

If a critic argues that we are not a Western country and that our self-monitoring agencies do not function

properly, then in countries like ours, it would be far more appropriate for the minister, or even the undersecretary, to conduct inspection visits discreetly. The current approach is ineffective and a tremendous waste of time.

Signs of negligence and neglect are often hidden behind these semi-public inspection visits, which lack both genuine oversight and accountability.

Government agencies should take a lesson from what is happening in the Ministry of Interior, where laxity was once the norm. As soon as the current minister took office, the situation changed dramatically, and we began to see discipline, increased activity, and real achievements. As a result, violations by both citizens and residents, as well as security personnel, have decreased.

There is a simple rule - The success of any commercial deal or agreement depends on both parties accepting and being satisfied with its terms and outcomes.

This means a profit, benefit, or advantage for each side, what is known as a win-win.

For example, a family finally finds the home they’ve been searching for at a price they can afford.

The seller finds a buyer willing to pay the price they have waited for years to get.

The neighbors welcome the new resident. The broker is pleased with the successful deal. And the seller’s bank is satisfied because the sale enables repayment of outstanding debts.

Together, these factors make the transaction a true win-win.

However, if the deal does not go through, it means there are parties who obstructed or delayed its completion.

But what if no one benefits from the delay? That will be the subject of tomorrow’s article ...

email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Young blood stay devoted in the bumpy road ahead

“THE recent decisions to appoint a number of young security leaders did not come out of nowhere. They were based on scientific and practical foundations that are in line with the demands and developments in the fields of security and modern crime,” Kuwaiti journalist **Salem Al-Wawan** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“However, before addressing the responsibilities awaiting the newly appointed leaders, we must acknowledge the contributions of those who have been referred to retirement. They fulfilled their duties with dedication and did not waver in their service to the nation and the interests of its citizens. We ask God to grant them continued success.



Salem Al-Wawan

“Indeed, the new generation of leaders faces huge responsibilities and challenges as they help pave the way toward achieving “New Kuwait 2035” vision. This is linked to the economic and security situation, particularly in the realms of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and emerging criminal methodologies. These leaders must remember that they are under close scrutiny and are expected to meet the high standards set by the leadership, which will not be lenient when it comes to mistakes. They must exert maximum effort to ensure that citizens see real and tangible improvements in various sectors, whether in service delivery or on-the-ground operations.

“There is no doubt that the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, through his active and dynamic approach, is working on a new strategy based on integrity with the aim of building a cohesive security system that is in line with the framework of Gulf security unity.

“Accordingly, it is the responsibility of the newly appointed leadership to focus on developing and preparing the next tier of officers who will eventually take their place. They must steer clear of selfishness and ego, and understand that the military and security process is continuous and ever-evolving.

“Identifying and refining the talents of those capable of assuming future leadership roles ensures the preservation of institutional strength and continuity, especially at a time when the political leadership is firmly committed to supporting and advancing security institutions to become among the most developed in the region.

“These recent appointments represent an undeniable qualitative leap. All we hope now is that they rise to the occasion, and do not disappoint.”

Also:

“Professor Samir Atallah published an article titled, “A Good Writer” as an indirect response to my piece ‘Journalistic Facts,’” columnist **Khalid Ahmad Tarrah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“In the interest of professional integrity and objective discourse, I am sharing an excerpt from his article, as space does not allow for the full text -

“Locally, there was a ‘voice-over’ about a referendum conducted by a leading newspaper, which a prominent writer had won well before the results were even announced. One local writer opposed the referendum, questioning the results, the approach, the shifts of time, and the unfairness of colleagues”.”

“In principle, such an opinion falls within his rights. But in essence, it constitutes a major misuse of the concept of freedom.

“First, because it was an unjustified challenge to the credibility of a respected colleague. Second, because the status a writer earns over the years belongs to the public, especially to the thousands of readers.

“Samir Atallah is considered a pampered writer wherever he works and resides. He once lived in Kuwait, in an environment not exactly known for its democratic spirit, and he has remained loyal to that role.

“This pampered writer directed his criticism at me without mentioning my name, perhaps because he avoids confrontation, or because he claims a level of respect or modesty that is questionable at best.

“Professor Atallah enjoys a degree of indulgence and pampering from some circles in the Gulf, and he clearly has a taste for the finer things in life.

“We neither envy him nor resent him, as every role comes with its price and its financial opportunity.

“We congratulate the veteran writer Samir Atallah on his achievements, and we feel no jealousy whatsoever. He is capable of things I personally cannot do in both writing and speaking, particularly when it comes to savoring the pleasure of a generous embrace.

“In 2017, the pampered writer Samir Atallah published an article titled “What’s Wrong with the Kuwaiti Parliament?” in which he sarcastically and arrogantly criticized the interpellation of the late Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak.

“I responded with an article titled “What’s Wrong with Samir Atallah?”. Atallah’s piece, despite his supposed deep knowledge of Kuwait’s political, social, and historical context, from

its emergence as an emirate to its development into a state, did not aim to discuss the constitutional inquiry or its substance.

“Rather, it sought to portray the legitimate process of questioning as a distortion of democracy, as if individuals were more important than constitutional principles. Atallah defended his friend, “the most widely read writer,” while my article did not mention him, neither directly nor indirectly.

“In my article “Journalistic Facts”, I focused on the unstructured and unscientific nature of so-called “surveys.”

“I also highlighted the blatant interference by a Palestinian editor, who inserted references to “Zionism” into elevated speeches, even though the term was never mentioned in the original text.

“The veteran writer Atallah chose not to enlighten us on the rules of what he called a “referendum,” nor did he address the professionalism of this “advanced newspaper” in deliberately insulting Kuwait’s official stance, as expressed by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad (may Allah protect him and grant him long life), and in distorting the content of his speech.

“The veteran journalist failed to clarify the rules of the so-called “referendum,” which conveniently steered the “results” toward the “most-read writer”, published in the same newspaper that garnered the lion’s share of “newspaper readers” as a result of a survey that surpassed fast food.

“Professor Atallah has every right to admire whomever he chooses, just as we have every right to disagree.

“Not everything the pampered writer sees is inherently correct, nor is his opinion a scholarly reference or a representation of any recognized political or media school.

“I do not deny the opportunity to publish this article, or those that preceded it, as a means to challenge the hostility shown by Samir Atallah and others like him toward democracy in Kuwait, to confront elitist views and falsehoods, to expose exaggerations, and to highlight the political, cultural, and professional weakness of certain figures.

“The world of canned polls may well be a product of artificial intelligence, earning applause from hands stained with poison that stand against constitutional freedoms and the democratic system in Kuwait.

“We don’t know when the phenomenon of certain Arab writers, living in Western exile, will end with their persistent condescension toward Kuwaiti society and its democracy, as if legitimacy can only be measured by their imported cultural models.”



“At a time when slogans of rights and dignity are loudly proclaimed, there are still those whose bodies are being sold piece by piece in shadowy markets hidden from the light, where prices are set not by justice, but by desperation and need,” Saudi writer **Hajer Al-Salem** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“This is the organ trade - a crime that violates our humanity even before it tears bodies apart.



Hajer Al-Salem

stripped of all conscience, operations take place that resemble acts of slaughter more than medical procedures.

“Extreme poverty drives some to sell parts of their own bodies just to feed their children, only to be exploited by insatiable greed and brokers who view human beings as nothing more than numbers in a high-demand market.

“The statistics are alarming. International organizations report that thousands of people, from children to the elderly, are exploited each year in this global black market.

“The crime becomes even more appalling when committed in areas plagued by conflict and poverty, where refugees and migrants become easy prey for the so-called medical mafia.

“This catastrophe is not confined to poor countries alone. It reaches Arab capitals, including those in the Gulf, where organs are sometimes purchased illegally from abroad, under a veil of silence that willfully ignores the source of these organs.

“What’s even more alarming is the lack of awareness, oversight, and real deterrence. It’s not enough to criminalize organ trafficking in legal texts, as we must combat it in people’s hearts and minds.

“Where are we when it comes to promoting a culture of voluntary donation? Where is the effort to spread awareness that donating organs after death can save lives, instead of leaving the poor and vulnerable at the mercy of greed and a filthy trade?

Organ trafficking doesn’t just harm its immediate victims, but it undermines our entire moral and ethical foundation. We need a genuine, unified response that is legal, media-driven, and religious to confront this exploitation head-on.

“Let us reclaim our humanity before the day comes when all that’s left to defend are the remains.”

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



First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah stands in honor of the national anthem at the graduation ceremony.

‘Put nation’s interest first’

First Deputy PM attends graduation; 171 women join police

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah attended the graduation ceremony of the 14th batch of female graduates from the Women’s Police Institute – a total of 171 graduates including 132 lieutenants, 31 warrant officers and eight sergeants, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ceremony was held at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Theater in Shuwaikh, with acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Major General Ali Misfer Al-Adwani and a number of security officials in attendance.

In his speech at the ceremony, Sheikh Fahad

Al-Yousef congratulated the graduates on joining the security institution; stressing this is a great honor and responsibility that necessitates discipline, commitment and a sense of responsibility.

He urged the graduates to set an example in the fields of giving and discipline, and to put the interests of the nation above all else; embodying their sworn commitment as a firm approach in their professional performance.

He underscored the importance of pursuing self-development through education and acquisition of knowledge to keep pace with emerging security challenges.

He wished the graduates success in their professional duties; hoping that Allah will continue to bless Kuwait with security and stability under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah -- Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled.

After the speech of Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef,

acting Director of the Women’s Police Institute Colonel Adhari Al-Safi read the ministerial decree and the graduates’ results.

Major Fahad Al-Dughji delivered a welcoming speech in his capacity as master of ceremonies, expressing the graduates’ pride in joining the security institution.

The ceremony began with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, followed by speech of Assistant Director General of the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Administrative Affairs at the Women’s Police Institute Colonel Iman Bolland.

A documentary film was then shown, highlighting the institute’s activities and training programs.

The graduates took the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Lieutenant Colonel Fatima Anbar.

Lieutenant Colonel Fatima Dashti announced the names of outstanding graduates and Lieutenant Colonel Dalal Al-Rajhi presented the certificates to all the graduates.

Soldier, customs official, Arab expat held smuggling narcotics

By **Munif Naif**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: The Coast Guard General Department at the Interior Ministry has intensified efforts to protect maritime borders and combat all kinds of smuggling operations; such that marine patrols recently thwarted an attempt to smuggle a large quantity of narcotics into the country.

In a press statement on Monday, the ministry revealed that drone cameras being monitored at the Operations Unit of the Coast Guard led to the discovery of a boat with people on board who were seen getting bags from the seabed.

A team whose members are from the Naval Formation Department and Maritime

Security Department was immediately dispatched to the site; seizing the boat and its occupants. It was found that there were three people in the boat – identified as M.M., a soldier working at the ministry; N.F. who works at Kuwait General Administration of Customs and W.G., a Palestinian.

The ministry disclosed that upon searching the boat, eight tightly sealed bags containing 319 pieces of narcotic substances were found -- with an estimated market value of KD1.3 million.

The ministry affirmed that no one is above the law and that it is continuing to tighten control over territorial waters, enhance the readiness of its field and technical teams to confront smuggling attempts, and protect society from drugs.

‘No tinting windshield’

244 minors held in July driving without license

By **Munif Naif**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: The campaigns carried out by the General Traffic Department in July resulted in the arrest of 244 juveniles for driving without a license – all of them were referred to the Juvenile Prosecution.

Traffic patrols arrested 39 juveniles last week as part of the ongoing traffic campaigns in all governorates. This is an affirmation of security vigilance and the commitment to protect road users from traffic accidents.

The traffic campaigns targeting juveniles driving without a license highlighted the commitment of the department to implement the law firmly and fairly.

This is a major challenge; exacerbated by family negligence and influence of social media, which promotes a culture of ostentatious driving, especially at night, as well as the lack of awareness of the risks and leisure time during summer vacation.

Through well-thought-out security plans, the department conducted intensive inspection campaigns in various governorates; targeting areas where youth groups usually gather, resulting in the swift and efficient detection of these cases.

Through its ongoing awareness campaigns, the department continually calls on families and society to monitor their children and not allow them to drive without a license, given the legal and traffic risks.

The department has repeatedly emphasized the importance of adhering to traffic regulations and instructions to guarantee public safety, and to ensure a bright future for the juveniles by preventing them from being subjected to legal prosecution and the negative consequences of their action.



Windshield transparent: Ministerial Resolution No. 1398/2025 allows tinting of vehicle windows at a rate not exceeding 50 percent, while the front windshield facing the driver should remain transparent.

A security source stated that the resolution prohibits the use of reflective or mirror tints.

The source explained that tinting of the side and rear windows is allowed, excluding the windshield.

Deadline Sept 15

‘Uproot all illegal shacks erected on Kuwait land’

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: As part of an ongoing effort to address unauthorized use of state-owned land, the Ministry of Interior, in collaboration with the Kuwait Municipality, the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, and the Public Authority for Housing Welfare, launched a comprehensive field campaign targeting the Tayma and Al-Sulaibiya areas.

According to an official statement from the Ministry, the campaign led to the removal of several illegal structures and encroachments on public property. Authorities also detained multiple individuals of various nationalities found operating unlicensed commercial activities on state land.

The Ministry further announced that final warnings have been issued to residents of homes found in violation. A strict deadline has been set: all encroachments must be cleared by September 15, 2025, to avoid legal repercussions.

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Government OKs 13 entities’ final accounts for 2024/2025

Financial institutions post strong profits

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: Thirteen decrees were issued on Sunday, approving the final accounts of 13 entities for fiscal 2024/2025.

These decrees are on the final accounts of Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Kuwait Anti-Doping Agency (KADA), Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development (National Fund), Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), Zakat House, Central Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB), Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART), Insurance Regulatory Unit (IRU), Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) and Capital Markets Authority (CMA).

The net profit of KCB for the past fiscal year amounted to KD96.9

million, which will be added to the bank’s general reserve. Its revenues reached KD128.5 million, compared to expenses of KD31.6 million.

The Central Bank of Kuwait achieved a net profit of about KD491.9 million, which will be added to its General Reserve Fund. Revenues amounted to KD545.7 million, compared to expenses of KD53.9 million.

Zakat House revenues amounted to KD102 million, compared to expenses of KD18.6 million.

Funding from the budget of ministries and government departments (Ministry of Finance - General Accounts) for fiscal 2024/2025 amounted to KD18.46 million. Zakat House was allocated an annual subsidy of KD100,000 from the budget of ministries and government departments (Ministry of Finance - General Accounts) for fiscal 2024/2025.

The National Fund generated revenues of around KD55,000, compared to expenditures of KD7.88 million. Financing from the budget of ministries and government departments (Ministry of Finance - General Accounts for fiscal 2024/2025)

for the final account of the National Fund amounted to KD7.83 million.

The net deficit of PAHW reached KD595.7 million, which the Ministry of Finance is covering. Its revenues for the fiscal year amounted to KD9.7 million, compared to expenditures of KD605.3 million.

CITRA generated revenues of KD136 million, compared to expenditures of KD25.41 million. Around KD11.06 million of net profits are transferred to the National Fund reserve and KD99.578 million is transferred to the State treasury.

Actual revenues for KADA amounted to KD5.2 thousand, compared to expenditures of KD1.59 million. Funding from the budget of ministries and government departments (Ministry of Finance - General Accounts) for the fiscal year 2025/2024 for the final account of KADA amounted to KD 1.58 million.

Total revenues in the final account for fiscal 2025/2024 amounted to approximately KD6.39 million, while total expenditures in the final account amounted to KD 43.99 million.

Total funding from the budget of

ministries and government departments (Ministry of Finance - General Accounts for fiscal 2025/2024) for the final account of KISR amounted to KD37.6 million.

The revenues of IRU amounted to approximately KD8.15 million, while expenditures amounted to KD2.7 million. The excess of revenues over expenditures amounted to KD5.379 million and KWD 538,000 or 10 percent of the year’s savings, was transferred to the unit, and KD4.84 million was transferred to the State treasury.

KUNA’s revenues amounted to KD321,100; while expenditures amounted to KD13 million. Funding from the budget of ministries and government departments (Ministry of Finance - General Accounts) for the 2024/2025 fiscal year for the final account of KUNA amounted to KD 12.686 million.

The revenues of CMA amounted to KD9.09 million, while expenditures amounted to KD34.289 million. The deficit resulting from the excess of expenditures over revenues, amounting to approximately KD25.197 million, was deducted from its general cash reserve.

Kuwait expresses solidarity with Algeria over bus crash

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18, (KUNA): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed Kuwait’s solidarity on Sunday with the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria following the bus accident that killed and injured dozens of people when it fell from a bridge into the Oued (valley) El Harrach watercourse in the Algerian capital.

In a statement, the ministry’s noted that the State of Kuwait extends its sincere condolences to the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria and to the families of the victims, wishing the injured a speedy recovery.

Earlier, the bus accident resulted in the deaths and injuries of dozens of people.

Move ensures project stays on track

CAPT redirects Shagaya station tender to KAPP

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: In its last meeting, the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) canceled the request of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable to supply and install the ‘Shagaya Z’ main transformer station designated for the renewable energy project, pursuant to Article 55 of the Tenders Law.

Sources told the newspaper that the tender will be issued through Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP), as it is the entity responsible for the two tenders for the Shagaya Renewable Energy Project-Phase III -- the first and second projects with a capacity of 1,600 megawatts.

Sources explained that it is preferable for KAPP to issue this tender to ensure implementation is consistent with the project’s timetable. They said the ‘Shagaya Z’ station will transfer the project’s output and connect it to the electricity grid.

In another development, official data from the ministry revealed that the rate of freshwater production exceeded consumption by about 22 million gallons; as production reached 523 million gallons, compared to consumption of 501 million gallons.

A technical source confirmed the safety of the strategic water reserve; indicating that the reserve is currently in its best condition, with a capacity of 4,131 million gallons.

Al-Maqamis calls for stronger response

KRCS reaffirms commitment to global humanitarian assistance

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18, (KUNA): Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Khaled Al-Maqamis affirmed the Society’s commitment to promoting humanitarian awareness and reinforcing universal humanitarian values.

In a statement to KUNA on the occasion of World Humanitarian Day, marked annually on August 19, Al-Maqamis said humanitarian work is deeply rooted value in Kuwaiti society and a core aspect of the State’s approach to aiding those in need worldwide.

He noted that Kuwait’s humanitarian initiatives, through both official and non-governmental channels, have strengthened its global standing in relief efforts.

Al-Maqamis highlighted the importance of increasing cooperation with international organizations to address growing humanitarian crises, pointing to KRCS’s swift response through targeted aid.

He explained that KRCS has provided urgent assistance this year to several countries affected by disasters or conflict, including Palestine, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, and Türkiye. The aid in-



Khaled Al-Maqamis, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.

cluded food parcels, shelter supplies, and sustainable development projects.

He also paid tribute to humanitarian workers and volunteers, underscoring their dedication and sacrifice, and reiterated KRCS’s ongoing commitment to its humanitarian mission in line with Kuwait’s belief in humanitarian aid.



Part of the humanitarian initiatives implemented by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.



Volunteers from the Kuwait Red Crescent Society working on a humanitarian initiative.

PAHW urges Sabah Al-Salem women renters to update records by Aug 31

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Sunday called on Kuwaiti women residing in the Sabah Al-Salem Residential Complex on a rental basis who have not yet updated their data to visit Follow-up Department on the first floor of the PAHW’s main building from Monday, August 18 to August 31, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Authority explained that the applicants must bring the following documents to complete the update process:

- A copy of their civil ID
- A copy of their nationality certificate
- A marriage contract for married women
- A divorce certificate for divorced women
- A death certificate if the husband is deceased
- Academic certificates of their children

for the last two academic years

- A certificate from the General Administration of Ports for the past three years (2023-2025)
- A certificate from the Real Estate Registration Department regarding property ownership for the applicant and her husband
- A certificate from the Commercial Registration Department for the applicant and her family members
- A certificate from the Public Authority for Disability Affairs, if any family member has a severe or moderate disability
- A salary certificate
- A social insurance certificate
- A certificate from the Ministry of Social Affairs (social assistance)
- A certificate of good conduct from the Ministry of Electricity and Water.

Ministry of Interior adopts AI for media campaigns

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: Reflecting its commitment to keeping pace with the latest technological and media developments, the Ministry of Interior, represented by the General Department of Security Relations and Media, organized a specialized training course on media content creation using artificial intelligence technologies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This course is the first of its kind for officers, non-commissioned officers, and civilian employees.

Presented by Director of the Specialized Training Center at the Public Security Sector Lieutenant Colonel Mishaal Al-Munais, the course focused on empowering participants to use AI tools for preparing media campaigns, formulating professional directives, designing images and videos, and generating and transforming ideas into creative projects.

This initiative is in line with New Kuwait 2035 vision, which emphasizes innovation and modern technologies in developing security and media

work, enhancing performance efficiency, and advancing methods for delivering security messages in modern and effective ways.

The closing ceremony, attended by Director General of the General Department of Security Relations and Media Brigadier General Nasser Bouslaib, and his assistant Colonel Yousef Murshid, honored the 15 successful participants, praising their engagement and excellence, reflecting their commitment to developing their media skills.



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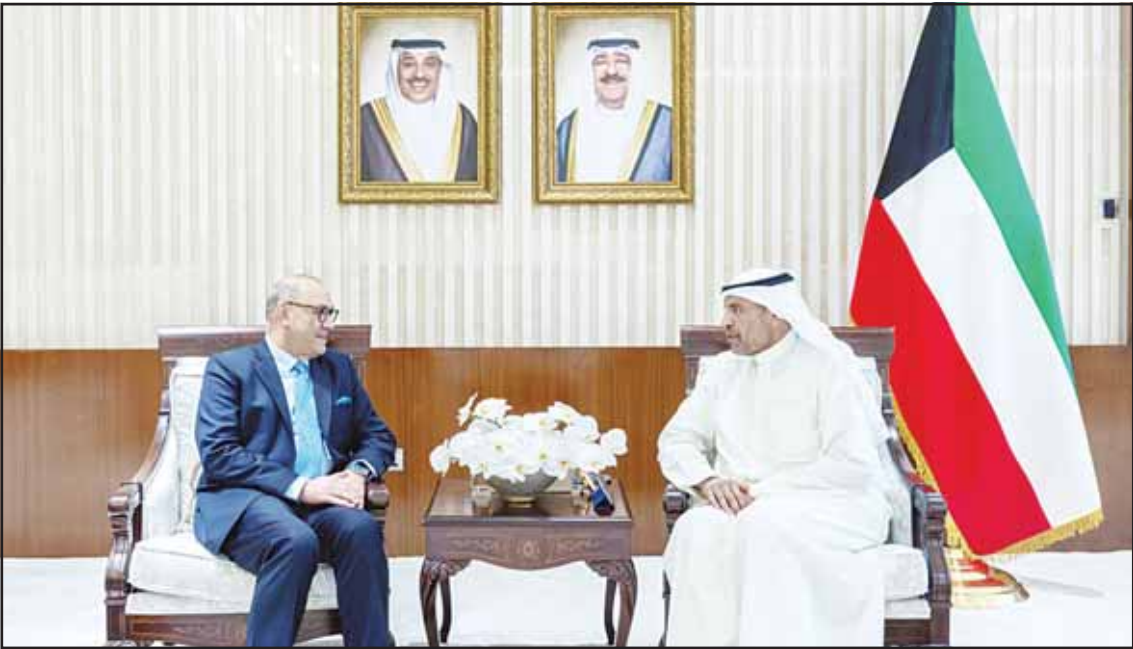
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KUNA photo
Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya receives the Iraqi Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Manhal Al-Safi.

Kuwait FM receives outgoing Iraqi envoy

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya on Monday received outgoing Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Al-Manhal Al-Safi.

During the meeting, the minister commended the Iraqi diplomat’s leading efforts and contributions to the promotion of Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations, wishing him best of luck in his future position.

Continued from Page 1

Hotels, cafes

In this regard, economic expert Lawyer Salem Al-Kandari stressed that revitalizing tourism is a major part of New Kuwait 2035 vision, as the sector plays a vital role in diversifying the country’s income sources beyond oil.

He praised the government’s decision to open the door to various types of visits, noting that allowing tourist visits and entry for expatriates residing in GCC countries will bring huge benefits to the hotel sector, which is essential for welcoming tourists.

Al-Kandari affirmed that hotel owners must offer reasonable prices, as good pricing is important.

He described the Ministry of Interior’s decision to permit expatriates residing in GCC countries to enter on tourist visas as a positive and open step that will boost both tourism and trade in Kuwait.

Al-Kandari called for the need to expand the establishment of hotels catering to all levels, including hotel apartments and two-star and three-star hotels, to offer diverse options for visitors.

He expressed concern over Kuwait’s hotel statistics compared to other GCC countries, noting that Kuwait has fewer than 15,000 hotel rooms, while the UAE has 202,000, Saudi Arabia 135,500, Qatar 56,000, and Oman 25,000.

Al-Kandari also highlighted that the UAE has 1,251 hotel establishments, whereas Kuwait has fewer than 60.

Meanwhile, economic expert and head of the Kuwait Real Estate Residents Association Qais Al-Ghanim stated that opening visit visas for family, tourism, or business, and allowing Gulf residents to enter for tourism purposes is necessary for boosting the country’s economic activity.

He noted that the government has realized the negative effects of the recession and that these measures will strongly stimulate the hotel and hotel apartment sectors.

Al-Ghanim emphasized that the government’s tourist visa facilitations were not issued randomly but were carefully studied from all angles.

He assured that visitors will not be allowed to violate the country’s laws, especially since all procedures are linked online, adding that there is no reason to fear the entry of some people into Kuwait, as the Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef is enforcing strict security controls to prevent any manipulation.

Furthermore, a source from the Kuwait Hotels Union, who preferred to remain anonymous, said that allowing visitors will in general boost the country’s economy.

He highlighted that tourist visas, in particular, will help revitalize Kuwaiti hotels, which have suffered years of stagnation due to restricted visitor access, adding that the new government facilities for obtaining tourist visas will positively impact not only hotels but also local cafes and restaurants, especially since many hotels have incurred millions in losses, with some even closing.

The source said Kuwait’s hotel profits have declined in recent years, not only due to the COVID-19 pandemic but also because the country remained largely closed as a tourist destination during that time.

He explained that Kuwait was a popular tourist destination for Gulf citizens and foreigners in the mid-20th century, especially following the discovery of oil wealth.

In 1947, the “Sherine Hotel” opened as Kuwait’s first hotel, with services initially priced in rupees. As the country’s economy developed, the hotel industry expanded, and today there are about 60 hotels in Kuwait, ranging across three-star, four-star, and five-star categories. Kuwaiti hotel owners have invested nearly one and a quarter billion dinars in the sector.

The source called for enacting a special tourism law in Kuwait to promote tourism, which could play a major role in supporting the national economy.

The main observations from hotel sector specialists are the following:

1. Kuwait has only 15,000 hotel rooms compared to 202,000 in the UAE.
2. Appropriate pricing is essential to boost attractiveness despite rising demand.
3. Economic benefits will extend beyond hotels to include cafes and local markets.
4. Investment is needed in hotel apartments and hotels of all star categories.
5. There are no concerns about visa holders overstaying, as the Ministry of Interior maintains strict control.
6. The decision is important to advancing the country’s vision of making tourism a new source of income.

IOM Kuwait

Amid these operational constraints, humanitarian workers are also grappling with rising psychological stress, including burnout.

In 2024, a record 377 humanitarian workers were killed across 20 countries, with over 95% being local staff operating on the frontlines. As of July 2025, at least 227 humanitarian workers have been killed globally, with Gaza remaining the deadliest location, where ninety per cent of the population in the Gaza Strip — around 1.9 million people — have been displaced, with more than half being children. Humanitarian personnel continue to face severe risks in other crisis zones: in Sudan, humanitarian operations are severely hindered by active hostilities, bureaucratic impediments, and attacks on humanitarian personnel and health facilities.; in Ukraine, staff face restricted access; in Haiti, gang violence and political instability have disrupted operations; and in the Democratic Republic of Congo, armed group activity poses ongoing threats to aid convoys and facilities. In Yemen, humanitarian workers face arbitrary detentions, , and escalating violence, which have forced organizations to scale back operations and limit activities to only life-saving interventions.

In Syria’s As-Sweida Governorate, recent hostilities have displaced over 176,000 people as of late July 2025. Humanitarian access is severely constrained due to road-blocks, insecurity, and attacks on healthcare facilities.

“ActForHumanity — is a powerful reminder that humanitarian action must be inclusive, community-driven, accountable, and responsive to the growing needs of

those we serve,” said Mazen AboulHosn, Chief of Mission at IOM Kuwait.

“Humanitarian workers are operating under unprecedented pressure — navigating conflict zones, climate emergencies, and resource constraints, while the number of people in need continues to rise sharply. The drastic reduction in global funding has forced agencies to make painful choices, scaling back life-saving interventions even as vulnerabilities deepen. Despite these challenges, the dedication of local responders and international partners remains unwavering.

The State of Kuwait’s continued support, including its recent grant to IOM for its operation Yemen, exemplifies the kind of solidarity and sustained investment needed to uphold dignity, deliver hope, and ensure that humanitarian efforts remain effective and accountable.

As we commemorate World Humanitarian Day, IOM Kuwait calls on governments, civil society, private sector partners, and individuals to reaffirm their commitment to humanity. In a world where crises are multiplying and resources are shrinking, solidarity is not just a principle — it is a lifeline.

Let us honor the courage of humanitarian workers and the resilience of local communities by investing in long-term solutions, amplifying local leadership, and ensuring that the humanitarian needs are addressed and the work of those providing assistance in appreciated and seen.

Insurance gets

The resolution requires including a quick response code (QR Code) on the documents, containing all related data, clearly identifying cases of document cancellation, the method for calculating amounts due to the insured upon cancellation, and the basis for calculating the insurance premium.

The resolution aims to facilitate follow-up and monitoring of document statuses through technological means, reduce fraudulent activities previously seen in the insurance sector, and enhance awareness of the rights and obligations of market participants.

Al-Otaibi stated that the decision helps eliminate discrepancies in policy pricing between companies, as the premium calculation mechanism is fully detailed in the decision and its annexes, thereby establishing transparency between insurance companies and customers.

He pointed out that the QR code system will be implemented 180 days after the decision’s publication in the official gazette, allowing companies ample time to adjust and prepare their systems to comply with the new requirements.

Al-Otaibi emphasized that from the date of publication, all companies are required to adhere to unified principles and standards when issuing mandatory policies.

He stated that the annex to the decision includes technical controls for developing electronic systems, as well as measures related to information security and protection, in addition to awareness controls for beneficiaries, adding that these are designed to ensure the integrity of electronic policy issuance and their safe use, preventing attempts at forgery or fraud.

Al-Otaibi emphasized that the decision represents an important step in the unit’s efforts to develop the insurance sector’s infrastructure and improve its efficiency in line with international best practices.

He highlighted that the decision enhances the protection of the rights of insured individuals and policy beneficiaries, while also supporting the national economy and strengthening social stability in the country.

Kuwait’s naval

who also serves as Commander of the US Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).

The Kuwaiti and US military top brass discussed several military issues with emphasis on maritime security and regional stability, the statement noted.

They also reviewed the joint efforts to protect international maritime navigation and the role of the US Fifth Fleet in this regard.

Air Vice Marshal Al-Sabah also paid a visit to the headquarters of the Combined Task-Force 152 (CTF-152) where he was welcomed by the Force Commander Commodore Mohammad Al-Arefi.

Commodore Al-Arefi briefed his guest on the role of the CTF0152 in protecting maritime security in the Arabian Gulf region.

Praising the role of the CTF-152, Air Vice Marshal Al-Sabah applauded the contributions of the Kuwaiti maritime force to it.

Kuwait’s assumption of the CTF-152 leadership for the ninth time since its inception signals the partners’ trust in the efficiency of the Kuwaiti maritime force and its ability to maintain regional security, he said.

Air Vice Marshal Al-Sabah took pride in the dedication of the personnel of the Kuwaiti maritime force, reaffirming the support of the Kuwaiti political and military leadership to them.

Set up in 2004, the CTF-152 is the largest international naval partnership consisting of 38 member-nations and partners under the CMF; it operates inside the Arabian Gulf to promote maritime cooperation.

Kuwait Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah hosted a dinner banquet in honor of Air Vice Marshal Al-Sabah and his entourage.

The Kuwaiti delegation includes Commander of the Maritime Force Rear Admiral Staff Saif Al-Hamlan and Director General of the Coast Guard Commodore Staff Mubarak Ali Al-Sabah, as well as other senior military and police officers.

Kuwait airport

required its employees holding technical licenses issued by the DGCA to undergo the tests starting Monday, warning that if any of the concerned employees refuse to undergo the required tests, the refusal will be considered a positive result.

Jaber Trauma Center sees increase in accident cases

Emergency surgeries reach 1,400

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: Head of the Trauma Center and General Surgery Consultant at Jaber Hospital Dr. Shamlan Al-Qenaei revealed that the center dealt with about 1,500 accident cases -- 800 cases transported by ambulance and 700 cases in the General Accidents Department; in addition to conducting 1,400 emergency surgeries within 10 months since it opened in early September 2024.

In an interview with Kuwait TV, Al-Qenaei said that 70 percent of the injuries treated by the medical teams at the center are caused by car accidents in summer and motorcycle accidents in winter; indicating that the injuries include burns, fractures due to falling from

high places and sports injuries, among others.

He stressed the need to strictly comply with regulations on speeding, using the mobile phone by hand while driving and others to prevent road accidents. He called on parents to monitor their children at home to reduce fall incidents, as well as the contractors and construction workers to adhere to preventive measures to avoid accidental fall during work.

He pointed out that the Trauma Center at Jaber Hospital is distinguished by its provision of all medical specializations; explaining that some patients suffer from internal bleeding and fractures in various parts of the body, requiring rapid intervention and coordination among various specializations, such as fracture surgery, intensive care, ophthalmology, ear, nose, throat and others.

He added the center has 100 beds -- 50 in the wards and 50 in intensive care; three intensive care rooms; three other operating rooms; and numerous support medical services like magnetic resonance imaging, radiology, pharmacy and others.



KUNA photos
The State of Kuwait shines at Expo 2025 Osaka with a pavilion under the slogan ‘Visionary Lighthouse.’

‘Visionary Lighthouse’

Kuwaiti Pavilion shines at Expo 2025 Osaka

By Sarah Al-Houllan

OSAKA, Aug 18, (KUNA): Through its slogan “Visionary Lighthouse,” the pavilion of the State of Kuwait at the Expo 2025 Osaka illuminated the path for visitors, bringing together the glorious past and promising future.

Upon entering the pavilion, visitors are met with

an assortment of displays, features, and interactive exhibits that recount Kuwait’s rich history, trace its tremendous development, and highlighted what the future holds for the small but ambitious Gulf nation.

Before leaving, visitors can enjoy a taste of Kuwaiti cuisine at Sidra Restaurant. Expo 2025 Osaka will continue until October 13.

‘No room for exploitation’

MoSA vows integrity of Gharameen Campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: The Ministry of Social Affairs categorically denied rumors circulating on social media that the ‘Gharameen Campaign’ disbursed aid outside its established frameworks; stressing that such allegations are false and baseless, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a press statement, the ministry affirmed that the third national debt payment campaign is being managed by six joint technical and legal committees comprising of representatives from the ministries of Interior, Justice, Awqaf and Social Affairs; as well as Zakat House and the Secretariat General of Awqaf. It added that disbursement procedures are referred to the Execution General Department at the Ministry of Justice to ensure compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.

The Ministry of Social Affairs clarified that the eligibility criteria are publicly known and transparent; including that beneficiaries must be Kuwaiti citizens who have not received support from the two previous campaigns in 2023 and 2024. Priority is given to individuals in correctional institutions and to the elderly, while debts arising from illegal transactions or ‘under financing’ are excluded. Each application is reviewed on a case-by-case basis to prevent duplication or exploitation.

It revealed that the third campaign received 9,119 cases through the ‘Central Aid Platform’; raising around KD15 million. The names of eligible beneficiaries were submitted to the Execution General Department at the Ministry of Justice for disbursement under the approved terms and conditions. This included the second batch, covering 767 citizens whose debts ranged between KD5,000 and KD10,000

It asserted that all committee members are bound by an ethical and legal code of conduct; which prohibits conflicts of interest, safeguards the confidentiality of data, and mandates reporting of violations. It affirmed its legal right to take action against those spreading false information, while urging the public to verify news through official channels and avoid being misled by rumors.

Acting Higher Education undersecretary resigns

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal has accepted the resignation of acting Undersecretary Lamia Al-Mulhim effective Sept 1, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources confirmed that the Ministry of Higher Education will fill the vacant post in the coming period to ensure the continuity of work, while expressing appreciation for the valuable efforts and contributions made by Al-Mulhim during her tenure.

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Water floods a road in Naguabo, Puerto Rico, as Hurricane Erin brings rain to the island on Aug 17, 2025. (AP)

Stronger, bigger Hurricane Erin forecast to create dangerous surf along US coast

MIAMI, Aug 18, (AP): A stronger and bigger Hurricane Erin pelted parts of the Caribbean and was forecast to create dangerous surf and rip currents along the US East Coast this week.

It reintensified to a Category 4 storm with 130 mph (215 kph) maximum sustained winds early Monday and moved closer to the Southeast Bahamas, according to the US National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Around 5 am Monday, Erin was about 105 miles (170 kilometers) north-northeast of Grand Turk Island and about 915 miles (1,470 kilometers) south-southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. The storm was moving northwest at 13 mph (20 kph).

The Bahamas government issued a Tropical Storm Watch for the central Bahamas, while a Tropical Storm Warning remained in effect for the Turks and Caicos Islands and south-east Bahamas, the hurricane center reported.

Additional strengthening was forecast for Monday followed by gradual weakening, but Erin was expected to remain a large, major hurricane into midweek.

Hurricane-force winds extended up to 60 miles (95 kilometers) from the center and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 230 miles (370 km). The area of strong winds is expected to grow more over the next few days. At that size, Erin will impact coastal areas even though it isn't forecast to make a direct landfall.

Dare County, North Carolina, declared an emergency and ordered an evacuation beginning Monday of Hatteras Island on the Outer Banks, the thin stretch of low-lying barrier islands that juts far into the Atlantic. Several days of heavy surf and high winds and waves could wash out parts of N.C. Highway 12 running along the barrier islands, the National Weather Service said.

Erin, the year's first Atlantic hurricane, reached an exceedingly dangerous Category 5 status Saturday with 160 mph (260 kph) winds before weakening.

"You're dealing with a major hurricane. The intensity is fluctuating. It's a dangerous hurricane in any event," Richard Pasch of the National Hurricane Center said.

Erin's outer bands pelted parts of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands with heavy rains and tropical-storm winds during the day Sunday.

That knocked out power to about 147,000 customers, according to Luma Energy, a private company that oversees the transmission and distribution of power on the island. More than 20 flights were canceled due to the weather. The Coast Guard allowed all ports in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands to reopen Sunday as winds and rains decreased.

Rough ocean conditions were forecast for parts of the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Hispaniola and the Turks and Caicos. Life-threatening surf and rip currents were forecast into midweek for the Bahamas, Bermuda, the U.S. East Coast and Canada's Atlantic coast as Erin turns north and then northeast.

Scientists have linked the rapid intensification of hurricanes in the Atlantic to climate change. Global warming is causing the atmosphere to hold more water vapor and is spiking ocean temperatures, and warmer waters give hurricanes fuel to unleash more rain and strengthen more quickly.

These results show that we're on the right track: Lee

Mayors of cities Trump decries as 'lawless' tout significant declines in violent crimes

WASHINGTON, Aug 18, (AP): As President Donald Trump declared Washington, DC, a crime-ridden wasteland in need of federal intervention and threatened similar federal interventions in other Black-led cities, several mayors compared notes.

The president's characterization of their cities contradicts what they began noticing last year: that they were seeing a drop in violent crime after a pandemic-era spike. In some cases the declines were monumental, due in large part to more youth engagement, gun buyback programs and community partnerships.

Now members of the African American Mayors Association are determined to stop Trump from burying accomplishments that they already felt were overlooked. And they're using the administration's unprecedented law enforcement takeover in the nation's capital as an opportunity to disprove his narrative about some of the country's greatest urban enclaves.

"It gives us an opportunity to say we need to amplify our voices to confront the rhetoric that crime is just running rampant around major US cities. It's just not true," said Van Johnson, mayor of Savannah, Georgia, and president of the African American Mayors Association. "It's not supported by any evidence or statistics whatsoever."

After deploying the first of 800 National Guard members to Washington, the Republican president is setting his sights on other cities including Baltimore, Chicago, Los Angeles and Oakland, California, calling them crime-ridden and "horribly run." One thing

they all have in common: They're led by Black mayors.

"It was not lost on any member of our organization that the mayors either were Black or perceived to be Democrats," Johnson said. "And that's unfortunate. For mayors, we play with whoever's on the field."

The federal government's actions have heightened some of the mayors' desires to champion the strategies used to help make their cities safer.

Trump argued that federal law enforcement had to step in after a prominent employee of the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, was attacked in an attempted carjacking. He also pointed to homeless encampments, graffiti and potholes as evidence of Washington "getting worse."

However statistics published by Washington's Metropolitan Police contradict the president and show violent crime has dropped there since a post-pandemic peak in 2023.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson scoffed at Trump's remarks, hailing the city's "historic progress driving down homicides by more than 30% and shootings by almost 40% in the last year alone."

Mayor Karen Bass of Los Angeles, where homicides fell 14% between 2023 and 2024, called the federal takeover nothing but a performative "power grab."

In Baltimore, officials say they have seen historic decreases in homicides and nonfatal shootings this year, and those have been on the decline since 2022, according to the city's public



Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson answers questions during a news conference at City Hall on Jan 28, where he talked about the order from President Donald Trump's administration to freeze federal funding. (AP)

safety data dashboard. Carjackings were down 20% in 2023, and other major crimes fell in 2024. Only burglaries have climbed slightly.

The lower crime rates are attributed to tackling violence with a "public health" approach, city officials say. In 2021, under Mayor Brandon Scott, Baltimore created a Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan that called for more investment in community violence intervention, more services for crime victims and other initiatives.

Scott accused Trump of exploiting crime as a "wedge issue and dog whistle" rather than caring about curbing

power to continue the progress despite the roadblocks this administration attempts to implement," Scott said.

Just last week Oakland officials touted significant decreases in crime in the first half of this year compared with the same period in 2024, including a 21% drop in homicides and a 29% decrease in all violent crime, according to the midyear report by the Major Cities Chiefs Association. Officials credited collaborations with community organizations and crisis response services through the city's Department of Violence Prevention, established in 2017.

"These results show that we're on the right track," Mayor Barbara Lee said at a news conference. "We're going to keep building on this progress with the same comprehensive approach that got us here."

After Trump gave his assessment of Oakland last week, she rejected it as "fearmongering."

Social justice advocates agree that crime has gone down and say Trump is perpetuating exaggerated perceptions that have long plagued Oakland.

Nicole Lee, executive director of Urban Peace Movement, an Oakland-based organization that focuses on empowering communities of color and young people through initiatives such as leadership training and assistance to victims of gun violence, said much credit for the gains on lower crime rates is due to community groups.

"We really want to acknowledge all of the hard work that our network of community partners and community organizations have been doing over

the past couple of years coming out of the pandemic to really create real community safety," Lee said. "The things we are doing are working."

She worries that an intervention by military forces would undermine that progress.

"It creates kind of an environment of fear in our community," Lee said.

In Washington, agents from multiple federal agencies, National Guard members and even the United States Park Police have been seen performing law enforcement duties from patrolling the National Mall to questioning people parked illegally.

Pentagon press secretary Kingsley Wilson said the guard troops will not be armed but declined to elaborate on their assignments to safety patrols and beautification efforts.

Savannah's Johnson said he is all for partnering with the federal government, but troops on city streets is not what he envisioned. Instead, cities need federal assistance for things like multistate investigation and fighting problems such as gun trafficking, and cybercrimes.

"I'm a former law enforcement officer. There is a different skill set that is used for municipal law enforcement agencies than the military," Johnson said.

There has also been speculation that federal intervention could entail curfews for young people.

But that would do more harm, Nicole Lee said, disproportionately affecting young people of color and wrongfully assuming that youths are the main instigators of violence.

US Republican Garrity seeks to challenge Pennsylvania Gov Shapiro's reelection bid

HARRISBURG, Pa., Aug 18, (AP): Stacy Garrity, Pennsylvania's two-term elected state treasurer, said Monday that she will seek the Republican nomination to challenge Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro's reelection bid, setting up what could be a contest between a low-profile officeholder and a potential White House contender in 2028.

Garrity said in a statement that she will "will bring jobs back, strengthen our economy and make Pennsylvania more affordable for families in every corner of the state."

Some top Pennsylvania Republicans support Garrity in the 2026 race for governor and hope she'll see a clear primary field, although those hopes have been buffeted in recent weeks by 2022's losing gubernatorial candidate, Doug Mastriano, suggesting that he'll run again.

Garrity has hinted at a run for months and stepped up her criticism of Shapiro. In campaign fundraising appeals, she accused Shapiro of being soft on law and order and hostile to her "pro-worker, pro-energy, pro-America agenda."

Shapiro has returned fire, blasting her for supporting President Donald Trump's big tax break and spending

Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro talks with media at the Clairton Coke Works, a U.S. Steel plant, in Clairton, Pa. on Aug 12. (AP)

cut package. Shapiro said it would hurt rural hospitals and people who rely on Medicaid, drive up the cost of energy and blow up the federal deficit.

Garrity's task of challenging Shapiro is, by any measure, a tall one. Garrity is relatively untested and spent less than \$3 million in her two campaigns for treasurer in 2020 and 2024.

Shapiro has won three statewide races, carries a reputation as a disci-

plined messenger and powerhouse fundraiser who spent more than \$70 million alone in his sole campaign for governor, smashing Pennsylvania's campaign finance record.

He's grown into a national figure after he made Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris' shortlist for vice presidential running mates last year and is viewed as a potential White House contender for the party in 2028.



Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro talks with media at the Clairton Coke Works, a U.S. Steel plant, in Clairton, Pa. on Aug 12. (AP)

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'Our country is in grave danger'

Vucic vows tough response to protesters

BELGRADE, Serbia, Aug 18, (AP): Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic announced tough measures against anti-government protesters following days of riots in the streets throughout Serbia that have challenged his increasingly autocratic rule in the Balkan country.

In one of his frequent TV addresses to the public, Vucic accused the anti-government demonstrators of "pure terrorism" and reiterated his claims that months of persistent protests against his rule have been orchestrated in the West and aimed at destroying Serbia.

"Our country is in grave danger, they have jeopardized all our values, normal life, each individual," Vucic said, alleging an elaborate scheme that would eventually install "anarcho-leftist" authorities in the future. He did not offer any concrete evidence for his claims.

"Unless we undertake tougher steps it is a question of days when they (pro-

Supporters of Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic hurl flares at anti-government protesters during an anti-government protest in front of the Serbian Progressive Party office in Belgrade, Serbia on Aug 14. (AP)

testers) will kill someone," Vucic said. "I am saying this for history."



Supporters of Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic hurl flares at anti-government protesters during an anti-government protest in front of the Serbian Progressive Party office in Belgrade, Serbia on Aug 14. (AP)

Zelenskyy brings Europe's top leaders to meet Trump on ending Russia's war

WASHINGTON, Aug 18, (AP): Ukraine's future could hinge on a hastily assembled meeting Monday at the White House as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy brings with him an extraordinary cadre of European leaders to show US President Donald Trump a united front against Russia.

The European political heavy-hitters were left out of Trump's summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin last Friday, and they are looking to safeguard Ukraine and the continent from any widening aggression from Moscow.

By arriving as a group, they hope to avoid any debates like Zelenskyy's February meeting in the Oval Office, where Trump chastised him for not showing enough gratitude for American military aid. The meeting also is a test of America's relationship with its closest allies after the European Union and United Kingdom accepted Trump's tariff hikes partly because they wanted his support on Ukraine.

Monday's showing is a sign both of the progress and the possible distress coming out of the Alaska meeting as many of Europe's leaders are descending on Washington with the explicit goal of protecting Ukraine's interests, a rare and sweeping show of diplomatic force.

"It's important that America agrees to work with Europe to provide security guarantees for Ukraine, and therefore for all of Europe," Zelenskyy said on X.

The night before the meeting, however, Trump seemed to put the onus on Zelenskyy to agree to concessions and suggested that Ukraine could not regain Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, setting off an armed conflict that led to its broader 2022 invasion.

"President Zelenskyy of Ukraine can end the war with Russia almost immediately, if he wants to, or he can continue to fight," he wrote Sunday night on social media. "Re-

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer, (left), welcomes Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to Downing Street in London on Aug 14. (AP)

member how it started. No getting back Obama given Crimea (12 years ago, without a shot being fired!), and NO GOING INTO NATO BY UKRAINE. Some things never change!!!"

Zelenskyy appeared to respond with his own post late Sunday, saying, "We all share a strong desire to end this war quickly and reliably." He went on to say that "peace must be lasting," not as it was after Russia seized Crimea and part of the Donbas in eastern Ukraine eight years ago, and "Putin simply used it as a springboard for a new attack."



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer, (left), welcomes Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to Downing Street in London on Aug 14. (AP)

Europe

Plane veers off runway in Russia: An An-24 passenger plane overran the runway during takeoff at Roshchino International Airport in Tyumen, western Siberia of Russia, on Monday morning, said local authorities.

The aircraft carried six crew members and 40 passengers, including 13 children, but no injuries were reported in the incident, according to a statement posted on Telegram by the Central Interregional Investigative Directorate for Transport of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation.

All passengers were safely evacuated, and airport operations continued following the incident, said the statement.

Preliminary reports suggest that a technical malfunction in the braking system may have caused the accident. (Xinhua)

Spain deploys 500 troops to battle wildfires: Spain is deploying a further 500 soldiers to battle wildfires that have torn through parched woodland during a prolonged

spell of scorching weather, Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said Sunday.

The decision to add to the more than 1,400 troops already on wildfire duty came as authorities struggled to contain forest blazes, especially in the northwestern Galicia region, and awaited the arrival of promised aircraft reinforcements from other European countries.

Firefighters are tackling 12 major wildfires in Galicia, all of them near the city of Ourense, the head of the Galician regional government Alfonso Rueda told a press conference with Sánchez.

"Homes are still under threat so we have lockdowns in place and are carrying out evacuations," Rueda said. Galicia has been battling the spreading flames for more than a week.

Temperatures in Spain could reach 45 Celsius (113 Fahrenheit) in some areas Sunday, the Spanish national weather agency AEMET said. On Saturday, the maximum temperature was 44.7 C (112.46 F) in the southern city of Cordoba, it said.

"This Sunday, when extraordinarily high temperatures are expected, the danger of wildfires is extreme in most of the country," AEMET said on the social platform X. (AP)

Lee orders phased implementation of existing inter-Korean agreements

S.Korean and US militaries begin annual summertime drills to cope with N.Korean threats

SEOUL, South Korea, Aug 18, (Agencies): South Korea and the United States began their annual large-scale joint military exercise on Monday to better cope with threats by nuclear-armed North Korea, which has warned the drills would deepen regional tensions and vowed to respond to “any provocation” against its territory.

The 11-day Ulchi Freedom Shield, the second of two large-scale exercises held annually in South Korea, after another set in March, will involve 21,000 soldiers, including 18,000 South Koreans, in computer-simulated command post operations and field training.

The drills, which the allies describe as defensive, could trigger a response from North Korea, which has long portrayed the allies’ exercises as invasion rehearsals and has often used them as a pretext for military demonstrations and weapons tests aimed at advancing its nuclear program. South Korean peace activists have urged Seoul and Washington to stop the joint military exercises, which they said only serve to escalate military tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

In a statement last week, North Korean Defense Minister No Kwang Chol said the drills show the allies’ stance of “military confrontation” with the North and declared that its forces would be ready to counteract “any provocation going beyond the boundary line.”

Ulchi Freedom Shield comes at a pivotal moment for South Korea’s new liberal President Lee Jae Myung, who is preparing for an Aug. 25 summit with US President Donald Trump in Washington. Trump has raised concerns in Seoul that he may shake up the decades-old alliance by demanding higher payments for the American troop presence in South Korea and possibly reducing it as Washington shifts its focus more toward China.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula remain high as North Korea has brushed aside Lee’s calls to resume diplomacy with its war-divided rival, with relations having soured in recent years as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un accelerated his weapons program and deepened alignment with Moscow following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

“What’s needed now is the cour-



South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, (center), speaks during a cabinet meeting at the presidential office in Seoul, South Korea on Aug 18. (AP)

age to steadily take steps toward easing tensions, grounded in a firmly maintained state of ironclad security readiness,” Lee said during a Cabinet meeting on Monday. South Korea also on Monday began a four-day civ-

il defense drill involving thousands of public workers, often scheduled alongside the allies’ summertime military exercises.

Seoul’s previous conservative government responded to North Korean threats by expanding military exercises with the United States and seeking stronger US assurances for nuclear deterrence, drawing an angry reaction from Kim, who last year renounced long-term reconciliation goals and re-wrote the North’s constitution to label the South a permanent enemy.

In his latest message to Pyongyang on Friday, Lee, who took office in June, said he would seek to restore a 2018-inter-Korean military agreement designed to reduce border tensions and called for North Korea to respond to the South’s efforts to rebuild trust and revive talks.

The 2018 military agreement, reached during a brief period of diplomacy between the Koreans, created buffer zones on land and sea and no-fly zones above the border to prevent clashes.

But South Korea suspended the deal in 2024, citing tensions over North Korea’s launches of trash-laden balloons toward the South, and moved to resume frontline military activities and propaganda campaigns. The step came after North Korea had already declared it would no longer abide by the agreement.

When asked whether the Lee government’s steps to restore the agreement would affect the allies’ drills, the South’s Defense Ministry said Monday that there are no immediate plans to suspend live-fire training near the Koreans’ disputed western maritime border.

Lee on Monday ordered the phased implementation of existing inter-Korean agreements, according to the presidential office.

During a cabinet meeting, Lee ordered relevant ministries to prepare for the step-by-step implementation of existing agreements with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) starting with those that are possible to do.

Myanmar’s election commission sets Dec 28 to hold long-awaited elections

BANGKOK, Aug 18, (AP): Myanmar’s military-appointed election commission announced Monday that elections will begin Dec. 28, setting a date for polls that critics have denounced as a sham intended to normalize the army’s 2021 seizure of power even as armed conflict rages throughout much of the country.

The Union Election Commission said in a statement sent to journalists that the elections will be conducted in phases over several days and that a full schedule will be released soon.

A separate statement from the commission, published Saturday in the state-run Myanma Alinn newspaper, said that all 330 townships in the country have been designated as constituencies for the election.

Nearly 60 parties, including the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party, have registered to run, according to the list on the commission’s website.

It is unclear how polling can take place in many areas that are not under control of the military government but are held instead by pro-democracy resistance fighters or ethnic minority rebels. Much of the country is wracked by civil war.

Several opposition organizations, in-



A voter casts ballot at a polling station on Nov 8, 2020, in Yangon, Myanmar. (AP)

cluding armed resistance groups, have said they will seek to derail the election.

Last month, the military government enacted a new electoral law that imposes punishments of up to the death penalty for anyone who opposes or disrupts the elections.

Critics have already said the military-planned election will be neither free nor fair because there is no free media and most of the leaders of Aung San Suu Kyi’s popular but now dissolved National League for Democracy party have been arrested.

Suu Kyi’s party won a landslide victory in the last general election in 2020, but the military seized power from her government in February 2021, as it was about to begin a second five-year term.



Rescuers inspect debris of damaged houses following a cloudburst at a village in Kishtwar district, about 290 km southeast of Srinagar, the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir on Aug 15. (Xinhua)

BJP names Radhakrishnan as VP candidate

Several schools in India get bomb threats

NEW DELHI, Aug 18, (Xinhua): Several schools in the Indian capital territory of Delhi received bomb threats on Monday, prompting authorities to rush police teams, fire services personnel and bomb disposal squads to these educational institutions, officials said.

According to officials, four schools in Dwarka received threat emails from unknown senders and alerted the police.

Immediately, bomb detection and disposal squads, dog squads, police and fire services personnel were rushed to these schools.

“However, nothing suspicious was found. The threats proved to be hoax calls,” a police official said.

According to a local newspaper The Indian Express, 20 schools in Delhi received bomb threat emails on Monday morning, prompting authorities to conduct searches on their premises.

Last month, many schools in the national capital also received similar bomb threat emails, which were later turned out to be a hoax.

Last year, hoax threats triggered chaos in the airlines, schools, hospitals and hotels across the country.

Also:

NEW DELHI: At least seven people, including five children, died and four others were injured after a cloudburst hit Jodh Ghati area of Kathua district in Indian-controlled Jammu and Kashmir, a local police officer said on Sunday.

The tragedy occurred between 3:30 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. when flash floods and landslides caused by cloudburst struck the area.

Rescue operations were still ongoing to bring out victims from the affected area.

Earlier this week, a cloudburst hit a village in Kishtwar district of Indian-controlled Jammu and Kashmir, claiming at least 60 lives, and nearly 100 people went missing. Meanwhile, at least five people were electrocuted to death and four others critically injured early Monday after a vehicle came in contact with overhead electric power transmission wires during a Hindu festival procession in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad, police said.

The incident occurred in Ramanthapur area of Hyderabad, the capital city of Telangana state.

NEW DELHI: India’s ruling party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has fielded C.P. Radhakrishnan, currently the governor of the southwestern state of Maharashtra, as the federal alliance’s candidate for the post of the country’s vice president, an election for which was scheduled for Sept 9.

Presently, the BJP leads the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), a group of political parties.

If elected, Radhakrishnan would be India’s 15th vice president.

9 killed in suspected ADF attack: At least nine people were killed overnight from Saturday to Sunday in the latest attack blamed on Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, local sources said Sunday.

Witnesses said the assault took place in the town of Oicha, in Beni territory of North Kivu Province, where eight civilians and a police officer were watching a football match inside a house. The attackers reportedly surrounded the building and set it on fire, burning the victims alive. It was not immediately clear how many people were inside the house at the time.

Charles Omeonga, Beni’s military administrator, condemned the attack after visiting the site on Sunday, saying extra troops had been deployed to pursue the assailants, who fled into nearby forests. A security meeting was being held in response, local officials said. (Xinhua)

Asia

HK activists granted asylum in Australia, UK: A Hong Kong pro-democracy activist and a former lawmaker who are wanted by the city’s authorities have been granted asylum in Great Britain and Australia, respectively.

Tony Chung, an activist who was imprisoned under Hong Kong’s sweeping national security law, and Ted Hui, a former lawmaker who was facing trial for his role in anti-government protests in 2019, both announced over the weekend that they have received asylum in the countries where they now live.

They are among dozens of activists on the run from Hong Kong authorities. Civil liberties in the city have been greatly eroded since Beijing in 2020 imposed a national security law essentially criminalizing dissent in the former British colony. Both Beijing and Hong Kong have hailed the security law as bringing stability to the financial hub. (AP)



Hui

2 firefighters killed in Japan building blaze: A fire broke out Monday morning in a seven-story building in Osaka’s bustling Minami district, killing two firefighters and leaving another four injured, local media reported.

The blaze was reported around 9:50 a.m. local time from

Bolivia heads to presidential runoff as 2 decades of left-wing dominance ends

LA PAZ, Bolivia, Aug 18, (AP): Bolivia’s presidential vote headed to an unprecedented runoff after elections Sunday that ended more than two decades of left-wing dominance in the Andean nation but signaled voters’ repudiation about a major lurch to the right.

A dark horse centrist, Sen. Rodrigo Paz, drew more votes than the right-wing front-runners, although not enough to secure an outright victory, early results showed.

Paz, a former mayor who has sought to soften the edges of the opposition’s push for tough austerity to rescue Bolivia from a looming economic collapse, will face off against right-wing former President Jorge “Tuto” Quiroga, who finished second. Bolivia holds the presidential runoff - its first since its 1982 return to democracy - on Oct 19.

“This economic model must change,” Paz declared to crowds who cheered and chanted, “Renewal!”

Paz’s campaign gained unexpected traction in recent weeks as he teamed up with Edman Lara, a social media savvy ex-police captain with evangelical backing whose supporters see him as a bold leader willing to stand up to corruption in the security forces.

With over 91% of the ballots counted Sunday, Paz received 32.8% of the votes cast. Quiroga secured 26.4%. Candidates needed to surpass 50%, or 40% with a 10-point margin of victory, to avoid a runoff.

Addressing fans and flanked by family as confetti hearts sprayed from the ceiling, Quiroga congratulated Paz on his lead.

“What happened is unprecedented,” he said. “Bolivia told the world that we want to live in a free nation.”

The results delivered a stunning blow to Bolivia’s hegemonic Movement Toward Socialism, or MAS,



Presidential candidate Rodrigo Paz, (center), waves to supporters after early results showed him leading in the presidential election in La Paz, Bolivia on Aug 17. (AP)

party, which has governed Bolivia almost uninterrupted since its founder, charismatic ex-President Evo Morales, rose to power as part of the “pink tide” of leftist leaders that swept into office across Latin America during the commodities boom of the early 2000s.

The official MAS candidate, Eduardo del Castillo, finished sixth with just 3.2% of the vote. A leftist candidate considered to be the party’s best hope, 36-year-old Senate president Andronico Rodriguez, captured 8% of the vote.

During his almost 14 years in power, Morales expanded the rights of the country’s Indigenous majority, defended coca growers against US-backed eradication programs and poured natural gas profits into social programs.

But the maverick leader’s increasingly high-handed attempts to prolong

his presidency - along with allegations of sexual relations with underage girls - soured public opinion against him.

Simmering discontent turned into a tidal wave of outrage as Bolivia’s once-stable economy imploded under Morales’ protégé-turned-rival, President Luis Arce.

Annual inflation rate has soared from 2% less than two years ago to 25% as of last month. A scarcity of fuel has paralyzed the country. A desperate shortage of US dollars needed to pay for essential imports like wheat has crippled the economy.

As the crisis accelerated, MAS leaders traded blame. A power struggle between Morales and Arce fractured the bloc and handed the opposition its first real shot at victory in decades even as its uncharismatic candidates failed to unite.

Pakistani university lecturer arrested for planning foiled Balochistan attack: officials

QUETTA, Pakistan, Aug 18, (AP): Security forces in southwestern Pakistan arrested a university lecturer accused of planning a foiled suicide attack that would have targeted last week’s Independence Day celebrations in insurgency-hit Balochistan province, officials said Monday.

The suspect, Usman Qazi is claimed to have links with the outlawed Majeed Brigade, the suicide squad of the Balochistan Liberation Army, according to the province’s Chief Minister, Sarfraz Bugti.

During a press conference in the city of Quetta, Bugti showed video footage with Qazi admitting to planning the thwarted attack as well as aiding militants in recent years. It was unclear whether Qazi made those remarks under duress.

Bugti did not clarify when the arrest was made, and only said the man was still being questioned.

Also:

PESHAWAR, Pakistan: Rescuers are looking for more than 150 people who were still missing on Monday in northwestern Pakistan, where scores died after the area was struck by a cloudburst. A senior politician blamed



Villager Mateen Khan, (second left), and his family members sit over the rubble of their damaged home following Friday’s flash flooding at a neighbourhood of Pir Baba, an area of Buner district, in Pakistan’s northwest on Aug 17. (AP)

locals for the high death toll, saying people should have built their homes elsewhere.

Search operations have been extended to remote areas to find residents swept away by floods that hit the

mountainous district of Buner in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Friday, said emergency services spokesman Mohammad Suhail. The army has deployed engineers and heavy machinery to clear the rubble.

Africa

40 missing after boat capsizes in Nigeria: At least 40 people are missing after a boat capsized Sunday on a river in northwestern Nigeria, authorities said.

The accident happened around the Goronyo area in Sokoto state while the boat was transporting passengers to a market, Nigeria’s National Emergency Management Agency said in a statement late Sunday.

The emergency agency said only 10 people have been rescued as teams continue search and rescue efforts in the area. The accident is the latest in a series of deadly boat mishaps on Nigerian waterways. Such accidents are common in remote communities during the rainy season, often caused by overloaded and poorly maintained vessels. (AP)

□ □ □

US dollar steady at KD 0.305

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18, (KUNA): The US dollar exchange rate remained steady against the Kuwaiti dinar at KD 0.305 on Monday, according to the Central Bank

of Kuwait (CBK). In its daily update published on the CBK website, the euro was recorded at KD 0.357, unchanged from the previous day.

Business

Setting benchmark in diversity and inclusion

Boursa Kuwait continues to earn recognition for leadership in governance, sustainability and women’s empowerment

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: Highlighting the company’s dedication to sustainability, diversity and inclusion in the capital markets sector, Boursa Kuwait was recognized with two prestigious awards from The European magazine, receiving the titles of ‘Best Sustainable Corporate Governance’ and ‘Women’s Empowerment Champions’.

The awards also underscore Boursa Kuwait’s steadfast dedication to maintaining a robust governance framework that fosters transparency, accountability and long-term value creation, as well as its proactive approach to promoting gender diversity and empowering women within the organization and across the capital market apparatus.

Commenting on the recognition, Boursa Kuwait’s Senior Director of Marketing and Corporate Communication Mr. Naser Meshari Al-Sanousi said, “These accolades are a testament to the tireless efforts and unwavering commitment Boursa Kuwait, reflecting our determination to lead by example in implementing sound governance practices, championing diversity and inclusion, and driving the sustainable growth of the Kuwaiti capital market.”

Best Sustainable Corporate Governance

Boursa Kuwait was awarded the Sustainable Corporate Governance Award in 2025 for its commitment to embedding environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles into its operations and corporate culture, ensuring that decision-making processes balance profitability with environmental and social impact. This commitment strengthened the company’s reputation as a responsible stock exchange and positioned it as a role model for listed companies to follow.

The company’s track record in community sustainability leadership speaks for itself, as its organization and sponsorship of over 35 social, empower-



Naser Al-Sanousi



Boursa Kuwait wins two European Awards for ESG & Women Empowerment.

ment, educational, and environmental initiatives in 2024 demonstrate that Boursa Kuwait’s approach goes beyond compliance and is focused on creating lasting, positive change.

In addition, the exchange has established a comprehensive governance framework that aligns with international standards, enhancing transparency, fostering investor confidence, and promoting long-term market stability.

This marks the third consecutive year that Boursa Kuwait has been recognized by The European magazine for its achievements in corporate governance, reinforcing the company’s position as a benchmark for governance excellence within the Kuwaiti capital market and the broader Middle East region.

Boursa Kuwait actively engages with its various stakeholders to ensure that governance practices

are consistently refined and responsive to evolving global trends. These efforts contribute to the development of a transparent, resilient, and trustworthy capital market that supports the sustainable economic growth of the State of Kuwait.

Women’s Empowerment Champions

The Women’s Empowerment Champions award honors Boursa Kuwait’s leadership in promoting gender diversity and inclusion, as well as supporting the integration of women within the capital market apparatus and the financial sector.

Demonstrating a consistent commitment to gender equality and embedding principles into its broader Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) framework, the company’s efforts have contributed to creating a platform for real change, in alignment with Kuwait’s development goals and

international diversity benchmarks.

Boursa Kuwait’s leadership also sets a benchmark for other exchanges in the region, organizing high-profile events featuring female leaders from Kuwait’s finance and business sectors and setting a course to empower women in finance as well as inspire, shape and educate future generations.

By fostering an environment where women can thrive, Boursa Kuwait enriches its own talent pool and contributes to the broader economic empowerment of women in Kuwait.

Boursa Kuwait’s Corporate Sustainability strategy stipulates ensuring initiatives apply and fall in line with the company’s corporate social responsibility (CSR), industry best practice standards and investor expectations, creating strong and sustainable partnerships that ultimately achieve success and allow Boursa Kuwait to leverage the capabilities and strengths of other companies or organizations that have experience in different fields, and integrating sustainability efforts with the company culture, in order to achieve longevity and an ongoing impact that is carried on and instilled in the day-to-day operations of the stock exchange.

As part of the strategy, Boursa Kuwait has launched many initiatives in partnership with local and international organizations, focusing on support for nongovernmental organizations and charity programs, financial literacy and capital market awareness, the empowerment of women, as well as environmental protection.

As a trusted and respected entity within the global financial community, Boursa Kuwait continues to pave the way for sustainable growth and exemplify the power of responsible business practices. Through its unwavering dedication, Boursa Kuwait plays a crucial role in shaping a brighter and more sustainable future for Kuwait and beyond.

OPEC+ cuts cost Kuwait 398k bpd

Kuwait to regain part of lost OPEC+ quota

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: The weekly report from Al-Shall Economic Consultancy highlighted that the OPEC+ alliance initially implemented voluntary production cuts of approximately 1.5 million barrels per day in November 2022. This was followed by a reduction of around 1.3 million barrels per day in May 2023, and a further cut of about 2.4 million barrels per day in early January 2024. OPEC+ now plans to restore 2.2 million barrels per day starting from May through September, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Shall’s analysis of the global economic and oil market conditions throughout these phases suggests that there was no fundamental shift justifying both the production cuts and subsequent increases. This indicates that political considerations, either global or internal to OPEC+, likely played a dominant role in the decision to raise production. Kuwait remains the most oil-dependent country and is therefore disproportionately affected by these fluctuations.

Since the initial cut in November 2022, Kuwait has lost 135,000 barrels per day of its production

quota, then 128,000 barrels per day after the second cut, and another 135,000 barrels per day following the third cut. This totals a production quota loss of approximately 398,000 barrels per day, or about 14.2%. According to the current OPEC+ decision, Kuwait is expected to regain 135,000 barrels per day—roughly 33.9% of its lost share.

During this period, the average price of Kuwaiti oil declined from about \$101.2 per barrel in 2022 to \$84.4 in 2023, and further to \$80.7 in 2024, reaching around \$72.6 in the first seven months of the current year.

In summary, Kuwait’s general administration has limited influence over oil production or pricing decisions. Even OPEC+ decisions are driven more by political factors than economic logic. While many OPEC+ members experience limited damage, given their lower dependency on oil revenues, Kuwait remains highly vulnerable due to its heavy reliance on oil. The country has yet to make significant strides toward diversifying its income sources away from oil, despite gradual efforts.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: As part of its ongoing commitment to social responsibility and its dedication to supporting those who safeguard the country’s security and protect its people, Warba Bank has launched a new community initiative in support of the General Directorate of the Coast Guard. Through this initiative, the Bank provided a range of essential maritime supplies to security personnel tasked with protecting Kuwait’s shores, specifically in the Southern and Central Sectors, over the course of two days.

This initiative comes in recognition of the exceptional efforts of the Coast Guard officers in ensuring Kuwait’s maritime security and safeguarding sea-goers around the clock. It also reflects the Bank’s commitment to strengthening the complementary relationship between Warba and the government sector. The focus was particularly placed on Coast Guard officers, security personnel stationed at fixed points, as well as sea-goers who also received part of the distributed gifts, in coordination with the Ministry of

Eco-friendly bottles distributed to officers and sea-goers

Warba Bank launches new community initiative with the General Administration of Coast Guard



Mohammad Barakat, Chief Marketing & Corporate Communication Officer at Warba Bank.

Interior and the General Directorate of the Coast Guard.

Commenting on the initiative, Dr. Mohammad Barakat, Chief Marketing & Corporate Communication Officer at Warba Bank, said: “It is an honor for us to contribute in every way we can to support the men who dedicate themselves day and night to ensuring the safety of sea-goers. We deeply value the vital role they play in protecting us and securing our waters. This initiative reflects

our unwavering commitment as a Kuwaiti bank to serving our community and our nation and it is part of our comprehensive social responsibility strategy, which focuses on supporting the state’s vital sectors. It also demonstrates our continuous dedication to cooperating with state institutions and supporting those who safeguard the nation’s security and society’s wellbeing, embodying our human values and our role as a socially responsible financial institution.”

He added: “This initiative was carried out in cooperation with the General Administration of Coast Guard, represented by Colonel (Navy) Yasser Haidar Asad, Assistant Director of Operations, given that Coast Guard personnel undertake demanding missions in maritime conditions that require special equipment. We are pleased to contribute to meeting some of these needs. The coordination with the Ministry of Interior and the General Administration of Coast Guard was excellent, reflecting the spirit of cooperation between the public and

private sectors. We are committed to continuing this collaboration in service of the Kuwaiti community.”

The initiative included providing essential supplies for the Coast Guard’s daily operations, such as marine flashlights, portable chargers and first aid kits. In addition, eco-friendly thermal bottles, offered from Puff, were distributed free of charge to both security personnel and sea-goers as part of the Bank’s commitment to reducing plastic use, promoting sustainable practices and protecting the environment.

Warba Bank has achieved remarkable success in a short period of time, securing a leading position in Islamic digital banking. With one of the largest shareholder bases among local banks, Warba continues to remain close to all segments of society. This initiative reaffirms the Bank’s position as a trusted financial partner that combines innovation with social responsibility in delivering best-in-class Sharia-compliant financial products and services.

41% start early or finish late amid cost pressures

Middle East professionals working longer hours to keep up

DUBAI, Aug 18: With cost-saving still top of the agenda, and hiring plans remaining curtailed, new Robert Walters’ data reveals how professionals are working extra hours just to keep up.

The research found that only 13% of professionals now say they adhere to the core hours at work, instead over a third (41%) are starting early or finishing late every day, while 45% report their hours being workload dependent.

The main reasons professionals cited for working beyond their usual office hours were catching up on work or meeting deadlines (62%). Just under a further quarter of them reported working late to communicate with teams in different time zones.

As a general standard, many Middle East offices operate within the 8:00 am to 6:00 pm window. With a one-hour break for lunch, the average workweek sits at 37.5 hours.

Yet recent research from Perspect us found that UAE professionals work an average of seven extra hours per week, the equivalent of 3.5 days of unpaid overtime per month.

Jason Grundy, Managing Director of Robert Walters Middle East, comments: “Despite rising costs affecting hiring plans, many employers still expect the same productivity and output, putting pressure on existing staff. Our research indicates that many Middle East workers are working longer hours to meet demands or connect with colleagues in different time zones.”

Pressure to be Always-On

Professionals are even continuing to connect with work on holiday. Further Robert Walters’ research found that 62% of UK professionals admit to checking emails whilst on annual leave as a way of reducing the backlog they’ll return to.

Microsoft’s Work Trend Index recently highlighted the evolving trend of the “infinite workday”. The research showed that 40% of professionals worldwide start checking their emails from 6 a.m to manage busy inboxes. While 29% of professionals log back into their work

- Under 15% of Middle East professionals stick to their ‘core’ office hours
- 41% report either starting earlier or finishing later, 45% state it depends on workload
- 59% describe their current workload as demanding
- Catching up on work or making deadlines (62%) main reason cited for working beyond usual hours
- 44% of Middle East employers admit to redistributing work amongst staff due to skills shortage

emails by 10 p.m., and 20% do so on weekends as well. The study also found that the number of meetings held after 8 p.m. has increased by 16% year-on-year.

Jason advises: “To avoid professionals feeling pressured to clock-in at all hours, response times must be clarified through things like time-zone tagging in correspondence, implementing delayed sends and allocating specific, pre-agreed time slots for international calls.”

Employers doing ‘More with Less’

Many Middle East employers’ frugal approaches to headcounts are causing the issue to snowball. When Robert Walters asked employers how they were approaching skilled talent shortages, 27% replied with redistributing the work among staff, while 32% stated they were hiring less skilled professionals to help fill the gaps.

Indeed, these shortcuts are clearly being felt by existing staff, with 59% now describing their workload as ‘heavy’ and ‘demanding’.

Jason reflects: “As AI tools streamline certain job roles, higher costs create less disposable income to increase salaries and sustained global volatility leaves them cautious to compete for and commit to top tal-

ent.”

Additionally, Middle East employers are seeking low-cost alternatives such as offshoring certain roles or responsibilities. Earlier this year, Robert Walters Africa surveyed 500 global business leaders on the topic and found that access to skilled talent (41%) and retained earnings (39%) were some of the top reasons for doing so.

Jason explains: “This increased pressure around cost has seen many Middle leaders to scope out overseas talent based in areas like Eastern Europe and South Africa. While resulting in important cost and productivity savings this can disrupt domestic offices, as coordinating communications for teams spread out across different time zones becomes difficult.”

Reclaiming the Working Day

When asked about different strategies employers could implement to help staff avoid overworking, 48% of UK workers agreed that they’d like their workplace to trial ‘power hours’ – allocating specific blocks of time for quiet, interruption-free working to promote concentration and help boost productivity in the office.

Jason concludes: “Implementing ‘power hours’ may not fit every workplace, but it does underscore the importance of optimising the working day. If employers continue to tolerate a culture of silent overwork within their organisations – especially in the wake of hiring freezes – they risk not only burnout and attrition but also a collapse in morale and productivity.

“Addressing this means resetting expectations on working hours from the top. Not only should leaders openly acknowledge when responsibilities and remits are increased; clear protocols and expectations should be put in place to ensure staff are supported in prioritising tasks, setting expectations for deadlines and being transparent on their capacity.”

As part of supporting all segments of society

KFH dedicates branches to serve customers with special needs

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: As part of its commitment to serving all segments of society, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has allocated branches equipped with an array of features and services that cater to customers with special needs. These branches offer high-quality and seamless banking experience, underscoring KFH's leadership in social responsibility.

These designated branches are located across Kuwait governorates in areas including Rawda, Al-Rehab, Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Zahra, Dahar and Saad Al-Abdullah.

KFH is keen on enabling all its customers with special needs to benefit from its banking services. Therefore, KFH has dedicated branches equipped with a thorough set of features and services that support its main objectives. These include designated parking for individuals with special needs and wheelchair accessible entrances, access to ATMs with head-phone features, safety deposit boxes, in addition to staff trained in sign

language.

Additionally, account opening forms, contracts, and transaction documents are printed in Braille. Voice service is also available on the website, facilitating online banking transactions.

These facilities include providing trained staff to serve this customer, offering the necessary support to complete banking transactions, and ensuring alternative communication channels to address their specific requirements. In addition, the doors are equipped with sensors to facilitate smooth transitions between customers, automatically closing until the transaction is completed.

In partnership with the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA), KFH is the first bank in Kuwait to launch a comprehensive program for integrating individuals with special needs by offering practical training programs and full-time employment opportunities.



A KFH branch.

Jazeera Airways launches ‘Buy 1 Get 1 Free’ flight promotion from Aug 18–24

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: Jazeera Airways has announced an exclusive “Buy 1 Get 1 Free” promotion. This new offer makes it more affordable than ever to turn that long-awaited trip into a reality, whether you’re dreaming of an adventure for two, a bustling city break, or a tranquil escape.

From 18th– 24th August, travelers can book any one-way or round-trip flight on the entire Jazeera Airways network and receive a second ticket completely free. You can travel anytime between 1st September - 15th December 2025 and there is no limit to the number of tickets you can book.

Imagine exploring the beautiful streets of Budapest and Prague, the vibrant souks of Istanbul, or the historic significance of Tashkent. Picture yourself on the shimmering beaches in Sharm El Sheikh or Colombo, wonderful waterfalls in Salalahor the majestic mountains in Abha or —all with your favorite person by your side, for the price of one.

Paul Carroll, Chief Commercial Officer, Jazeera Airways said: “At Jazeera Airways, we believe that incredible travel experiences should



A Jazeera Airways plane.

be accessible to everyone. Our Buy 1 Get 1 Free offer isn’t just a deal—it’s a way to unlock new destinations and make travel more affordable. Now, you can explore a new city or revisit a favorite place with a friend or family member, all while getting double the value for your money. We’re excited to help our customers share more adventures and explore more of the world for less.”

This limited-time offer applies

to our popular Light fare, providing unbeatable value for money. It’s the perfect option for those traveling light, with the flexibility to add extras like checked baggage, preferred seating, in-flight meals or packages at a special 60% off to suit their needs.

To get this fantastic deal, simply use the promo code J9B1G1 at checkout on the Jazeera Airways website or mobile app.

Jeel account holders get up to 70% off

Weyay Bank, Mogahwi offer Back-to-School boxes for Jeel customers

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: Weyay Bank is teaming up with Mogahwi to make school preparations a stress-free experience.

A special offer for “Jeel” account customers in collaboration with Mogahwi for school supply boxes designated for different schools and educational stages from grade three to nine, during the month of August.

The offer features customized boxes prepared according to the requirements sent directly by the schools to Mogahwi, ensuring that all students’ academic needs are met.

Customers of the “Jeel” account will receive an exclusive offer of up to 70% off on every school box ranging from KD 21 to KD 70 in original price.

This collaboration aims to support parents and facilitate preparations for the new academic year, as well as enhance awareness of the “Jeel” account and its benefits for Weyay customers.

Weyay Bank places significant importance on equipping future generations with essential digital financial skills. For this reason, the Eidiya service is also available to “Jeel” cardholders, catering to children aged 8 to 14 years old.

This step aims to foster digital financial literacy from a young age, enabling them to confidently interact with digital payment tools. This contributes to building a financially savvy generation for the future.



Weyay Bank, Mogahwi offering Back-to-School boxes.

Google fined \$36 mln for anti-competitive deals in Australia

MELBOURNE, Aug 18, (AP): Google has agreed to pay a 55 million Australian dollar (\$36 million) fine for signing anticompetitive deals with Australia’s two largest telcos that banned the installation of competing search engines on some smartphones, the U.S. tech giant and Australia’s competition watchdog said.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission said in a statement it had commenced proceedings in the Australian Federal Court on Monday against the Singapore-based Google Asia Pacific division. The court will decide whether the AU\$50 million (\$36 million) penalty is appropriate.

Under the anticompetitive agreements, which were in place for 15 months until March 2021, Telstra and Optus only pre-installed Google Search on Android phones sold to customers. Other search engines were excluded. In return, the telcos received a share of the advertisement revenue Google generated from those customers.

Google accepted that the agreements were likely to have the effect of “substantially lessening competition,” the commission said.

Google has also signed a court-enforceable undertaking that commits the company to removing



A woman walks by a giant screen with a logo at an event at the Paris Google Lab on the sidelines of the AI Action Summit in Paris, on Feb. 9, 2025. (AP)

certain pre-installation and default search engine restrictions from its contracts with Android phone manufacturers and telcos, the commission said.

The tech company said in a statement: “We’re pleased to resolve the ACCC’s concerns, which involved provisions that haven’t been in our commercial agreements for some time.”

Commissioner chair Gina-Cass Gottlieb said: “Conduct that restricts competition is illegal in Australia because it usually means

less choice, higher costs or worse service for consumers.”

“Importantly, these changes come at a time when AI search tools are revolutionising how we search for information, creating new competition,” Cass-Gottlieb added.

Last year, Telstra, Optus and their smaller rival TPG agreed to court-enforceable undertakings with the commission that they would not renew or make similar deals with Google to limit search options.

Tariffs won’t significantly cut US debt, analysts say

‘Too small to cut \$37 tln debt’

NEW YORK, Aug 18, (Xinhua): U.S. economists deem that hiking tariffs may slow the growth of U.S. debts but not achieve any significant reduction, said a report released by the Fortune magazine on its website on Sunday.

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly claimed that revenues from raised tariffs could both reduce America’s national debt of 37 trillion U.S. dollars and fund a public “dividend.”

His primary purpose is “to pay down debt, which will happen in very large quantity,” while there is also a possibility that “we’re taking in so much money that we may very well make a dividend to the people of America,” Trump said earlier this month.

The Fortune’s report, citing some U.S. economists, expressed skepticism over the president’s claim.

Joao Gomes, a professor of finance and economics at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, told Fortune that the tariff income may offset some costs of the “One Big, Beautiful Bill Act,” projected by the Congressional Budget Office to add 3 trillion to the debt by 2030, but is unlikely to make a meaningful dent in overall debt.

Desmond Lachman, a senior fellow with the American Enterprise Institute, said Trump’s claim of raising



President Donald Trump during his speech at an event to announce new tariffs in the Rose Garden at the White House on April 2, 2025, in Washington. (AP)

300 billion dollars is just “a drop in the ocean” compared with the country’s growing debt. “The country is on a really dangerous debt trajectory,” he said.

Lachman also warned that while Trump frames tariffs as a tool for job creation or debt reduction to bolster political support, investors are unlikely to be convinced. “Markets aren’t dumb. They can do the arithmetic and figure out that this is nonsense,” he added.

The report also noted that current revenues from the tariffs do not even cover the interest on the U.S. debt, let alone reduce its total. Citing U.S. Treasury data, it pointed out that national debt interest expenses totaled 60.95 billion dollars in July, while tariff revenues amounted to only 29.6 billion dollars.

Strike by 10,000 Air Canada flight attendants declared illegal

TORONTO, Aug 18, (AP): The Canada Industrial Relations Board declared a strike by 10,000 Air Canada flight attendants illegal Monday and ordered them back on the job after they ignored an earlier order to return to work and submit to arbitration.

The strike at Canada’s largest airline entered its third day on Monday and is affecting about 130,000 travelers per day during the peak summer travel season. The two sides remain far apart on pay and other issues. Air Canada suspended plans to restart operations Sunday after the union defied a return-to-work order and said workers would not go back to work.

“The members of the union’s bargaining unit are directed to resume the performance of their duties immediately and to refrain from engaging in unlawful strike activities,” the Canada Industrial Relations Board board, or CIRB, said in a written decision.

The board, an independent administrative tribunal that interprets and applies Canada’s labor laws, said the union needs to provide written notice to all of its members by noon Monday that they must resume their duties.

It was not immediately clear what recourse the board or the government has if the union continues to refuse.

The panel previously ordered airline staff back to work by 2 p.m. Sunday after the government intervened and Air Canada said it planned to resume flights Sunday evening. But when the workers refused, the airline said it would resume flights Monday evening instead.

Air Canada said in a statement that the union “illegally directed its flight attendant members to defy a direction from the Canadian Industrial Relations Board.”

Canadian Union of Public Employees national President Mark Hancock on Sunday had ripped up a copy of the initial back-to-work order outside Toronto’s Pearson International Airport, and said members wouldn’t go back to work this week.

“Our members are not going back to work,” Hancock



Pickers ride an escalator to march around the Vancouver International Airport in Richmond, British Columbia, Sunday, Aug. 17, 2025. (AP)

said. “We are saying no.”

Picketing flight attendants chanted “Don’t blame me, blame AC” outside Pearson.

Jennifer Kozelj, a spokeswoman for Federal Jobs Minister Patty Hajdu, said Sunday that the minister was closely monitoring the situation.

Hajdu had ordered the 10,000 flight attendants back to work, saying now is not the time to take risks with the economy and noting the unprecedented tariffs the U.S. has imposed on Canada. Hajdu referred the work stoppage to the Canada Industrial Relations Board.

The airline said the CIRB has extended the term of the existing collective agreement until a new one is determined by the arbitrator.

Air Canada operates around 700 flights per day. Flight attendants walked off the job around 1 a.m. EDT on Saturday. Around the same time, Air Canada said it would begin locking flight attendants out of airports.

The bitter contract fight escalated Friday as the union turned down Air Canada’s prior request to enter into government-directed arbitration, which allows a third-party mediator to decide the terms of a new contract.

Last year, the government forced the country’s two major railroads into arbitration with their labor union during a work stoppage. The union for the rail workers is suing, arguing the government is removing a union’s leverage in negotiations.

Passengers whose flights are impacted will be eligible to request a full refund on the airline’s website or mobile app, according to Air Canada.

Air Canada and CUPE have been in contract talks for about eight months, but they have yet to reach a tentative deal. Both sides have said they remain far apart on the issue of pay and the unpaid work flight attendants do when planes aren’t in the air.

The airline’s latest offer included a 38% increase in total compensation, including benefits and pensions, over four years, that it said “would have made our flight attendants the best compensated in Canada.”

But the union pushed back, saying the proposed 8% raise in the first year didn’t go far enough because of inflation.

Employers push longer hours amid weak job market

Overworking employees can make them less productive



An employee works on an assembly line at GE Appliances global headquarters, Wednesday, Aug 13, 2025, in Louisville, Ky. (AP)

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Burnout costs companies millions in lost productivity.

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By Louis Tay
Purdue University

Many employers are demanding more from workers these days, pushing them to log as many hours as possible.

Google, for example, told all its employees that they should expect to spend 60 or more hours in the office every week. Some tech companies are demanding 12-hour days, six days a week from their new hires.

More job applicants in health care, engineering and consulting have been told to expect long hours than previously demanded due to a weak job market.

On the other hand, companies such as Cisco, Booz Allen Hamilton and Intuit have earned a reputation of supporting a strong work-life balance, according to Glassdoor employee ratings.

To promote work-life balance, they offer flexible work options, give workers tips on setting boundaries and provide benefits to promote mental and physical well-being, including

mindfulness and meditation training and personal coaching outside of work.

As a psychologist who studies workplace performance and well-being, I've seen abundant evidence that overworking employees can actually make them less productive. Instead, research shows that when employees have the time and space to lead a fulfilling life outside work, such as being free to spend time with their families or pursue creative hobbies, it improves their performance on the job.

For example, a team of researchers reviewed 70 studies looking at how managers support workers' family lives. They found that when supervisors show consideration for workers' personal roles as a family member, including providing help to workers and modeling work-family balance, those employees are more loyal and helpful on the job and are also less likely to think about quitting.

Another study found that workers who could take on creative projects outside of work became more creative at work, regardless of their own personalities. This was true even for workers who didn't consider themselves to be very creative to start with, which suggests it was the workplace culture that really made a difference.

When employers become obsessed

with their workers' productivity, they can get hung up on tracking immediate goals such as the number of emails sent or sales calls made. But they tend to neglect other vital aspects of employees' lives that, perhaps somewhat ironically, sustain long-term productivity.

Daniel Kahneman, the late psychologist whose research team won a Nobel Prize in economics, called this common misconception the "focusing illusion."

In this case, many employers underestimate the hidden costs of making people work more hours than they can muster while maintaining some semblance of work-life balance.

Among them are mental health problems, burnout and high turnover rates. In other words, overly demanding policies can ultimately hinder the performance employers want to see.

Many top performers recognize the value of work while also valuing the time spent away from it.

"At the end of the day we're human too," said Simone Biles, who is widely considered the best gymnast on record. "We have to protect our mind and body, rather than just go out there and do what the world wants us to do."

Elite athletes like Biles require time

away from the spotlight to recuperate and hone their skills.

Others who are at the top of their professions turn to hobbies to recharge their batteries. Albert Einstein's passion for playing the violin and piano was not merely a diversion from physics - it was instrumental to the famous and widely beloved scientist's groundbreaking scientific insights.

Einstein's second wife, Elsa Einstein, observed that he took short breaks to play music when he was thinking about his scientific theories.

I've reviewed hundreds of studies that show leisure time isn't a luxury - it fulfills key psychological needs.

Taking longer and more frequent breaks from your job than your workaholic boss might like can help you get more rest, recover from work-related stress and increase your sense of mastery and autonomy.

That's because when employees find fulfillment outside of work they tend to become better at their jobs, making their employers more likely to thrive.

That's what a team of researchers found when they studied the workforce at a large city hospital in the U.S. Employees who thought their bosses supported their family life were happier with their jobs, more

loyal and less likely to quit.

Unsurprisingly, the happier, more supported workers also gave their supervisors higher ratings.

Researchers who studied the daily leisure activities of 100 Dutch teachers found that when the educators could take some of their time off to relax and engage in hobbies outside work, they felt better and had an easier time coping with the demands of their job the next day.

Another study of German emergency service workers found that not having enough fun over the weekend, such as socializing with friends and relatives, can undermine job performance the following week.

The mental health consequences of overwork, spending too many hours on the job or getting mentally or physically exhausted by your work are significant and measurable.

According to the World Health Organization, working more than 55 hours per week is associated with a 35% higher risk of having a stroke and a 17% higher risk of developing heart disease.

Working too many hours can also contribute to burnout, a state of physical, emotional and mental exhaustion caused by long-term work stress. The World Health Organization officially recognizes burnout as a work-related health hazard.

A Gallup analysis conducted in March 2025 found that even employees who are engaged at work, meaning that they are highly committed, connected and enthusiastic about what they do for a living, are twice as likely to burn out if they log more than 45 hours a week on the job.

Burnout can be very costly for employers, ranging anywhere from US\$4,000 to \$20,000 per employee each year. These numbers are calculated from the average hourly salaries of employees and based on the impact of burnout on aspects such as missed workdays and reduced productivity at work. That means a company with 1,000 workers could lose around \$4 million every year due to burnout.

Ultimately, employers that overwork their workers have high turnover rates.

One study found that the onset of mandatory overtime for South Korean nurses made more of them decide to quit their jobs.

Similarly, a national study of over 17,000 U.S.-based nurses found that when they worked longer hours, turnover increased. This pattern is evident in many other professions besides health care, such as finance and transportation.

Conservative estimates of the cost of turnover for employers ranges from 1.5 to two times an employee's annual salary. This includes the costs of hiring, onboarding and training new employees. Critically, there are also hidden costs that are harder to estimate, such as losing the departed employee's institutional knowledge and unique connections.

Over time, making workers work extra hours can undercut an employer's performance and threaten its viability.

Abundant evidence indicates that supporting employees' aspirations for happier and more meaningful lives within the workplace and beyond leaves workers and their employers alike better off. (AP)

Experts propose escrow fix to enforce accountability

Startups ghost crowdfunding investors, leaving them in the dark

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In crowdfunding, going silent is all too easy.

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

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By Andrew A. Schwartz
University of Colorado Boulder

Imagine you invest US\$500 to help a startup get off the ground through investment crowdfunding. The pitch is slick, the platform feels trustworthy and the company quickly raises its target amount from hundreds of people just like you. Then - silence. No updates, no financials, not even a thank-you.

You've been ghosted - not by a friend, but by a company you helped fund.

This isn't just an unlucky anecdote. It's happening across the United States. And while it may violate federal law, there's little enforcement - and virtually no consequences.

Thanks to a 2012 law, startups can raise up to US\$5 million per year from the general public through on-

line platforms such as Wefunder or StartEngine. The law was intended to "democratize" investing and give regular people, not just the wealthy, a chance to back promising young companies.

But there's a catch: Companies that raise money this way are required to file an annual report with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and post it publicly. This report, intended to show whether the business is making progress and how it is using investor funds, is a cornerstone of accountability in the system.

As a professor of business law, I wrote the book on investment crowdfunding. And in my recent research, I found that a majority of crowdfunded companies simply ignore this rule. They raise the money and go silent, leaving investors in the dark.

In most cases, I suspect their silence isn't part of an elaborate con. More likely, the founders never realized they had to file, forgot about the requirement amid the chaos of running a young business, or shut down

entirely. But whether it's innocent oversight or deliberate avoidance, the effect on investors is the same: no information, no accountability.

This kind of vanishing act would be unthinkable for public companies listed on the stock market. But in the world of investment crowdfunding, limited oversight means that going silent, whatever the reason, is all too easy.

When startups go dark, they don't just leave their investors behind - they undermine the entire crowdfunding model.

Investment crowdfunding was meant to be an accessible, transparent way to support innovation. But when companies ghost their backers, the relationship starts to look less like an investment and more like a donation.

It's not just unethical - it's illegal. Federal law requires at least one annual update. But so far, enforcement has been almost nonexistent.

Concerned state attorneys general have encouraged the SEC to ramp up enforcement actions. This could

work in theory, but it's unrealistic in practice, given the SEC's limited resources and broad mission.

If nothing changes, the crowdfunding experiment could collapse under the weight of mistrust.

Fortunately, there's a low-cost solution.

I propose that crowdfunding platforms hold back 1% of the capital raised until the company files its first required report. If it complies, it gets the funds. If not, it doesn't.

It's a small but powerful incentive that could nudge companies into doing the right thing, without adding bureaucratic complexity.

It's the same principle used in escrow arrangements, which are common in finance. In a home sale, for example, part of the money goes into a neutral holding account - escrow - until the seller meets certain agreed conditions. Only then is it released. Applying that approach here, a small slice of crowdfunding proceeds would stay in escrow until the company files its first annual report. No report, no release.

Unfortunately, crowdfunding platforms are unlikely to adopt this voluntarily. They compete with one another for deal flow, and any rule that makes fundraising slightly harder at one platform could send startups to a rival site.

However, the SEC has the legal authority to update its rules, and this change would be easy to implement - no new laws, no congressional fights, just a bit of regulatory will. I've even drafted a proposed rule, ready-made for the SEC to adopt, and published it in my recent article, Ghosting the Crowd.

The idea behind investment crowdfunding remains powerful: Open the door to entrepreneurship and investment for everyone. But if that door leads to silence and broken promises, trust will disappear - and with it, a promising financial innovation.

A tiny tweak to the rules could restore that trust. Without it, investors will keep getting ghosted. And the market might ghost them right back. (AP)

editor's choice



British star redefined superhero villains

Terence Stamp, known for General Zod in ‘Superman,’ dies at 87

LONDON, Aug 18, (AP): Terence Stamp, the British actor who often played the role of a complex villain, including that of General Zod in the early Superman films, has died. He was 87.

His death on Sunday was disclosed in a death notice published online, prompting a wave of tributes from an array of fans and those close to him within the industry, including the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, or BAFTA.

The London-born Stamp started his film career with 1962’s seafaring “Billy Budd,” for which he earned Oscar and BAFTA award nominations.

His six decades in the business were peppered with highlights, including his touching portrayal of the transsexual Bernadette in 1994’s “The Adventure of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert,” the second of his two BAFTA nominations.

But it will be his portrayal of the bearded Zod in 1978’s “Superman” and its sequel “Superman II” two years later that most people associate with Stamp. As the Kryptonian arch enemy to Christopher Reeve’s Man of Steel, Stamp introduced a darker, charming and vulnerable - more human - element to the franchise, one that’s been replicated in countless superhero movies ever since.

Edgar Wright, who directed Stamp in his final feature film, 2021’s “Last Night in Soho,” remembered the actor in an Instagram post as “kind, funny, and endlessly fascinating.”



British actor Terence Stamp arrives at the Marrakech International Film Festival in Marrakech, Nov. 30, 2012 at the Marrakech Congress Palace. (AP)

“The closer the camera moved, the more hypnotic his presence became. In close-up, his unblinking gaze locked in so powerfully that the effect was extraordinary. Terence was a true movie star: the camera loved him, and he loved it right back,” Wright said.

Bill Duke, who starred with Stamp in director Steven Soderbergh’s 1999 crime drama “The Limey,” said he was “deeply saddened” to hear of his death.

“He brought a rare intensity to the screen, but off-

screen he carried himself with warmth, grace, and generosity,” he said on Facebook.

Stamp started his acting career on stage in the late 1950s, where he acted in repertory theatre and met Michael Caine, who was five years older than himself. The pair lived together in a flat in central London while looking for their big break.

He got his break with “Billy Budd” and Stamp embarked on a career that would see him in the early 1960s be part of the “angry young men” movement that was introducing an element of social realism into British moviemaking.

That was perhaps most notable in the 1965 adaptation of John Fowles’ creepy debut novel “The Collector,” where he played the awkward and lonely Freddie Clegg, who kidnapped Samantha Eggar’s Miranda Grey in a warped attempt to win her love. It was a performance that would earn the young Stamp, fresh off his Oscar nomination, the best actor award at that year’s Cannes Film Festival.

While part of that 1960s British movement, Stamp learned from some of the most seasoned actors from the classical era, including Laurence Olivier.

“I worked with Olivier briefly on my second movie (1962’s “Term of Trial”),” Stamp recalled in an interview with the AP in 2013. “And he said to me, ‘You should always study your voice.’” Stamp then segued into a spot-on Olivier impersonation, continuing, “‘Because, as you get older, your looks go, but your voice

will become empowered.’”

His career took a bit of a hiatus from the late 1960s after he missed out on the role of James Bond to replace Sean Connery, that included a years-long stint in India and which saw him embrace a more holistic approach to his self.

It was the unexpected role of General Zod that brought him back to the limelight. He played John Tunstall in 1988’s “Young Guns,” the Galactic Republic leader in 1999’s “Star Wars” prequel “The Phantom Menace,” appeared in the comedies “Yes Man” and “Get Smart” in 2008 and delivered voice performances in the video games “Halo 3” and “The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion.”

Born in London’s East End on July 22, 1938, Stamp lived a colorful life, particularly during the 1960s when he had a string of romances, including with actress Julie Christie and model Jean Shrimpton. He married 29-year-old Elizabeth O’Rourke in 2002 at the age of 64 but the couple divorced six years later. Stamp did not have any children.

Stamp retained his looks as the years ticked by, his natural handsomeness hardened by a more grizzled look.

He generally sought to keep his standards high - to a point.

“I don’t do crappy movies, unless I haven’t got the rent,” he said.

Variety

BEIJING: China’s 2025 summer box office revenue has exceeded 10 billion yuan (about 1.4 billion US dollars) as of Monday, with local productions dominating the top three spots, according to ticketing platforms Maoyan and Beacon.

“Dead To Rights,” a film about the Nanjing Massacre during World War II, leads with 2.6 billion yuan in ticket sales since its July 25 release.

In second place is “Nobody,” a spinoff from the acclaimed “Yao-Chinese Folktales” animation series. Since opening on Aug. 2, the film has earned more than 1 billion yuan, setting a record for the highest-grossing two-dimensional animated release in China.

“The Lychee Road,” a bittersweet period drama adapted from a bestselling novel set in the Tang Dynasty (618-907), holds third place, having grossed over 670 million yuan since its July 18 premiere.

China’s summer moviegoing season, running from June 1 through Aug. 31, is one of the country’s most lucrative box office periods. (Xinhua)

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CAPE TOWN: South African journalists and media workers led a march in Sea Point, Cape Town, on Sunday, calling for greater protection for Palestinian journalists in Gaza and expressing solidarity with their slain colleagues.

The demonstration, which organizers said drew more than 2,000 participants, followed an Aug. 10 airstrike on a tent outside Gaza City’s Al-Shifa Hospital that killed five Al Jazeera correspondents and a freelance journalist.

The march was organized by Journalists Against Apartheid (JAA) and the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, with support from groups including Mothers4Gaza, South African Jews for a Free Palestine, and Healthcare Workers 4 Palestine.

South African journalists condemned what they described as Israel’s systematic targeting of Palestinian journalists for exposing war crimes and acts of genocide. JAA denounced the “media massacre” in Gaza, accusing Western outlets of amplifying Israeli narratives while silencing Palestinian voices.

“We are enraged by Western media that have repeated Israeli lies without scrutiny while silencing Palestinian voices, permitting this genocide to continue,” said JAA member Deshnee Subramany, reading a statement from the organization. (Xinhua)

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ISTANBUL: A forest fire that erupted Saturday in Türkiye’s northwestern province of Canakkale is threatening the country’s Gallipoli Historic Site on Sunday, forcing a partial closure as strong winds continue to drive the flames.

The closure “in the northern section” affected many historically significant sites related to World War I, including the Sunken Ship, Mimosa Beach, Conk Hill, and the 57th Regiment Memorial, according to the Directorate of the Gallipoli Historic Site.

Ottoman forces defended the area during the war against allied troops from Britain, France, Australia, and New Zealand, and the site commemorates soldiers from all the countries involved.

Each year, memorial events draw thousands of visitors from various countries.

Nearby museums and cultural centers have also been temporarily closed as a precaution, the directorate said.

Canakkale Governor Omer Toraman noted that ground efforts continued throughout the night, and aerial firefighting operations resumed at daybreak as the strong winds continued to drive the flames. (Xinhua)

Film



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

Chinese film on Nanjing Massacre debuts in US

‘Weapons’ holds top spot in second weekend

LOS ANGELES, Aug 18, (Agencies): “Weapons” scared its way to the top of the box office in its debut and managed to stay there during its second weekend, beating out “Freakier Friday” and newcomer “Nobody 2.”

Zach Cregger’s horror film earned \$25 million in 3,450 North American theaters, a 43% drop from its first weekend. The highly anticipated film benefited from strong audience reviews and social media trends to attract large crowds.

“Freakier Friday,” which lost the battle for first place to “Weapons” during its double premiere, maintained its second spot, bringing in \$14.5 million domestically. The films’ staying power comes during a slower box office weekend, said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for the data firm Comscore.

Both films prevailed against “Nobody 2,” the R-rated action sequel. The Bob Odenkirk-led film earned \$9.25 million across 3,260 North American theaters in its debut weekend.

“August came on strong last year, so it makes comparisons tough,” Dergarabedian said, noting the box office success of movies like “Deadpool and Wolverine” and the horror sci-fi “Alien: Romulus” that premiered this time last year.

This summer is unlikely to hit the \$4 bil-

lion benchmark but has provided moviegoers a dynamic and diverse slate of movies, he said.

“I can’t find a genre that’s not represented or a demographic that wouldn’t be attracted to one of these films out there,” Dergarabedian said. “It’s just that eclectic mix of films with appeal to every demographic.”

“Nobody 2” follows the pandemic success of the first in the series, “Nobody,” which was released in 2021. In the sequel, Hutch Mansell, the assassin-turned-nice-guy played by Odenkirk, returns to the big screen, this time taking a much-needed family vacation that goes awry. The calm weekend turns anything but as Mansell uncovers a corrupt town.

Jim Orr, president of domestic distributions at Universal Pictures, said he hopes the movie’s reaction scores - an 89% Audience score and B+ CinemaScore - point “to a long and successful run at the domestic box office.”

“The Fantastic Four: First Steps” took the fourth spot during its fourth weekend in theaters, bringing in \$8.8 million domestically. The film stumbled at the box office after its initially strong \$118 million debut.

Another sequel, “The Bad Guys 2,” took fifth place with \$7.5 million during its third weekend in theaters.

Notably, Dergarabedian said, international movies made a splash in the top 15 this weekend.

“Coolie,” an Indian action thriller, debuted domestically and snatched the 10th spot, followed by “War 2,” another Indian action movie, at No. 11. The domestic re-release of “Shin Godzilla,” a Japanese film that initially premiered in 2016, came in at the 12th spot.

Also:

NEW YORK: Chinese historical film Dead to Rights has hit screens in major US cities, resonating with audiences as it revisits one of World War Two’s darkest chapters -- a tragedy often absent from Western textbooks.

Set during the 1937 Nanjing Massacre, the film is based on documented events and follows a group of Chinese civilians who took refuge in a photography studio, risking their lives to preserve evidence of the atrocities committed by the Japanese army.

“It’s absolutely heartbreaking to even imagine these things happening, and how they were able to get away with it,” said Isabelle Young, an 18-year-old moviegoer.

The massacre remains one of the bloodiest atrocities of Japan’s invasion of China from 1931 to 1945. More than 300,000 civilians

and disarmed soldiers were killed, and countless women were raped during the six weeks following the Japanese capture of Nanjing.

“A lot of people in America -- like people my age -- don’t know about the Nanjing Massacre because schools don’t teach them,” Young said. “I think a lot of textbooks get overwhelmed by what the Germans did in World War II. No one really talks about what the Japanese did to China.”

For those who deny or downplay the massacre, she added, “It happened, and we can’t change anything. We should prevent it from ever occurring again.”

Other audience members echoed her sentiments. One viewer, identified only as Tony, described the film as both emotional and powerful.

“We need to have more such films in which every region tells its history, instead of hearing only one voice,” he said. “Unfortunately, in a place like America, we only hear about European history and American history.”

“The Nanjing Massacre and the suffering of the Chinese people are part of humanity’s experience of the war,” said James B. Heilmowitz, former president of the New York-based non-profit organization China Institute. “In a sense, the film inspired us to think about shared concepts. All of us need to remember and understand this history.”

Metal icons to go out on top

Megadeth shares final album, farewell tour

NEW YORK, Aug 18, (AP): Call it a symphony for dissolution. American thrash metal giants Megadeth have announced their forthcoming album will be their last. They will also embark on a farewell tour in 2026.

“There’s so many musicians that have come to the end of their career, whether accidental or intentional,” Megadeth founder and frontman Dave Mustaine shared in a statement recently. “Most of them don’t get to go out on their own terms on top, and that’s where I’m at in my life right now. I have traveled the world and have made millions upon millions of fans and the hardest part of all of this is saying goodbye to them.”

Mustaine and the band have yet to reveal the final album’s title, release date or the band’s remaining tour dates.

His statement continued, with the frontman writing

that now is the perfect time for the band to release a final album and embark on their final tour.

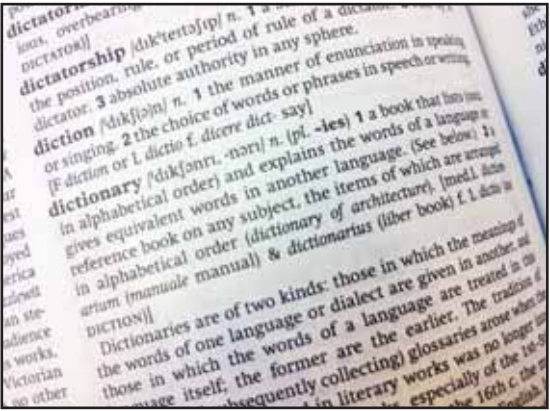
“Don’t be mad, don’t be sad, be happy for us all, come celebrate with me these next few years. We have done something together that’s truly wonderful and will probably never happen again,” he wrote. “We started a musical style, we started a revolution, we changed the guitar world and how it’s played, and we changed the world. The bands I played in have influenced the world. I love you all for it. Thank you for everything.”

The statement arrived after the band shared a teaser post on Wednesday that read “The end is near...”

Megadeth was founded in 1983 after Mustaine was kicked out of Metallica, a band he co-founded. Megadeth released their debut album in 1985, “Killing Is My Business... and Business Is Good!”



David Ellefson, (from left), Dirk Verbeuren, Dave Mustaine, and Kiko Loureiro of the musical group Megadeth arrive at the 59th annual Grammy Awards on Feb. 12, 2017, in Los Angeles. (AP)



An entry in the Oxford English Dictionary, defining a dictionary, pictured Sunday Aug. 29, 2010. (AP)

6,000 new words reflect social media and culture

‘Skibidi,’ ‘tradwife’ join new entries in Cambridge Dictionary

LONDON, Aug 18, (AP): What the skibidi is happening to the English language?

“Skibidi” is one of the slang terms popularized by social media that are among more than 6,000 additions this year to the Cambridge Dictionary.

“Internet culture is changing the English language and the effect is fascinating to observe and capture in the dictionary,” said Colin McIntosh, lexical program manager at Cambridge Dictionary, the world’s largest online dictionary.

“Skibidi” is a gibberish term coined by the creator of an animated YouTube series and can mean “cool” or “bad” or be used with no real meaning as a joke.

Other planned additions including “tradwife,” a contraction of “traditional wife” referring to a married mother who cooks, cleans and posts on social media, and “delulu,” a shortening of the word delusional that means “believing things that are not real or true, usually because you choose to.”

An increase in remote working since the pandemic has created the new dictionary entry “mouse juggler,” a device or piece of software used to make it seem like

you are working when you are not.

Concerns over climate change are behind the addition of “forever chemical,” a harmful chemical that remains in the environment for a long time.

Cambridge Dictionary uses the Cambridge English Corpus, a database of more than 2 billion words of written and spoken English, to monitor how new words are used by different people, how often and in what contexts they are used, the company said.

“We only add words where we think they’ll have staying power,” McIntosh said.

Heritage



The Cardo Colonnaded Street of Jerash, Jordan.



The Roman Theater of Jerash, Jordan.



The ancient Colonnade Street in Jerash, Jordan.



One of the heritage gates of Jerash City, Jordan.

KUNA photos

Jerash ... Jordan’s picturesque city of deep history, natural beauty

Among ancient Roman remnants and stupendous natural landscapes lies the city of Jerash, Jordan.

Jerash, located around 48 kilometers north of Amman, is one of the tourist main destinations for tourists after historical city of Petra.

Jerash is home to the Roman Theater, a marvel of ancient architecture and testament to the long cultural heritage of the city.

The theater, with a 3,000-seat capacity, still hosts cultural events, notably the annual Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts, which attracts visitors from around the globe. (KUNA)

Callaghan on stepping into Damon’s shoes

USA back to scripted drama with ‘Rainmaker’

LOS ANGELES, Aug 18, (AP): Since 2021, the USA Network had stacked its lineup with reality shows and sports, entirely forgoing original, scripted programming. Fans of “Suits”, “White Collar” and “Monk” were left with only memories of those shows’ case-of-the-week storytelling. But on Friday, the network returned to scripted TV with the legal thriller “The Rainmaker.”

If the title sounds familiar, it’s because it’s based on the 1995 novel by John Grisham, which was first adapted into the 1997 Matt Damon-starring film directed by Francis Ford Coppola. In this “Rainmaker,” British actor Milo Callaghan plays Rudy Baylor. It’s the first leading role for Callaghan, who had previously played recurring characters in shows like HBO’s “Dune: Prophecy” and Starz’s “The Spanish Princess.”

Baylor is fresh out of law school and about to start working at the largest law firm in the state, run by Leo F. Drummond (John Slattery). On his first day, Baylor gets fired after challenging Drummond in a meeting. Desperate for work, he takes a job at a small ambulance-chasing firm that works out of a former taco joint. His boss is Jocelyn “Bruiser” Stone (Lana Parrilla, in a gender swap from the film where Mickey Rourke had the role). She’s smart, confident and not afraid to use her sex appeal to get what she wants. Rudy’s first big case pits him against the big, fancy law firm that let him go - and his girlfriend who still works there.

Callaghan told The Associated Press about learning legalese while doing a Memphis accent and familiarizing himself with the source material. Answers are edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Did you watch “The Rainmaker” film?

Callaghan: I watched it when I got cast. Matt Damon is somebody that every young actor would look up to. I wanted to be aware of the work that he did. I mean, it was a Coppola movie as well, so I was



Milo Callaghan poses for a portrait to promote the television series ‘The Rainmaker’ on Aug. 14, 2025, in Los Angeles. (AP)

excited to see it. And then I gave it maybe like 20 minutes’ thought and focused on the script because it is different and I think we have 10 hours of television to explore this character. We go on a windier road than the movie.

AP: Did you read the novel as well and did that help to find your version of Rudy?

Callaghan: Yes. It’s a slow-paced thriller, really, but fantastic. And there’s this chunk, it must be about 100 pages, of him just preparing for this case for months and months and months. So I never wanted it to feel like it was off-the-hand genius. It felt like this is a situation that has to be honored to a certain extent. Like, you can be a fantastic lawyer, but you don’t get there without grinding and grafting. We had great scenes where we were working late into the night.

AP: Did learning your lines to play a lawyer also have you working late?

Callaghan: You prep a court scene, and it’s eight pages, and it is a deposition. And you know it and

you’ve worked on it and you’re ready to go to sleep, and it’s quarter to midnight, and you have an email saying, “We’ve rewritten this scene and we’re shooting it at 8 a.m.” And you’re like, “Not only am I re-learning all this, but I have to go back through the dialect to make sure that this is airtight.” It was definitely an extra component that I probably lost a bit of sleep over.

AP: You’re also British and Rudy Baylor is from Tennessee. How did you lose your accent and master a Southern one?

Callaghan: Consistent work with a great dialogue coach. I remember I got there on my first day and I was running lines with P.J. Byrne, who plays Deck, and he’s kind of looking at me funny. He’s like, “Why are you talking like that?” I was like, “What do you mean? Because we start filming in three days.” I was pronouncing everything phonetically because that was the way I learned. I had to really work on paring it back into a place that felt so natural. For a movie, you might get away with it, but for 10 hours of television, it just has to be light, it has to be quick, it has to be at your fingertips.

AP: Was there a word that gave you trouble?

Callaghan: “North City Hospital.” It was the hardest thing. I was like, “Why did you call it this?” I got all this legalese down and then “North City Hospital” would shoot me in the foot every time.

AP: There are also differences between UK and American law. Did you study US law?

Callaghan: I went through major trials, like the whole O.J. Simpson murder trial and the Gwyneth Paltrow trial. And also obscure trials. I studied attorneys and their patterns of speech and the way they address the court. We don’t really have the same kind of pop star element to the legal system of like, “That’s the guy who represented this person and that person.” Studying that is fascinating.

Medieval masterpiece

‘Bayeux Tapestry’ helps mend France-Britain ties

BAYEUX, France, Aug 18, (AP): For centuries, the storytelling masterpiece has been a source of wonder and fascination. In vivid and gruesome detail, the 70-meter (230-foot) embroidered cloth recounts how a fierce duke from France conquered England in 1066, reshaping British and European history.

The Bayeux Tapestry, with its scenes of sword-wielding knights in ferocious combat and King Harold of England’s famous death, pierced by an arrow to an eye, has since the 11th century served as a sobering parable of military might, vengeance, betrayal and the complexity of Anglo-French relations, long seeped with blood and rivalry but also affection and cooperation.

Now, the medieval forerunner of today’s comic strips, commissioned as propaganda for the Normandy duke William known as “the Conqueror” after he took the English throne from Harold, is being readied for a new narrative mission.

Next year, the fragile artistic and historic treasure will be gingerly transported from its museum in Bayeux, Normandy, to star in a blockbuster exhibition in London’s British Museum, from September 2026 to July 2027.

Its first UK outing in almost 1,000 years will testify to the warming latest chapter in ties across the English Channel that chilled with the UK’s acrimonious departure from the European Union in 2020. The loan was announced in July when French President Emmanuel Macron became the first EU head of state to pay a state visit to the UK since Brexit.

Bayeux Museum curator Antoine Verney says the cross-Channel trip will be a home-coming of sorts for the tapestry, because historians widely believe that it was embroidered in England, using woolen threads on linen canvas, and because William’s victory at the Battle of Hastings was such a major juncture in English history, seared into the UK’s collective consciousness.

“For the British, the date - the only date - that all of them know is 1066,” Verney said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Moving an artwork so unwieldy - made from nine pieces of linen fabric stitched together and showing 626 characters, 37 buildings, 41 ships and 202 horses and mules in a total of 58 scenes - is further complicated by its great age and the wear-and-tear of time.

“There is always a risk. The goal is for those risks to be as carefully calculated as possible,” said Verney, the curator.

Believed to have been commissioned by Bishop Odo, William the Conqueror’s half-brother, to decorate a new cathedral in Bayeux in 1077, the treasure is thought to have remained there, mostly stored in a wooden chest and almost unknown, for seven centuries, surviving the French Revolution, fires and other perils.

Since then, only twice is the embroidery known to have been exhibited outside of the Normandy city: Napoleon Bonaparte had it shown off in Paris’ Louvre Museum from late 1803 to early 1804. During World War II, it was displayed again in the Louvre in late 1944, after Allied forces that had landed in Normandy on D-Day, June 6th, of that year had fought onward to Paris and liberated it.

The work, seen by more than 15 million visitors in its Bayeux museum since 1983, “has the unique characteristic of being both monumental and very fragile,” Verney said. “The textile fibers are 900 years old. So they have naturally degraded simply due to age. But at the same time, this is a work that has already traveled extensively and been handled a great deal.”

During the treasure’s stay in the UK, its museum in Bayeux will be getting a major facelift costing tens of millions of euros (dollars). The doors will close to visitors from Sept. 1 this year, with reopening planned for October 2027, when the embroidery will be re-housed in a new building, encased on an inclined 70-meter long table that Verney said will totally transform the viewing experience.

How, exactly, the treasure will be transported to the UK isn’t yet clear.



This photo taken Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2019 shows the 11th century Bayeux Tapestry chronicling the Norman conquest of England, in Bayeux, Normandy, France. (AP)

Sprinting into future

Robot Games inject fresh energy into Olympic City

BEIJING, Aug 18, (Xinhua): Over 500 humanoid robot athletes had their own “Olympic Games”, giving glimpses of the future of robotics over the past weekend.

The inaugural World Humanoid Robot Games, which opened last Thursday, brought together 280 teams from 16 countries and regions for three days of competition in 26 disciplines, ranging from athletics and football to martial arts and service-scenario challenges in the National Speed Skating Oval, a 2022 Winter Olympic venue better known as the “Ice Ribbon”.

“We’ve been here for like a month. The experience has been really great. The venue is awesome,” said Portugal’s Ana Carolina Coelho Lopes, who participated in five-on-five football competition. “For us, it was really rewarding, having the chance to interact and communicate with others.”

On the first competition day, humanoid robots contested the Games’ first-ever gold medal in the 1,500-meter race.

Some started fast but lost balance halfway. Others stumbled, fell to the ground, and managed to climb back up to continue. Each recovery drew applause and cheers from the crowd.

The gold medal went to Lingyi Technology, part of Beijing-based Unitree, with a time of 6:34.40.

“It’s harder than it looks,” said team member Liu Jinda after the race. “Like human runners, you have to consider bend running, stride frequency and stability. Our main task was to fine-tune both hardware and algorithms so that the robot could follow its program and finish the race.”

“Compared with a year or two ago, the progress across the industry has been dramatic,” Unitree founder Wang Xingxing noted. “Such competitions help move the technology forward, particularly as many of the events are modeled on practical environments like factories, hotels and care facilities.”

The Games came just two days after the 2025 World Robot Conference closed, underscoring the city’s rising role as a global hub for robotics innovation.

Official data shows that China’s robot industry revenue grew by 27.8 percent year-on-year in the first half of 2025, extending its position as the world’s largest industrial robot market for 12 straight years. The country now ranks third globally in manufacturing robot density.

“If this had been held a year ago, most humanoid robots would not have been ready,” said Li Yechuan of the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Economy and Information Technology. “Advances in AI algorithms and robot hardware have made the Games possible.”

24 health centers join retinopathy workshop

DDI workshop boosts physicians' skills in preventing diabetes-linked blindness

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), established by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), successfully concluded its Diabetic Retinopathy Workshop, held on August 17 and 18, 2025, at the Institute's premises. The two-day workshop was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Primary Health Care Sector.

A total of 24 primary healthcare physicians from various centers across Kuwait participated in the workshop, which aimed to enhance their knowledge and skills in the early detection, diagnosis, and management of diabetic retinopathy — a common and serious complication of diabetes that, if left untreated, can lead to vision impairment and blindness.

The workshop included comprehensive sessions on the risk factors and clinical signs of diabetic retinopathy, stages of disease progression, diagnostic techniques, interpretation of retinal examinations, and the latest international clinical guidelines and recommendations. The program emphasized practical approaches that physicians can apply in their daily practice to support early intervention and improved patient outcomes.



Photo from the Diabetic Retinopathy Workshop organized by Dasman Diabetes Institute.

The workshop highlighted the significance of empowering front-line physicians with specialized training is essential in improving ophthalmic care and reducing preventable cases of vision loss among individuals living with diabetes.

This annual initiative is part of DDI's ongoing efforts to advance medical education, support capacity building within the healthcare system, and contribute to the national strategy for diabetes prevention and management. Through such collaborative programs, DDI continues to promote health awareness, improve clinical services, and support healthcare professionals in delivering high-quality, patient-centered care.

Extreme weather threatens US shores

US coastal communities rebuild reefs, marshes to fight rising seas, storms

NEW YORK, Aug 18, (AP): In San Francisco Bay, salt ponds created more than a century ago are reverting to marshland. Along the New York and New Jersey coasts, beaches ravaged by Superstorm Sandy underwent extensive restoration. In Alabama, a rebuilt spit of land is shielding a historic town and providing wildlife habitat.

Coastal communities nationwide are ramping up efforts to fend off rising seas, higher tides and stronger storm surges that are chewing away at coastlines, pushing saltwater farther inland and threatening ecosystems and communities.

The need for coastal restoration has been in the spotlight this month after Louisiana officials canceled a \$3 billion project because of objections from the fishing industry and concerns about rising costs. The Mid-Barataria project was projected to rebuild more than 20 square miles (32 square kilometers) of land over about 50 years by diverting sediment-laden water from the Mississippi River.

But work continues on many other projects in Louisiana and around the country, including barrier islands, saltwater marshes, shellfish reefs and other natural features that provided protection before they were destroyed or degraded by development. Communities are also building flood walls, berms and levees to protect areas that lack adequate natural protection.

The work has become more urgent as climate change causes more intense and destructive storms and leads to sea-level rise that puts hundreds of communities and tens of millions of people at risk, scientists say.

"The sooner we can make these coastlines more resilient the better," said Doug George, a geological oceanographer at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In the U.S., perhaps nowhere is more vulnerable than the hurricane-prone Gulf Coast. Louisiana alone has lost more than 2,000 square miles (5,180 square kilometers)

eters) of coastline - more than any other state - over the past century, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Historically, sediment deposited by the Mississippi and other rivers rebuilt land and nourished shore-buffering marshes. But that function was disrupted by the construction of channels and levees, along with other development.

The dangers were magnified in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina breached flood walls and levees, submerging 80% of New Orleans and killing almost 1,400 people - followed closely by Hurricane Rita.

Afterward, the state formed the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to lessen risks from storm surges and stem land loss.

Most of the almost \$18 billion spent in the past 20 years was to shore up levees, flood walls and other structures, the authority said.

Dozens of other projects are completed, planned or underway, including rebuilding marshes and other habitat



A man runs on a trail at Bedwell Bayfront Park as the Ravenswood Pond R4 is seen in the background, Thursday, Aug. 14, 2025, in Menlo Park, Calif. The pond is part of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. (AP)

with sediment dredged from waterways and restoring river flow to areas that have lacked it for years.

On Louisiana's Chandeleur Islands, a barrier island chain, the state will pump in sand to help rebuild them, which will dampen storm surges and benefit sea turtles and other wildlife, said Katie Freer-Leonards, who leads development of the state's 2029 coastal master plan.

The authority is digging a channel to allow water and sediment from the Mississippi River to flow into part of Maurepas Swamp, a roughly 218-square-mile forested wetland northwest of New Orleans that has been "dying for over a century" because of levees, project manager Brad Miller said.

Sediment dredged from elsewhere also has been pumped into thousands of acres of sinking marshes to nourish them and raise their levels.

The same is happening in other states.

In Bayou La Batre, Alabama - a fishing village built in the late 1700s - The Nature Conservancy built breakwaters offshore, then pumped in sediment and built ridges, now covered with vegetation. That created a "speed bump" that has helped protect the town from erosion, said Judy Haner, the Alabama Nature Conservancy's coastal programs director.

The conservancy and others also have been creating miles of oyster reefs, and are acquiring tracts of land away from the coast to allow habitats to move as seawater encroaches.

Such efforts won't prevent all land losses, but in Louisiana, "cumulatively, they could make a big difference," said Denise Reed, a research scientist who is working on Louisiana's coastal master plan. "It could buy us some time."

On the West Coast, communities vulnerable to sea-level rise also could see more flooding from increasingly intense atmospheric rivers, which carry water vapor from the ocean and dump huge amounts of rain in a short period of time.

Bone marrow map offers new blood cancer clues

Why some breast cancers resist treatment

SYDNEY, Aug. 18, (Xinhua): Researchers in Australia have identified a key mechanism behind treatment resistance in estrogen receptor-positive (ER+) breast cancer, the most common subtype worldwide.

The study revealed why some breast cancers resist treatment, potentially opening the door to more effective therapies for patients, according to a statement released Monday by the Sydney-based Garvan Institute of Medical Research.

Scientists found that inactivation of a stress pathway makes ER+ breast cancer cells ignore stress signals and evade treatment, said the study published in Italy's Journal of Experimental & Clinical Cancer Research.

The team found that inactivating the JNK pathway enables cancer cells to resist endocrine therapy combined with CDK46 inhibitors, a common first-line treatment for high-risk patients.

The JNK pathway acts as a cellular alarm, triggering damaged cells to stop dividing or self-destruct in response to stress, such as cancer treatments, said the study.

"When we knocked out genes involved in the JNK pathway, cancer cells continued to grow despite treatment...These cells also spread

to form more metastases in pre-clinical models," said the study's first author Sarah Alexandrou from the Garvan Institute and Australia's University of New South Wales (UNSW).

This resistance was observed both in laboratory experiments and in tumor samples from patients, where low JNK activity was correlated with poor response to therapy, the study showed.

Co-author Associate Professor Liz Caldon from the Garvan Institute and the UNSW highlighted that screening for JNK pathway activity could predict which breast cancer patients won't benefit from standard therapy, enabling more personalized treatment.

Researchers in Australia have mapped human bone marrow at the molecular level, uncovering hidden complexity in blood cancer that could lead to better treatments.

The study, led by the Melbourne-based Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (WEHI), used the latest spatial transcriptomics technology to profile more than 5,000 genes within individual cells, according to a WEHI statement released Monday.

The study, challenging estab-

lished theories about the development and progression of myeloma, revealed that cancerous plasma cells form distinct microenvironments within the bone marrow, with different supporting cells and gene activity, said co-first author **Raymond Yip**.

"It's like discovering that each tumor has its own postcode," said Yip, a postdoctoral researcher at WEHI.

Scientists once thought myeloma cells shaped bone marrow in similar ways, allowing for universal treatments.

But the new findings could help explain why myeloma patients respond differently to current treatments, and guide more personalized approaches to diagnosis and treatment, said WEHI Clinician-researcher and co-first author Jeremy Er.

WEHI's latest spatial technologies allow researchers to track individual cell activity and location within tissue, according to the study published in Blood of the American Society of Hematology.

Multiple myeloma is an incurable blood cancer affecting plasma cells in the bone marrow, diagnosed in over 2,500 Australians annually. Existing treatments slow progression and manage symptoms, but patient responses vary.

Experts struggle to predict sudden cloudbursts

Climate change fuels cloudburst disasters in India and Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Aug 18, (AP): Cloudbursts are causing chaos in mountainous parts of India and Pakistan, with tremendous amounts of rain falling in a short period of time over a concentrated area. The intense, sudden deluges have proved fatal in both countries.

As many as 300 people died in one northwestern Pakistani district, Buner, after a cloudburst. The strength and volume of rain triggered flash flooding, landslides and mudflows. Boulders from steep slopes came crashing down with the water to flatten homes and reduce villages to rubble.

The northern Indian state of Uttarakhand had a cloudburst earlier this month. Local TV showed floodwaters surging down a mountain and crashing into Dharali, a Himalayan village. In 2013, more than 6,000 people died and 4,500 villages were affected when a similar cloudburst struck the state.

Here's what to know about cloudbursts:

A cloudburst occurs when a large volume of rain falls in a very short period, usually more than 100 millimeters (about 4 inches) within an hour over a localized area, around 30 square kilometers (11.6 square miles).

Cloudbursts are sudden and violent, with devastating consequences and widespread destruction, and can be the equivalent of several hours of normal rainfall or longer. The event is the bursting of a cloud and the discharge of its contents at the same time, like a rain bomb.

Several factors contribute to a cloudburst, including warm, moist air rising upward, high humidity, low pressure, instability and convective cloud formation.

Moist air is forced to rise after encountering a hill or mountain. This rising air cools and condenses. Clouds that are large, dense and capable of heavy rainfall form.

Hills or mountains act like barriers and often trap these clouds, so they cannot disperse or move easily. Strong upward currents keep moisture



Local residents cross a stream following Friday's flash flooding hit area in Pishoreen village in Buner district, in Pakistan's northwest, Sunday, Aug. 17. (AP)

suspended inside the clouds, delaying rainfall.

When the clouds cannot hold the accumulated moisture anymore, they burst and release it all at once.

Cloudbursts thrive in moisture, monsoons and mountains. Regions of India and Pakistan have all three, making them vulnerable to these extreme weather events.

The Himalayas, Karakoram and Hindu Kush mountain ranges are home to the world's highest and most famous peaks, spanning multiple countries including India and Pakistan.

The frequency of cloudbursts in these two South Asian nations has been steadily rising due to a warming atmosphere, because a warmer air mass can hold more moisture, creating conditions for sudden and intense downpours.

The South Asian region has traditionally had two monsoon seasons. One typically lasts from June to September, with rains moving southwest to northeast. The other, from roughly October to December, moves in the opposite direction.

But with more planet-warming gases

in the air, the rain now only loosely follows this pattern.

This is because the warmer air can hold more moisture from the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean, and that rain then tends to get dumped all at once. It means the monsoon is punctuated with intense flooding and dry spells, rather than sustained rain throughout.

The combination of moisture, mountains and monsoons force these moisture-laden winds upward, triggering sudden condensation and cloudbursts.

It's difficult to predict cloudbursts because of their size, duration, suddenness and complex atmospheric mechanisms.

Asfandiyar Khan Khattak, a Pakistani official from the northwest province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said there was "no forecasting system anywhere in the world" that could predict the exact time and location of a cloudburst.

The Pakistani government said that while an early warning system was in place in Buner district, where hundreds of people died after a cloudburst, the downpour was so sudden and intense that it struck before residents could be alerted.

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Golden State Valkyries' Veronica Burton tumbles to the ground while battling for a loose ball with Atlanta Dream's Rhyné Howard in the fourth quarter of a WNBA basketball game at Chase Center in San Francisco. (AP)

Dream snaps Valkyries season-best streak

Fever rallies from 21-point deficit to beat Sun in OT

UNCASVILLE, Conn., Aug. 18, (AP): Kelsey Mitchell scored 34 of her career-high tying 38 points after halftime, Lexie Hull hit a corner 3-pointer with 44.9 seconds to play and the Indiana Fever rallied from 21 points down and beat the Connecticut Sun 99-93 in overtime.

Odyssey Sims had 19 points and seven assists, and Natasha Howard added 18 points for Indiana (19-16). Aliyah Boston finished with 14 points, 13 rebounds, five assists, two steals and two blocks.

Mitchell scored all of Indiana's points - including back-to-back 3-pointers - in a 10-4 run to open overtime before Hull's 3 made it 97-90.

Marina Mabrey scored 27 points and Tina Charles 21 for Connecticut (6-27). Saniya Rivers had 15 points and a career-high five blocks, Aneesh Morrow finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds and rookie Leila Lacan had a season-high 14 assists to go with seven points.

Sims made back-to-back layups to give Indiana a 4-1 lead 53 seconds into the game. But, the Sun scored the next 12 points to take the lead until Mitchell made a layup to open the scoring in overtime. Morrow made a layup about 2 1/2 minutes into the third quarter that gave Connecticut its biggest lead at 54-33 and the Sun led 74-60 with 6:25 left in regulation.

Mitchell converted a three-point play that made it 82-all with 44.7 seconds left. Charles made a turn-around jumper in the post before Boston answered with a short jumper that eventually forced overtime. Indiana's Sophie Cunningham left the game in the second quarter due to a knee injury and did not return.

Caitlin Clark (groin) missed her 13th consecutive game for the Fever.

Dream 79, Valkyries 63



Phoenix Mercury forward Alyssa Thomas (25) shoots against Seattle Storm forward Nneka Ogwumike (3) during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Seattle. (AP)

In San Francisco, Rhyné Howard had 14 points, six assists and five rebounds, Brianna Jones added 13 points and nine rebounds, and the Atlanta Dream ran away from the Golden State Valkyries in the third quarter for the win.

Allisha Gray overcame shooting 3 for 13 to score 13 points as the Dream used a 30-8 run spanning the third and fourth quarters to take command.

Veronica Burton had 16 points and five assists as Golden State had its season-best four-game winning streak snapped with just its third loss in the last 10 games.

Valkyries center Iliana Rupert went down hard after a hit to the face with 7:59 left in the third quarter after battling for a rebound with Jones. Rupert

left for the locker room with a towel draped over her head and didn't return. The team said she has been placed in the concussion protocol.

Te-Hina Paopao came off the bench to contribute 10 points for the Dream, who bounced back from having their six-game winning streak snapped by the Seattle Storm on Friday.

Atlanta shot just 2 for 17 on 3-pointers in the first half and 9 of 35 overall, 2 of 10 by Gray and Naz Hillmon's 0 for 6 in a 12-point performance.

Golden State - with 29 3s over the previous two games before going 7 for 29 - dropped to 10-6 at home, including 5-2 against the Eastern Conference.

Valkyries coach Natalie Nakase had called for better communication on defense after Golden State won 77-75 at Atlanta on July 29, but a game that Dream starting guard Howard missed.

Mercury 85, Storm 82

In Seattle, Alyssa Thomas had 19 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for her 16th career triple-double in the regular season, and the Phoenix Mercury beat the Seattle Storm.

Thomas has five of the 10 triple-doubles in the WNBA this season and 20 of the 53 (counting regular season and playoffs) in league history.

Kahleah Copper scored 17 points and Sami Whitcomb added 15 for Phoenix (20-13). Satou Sabally had 11 points and 10 rebounds, and DeWanna Bonner scored 10 points.

Nneka Ogwumike led Seattle (17-18) with 24 points and Skylar Diggins scored 14. Gabby Williams had 13 points and seven assists, and Erica Wheeler added 11 points.

Ogwumike poked the ball away from Whitcomb and made a follow

shot moments later to tie it at 75-all with 3:57 left in the game - the first tie since 2-2. Wheeler hit a 3-pointer with 2:20 remaining that gave the Storm their first lead of the game.

Thomas slipped a pass to Copper for a wide-open layup. Copper added a driving layup and Thomas hit a short jumper to make it 83-78 with 21 seconds to play. Diggins had two assists and moved into a tie with Becky Hammon for seventh in WNBA history with 1,708 career assists.

Mystics 95, Sparks 86

In Washington, Sonia Citron tied her career high with five 3-pointers and finished with 24 points, Kiki Iriafen added 18 points and 10 rebounds and the Washington Mystics beat the Los Angeles.

Iriafen has 12 double-doubles this season and set a franchise rookie record for most games (six) with at least 15 points and 10-plus rebounds.

Shakira Austin had 14 points and Jade Melbourne, who fouled out with less than two minutes left, scored 11 for Washington (16-18).

Alysha Clark hit a 3-pointer about 4 1/2 minutes into the game that made it 12-9 and gave the Mystics the lead for good.

Acers 106, Wings 87

In Las Vegas, A'ja Wilson scored 34 points, Chelsea Gray added 10 points and a career-high tying 14 assists and the Las Vegas Aces tied their season-high with 18 3-pointers in a 106-87 win over the Dallas Wings.

Las Vegas (22-14), which topped 100 points for the fourth time this season, has won seven straight games and nine of 10.

Wilson shot 11 for 16 from the field and 11 for 14 from the line.

Tunisia keeps title defense hope alive

Nigeria advances to quarters

NAIROBI, Aug. 18, (Xinhua): Reigning champion Tunisia secured a commanding 81-60 victory over Madagascar at the 2025 FIBA AfroBasket on Sunday, clinching a spot in the quarterfinals qualification with a third-place finish in Group B.



Marnaoui

Both sides traded baskets before Madagascar led by one point at halftime. The second half saw guard Oussama Marnaoui stage a breakout performance both inside the paint and from beyond the arc, charging Tunisia to record its first win of the event.

Madagascar, returning to AfroBasket after 14 years, was sent packing with three straight losses.

Coming off the bench, Marnaoui converted 6 of 9 three-pointers for a game-high 33 points, while Omar Abada added 22 points, five rebounds and five assists.

"I had the first two bad games. I felt

like I needed to show up for my team and give them the best that I can," Marnaoui told reporters.

Head coach Mehdy Mary underlined Tunisia as "a new generation rebuilding." "I'm very happy that we have the chance to have more games, so it means more experience for this team," he said.

Also in Group B, Nigeria advanced to the quarterfinals by defeating Cameroon 99-90. In the second quarter, Caleb Agada's jumpers, coupled with his teammates' sharp outside shooting, powered Nigeria to a 58-41 halftime lead, before its advantage ballooned to over 30 points.

Cameroon mounted a strong comeback in the final period, but its late 12-0 scoring run wasn't enough to close the gap against the D'Tigers.

"We decided to be very quick and just choke opponents defensively, try to push the ball and run and get easy baskets. That's just our style," said Nigeria's head coach Abdulrahman Mohammed. "We have some extra days to rest. We're going to sit back and take stock of what we did in the past three games." In Group A, last edition's runner-up Cote d'Ivoire defeated the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) 75-63 to qualify for the quarterfinals.

The DRC will join second-placed Cape Verde in the qualification round, while Rwanda lost to Cape Verde 75-62, concluding its AfroBasket run without a win

Boca ends 12-game drought

Palmeiras downs Botafogo as Neymar's Santos thrashed 6-0

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug. 18, (Xinhua): A first-half goal from former Lazio and West Ham midfielder Felipe Anderson gave Palmeiras a 1-0 away win over Botafogo in Brazil's Serie A.

The visitor went ahead on the stroke of halftime when Anderson ran onto Vitor Roque's one-touch pass before lifting a shot over goalkeeper John Victor.

The result at Rio de Janeiro's Olympic stadium leaves Palmeiras second in the 20-team standings with 39 points, four behind leader Flamengo. Botafogo is fifth, 10 points further back.

In Porto Alegre, two goals from Brazil international striker Pedro helped Flamengo ease to a 3-1 away win over Internacional.

Pedro netted twice in the first 12 minutes before Gonzalo Plata added a third goal just after the hour. Colombian striker Rafael Santos Borré pulled one back for the host in stoppage time.

Meanwhile, Philippe Coutinho scored two second-half goals in Vasco da Gama's 6-0 away rout of Neymar-led Santos. Lucas Piton, David Fonseca, Rayan and Danilo Neves were also on target as the Rio de Janeiro side inflicted the heaviest defeat of Neymar's career.

In Sunday's only other fixture, Gremio recovered from a goal down to clinch a 3-1 away victory over Atletico Mineiro.

Meanwhile, Santos sacked manager Cleber Xavier on Sunday after a record-breaking 6-0 home loss to Vasco da Gama in Brazil's Serie A.

It was Santos' heaviest home defeat in a Brazilian league match and was its biggest losing margin against Vasco in 98 years of meetings between the clubs.

□ □ □

Boca Juniors ended the worst winless run in its history on Sunday with a 3-0 away victory over Independiente Rivadavia in Argentina's Primera Division Clausura tournament.

The host gifted Boca the lead on the half hour when Ezequiel Centurion inadvertently turned the ball into his own net.

Ezequiel Zeballos and Alan Velasco then scored late goals as Boca secured its first win of the campaign.

Martínez lifts NYCFC past Nashville

San Diego edges Earthquakes

SAN JOSE, Calif., Aug. 18, (AP): Marcus Ingvartsen scored late in the second half and then notched an assist on Anders Dreyer's winner three minutes later to rally Western Conference-leading expansion side San Diego FC to a 2-1 victory over the San Jose Earthquakes.

Ingvartsen, who subbed in for Anibal Godoy in the 64th minute, took a pass from Franco Negri in the 81st and scored for the second time in his seventh career appearance for San Diego (16-7-4). Negri entered late in the first half before earning his first assist in his 12th appearance. Negri had his only other assist in 11 appearances with Inter Miami last season.

Ingvartsen and defender Christopher McVey set up Dreyer's 12th goal for the win. It was the first assist for Ingvartsen and the first in 102 career appearances for McVey.

Neither team scored until Josef Martínez gave San Jose (8-11-8) the lead in the 77th minute when he scored unassisted for his 12th goal of the season and the 128th of his career. He needs five more to tie Jaime Moreno for fifth place all time.



Vancouver Whitecaps' Thomas Muller (13) runs for the ball against the Houston Dynamo during the second half of an MLS soccer match in Vancouver, B.C. (AP)

CJ dos Santos had four saves for San Diego in the first meeting between the clubs.

Daniel De Sousa Britto's only save for the Earthquakes came in a scoreless first half.

San Diego is now 4-0 against California clubs after already beating the defending champion Los Angeles Galaxy twice and Los Angeles FC once.

San Diego has won six straight matches on the road - extending its league record for an expansion team.

San Diego will host the Portland Timbers on Saturday. The Earthquakes travel to play the Houston Dynamo on Saturday.

Alonso Martínez scored late in the second half to rally New York City FC to a 2-1 victory over Nashville SC.

Martínez scored the winner for NYCFC (12-8-5) in the 77th minute with his team-high 13th goal of the season. Maxi Moralez notched his career-high

ninth assist and Agustín Ojeda collected his second after subbing in for Hannes Wolf in the 64th minute.

Nashville (14-8-5) took a 1-0 lead in the 10th minute when Jacob Shaffelburg used a pass from Hany Mukhtar to score for the second time this season. Mukhtar's assist was his ninth.

NYCFC pulled even in the 40th minute on Andrés Perea's second goal of the season with an assist from Wolf - his fifth. Thunderstorms led to a lengthy rain delay one minute after Perea's equalizer.

Matt Freese saved three shots for NYCFC.

Joe Willis totaled two saves for Nashville in a third straight loss - all on the road.

NYCFC - playing its first league match since a 4-3 victory over FC Dallas on July 25 - improves to 3-0-1 in its last four matches and 9-3-0 at home.

NYCFC evens the all-time series at 3-3-2. The two clubs played to a 2-2 draw in Nashville on May 31.

NYCFC travels to play FC Cincinnati on Saturday. Nashville will host Orlando City on Saturday.

José Artur found the net for the first time this season when he scored in second-half stoppage time to rally the Houston Dynamo to a 1-1 draw against Vancouver Whitecaps.

NYCFC scored his team-high 13th goal of the season six minutes into the match on a penalty kick to give Vancouver (13-6-7) an early lead. The PK was awarded after Jayden Nelson drew a foul on Houston defender Griffin Dorsey.

Chengdu World Games close, highlighting inclusiveness, sustainability & innovation

CHENGDU, Aug. 18, (Xinhua): Under the slogan "Boundless Sports, Countless Wonders," The World Games 2025 closed Sunday after 12 days of competition marked by inclusiveness and innovation.

"Over these unforgettable days, Chengdu has not only hosted the world - it has made the world feel at home," International World Games Association (IWGA) President Jose Perurena said at the closing ceremony.

"With warm hospitality, remarkable efficiency, and the impeccable delivery of the Games, this city has set new standards for the future. Thank you, Chengdu. You have made history!"

With the World Games held for the first time on the Chinese mainland, China fielded its largest-ever delegation of 489 members, including 321 athletes across 28 sports. The team broke new ground by entering 12 disciplines such as floorball and powerboating, while also integrating para athletes for the first time.

Nearly 4,000 athletes from more than 110 countries and regions competed across 34 sports, 60 disciplines and 256 events at the largest and most inclusive World Games in history. Athletes from a record 83 countries and regions reached the podium, the most in the event's history.

China topped the medal table with 36 gold, 17 silver and 11 bronze medals, followed by Germany with 17-14-14 and Ukraine with 16-14-14. Delegations including Armenia, Aruba, Namibia, Bermuda and Montenegro celebrated their first-ever World Games medals.

"I'm so happy. I knew it would not be easy and winning gold means a lot to me and my country," said Marcel Gbetable of Benin, who won the men's petanque precision shooting in boules sports. "I want to thank my coach, the federation, the organizers, and everyone who contributed - everything was perfect, and I'm proud to bring Benin

its first gold at The World Games." This year's Games also gave key exposure to flag football, lacrosse and squash ahead of their Olympic debut at Los Angeles 2028. Dragon boat racing, para-ju-jitsu, and speed climbing's four-lane and relay formats debuted at the Games, underscoring the event's focus on evolution and inclusiveness.

Sustainability guided operations, with all 27 venues adhering to "renovate or reuse" protocols. The 52-year-old Chengbei Gymnasium, which hosted breaking battles under retrofitted energy-saving lights, underwent eco-friendly upgrades and became a symbol of frugality.

"We used 'microsurgery' renovations. No unnecessary changes," venue deputy director Zhao Yu said, noting that energy-saving lights and permeable concrete reduced heat absorption and lowered carbon emissions.

The venue will next host the World Dance Sport Federation World Cup and World Open in September before becoming an affordable public sports hub.

"The venue will transform into a dance sport training base, where cit-

izens can access professional facilities for as little as dozens of yuan," said Li Yuanyuan, head of competition at the venue. "The public will also be able to use the sports equipment for daily exercises like badminton and table tennis." "We used to watch concerts here in the 1980s, but later it became an electronics market. Now it's reborn," recalled local resident Zhou Yan.

Temporary structures from the 2024 ITTF Mixed Team World Cup were repurposed for kickboxing and muaythai, reducing the need for new construction. Meanwhile, 15 outdoor venues were integrated into parks and waterways, minimizing environmental impact.

"I love competing here. The water is clear, the environment beautiful, and the arrangements excellent," said Chinese dragon boat athlete Peng Chun.

The Games also introduced new technology to improve both athlete and spectator experiences.

"For the first time in our history, we've launched a dedicated streaming platform, World Games Live, offering live and on-demand coverage of the

events," Perurena said. "This brings The World Games to more people and more places than ever before." IWGA Vice President Tom Dielen echoed the praise, calling the 12th edition "an exciting expansion into new territory." "China has set incredibly high standards in organizing global multi-sport events," Dielen said. "The Olympic-level infrastructure, the first-ever torch relay for The World Games, and the reach of World Games Live are all strong signals of the organizing committee's commitment to elevate the event's global profile." At the World Games Village, smart glasses provided real-time translation in 40 languages, robots hauled luggage, and autonomous pool cleaners maintained water quality at aquatic venues.

Among the competitions, drone racing stood out as the fastest spectacle, with athletes piloting drones at 160 kmh through FPV goggles. Much of the equipment was produced in China, reflecting the country's prominence in the drone industry.

"Chinese athletes performed very well at the last World Championships - amazing. They are smart competitors with a high level of skill. China is a leading country in the drone industry, and it's hard for other countries to match," said Bruno Delor, chairman of the World Air Sports Federation drone racing subcommittee.

Squash also drew attention with four blue glass courts, an innovation pioneered by Chinese manufacturers. World Squash Federation President Zena Wooldridge called the development a major step in making the sport more accessible.

"The venue is superb, with very high-quality courts," Wooldridge said. "The organization has been outstanding, as we've come to expect in China. Players are going home with wonderful memories of Chengdu."



An artist performs during the closing ceremony of The World Games 2025 in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province. (Xinhua)

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Giroud takes only 11 minutes to score on return to French league

PSG begins Ligue 1 title defense with scrappy victory at Nantes

PARIS, Aug 18, (AP): Vitinha broke the deadlock with the aid of a lucky deflection as Paris Saint-Germain began its Ligue 1 title defense with an unconvincing 1-0 win at Nantes.

Champions League winner PSG looked short of ideas, just as it had for long spells against Europa League champion Tottenham during the UEFA Super Cup final on Wednesday.

Portugal midfielder Vitinha collected the ball about 20 meters out and his strike clipped defender Chidozie Awaziem as he tried to duck under the ball, before wrong-footing goalkeeper Anthony Lopes in the 67th minute.

That proved enough for coach Luis Enrique's side, which was again without goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma. The Italy No. 1 wants to leave PSG after it bought Lucas Chevalier from Lille and has been linked with a move to Manchester City. PSG

A scrappy first half saw little creativity, and neither Chevalier or Lopes had much to do.

Nantes coach Luis Castro may regret leaving his best striker Matthis Abline on the bench until the 60th minute. Abline is pursuing a move away from Nantes, which looked much sharper when he came on.

Veteran striker Olivier Giroud took only 11 minutes to score on his return to Ligue 1, but it was not enough as his new side Lille drew 3-3 at Brest.

Giroud was picked out by Felix Correia's clever pass behind the defense and finished with a left-footed shot under the goalkeeper. The 38-year-old Giroud became Lille's oldest scorer in Ligue 1 and he lasted the whole game.

"It was a special moment for me and I'm happy to be back in Ligue 1," Giroud told broadcaster DAZN. "The coach asked me several times how I was feeling and I said I wanted to play until the end."

Midfielder Hakon Amar Haraldsson made it 2-0 before Kamory Doumbia scored twice to level the match. Lille regained the lead midway through the second half when Ngál'ayel Mukau scored following a corner, but Julien Le Cardinal equalized.

Striker Esteban Lepaul's early goal was enough for Angers to win 1-0 at home to newly promoted Paris FC despite having midfielder Louis Mouton sent off in the 57th.

Striker Lassine Sinayoko scored early in the second half as Auxerre won 1-0 at home against Lorient, which was promoted as Ligue 2 winner.

Metz started with 16-year-old prospect Brian Madjo in attack but conceded a late goal in a 1-0 home loss to Strasbourg. New signing Joaquin Panichelli scored for the visitors.

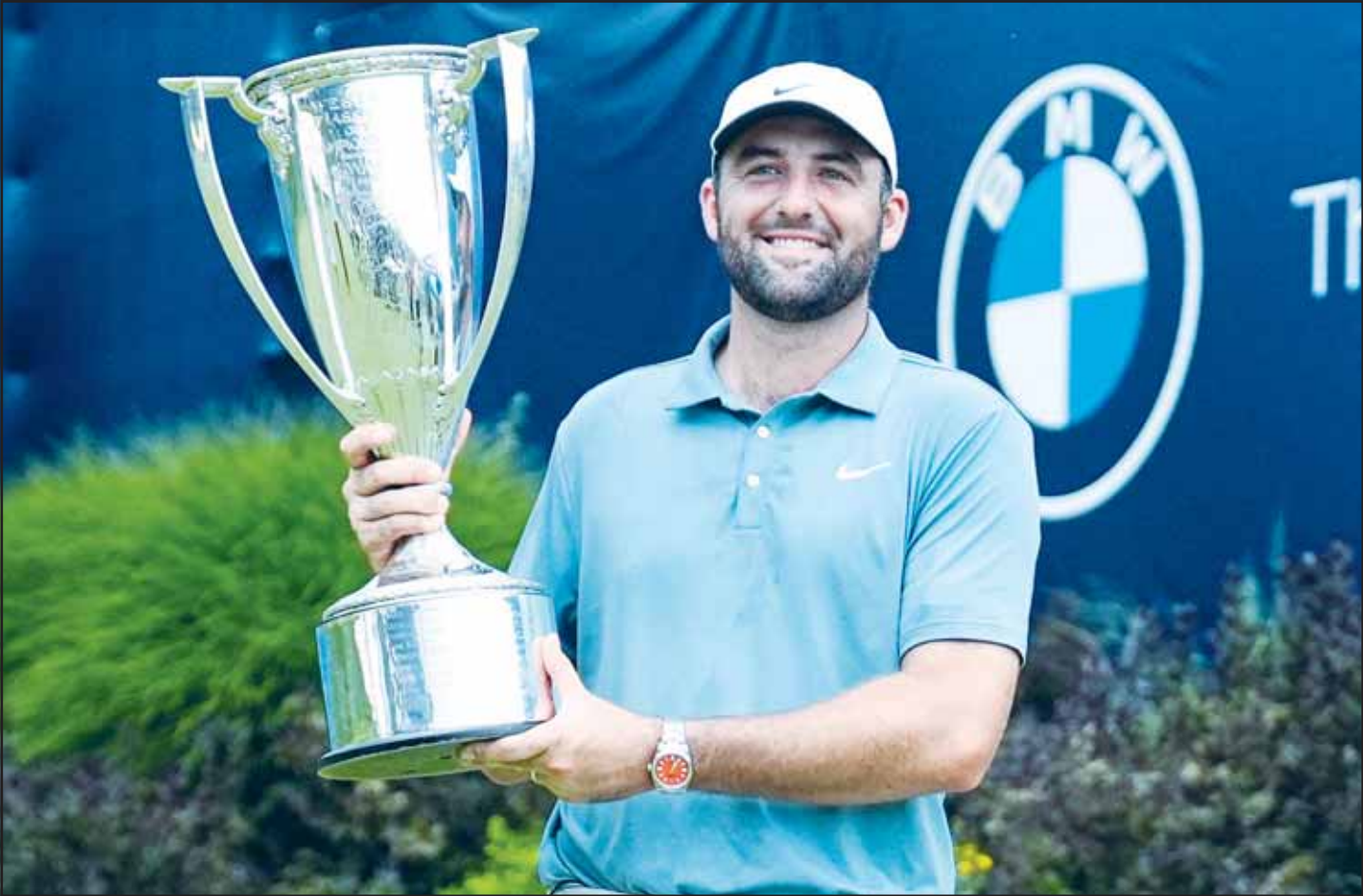
Giroud joined Lille after a disappointing spell with Los Angeles FC.

He previously made his name with AC Milan, Chelsea and Arsenal - the club he joined from Montpellier after winning the French title in 2012 and scoring 21 league goals that season.

Giroud is France's all-time leading men's scorer with 57 goals and won the 2018 World Cup with Les Bleus.

"I wanted to challenge myself one more time," Giroud said.

Scheffler rallies to win BMW for fifth PGA Tour victory of year



Scottie Scheffler holds the trophy after winning the BMW Championship golf tournament in Owings Mills, Md. (AP)

Rahm takes LIV points title

OWINGS MILLS, Md., Aug 18, (AP): **Scottie Scheffler erased a four-shot deficit in five holes and then delivered a haymaker on the daunting par-3 17th by chipping in from 82 feet for birdie that carried him to victory Sunday in the BMW Championship for his fifth PGA Tour title of the year.**

Scheffler closed with a 3-under 67 for a two-shot victory and became the first player since Tiger Woods (2006-07) to win at least five times on the PGA Tour in consecutive years.

Robert MacIntyre didn't make a birdie until the 16th hole but stayed in the game after losing his big lead, mostly when Scheffler began missing short putts.

MacIntyre pulled within one shot of the lead going to the 17th, the toughest hole at Caves Valley, with a back right pin on a crispy green that sloped to the right toward the water. Scheffler went just left in the rough, the ball sitting up nicely but the shot still scary.

He landed it some 60 feet short and watched it trickle, and then roll, and then slow again until it dropped into the cup.

MacIntyre could only look at him and stare at the world's No. 1 player making other-worldly shots in another extraordinary season. MacIntyre, who made 18 birdies in the first 45 holes of the tournament, made only two over the last 27 holes. He shot 73.

It's not over for Scheffler, who leads the 30 players who advanced to the Tour Championship at East Lake with a chance to become the first re-

peat FedEx Cup champion since the series began in 2007. All 30 players at East Lake can win the \$10 million first-place check.

Jon Rahm successfully defended his LIV Golf season points title without winning an event all year, closing with an 11-under 60 before losing a playoff to Sebastian Munoz on the first extra hole in the Indianapolis event.

Munoz won two days after becoming the first player to shoot 59 with a double bogey. The Colombian player - with Rahm hitting balls on driving range - birdied the final two holes in regulation for a 65 to match Rahm at 22 under at The Club at Chatham Hills.

Rahm also lost on the first extra hole last week outside Chicago, falling to Dean Burmester in a three-way playoff that included Josele Ballester. On Sunday, Munoz beat the Spanish star won with a birdie on the par-4 18th in the playoff.

Rahm took the season points title from Joaquin Niemann, a five-time winner this season. Niemann shot a 66 to tie for fourth at 17 under, his first top-10 finish of the year that he didn't win.

Munoz and Niemann led Torque GC to the team event championship. Torque finished at 64 under to break the LIV record of 53 under.

Akie Iwai joined twin sister Chisato as a rookie LPGA Tour winner at Columbia Edgewater, closing with a 6-under 66 for a four-stroke victory in The Standard Portland Classic.

Akie Iwai capped the bogey-free round with birdies on the final two holes, running in an 18-footer on the last before Chisato rushed on the green and sprayed her with champagne.

The 23-year-old Japanese player broke through in her first season on the LPGA Tour after winning six times on the JLPGA Tour.

She had second-place finishes in Thailand in February and Los Angeles in April, then watched her sister win at Mayakoba in May in Mexico. On Sunday, Chisato Iwai shot a 64 to tie for third, five strokes back.

She's the fifth player from Japan to win this season, following her sister, Rio Takeda, Mao Saigo and Miyu Yamashita. They are fourth set of sisters to win on the LPGA Tour, joining Jessica and Nelly Korda, Ariya and Moriya Jutanugarn and Annika and Charlotta Sorenstam.

The winner finished at 24-under 264 on the tree-lined course. She opened with consecutive 67s, then shot a 64 on Saturday to take a two-stroke lead into the final round.

American Gurleen Kaur was a career-best second, closing with a 65.

Amateur Kiara Romero shot a 64 to tie for seventh at 16 under in her first tour start. The University of Oregon player won the 2023 U.S. Girls' Junior and 2025 Big Ten title.

Georgia teenager Mason Howell capped a productive summer before his senior year of high school by winning the U.S. Amateur at The Olympic Club just two months after competing in his first U.S. Open.

The 18-year-old Howell raced out to a big lead over Tennessee teenager Jackson Herrington on the opening 18 holes and went on to win the 36-hole final 7 and 6 to become the youngest U.S. Amateur champion since Byeong Hun An won at age 17 in 2009 at Southern Hills.

Howell won it with a par to halve the 30th hole, ending the most-lopsided final since Bryson DeChambeau also beat Derek Bard 7 and 6 in 2015. The win earned Howell invitations to the Masters, U.S. Open and British Open next year.

Al-Ittihad locks horns with Al-Nassr

Explosive start to Saudi Super Cup

HONG KONG, Aug 18: The 2025 Saudi Super Cup kicks off today in Hong Kong, running from August 19 to 23, featuring Al-Ittihad, Al-Nassr, Qadsia, and Al-Ahli.

The tournament opens with a clash between Al-Ittihad and Al-Nassr, followed tomorrow by Qadsia taking on Al-Ahli. The winners of both matches will advance to the final on August 23.

Al-Ahli was included in this year's Super Cup after Al-Hilal withdrew from the competition. The Saudi Football Federation promptly decided to replace Al-Hilal with Al-Ahli, who finished fifth in the Roshen League.

Al-Riyadiya reported that the federa-

tion recently approved an urgent amendment to its competition regulations introducing a clause on withdrawals. The new rule allows the federation to seek financial compensation from any club that withdraws for damages caused.

This decision follows Al-Hilal's official withdrawal in July. While the federation accepted the club's apology, the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee imposed a ban on Al-Hilal from participating in the 2026-2027 Super Cup and fined the club 500,000 Saudi Riyals.

With Al-Ahli stepping in, the 2025 Saudi Super Cup promises an exciting showdown as the tournament gets underway in Hong Kong.



A file photo of Al-Ittihad and Al-Nassr players battling for the ball.

Best of the Rest

AC Milan beats Bari 2-0 in opener: An apparent injury to Rafael Leão made it a bittersweet season debut for AC Milan as the Portugal winger and United States international Christian Pulisic both scored in a 2-0 win over Serie B side Bari in the opening round of the Italian Cup.

Leão appeared to injure his right calf after celebrating his headed goal early on and had to be substituted.

Pulisic, meanwhile, followed up a shot off the crossbar in the first half by finishing off an exchange with Santiago Gimenez - who came on for Leão - shortly after the break at the San Siro.

Newly signed Luka Modric came on in the 66th for his Milan debut at age 39. The former Ballon d'Or winner joined the seven-time European champion in July after 13 seasons with Real Madrid.

Massimiliano Allegri, who was rehired as Milan's coach after winning Serie A with the Rossoneri nearly 15 years ago, was suspended. He began serving a two-match ban for an ugly outburst directed at the referees during the Italian Cup final as Juventus' manager in 2024. The outburst resulted in Juventus firing Allegri.

Milan is usually one of the top eight seeds that has byes for the opening rounds of the Italian Cup and begins competing in December. But the Rossoneri finished eighth in the Italian league last season and lost the Cup final to Bologna. Bologna therefore was given the top seed even though it finished ninth in Serie A, pushing Milan down into the earlier rounds. (AP)

□ □ □

Haller leaves Dortmund for Utrecht: Sébastien Haller's eventful three years at Borussia Dortmund ended Monday with a transfer to Dutch club Utrecht.

It ended a stint with the German club which began with a cancer diagnosis but during his time there Haller almost won the Bundesliga, reached the final of the Champions League, and won the African Cup of Nations with Ivory Coast. He found himself increasingly sidelined at Dortmund, though, and spent last season on loan.

"Sébastien has written a special story here," Dortmund sporting director Sebastian Kehl said in a statement Monday.

Weeks after signing for Dortmund in 2022, and before playing a game, Haller was diagnosed with a testicular tumor during the team's preseason camp. After two operations and a course of chemotherapy, he returned to action just six months later. (AP)

Infantino condemns ‘unacceptable’ racism after incidents at German Cup games

FIFA hit with \$76m claim by Diarra in decade-long soccer transfer rules case

EUPEN, Belgium, Aug 18, (AP): Lawyers for former France international Lassana Diarra said Monday he is claiming 65 million euros (\$76 million) from FIFA and the Belgian soccer federation after a landmark legal win about transfer rules.

Diarra's decade-long challenge to FIFA after a breakdown in relations with his former club Lokomotiv Moscow led to a ruling at the European Union's top court last October that some aspects of soccer's transfer rules do not comply with the 27-nation bloc's labor and competition laws.

Lawyers for the 40-year-old former Chelsea, Arsenal and Real Madrid midfielder cited "unsuccessful settlement negotiations with FIFA" for the financial claim for damages throughout his career.

"Lassana Diarra is claiming €65 million gross (€35 million net) in compensation from FIFA and the Belgian Football Association," his legal firm Dupont Hissel said in a statement.

FIFA was approached for comment about the latest high-stakes

legal challenge to its authority.

Diarra's case, which is back in court in Belgium, is supported by the global players' union FIFPRO, its European division and their national member union in France.

The legal case started in the home country of Charleroi, the Belgian club that wanted to sign Diarra after his contract in Moscow was terminated.

FIFA transfer rules at the time made the player and the potential signing club liable for paying the former club when a contract was ruled to have been broken without "just cause." The Court of Arbitration for Sport upheld FIFA's ruling in favor of Lokomotiv.

The case was sent to the European court which said the FIFA rules "hinder the free movement of players and competition between clubs."

Diarra's dispute with Lokomotiv and FIFA forced him to miss the 2014-15 season. He then signed for Marseille and ended his career at Paris Saint-Germain six years ago.

"I am doing this for myself," Diarra said in a statement Monday published by his lawyers. "And if I have been able to hold out against the FIFA steamroller, it is because I had a good career."

"But I have also done it for all the up and coming, lesser known players who do not have the financial and psychological means to chal-

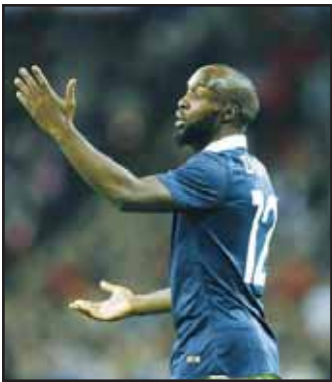
lenge FIFA before real judges," he said.

Diarra's lawyers also are working on a class action suit filed this month against FIFA and some national soccer federations in Europe which claims could benefit 100,000 players over more than two decades.

Meanwhile, FIFA President Gianni Infantino says that two incidents of alleged racist abuse which marred German Cup games are "unacceptable" as German police investigate.

Infantino's comments came a day after Schalke's Christopher Antwi-Adjei said he was subjected to racist abuse in a cup game at Lokomotiv Leipzig. He was whistled by fans throughout the match after reporting the incident to officials.

In another incident, a Kaiserlautern substitute was racially abused while warming up in a game at RSV Eintracht, the team's coach said. He didn't name the player affected. Both incidents occurred as lower-league clubs from the former East Germany hosted larger teams in first-round games.



In this file photo, France's Lassana Diarra reacts during the international friendly soccer match between England and France at Wembley Stadium in London. (AP)

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NEWS



Akiko Iwai, of Japan, poses with the trophy after winning the LPGA Portland Classic golf tournament at Columbia Edgewater in Portland, Oregon. (AP) – See Page 15

Sports

Kuwait begins training for Asian U-17 Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 18: Kuwait kicked off preparations for the Asian Under-17 Championship with training sessions at the Martyr Fahad Al-Ahmad Hall in Al-Da'iya, led by Croatian coach Ivan and his assistant Khaled Al-Mulla.

The early stage of training is focused on physical fitness, strength building, and ball work to help players regain sharpness ahead of the continental tournament.

Meanwhile, the national U-19 squad returns to Kuwait today after completing its campaign at the 11th Junior World Championship in Cairo. Germany captured the title with a thrilling 41-40 victory over Spain in the final.

Kuwait finished 26th out of 32 teams, with standout player Yousef Mohammed Madoh placing 14th among the competition's top scorers after netting 45 goals. Slovenia's Algous led the scoring charts with 67 goals.

Madoh expressed pride in his achievement, describing it as another milestone for Kuwaiti handball. He credited the Handball Federation, coaching staff, and teammates for their support in helping him break into the top 15 scorers of the tournament.

Team manager Yousef Al-Shahin also praised the players' efforts in Cairo, noting those academic commitments and other challenges disrupted preparations. "The team gained valuable experience by competing against the world's best and showed great fighting spirit. That will surely benefit us in future competitions," he said.

On the club front, Burgan opened its Bosnia training camp with a commanding 38-26 win over local side Gorazde in the first of its friendly matches ahead of the new season.



Yousef Mohammed Madoh is congratulated after scoring a goal.

Opening day heartbreak for Atletico

Nico steals the show in Bilbao thriller



Le Normand (2nd left) of Atletico de Madrid vies with Roberto Fernandez (1st left) of RCD Espanyol during the LaLiga football match between Atletico de Madrid and RCD Espanyol, in RCDE Stadium, Barcelona, Spain. (Xinhua)

MADRID, Aug 18, (AP): Despite debuting most of its new signings, Atletico Madrid couldn't avoid conceding two late goals and losing its opening Spanish league match for the first-ever time under coach Diego Simeone.

Host Espanyol's 2-1 win was Atletico's first opening defeat since Simeone took over in late 2011. It hadn't previously lost an opening league game since 2009.

It was a good start for Espanyol under the ownership of England-based group Velocity Sport Limited and its American shareholders.

"What a wonderful way to start the season, with a win against Atlético Madrid!" U.S. businessman Alan Pace posted on Instagram after attending the match in Barcelona.

Simeone started the match with five of the club's new signings for the

season - Alex Baena, Thiago Almada, Johnny Cardoso, David Hancko, and Matteo Ruggeri. Giacomo Raspadori also made his debut coming off the bench in the second half.

Atletico took the lead with Julián Alvarez's free kick in the 37th minute, but conceded goals by Miguel Rubio in the 73rd and Pere Milla in the 84th.

"It happens," Simeone said. "The result hurts, but it's going to make us improve and grow. I'm left with all the good things the team did."

Last season, Atletico lost a league match only twice when it was leading.

"We played a perfect first half and we had the match under control in the second," Atletico midfielder Koke said. "But after their first goal, they turned things around."

Barcelona began the defense of its Spanish league title with a comfortable 3-0 win at nine-man Mallorca on Saturday.

With transfer rumors in the past, Nico Williams led Athletic Bilbao to a 3-2 win over Sevilla in its opening Spanish league match.

Williams, who had been linked with



Almada (right) of Atletico de Madrid vies with Tyrhys Dolan of RCD Espanyol during the LaLiga football match between Atletico de Madrid and RCD Espanyol, in RCDE Stadium, Barcelona, Spain. (Xinhua)

a move to Barcelona in the offseason but seems set to stay with his boyhood club, put the hosts ahead by converting a 36th-minute penalty kick.

Athletic, coming off a fourth-placed finish last season, added to the lead with a goal from Maroon Sannadi in the 43rd before Sevilla rallied with goals by Dodi Lukebakio in the 60th and Lucien Agoume in the 72nd.

Robert Navarro put Athletic back in front for good by scoring in the 81st. Goalkeeper Unai Simon helped the hosts secure the victory as Sevilla pressed forward to the end.

It was Athletic's first match with Iñaki Williams, Nico Williams' older brother, as its main captain - a first for a Black player at the club that traditionally only fields players from Spain's northern Basque Country region or adjoining areas.

Getafe got off to a 2-0 win at Celta Vigo with second-half goals from Adrián Liso and Christantus Uche.

The Madrid club had a depleted squad after not being able to register many of its new players because of financial fair play regulations.

Salmiya's Al-Shatti praises players after strong preseason camp start

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

ISTANBUL, Aug 18: Kuwait's clubs are stepping up preparations for the new season with training camps abroad, highlighted by Qadisiya's ongoing schedule in Turkey. Salmiya's strong start in Cyprus, and Arabi's recent arrival in Dubai.

Qadisiya will face Saudi side Al-Wehda this evening in its fourth friendly match of the camp. The team previously drew 2-2 with Al-Faisaly, lost narrowly 1-0 to Al-Okhlood, and bounced back with a 2-0 win over Fujairah of the UAE. The team will next meet Bahrain's Sitra on Saturday, a side it is also set to face in the group stage of the Gulf Champions League beginning September 30, before closing out the camp against Al-Orouba of Saudi Arabia on August 28.

The camp was hit by sad news as Algerian defender Sofiane Bouchar departed to return home following the death of his mother.

Meanwhile, Salmiya got off to a winning start in Turkey, defeating Cyprus' Magusa Turk Gucu 4-1 in its opening friendly. Goals came from Brazilian Alex Lima, Libyan forward Sanousi Al-Hadi, and Fawaz Ayed, who scored twice.

Head coach Nasser Al-Shatti praised his players for their discipline and commitment in training, stressing that their focus has allowed the preparation program to run smoothly. He expressed satisfaction with the team's display in the first friendly, noting that the players executed the tactics well and benefited from the test. Salmiya is set to play two



Salmiya technical staff led by Nasser Al-Shatti.

more friendlies against Turkey's Serik Spor (August 21) and Antalyaspor (August 27).

In Dubai, Al-Arabi launched its training camp yesterday as it prepares for the new season. The team will remain in the UAE until August 29 and is scheduled to play two friendlies before returning to Kuwait in early September. Al-Arabi will open its Zain Premier League campaign against Al-Shabab on September 12.

Best of the Rest

Australia wins Asia Cup:

Australia clinched its third straight FIBA Asia Cup after squeezing past China 90-89 in the final.

Trailing by one point, China had the chance to secure the win with 3.9 seconds left, but Hu Mingxuan's shot missed the target.

Australia has never lost a game since joining the Asia Cup in 2017, with Sunday's victory marking its 18th straight win at the continental tournament.

In their only previous encounter at the FIBA Asia Cup, Australia cruised past China 97-71 in the 2017 quarterfinals, but it was a totally different scenario when they met again in Jeddah.

China led 25-17 to finish the first quarter thanks to consecutive baskets from Hu Jinqiu and Hu Mingxuan.

China broadened the gap to 15 points in the second quarter, only to see Australia trim the deficit to four points at halftime.

The two teams exchanged leads for several times in the final quarter. (Xinhua)

Kuwait junior volleyball team gears up for clash with Iraq

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

AMMAN, Aug 18: Kuwait's national junior volleyball team is stepping up preparations ahead of its crucial match against Iraq tomorrow at 3:00 pm. The encounter marks the third and final round of Group B in the 17th Arab Junior Volleyball Championship, currently underway at the Sports Palace Hall in Amman, Jordan. The tournament continues until August 26.

The Blues opened their campaign with a convincing 3-0 victory over Palestine but suffered 1-3 setback against Bahrain in their second match.

Under the tournament's format, all teams advance to the quarter-finals. The top team from Group A faces the fourth-placed team from Group B, the second from Group B takes on the third from Group A, the top team from Group B meets the fourth from Group A, and the second from Group A clashes with the third from



Kuwaiti players defend during a Kuwait-Bahrain match.

Group B.

In today's other group matches, Egypt meets Libya in Group A, while Palestine squares off against Iraq in Group B.

Amorim unhappy that 'clear' foul went unpunished

MANCHESTER, England, Aug 18, (AP): Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim believed Arsenal's winning goal in the teams' Premier League match at Old Trafford on Sunday should have been disallowed for a "clear" foul in the build-up.

United goalkeeper Altay Bayındır was put off by Arsenal defender William Saliba as an inswinging corner was delivered by Declan Rice in the 13th minute. As Saliba backed into Bayındır, the goalie flapped at the ball and only managed to knock it across the line toward Riccardo Calafiori, who nodded in from close range.

That ultimately secured a 1-0 win for Arsenal and Amorim was disappointed the goal was allowed to stand.

"I think it's clear," Amorim said. "Players are touching the goalkeeper without the idea of going

for the ball. That is not allowed."

The Portuguese coach added: "It's protecting the attacking guy and saying that we want (more) goals. But when you are touching the goalkeeper in that way, I think it's hard."

United captain Bruno Fernandes said that in a meeting arranged ahead of the season, the Premier League said referees will call for more fouls if players are blocking opponents at set pieces and not looking at the ball.

"Altay was saying the moment he goes to punch the ball, he gets a touch. But obviously we know in the Premier League, they don't give much in those type of situations."

Newcastle bolstered its midfield options ahead of a return to the Champions League by signing

midfielder Jacob Ramsey from Aston Villa for a reported \$53 million.

The 24-year-old Ramsey, who came through Villa's academy and made 167 appearances for the club, is Newcastle's fourth signing of a transfer window where most of the focus has been on its star striker, Alexander Isak. Isak has been linked with a move to Liverpool.

Newcastle has already signed winger Anthony Elanga, goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale and defender Malick Thiaw.

"This is a big move for me," Ramsey said, "but as soon as I knew the gaffer (manager Eddie Howe) was interested and really liked me, it didn't take much time to decide. His track record of developing players, especially those who have gone on to become internationals here, speaks for itself."



Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes, right, challenges Arsenal's Bukayo Saka during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Arsenal at Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)