



FIRST DEPUTY PM MEETS EDITORS-IN-CHIEF IN KEY TALKS

Kuwait charts new path in security, identity and visas

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: At the initiative of Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism and Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah and the Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA), First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah on Tuesday met with the editors-in-chief of Kuwaiti daily newspapers and the president of KJA, with Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi in attendance.

They discussed a number of issues and various topics of mutual interest.

During the meeting, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef reviewed the efforts exerted by the Ministry of Interior to strengthen the security system and maintain social stability in line with the directives of the political leadership. He affirmed that security is the cornerstone of the development process.

The meeting tackled the issue of national identity, and its importance in consolidating a sense of belonging and promoting the values of citizenship.

It confirmed the commitment of the State to support all efforts to preserve national identity in various media, cultural and societal fields, as well as that of the Grievance Committee for the Withdrawal, Revocation and Loss of Kuwaiti Citizenship to fulfill its role with complete transparency, clarity and flexibility in handling the cases presented to it, in

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Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef meets Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism and Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times, along with other editors-in-chief of Kuwaiti daily newspapers and the president of KJA, with Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi in attendance.

- The Nationality Grievances Committee is performing its role with complete transparency and flexibility
- Security is the cornerstone of the development process
- Daily, accurate monitoring of visitors to ensure compliance with regulations
- An organized plan to dry up the sources of narcotics inside and outside the country
- Smuggling by sea is almost nonexistent, thanks to the radar system
- 'Opening Visits' to stimulate the economy, tourism and attract investment



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Vietnam was liberated by two men, not by people devoted to proliferation

TODAY, Syria is under rational rule, as time and experience have proven.

Thus, when President Ahmad Al-Sharaa said "the relationship with Israel necessitates the return of the Golan Heights and adherence to the 1974 agreement, and no peace agreement will be discussed before the provisions of this agreement are implemented," he neither deviated from reality nor raised false and unattainable slogans.

Syria, in particular, is located in a very sensitive geographical location. In its current political reality, it cannot be anything other than what it is, especially since those who were expelled from it dream of returning and once again controlling its people.

Meanwhile, the current regime seems to realize that any incomplete step means returning to square one, so it is dealing with the issue in a realistic manner.

This is the reason why it cannot butt heads with a rock. The conditions left behind by the previous regime have left the people groaning under the burden of famine and destitution. Millions have fled to the vast lands of Allah, escaping brutality and oppression.

During the Ba'ath regime, Damascus never departed from the Arab line. Its policy was based on an absolute rejection of any solution, as was the case in Arab capitals ruled by a clique

attempting to manipulate their bitter reality with rhetoric.

Such cliques relied on glories that became testaments to their failures in the depths of history, rather than motivating them to build cognitive strength and engage with the world in a language they understood.

In the meantime, their enemy -- whose strength was based primarily on its own weaknesses, and secondarily, on the world's support for them -- spoke to them in a language they understood.

In contrast, the Arabs -- who are most often quoted in proverbs -- failed to understand the meaning of the popular saying: If the circumstances are not in your favor, adapt to them.

Consequently, they have rejected any opportunity to achieve Arab rights from 1948 onward. They neither accepted partition or the establishment of a Palestinian State on the lands granted to them, nor fought or built armies capable of defeating their enemy, so they are now outside the regional and international equations.

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Kuwait and India push ahead on trade, energy and AI cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26, (KUNA): Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs and Committee Rapporteur Ambassador Sameeh Johar Hayat held the seventh round of consultations on Tuesday with senior Indian officials at the Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarter.

The talks focused on following up the outcomes of the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kuwait last December, during which he held

discussion with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and the His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Hayat, in a phone call with KUNA, said he met with Vice Minister of External Affairs Arun Kumar Chatterjee, Assistant Minister for Gulf Affairs Ausaf Sayeed Mahajan, and other senior officials.

He said the consultation covered the bilateral cooperation in politics and international forums, as well as in economic, trade, investment, and cultural, discussions also touched on higher education, scientific research, civil aviation, oil, renewable energy, industry, Artificial Intelligence (AI), healthcare, and medical services.

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KUNA photos

Kuwaiti and Indian officials during the 7th round of political consultations in New Delhi.

5,000 bags of trash removed from shores

Cleanup boosts Kuwait beach beauty

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Kuwait Municipality revealed that the total waste collected from island beaches in the country reached 5,000 bags.

This campaign titled, "Our Beaches Are Beautiful," was launched at the beginning of summer, with the goal of encouraging active community participation in maintaining the cleanliness of the marine environment.

In a press statement, the Municipality affirmed that

sanitation workers are exerting tremendous efforts to collect waste dumped on beaches -- a violation of public sanitation regulations.

This necessitates island visitors throughout the country to feel a sense of social responsibility by collecting waste in bags and placing them in designated containers to spare sanitation workers a significant burden.

The Municipality emphasized that the cleanliness of the islands is a national responsibility, explaining that the islands are tourist and health outlets for everyone to enjoy the beautiful beaches that Allah has blessed us with, which are considered natural resources.



PM Diwan photo
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

Day by Day

YOUR Excellency the Minister of Education, the owners of the printing presses who were excluded by those who excluded them are requesting verification of the technical capabilities of the printing press of those who excluded them, and the volume of books that were seized by someone to print in his printing press, which lacks technical and printing capabilities.

Your Excellency the Minister, your integrity calls upon you to investigate, so that no one is wronged during your term. ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Kuwait slams continuous Israeli incursion into Syrian territories

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26, (KUNA): Kuwait on Tuesday condemned Israeli occupation incursion into Syrian border, calling it a flagrant violation of sovereignty.

A statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed the State of Kuwait's strong condemnation and denunciation of such continued violations, including incursions into Syrian territories, reaffirming Kuwait's support of whatever the Arab Republic sees necessary to preserve its safety and stability.

It also called on the international community to shoulder its responsibility in supporting Syria's right to sovereignty and to work toward ensuring the region's peace and stabil-

ity. On Monday, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed Kuwait's strong condemnation and denunciation to the Israeli occupation targeting of medical, relief, and media personnel at Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Yunis, Gaza Strip.

In a statement, the ministry said that such attacks are a blatant violation of international law and international humanitarian law.

The Ministry warned against the continued systematic crimes perpetrated by the Israeli occupation against the defenseless Palestinian people without deterrence or accountability.

The ministry also stressed the need for the international community, and the Security Council to assume their legal and moral responsibilities to stop the genocide being perpetrated against the Palestinian people and to ensure that perpetrators of such heinous crimes do not escape justice.

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Al-Yahya

Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:59	Asr	15:24
Sunrise ..	05:22	Maghrib ..	18:17
Zohr	11:50	Isha	19:38

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 15-50 km/h with a chance for rising dust.

By Night: Hot to rather hot and relatively humid over coastal ar-

Weather

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec		
Kuwait City	49	36	Bubyan	48
Kuwait Airport	47	36	Jahra	49
Abdaly	48	31	Salmiyah	46
			Ahmadi	43
			Nuwaisib	45
			Wafra	47
			Salmiyah	45
				26
				35
				35
				33
				32
				34
				25

Kuwait fund inks KD4 mln loan agreement with Nicaragua to build bridge



Acting Director General of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development Waleed Al-Bahar and Nicaragua's Minister of Finance and Public Credit Bruno Gallardo in a group photo.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26, (KUNA): The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) signed Tuesday a loan agreement with the Republic of Nicaragua worth KD 4 million (approximately USD 13 million) to contribute to financing the construction of the Prinzapolka Bridge on the Rio Blanco - Siuna Highway.

In a press statement, the Fund said the project entails the construction of a bridge over the Prinzapolka River with an approximate length of 115 meters.

The Fund noted that the project aims to support economic and social development by enhancing commercial and investment opportunities in key sectors such as agriculture, livestock, mining, light industries, services,

tourism, and trade.

It added that the project is expected to reduce vehicle operating costs and travel time for both cargo and passenger transport by bypassing urban congestion, while also improving road safety for all users.

According to the statement, the loan will cover approximately 76 percent of the total project cost and will be repaid over a period of 20 years, including a four-year grace period.

The loan carries an annual interest rate of two percent in addition to a 0.5 percent annual service charge to cover administrative and implementation expenses.

The Fund indicated that this marks its third loan to Nicaragua, hav-



Signing the agreement.



KUNA photos
Waleed Al-Bahar and Bruno Gallardo exchanging mementos.

ing previously extended two loans totaling approximately KD 10.13 million (about USD 33.42 million) to finance the construction and equipping of the Chinandega Departmental Hospital in the healthcare sector.

The agreement was signed by Acting Director General of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development Waleed Al-Bahar and Nicaragua's Minister of Finance and Public Credit Bruno Gallardo.

Established in 1961, the Kuwait Fund aims to assist Arab countries in their development efforts. It later expanded its activities in 1974 to include African countries, thus providing financing to both Arab and African nations.

Drones, AI cams to track municipality cleaning ops

Cabinet demand instigates 12 amendments

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: In a swift response to the directives of the Cabinet regarding cleanliness and the utilization of tyre landfills in its last meeting, the Kuwait Municipality introduced 12 amendments to its cleaning contracts.

These amendments include the use of smart surveillance cameras and drones to track cleaning operations in the desert areas, farms and chalets, as well as the transfer of garbage from the source to the landfills or recycling sites.

Acting Director General of the Municipality **Manal Al-Asfour** confirmed that the updates include electrical equipment, implementation of a color-coding system for each governorate, including equipment and containers, and amending the size of metal containers to five meters in order to narrow the gaps.

This is in response to the questions of Municipal Council member Alia Al-Farsi regarding

cleaning work in cities, suburbs and residential areas.

According to Al-Asfour, these amendments were made two years after the issuance of the Municipal Waste Management and Public Cleaning Regulations, with the aim of developing the cleaning system and keeping pace with modern environmental requirements.

She added the Municipality also introduced the 360-liter container for homes, instead of 240 liters, and a vehicle for collecting and transporting sorted waste.

She said the Municipality has prepared tender documents for performance level agreements for public cleaning work, and 19 tenders have been approved by its Public Cleanliness Committee, in coordination with the Echo Environmental Consulting Company. She affirmed that the documents were reviewed by the Legal Department, as well as the Legal Advice and Legislation Department, before its submission to the Ministry of Finance for approval of the estimated cost in preparation for tendering.

She added that cleaning contracts are for a period of five years, renewable in accordance with the terms of the concluded contracts. She stated that cleaning companies are required to display garbage removal schedule -- from 6:00 pm to 12:00 midnight -- on awareness signboards installed on the sides of compactor trucks in both Arabic and English. She warned that failure to do so will result in fines as per the penalty clause in the contracts.

She revealed that the total workforce under the current cleaning contracts reached 4,648 who are assigned in the six governorates -- 478 workers in Hawally and Ahmadi, 1,825 in the Capital and Jahra, and 1,345 in Farwaniya and Mubarak Al-Kabeer.

Following are the amendments:

1. Provide 360-liter containers for homes, instead of the current 240 liters.
2. Update the technical specifications of vehicle engines to comply with standard specifications.
3. Replace 120-liter containers with carts designated for manual sweepers.
4. Provide a vehicle for collecting and transporting sorted waste.
5. Add a vehicle for washing containers.
6. Incorporate electric vehicles into contracts, particularly for Mubarakiya Market.
7. Implement a color-coding system for each governorate, including vehicles, containers and workers' clothing.
8. Change the size of metal containers to five meters to address current gaps.
9. Install 360-degree smart cameras on major vehicles to withstand harsh weather conditions and vibrations.
10. Provide a drone to monitor cleaning work in the desert, farms and chalets.
11. Provide special containers for sorting and recycling waste.
12. Completely update the vehicle tracking system.

Lebanon, Kuwait eye defense ties upgrade

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26, (KUNA): Lebanon's National Defense Minister Maj. Gen. Michel Mansi on Tuesday visited the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense's Supply and Logistics Authority as part of an official trip.

He was received by Deputy Chief of Staff for Supply and Logistics of Kuwait Armed Forces Maj. Gen. Engineer Salah Al-Azmi, who said the visit reflects strong bilateral ties and a shared interest in expanding military cooperation and exchanging expertise, especially in supply and logistics, the ministry said in a press statement.

Saudi forger detained

Kuwaiti, Bedoun get 'life in jail' for drugs

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Criminal Court sentenced a citizen, a Bedoun and a prisoner to life imprisonment for smuggling large quantities of narcotics into the country.

According to the case file, anti-narcotics officers set up an entrapment in Fahaheel, which resulted in the arrest of the defendants in possession of hashish and approximately 75,000 psychotropic pills from Iran.

It was discovered that the prisoner coordinated the smuggling operations from within his prison cell using smuggled cell phones that were seized from him, informing his accomplices about the delivery dates and the mechanism for distributing the drugs.

Release denied: The detention renewal judge refused to release a Saudi national who was arrested for forging Kuwaiti citizenship.

The decision of the court is based on the results of secret investigations conducted by the Nationality Investigations Department, which proved the defendant was involved in tampering with official documents in an attempt to illegally obtain citizenship.

GCC Group at the United Nations



Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai

'Provide sustainable resources'

Youth can play better role in resolving conflicts – Al-Bannai

NEW YORK, Aug 26, (KUNA): The Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) Group at the UN stressed late Monday the importance of involving youth in the processes of implementing peace and resolving conflicts, stressing that such actions were crucial.

Delivering a speech on behalf of the group at the meeting discussing the UN worldwide report on youth, Kuwait Permanent Representative at the UN headquarters in New York, Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai said that youth's involvement in resolving disputes was key to generational justice and future development.

Youth partaking in UN functions should be protected from vengeful acts and threats, which would provide a safe environment for proactive participation, he asserted.

He pointed out that the presence of youth in international government operations was becoming increasingly prominent, citing the UN Future Summit and other UN meetings as prime examples of youth involvement in decision-making.

He commended the UN Youth Office for its relentless efforts to highlight the voice of youth, saying it was an integral aspect in dialogue and UN policies.

The Kuwaiti diplomat lauded, on behalf of the GCC Group, the UN report on youth, which reiterated the intention to invest in upcoming generations.

The UN Youth Office, since its inception, has become one of the cornerstones of peace,

security, sustainable development, and human rights, said the Ambassador.

The office, through its actions, had worked with 60 UN organs and 132 teams despite only having 16 employees, a matter reflecting strong partnership and commitment to group work towards issues of youth importance, he asserted.

Ambassador Al-Bannai called for providing sustainable resources to the UN Youth Office to enable it to continue its important mission.

The Ambassador also praised the office for its active communication with permanent missions in the UN, furthering efforts related to youth at the international organization's meetings.

He added that it was important to include the youth in training and work force development programs within the UN context, which would act as a guarantee to build a brighter future for the UN and the world.

He welcomed the implementation of the second stage of the UN youth strategy for 2025-30, which is centered on youth empowerment as part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On the upcoming celebrations of the UN's 80th anniversary, Kuwait Permanent Representative said that enabling the youth and protecting their voices would help bolster international organizations for years to come, affirming that such actions would ensure peace, justice, and sustainability.

Other Voices

Discord of the 'influentials'

By Ahmad alsarraf

In more than one article, I have highlighted our need for a law regulating rental issues -- whether residential, service or otherwise.

In addition, unlike almost every other country in the world, we have no law regulating the relationship between apartment owners, given the increasing number of these individuals, including citizens and tens of thousands of expatriates.

In an effort by the Ministry of Justice to develop the legislative system and reduce disputes that burden the judiciary and hinder the adjudication of cases, the Minister of Justice issued a decision to form a committee to study, prepare and develop the legislative system related to rental issues.

The committee will also create another legislative system to regulate the landlords' association, in addition to reviewing some relevant provisions of the Civil and Commercial codes.

Perhaps, his generous gesture is in response to our repeated demands, or perhaps, to put an end to the significant increase in the number of rental cases filed in courts, which average 22,000 cases annually, as well as the remarkable increase in disputes between apartment owners.

These same problems have long been, and continue to be, an obstacle to many people accepting the idea of moving into an apartment. This is a wonderful idea, especially since people age and children move out to be on their own.

We were very pleased with the minister's statement about the nature of the specialized committee, which will be tasked to draft the laws on rent and apartment owners, and review some relevant provisions of the Civil and Commercial codes.

He stated that the committee will operate according to a consultative approach that ensures

the involvement of relevant State entities -- government agencies and those involved in the real estate and housing sectors.

The committee will then strive to transform the system electronically and establish dispute resolution committees to expedite access to rights.

However, it did not please us at all that the committee will include legal experts, including advisors at the Court of Appeals and other judges.

With all due respect, we hope judges will not be assigned law-making duties. This will overlap with the powers of other authorities, given the presence of a fully integrated government body specializing in drafting laws, with over half a century of experience.

This situation becomes even more astonishing due to the dangerous backlog of cases awaiting adjudication at various levels of the courts, and the urgent need to have judges in the most useful positions, leaving the drafting of laws to the relevant authorities.

The role of judges in all systems is to adjudicate, not to participate in law-making committees.

Judges have long refrained from participating or expressing their opinions on the drafting of legislation, even when previously requested by the Speaker of the National Assembly.

If a judge wishes to express his opinion on a case or draft law, he often includes it in the rationale for a ruling!

The government's suspension of amendments to the Public Funds Protection Law, which judges participated in drafting, is just one example among many of the insidiousness of the recent and dangerous expansion of legislative committees to include judges, whose noble mission is to adjudicate cases, not draft laws.

We hope this is not the result of a dispute between the two highest levels within the ministry.

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Eng. Al-Asfour



alsarraf



Al-Suwaifan

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Kuwait on waiting list of 'new look' tourism

"KUWAITIS are divided over the Interior Ministry's decision to open the country to all nationalities," Hassan Ali Karam wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"I am not exaggerating, the joy of foreigners surpassed the conflicting positions of Kuwaitis.

"Domestically, the first supporters and cheerleaders of the decision are merchants, property owners and hotel owners.

"Opponents are ordinary citizens (barefoot) who are neither part of the crowd nor part of the mobilization.

"They are undoubtedly the majority, as the percentage of merchants and property owners may not exceed 15 percent.

"Opponents fear increased rents, soaring prices and crowded streets.

"Meanwhile, merchants believe that Kuwait needs to open up, just like its Gulf sister countries.

"Some say that other Gulf citizens did not open up to others until the necessary conditions and circumstances were in place, something that does not exist in Kuwait.

"For many years, Kuwait's obsession was security. When Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, may Allah have mercy on him, was Minister of Interior and later Prime Minister, he opposed opening the country's doors at the expense of security.

"Many foreign projects were presented to the government and were rejected, including one to make Kuwait a free trade zone.

"However, Sheikh Saad told them, 'Let them do it in Bahrain.' Kuwait lagged behind the tourist and commercial bandwagon not because it was closed, but because Sheikh Saad's security obsession was shared by many others.

"In Kuwait, the security concern remained more prevalent than openness, making it difficult for many citizens of various countries wishing to visit or work in Kuwait, such as Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and others, to obtain visas.

"The brutal Iraqi invasion, and before that, the Iranian Revolution, the Iran-Iraq War, and the emergence of religious opposition movements, were all enough to shut down the country. Sheikh Saad, may Allah have mercy on him, was a security man before he was a politician, and therefore, he was beloved by the Kuwaiti majority who agreed with his opinion.

"Kuwait, up to this day, is not qualified to be a tourist destination or an open tourist country with all that it entails in terms of openness, entertainment, places of amusement, nightclubs and alcohol.

"I believe this is a reality we live and see in open countries that embrace tourism, such as the presence of alcohol, nightclubs, gambling halls and prostitution. This is the title of the new tourism.

"As for visiting museums, antiquities, art galleries and libraries, this is an old fashioned trend, because the percentage of young men and women exceeds the elderly who travel for the purpose of adventure, entertainment, recreation and relationship with the opposite sex.

"So, do we here in Kuwait accept this type of 'open' tourism, if it exists, and where is it, in restaurants, cafes and parks?

"Our Minister of Interior welcomed visitors to Kuwait, but the question remains: What kind of visitors is the Minister welcoming?

"When we see on our phone screens the sound and images of the joy of citizens from countries where three-quarters of them are poor, another third live below zero, and the remaining third suffer from poverty and unemployment, what joy do these people have about Kuwait's openness except for work at a time when their children are suffering from unemployment and scarcity of demand?

"Opening up the country is one of the old demands, but what tourist would accept the expense of visiting a country where prohibitions exceed what is permitted? We mentioned earlier that tourists of this era are young, and their needs are not met.

"If such needs are met, extremist groups will rise up and seize control of restaurants, cafes, cinemas, bowling alleys and billiard halls.

"This requires a government with a heart of steel and red eyes of steel. Kuwait does not have the conditions for successful tourism, and our citizens are the most mobile in the world, discovering unknown tourist destinations.

"We will remain poor in tourism until the government opens its eyes to what is possible and permissible.

"Until that happens, Kuwaitis will remain on the waiting list for a 'new look' of tourism."

Also:

"The advancement of a nation is measured by the level of its educational system, as it is the foundation of its development and renaissance in all fields," Dr. Naif Al-Adwani wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"The generation of 'Kuttub' (informal schools) and memorizing the Quran in Kuwait produced for us the first generation of wise men, merchants and men of Kuwait who were known for their patience, wisdom, honesty, trustworthiness, strong logic and good treatment.

"The generation that began education in the 1950s and 1960s based on the 'Hamad Qalam' curricula produced for us the first generation of pioneering politicians, poets, writers, scientists and statesmen who were known for their vast knowledge, strong arguments, eloquence and poetry.

"This is because the educational curricula have extensive, well-thought-out content, rich in vocabulary and words, have literary and poetic diversity, and students memorize many words and vocabulary in addition to memorizing the Holy Quran, which contains approximately 100,000 words.

"Unfortunately, the educational curricula in Kuwait have been subjected to tampering, modification and development, which helped empty them of their good content and lofty educational goals, under the pretext of development and modernization.

"An ignorant generation has emerged, it does not know how to read and write, even in high school or university, as a result of the negligence of government education, which has fallen to the bottom, and the spread of private commercial schools that aim for profit and financial gain at the expense of education and its lofty mission.

"The graduates of these private schools (educational shops) are far from the supervision of the Ministry of Education, and they have flashy names, such as Excellence, the Rising Generation, or Future Generations.

"The majority of those who enroll in these schools are failing students who do not attend school to study.

"Their certificates come to them with the grades and percentages they desire, qualifying them to enter institutes, universities, military colleges and fire departments.

"The result is people who do not know how to write or speak well. This in itself is a disaster and a calamity, especially if they hold government or educational positions, because someone who does not have something cannot give it, so how can the illiterate give knowledge? The result is a disaster.

"Let our brothers in the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Education pay attention to these shops and revoke their licenses, because they are a source of destruction for the nation and its new generation.

"The output of these shops is deliberate ignorance, and ignorant people cannot answer exam questions.

"They leave the answer sheet blank and are content with writing, 'Have mercy on those on earth', or interceding with the teaching staff, instead of passing them, giving them grades they do not deserve.

"This is observed in universities and colleges, and among doctors and lecturers who suffer from this type of expulsion."

"Beloved Kuwait, in conjunction with the celebrations of the countries of the world and the United Nations, commemorated World Humanitarian Day, which falls on Aug 19 of each year," Jamal Al-Fadhli wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"It is an occasion to uphold human values, such as brotherhood, solidarity, rescue, chivalry, social solidarity and others.

"It is also an occasion to celebrate and return the favor to those who extend a helping hand to their fellow human beings, especially in times of devastating crises, such as wars, floods, fires and other forms of natural or man-made disasters.

"Many exist in the midst of these difficult circumstances, some of whom sacrifice their lives to help and save humanity, without discrimination based on race, religion or color.

"Celebrating this day is of great importance to us, as it is a celebration and a tribute to Kuwait, its Amir, government and people.

"It is an occasion to recall a shining record, when politics blended with humanity, leadership with compassion, and the people with their inherent generosity and unity.

"In this world burdened with wounds, Kuwait stands out as a shining icon and a beacon, conveying a noble humanitarian message deeply rooted in the conscience of its leadership and people, setting an example of giving and generosity, harnessing its vast potential to heal wounds and console the afflicted, wherever and however they may be, in all corners of the globe.

"This prompted the United Nations to grant Kuwait the well-deserved title of 'International Humanitarian Center' in 2014, while its late leader, HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, may Allah grant rest his soul in peace, was named 'International Humanitarian Leader'.

"Because Kuwait's generosity is countless, it suffices to mention that in 2024 alone, it operated more than 10 aid airlifts to Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan and Syria. The largest Kuwaiti relief ship carried around 2,500 tons of food and medical supplies to Port Sudan.

"Kuwait Red Crescent Society also provided urgent aid to tens of thousands of people affected by floods in Yemen, Sudan and Lebanon.

— Compiled by Mohammad Wangengi/Simi K. Kutty



KFF photo

A KFF inspector seals a facility in Sulaibiya Industrial Area.

KFF seals 35 firms in safety rules violation

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: In a joint inspection campaign carried out on Tuesday morning, the Kuwait Fire Force, in coordination with the Ministries of Electricity and Commerce, the Kuwait Municipality, the Public Authority for Industry, and the Environment Public Authority, took action against multiple safety violations in the Sulaibiya Industrial Area, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to an official statement, the operation fo-

cused on inspecting buildings and facilities that failed to comply with fire safety and prevention regulations. As a result, 35 industrial establishments and shops were administratively closed for violating safety standards.

Additionally, the Fire Force issued 62 warnings and notices to other facilities that were found to be non-compliant with fire safety requirements but did not warrant immediate closure.

Drug runners, criminals held

'Security of public priority'

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: As part of the efforts of the Rescue Patrols General Directorate, security forces arrested 13 individuals suspected of possessing narcotics over the past seven days.

They also arrested 125 people wanted for criminal cases, evading arrest and absconding, and 62 with expired residency permits.

The weekly statistics of the rescue police patrols revealed the issuance of 4,431 citations for various traffic violations, impoundment of 24 wanted vehicles, settlement of five fights, and handling 121 traffic accidents.

A security source confirmed the continuation of these campaigns in all governorates to maintain security, arrest wanted persons and outlaws, especially during the late hours of the night.

In continuation of the security forces' efforts to arrest outlaws, security forces assigned in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh also arrested two Asians for the possession of small bags containing narcotics.

According to a security source, the security forces were patrolling Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh when they noticed the suspicious movements of two Asians. Upon investigating, they found small bags containing substances suspected to be narcotics in their possession. They were referred to

the competent authority for the necessary action.



'Security top priority': As part of the Ministry of Interior's commitment to monitor field readiness and review the progress of work in various security sectors, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs Major General Hamed Al-Dawas inspected the Private Security Sector and correctional institutions, along with Sector Head Brigadier General Dakhil Al-Dakhil.

In a press statement on Monday, the Security Media Department disclosed that Al-Dawas began his tour at the Special Forces General Directorate, where he inspected the training halls and fields and reviewed the advanced training programs. He praised the advanced level of combat readiness and discipline of the personnel at the sector. He also visited the Special Forces Museum, which houses a legacy of security history.

The statement indicated that the inspection tour concluded with a visit to the Central Prison, where he was briefed on the work mechanisms followed, which adhere to human rights standards, in addition to the reform and rehabilitation programs aimed at reintegrating inmates into society, and the monitoring systems and procedures implemented to ensure a safe environment that complies with humanitarian standards.

Al-Dawas stressed that the ministry continues to develop training programs and raise the level of security readiness, which contribute to strengthening the security and stability system and ensuring the safety of society.



Training in progress.

New device to boost efficiency of customs

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC) recently completed the training of employees in charge of the operation and use of the pallet inspection device, which was recently integrated into the work system at Sulaibiya and Chabra Customs Department (Vegetable Market), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This initiative is in line with the ongoing efforts of KGAC to modernize the customs system, streamline procedures, and adopt the highest standards of security and safety.

It is the main component of the plan of the administration to equip customs staff with the latest security inspection technologies, keeping pace with evolving challenges both locally and internationally. It also contributes to strengthening the efficiency of inspection and control procedures for goods and shipments.

The administration emphasized that training programs are carried out periodically and consistently, especially in the use of radiological scanning devices, which are considered a qualitative leap in customs inspection due to their precision and advanced technology that play a vital role in foiling smuggling attempts and protecting the country against various risks.

The training reaffirms the commitment of KGAC to efficiently play its vital role in securing the borders, while continuing to invest in developing the capabilities of national personnel and modernizing customs infrastructure using the latest global technologies.

KFF to 'hold' officer draw

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) has announced the schedule and procedures for the public draw to select candidates for the upcoming Fire Sergeant courses. The event is set to take place tomorrow, Wednesday, at 7:00 pm at the main Fire Prevention Building in Mubarak Al-Abdullah suburb, reports Al-Seyassah.

Applicants for the Military Administration specialization are required to attend between 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm, while those applying for the Network and Workshop Technician specialization should be present from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm to submit their documents into the lottery boxes. For applicants who are unable to attend, the registration team will add their names on their behalf.

The public draw will begin at 7:00 pm with the Military Administration draw, followed by the Network and Workshop Technician draw at 8:00 pm. The entire event will be streamed live on the official Instagram account of the General Fire Force.

Indian dead, Pakistani, Kuwaiti hurt in collision

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: A horrific traffic accident on Fahaeel Expressway -- collision between three vehicles, resulted in the death of an Indian man in his 30s and the injury of a Pakistani and a Kuwaiti citizen.

The body of the Indian was transferred to the Forensic Medicine Department, while the injured were taken to the nearest hospital.

According to a security source, the Operations Unit at the Interior Ministry received information about the three-vehicle collision on Fahaeel Expressway towards Nuwaiseeb. Security personnel, an ambulance and firefighters from the Fahaeel Fire Station rushed to the accident site. It was found that the accident resulted in the death of an Indian man and injuries to two others.

A case was registered and investigations are ongoing to establish the circumstances that led to the fatal accident.

KFF supervisor, staff under investigation

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) has referred a supervisor and other employees in Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) to the Public Prosecution on suspicion of committing offenses related to failure to report, punishable under Article 18 of Public Funds Protection Law No. 1/1993 and articles 20 and 45 of Law No. 2/2016 on the establishment of Nazaha, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Nazaha reaffirmed its determination to continue scrutinizing, gathering evidence and investigating all serious and well-documented reports submitted to it. The authority also praised the role of whistleblowers in enabling it to obtain vital information and data related to corruption cases. It stressed its commitment to ensure the highest level of protection and confidentiality for whistleblowers, in accordance with the law and its executive regulations.




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Kuwait Olympic Committee pledges commitment to sporting excellence

Athletes' forum kicks off under Sheikh Fahad's patronage

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Kuwait Athletes Forum 2025 started Tuesday at the Kuwait University Conference Center (Sabah Al-Salem University City), under the patronage and in the presence of Kuwait Olympic Committee Chairman Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Sulaiman Al-Rafie, Director of the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) Bashar Abdullah, and a large number of athletes and heads of specialized federations and clubs attended the event.

The forum features a group of elite sports leaders and experts from Kuwait and the Arab world, who share their expertise and visions for developing sports.

In his opening remarks, Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser stressed "it is a pleasure to sponsor the Kuwait Athletes Forum 2025. I also extend my thanks and appreciation to the Olympic Council of Asia for its continuous support and cooperation in ensuring the success of the forum and other important sporting events. I thank Kuwait University and Athletes Committee for their full cooperation and tremendous efforts in preparing for this forum."

He added "we are keen on making the forum a platform for constructive dialogue and a primary reference for the development of sports, serving the interests of all athletes. We affirm our partnership with Olympic Solidarity in the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic Council of Asia, and our firm commitment to promote the Olympic and sports movement in Asia, ensuring a bright sporting future for our coming generations. The idea of this forum stems from our firm belief that athletes



KUNA photo
Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al-Sabah, President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee

are the core and beating heart of the sporting process."

He concluded "we hope that this forum will be successful in serving its noble goals, and that we will witness its positive effects on the development of sports in our beloved country, Kuwait."

On the other hand, Dr. Sulaiman Al-Rafie said "the huge turnout at the forum is an honor for everyone, as it reflects the status and importance of sports in our society. The role of Kuwait University is not only to host the forum, but also to be an open house for every activity that serves our youths and society, considering sports is a fundamental pillar of it."

Chairman of the Athletes Committee Abdullah Shaaban expressed his happiness over this big sporting gathering, which is being held for the first time in Kuwait's history, under the guidance and support of Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser.

He pointed out that holding the forum is a major challenge for the Athletes Committee, and "we must present it in a good light."

Head of the Anti-Doping Department at the Olympic Council of Asia Nadia Al-Shamali stressed the importance of caution and awareness of the danger of drugs, while international lecturer Enas Hussein addressed the issue of

preventing manipulation in sports competitions, and Assistant Director of International Relations at the Saudi Olympic and Paralympic Committee Moudi Al-Sudairy talked about the axis of protecting athletes.

During the discussions, Director General of the PAS Bashar Abdullah said that the new partial professional regulations will be implemented starting from the 2026/2027 season.

He clarified there is a delay in some partial professional procedures, which may be due to the Ministry of Finance, in addition to the failure of some sports bodies, including clubs and federations, to provide PAS with the required records and information for deserving athletes.

On the support for football, Abdullah affirmed that football is the number one sport globally, and this is something that cannot be controlled.

He also cited handball, which has had many international accomplishments, including reaching the World Cup finals and winning the bronze medal at the recent Asian Games in China.

He revealed "by following many sports, I have seen that individual sports in Kuwait are the most accomplished, such as equestrian, fencing, karate, shooting and athletics."

He added that he and the authority do not set the strategies and plans for the federations and clubs, and that this is not their jurisdiction, indicating their role is to support these strategies. "The law prohibits the authority from interfering in setting these strategies, but through the regulations, some strategic criteria can be determined," he elaborated.

He hopes that the federations will set strategies, indicating the authority will support them. He was quick to point out that the accomplished club and national team deserve the greatest support.

He disclosed there will be an honoring ceremony for the accomplished athletes soon.

He confirmed as well the enormous technical and administrative support that Kuwait provides to athletes, including players, coaches and referees in various sports.

New Jahra wedding halls pending

Social Affairs licensing requests face setback from Municipality

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Acting Director General of the Kuwait Municipality Eng. Manal Al-Asfour rejected the request of the Ministry of Social Affairs to license the new headquarters of a charitable organization in Shuwaikh Industrial Area, citing its violation of regulations, reports Al-Qabas daily.

On the other hand, Al-Asfour nominated Director of the Urban Planning Department Eng. Hadi Al-Dhafiri and Head of the Roads Control Department Eng. Mohammad Al-Kandari to represent the Municipality as members of the ministry's working group tasked to review and amend commercial activities and kiosks in cooperative societies.

In a letter addressed to the under-secretary of the ministry regarding the allocation of a site for the Union

of Cooperative Societies for Production, Agriculture and Livestock in Al-Mutlaa Residential City, Al-Asfour explained that the city falls under the supervision of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), so it is not possible to review requests from government agencies without first coordinating with the authority and receiving amended plans in line with the regulations.

Regarding the request of the ministry to allocate land for the construction of a wedding hall in Jahra, Al-Asfour pointed out that several wedding halls have already been allocated in the governorate, though their implementation has yet to be completed. She added that coordination on this request should take place only after these halls are built and the actual needs of the area are assessed.

MPW, PART start rainy season preps

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Ministry of Public Works and the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) have started the maintenance works in rainwater drainage and manholes in preparation for the rainy season, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources.

Sources said the "emergency teams from the ministry and PART began cleaning the manholes and highways in various parts of the country at the beginning of this month."

They added that specialized companies are removing the garbage and dirt, which have accumulated throughout the summer season inside these manholes due to various factors. They are also ensuring the safety of the water inlets and ensuring that they are draining rainwater without any obstructions or obstacles.

The ministry stated that it constantly calls the attention of citizens

and expatriates, urging them to dispose waste in designated places to avoid blocking rainwater drainage manholes.

It pointed out that cleaning these manholes revealed large amounts of waste and dirt inside them, which are then collected and disposed. It affirmed that the cleaning of manholes and drainages is proceeding as planned, especially in locations that usually witness water pooling during moderate to heavy rainfall. It explained that "with the onset of the rainy season, there is continuous coordination and communication between the relevant State agencies through the Emergency Committee, which holds meetings to discuss preparations for this season."

It added that the Public Works Department and PART have identified the locations, which will be equipped with machines to drain rainwater whenever it accumulates.

Deadline set for September 1

MoE opens exceptional transfer request period for new schools

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Ministry of Education announced the opening of transfer requests for an exceptional period for the teaching and administrative staff in new schools in Al-Mutlaa and Ishbiliya only, starting Wednesday until the end of the working day on Sept 1.

In a press statement, the ministry disclosed that this step is in line with its commitment to meet the needs of new schools, and provide the necessary educational and administrative staff for the 2025/2026 academic year to ensure stability in the educational field from day one.

In addition, the ministry confirmed the opening of transfer cancellation requests for teachers covered by transfer decisions issued over the past week, within the same period.

It clarified that the transfer cancellation process carried out electronically is final, and cannot be undone once completed, indicating that the teacher who submits a transfer can-

cellation request remains in his current workplace.

It pointed out that transfer requests are subject to review through the approved electronic transfer system, which automatically arranges requests according to the specified terms and criteria as follows:

1. Seniority on the date of appointment.
2. Priority is given to the oldest in the event of a tie.
3. In the event of a continuing tie, preference is given to the one with the highest efficiency rating.

The ministry stated that the transfer process is implemented according to these criteria and the vacancies available for this year, with the system giving priority to those who fully meet the conditions according to the approved order, through the Ministry of Education's website - Administrative Services, dedicated to transfers as announced previously.

It called on all those interested to be precise in entering their data and fulfill all the prescribed conditions, while adhering to the deadlines.

Hands-on workshops set for Sept 8-9

Kuwait University to showcase AI in dentistry at 19th annual conference

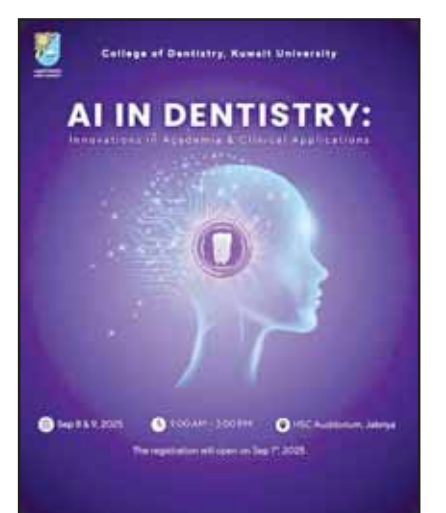
KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The College of Dentistry at Kuwait University will organize its 19th annual conference with the theme, "Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry: Innovations in Academic Fields and Clinical Applications," in September.

Under the patronage of University President Prof. Dina Musaed Al-Mailem, the college will host the conference on Sept 8-9 at the Medical Sciences Center Theater in Jabriya campus.

Acting Dean of the college Dr. Rashed Al-Azmi stated that the upcoming conference is a response to the rapid advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), which have a direct impact on education and scientific research in Dentistry. He stressed that the conference aims to equip academics, doctors and researchers with the knowledge and tools required to harness this technology, thereby, enhancing learning outcomes in line with the future needs of the dental field.

He pointed out that adopting these technologies is no longer a luxury or an option, but a necessity for maintaining leadership in the field by improving diagnosis, treatment planning and learning outcomes.

On the other hand, Dr. Asmaa Al-Yahya, acting Assistant Dean for Academic and Student Affairs and Chairperson of the Conference Scientific Committee, revealed that the conference—featuring four international and four local speakers—will serve as an ideal platform for bridging academic innovation



College of Dentistry, Kuwait University flyer

with practical application. She said it will provide participants with valuable insights into how AI can enhance patient care and clinical efficiency, while equipping them with the skills to apply AI in dental practices, ranging from diagnosis and treatment to scientific research.

She said the conference will include two hands-on workshops -- conducted in both Arabic and English, indicating that registration will open in early September through this link: www.linktr.ee/dentistry_ku. She added seats for the workshops are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.



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Aburjaib unveils AI brain scanner at Intellectual Property Week

Kuwaiti innovator highlights role of IP in driving global innovation

By Abdullah Bugis

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 26, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Inventor Sarah Aburjaib stressed on Tuesday the importance of nurturing innovators and paying attention to intellectual property rights (IPRs) in the era of artificial intelligence (AI) to boost innovation in countries.

Speaking to KUNA by phone, Aburjaib, the first Kuwaiti and Arab to win the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) award, said she participated in a panel discussion titled "Value Creation through Intellectual Property: From Intangible Assets to Strategic Growth." She noted that AI should be seen as a tool to enhance human life, not as a replacement for humans.

She explained that she presented her experience in developing an AI-powered handheld scanner for non-invasive detection of brain injuries, noting that the device can quickly detect tumors and clots without the need for preliminary MRI or CT scans. This invention is backed by a system of patents that have strengthened its international standing.

Aburjaib added that the invention also has a human aspect, as AI cannot perform the emotional role humans play. She emphasized that protecting intellectual property encourages inventors and innovators by providing legal and technological tools to support research and development.

She highlighted that nurturing innovators at the na-

tional level is essential to increasing innovation rates. Comprehensive global legal protection for intellectual property, she explained, helps spread human inventions and expand the circle of beneficiaries.

The Intellectual Property Week forum kicked off today and will continue for two days, with delegations from more than 40 countries and over 5,000 participants, including policymakers, business leaders, and IP experts, under the supervision of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) in cooperation with WIPO.

The forum will address current IP issues, from marketing intangible assets and clarifying their value to investors, to licensing innovations across borders, and resolving disputes through arbitration and mediation.

WIPO will also present specialized sessions on the Madrid and Hague Systems, the Patent Cooperation Treaty, and the IP marketplace, which enables startups and small companies to expand partnerships and explore innovative solutions.

The forum aims to raise awareness among governments, companies, and innovators about the growing role of intangible assets in supporting innovation and economic growth. It also seeks to help small and medium-sized enterprises leverage IP tools to enhance competitiveness and develop flexible, sustainable policies that keep pace with the rapidly evolving global digital economy.



KUNA photo
Kuwaiti Inventor and Engineer Sarah Aburjaib stands among participants in the Singapore Intellectual Property Week during an official photoshoot with experts and leaders from around the world.

QR codes required to access forms and deadlines

PAAET guides students on medical exams

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) has advised the accepted students, as well as applicants for transfer or course change at the College of Health Sciences, to visit the Special Courses Building at the Technology Complex in Shuwaikh on Wednesday and Thursday to obtain the medical examination form and undergo the necessary tests, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The authority stressed the importance of scanning the QR code to print the medical examination form, along with the codes for the websites of the Courses Management Department and the Public Health Department (Girls), as part of the examination preparations.

It also underscored the need for students to strictly observe the specified deadlines to ensure the immediate completion of admission

and registration procedures at the college.

The medical examination requirement is for the following academic programs:

- Anesthesia Technician
- Respiratory Therapy Technician
- Oral and Dental Health Technician
- Dental Clinic Technician
- Medical Laboratory Technology
- Emergency Medical Technician

Continued from Page 1

Vietnam was

Only those who understand reality and act within their own strengths can achieve what they desire. This is what the current Syrian regime is attempting to do. It is working hard to rebuild its country anew, according to a clear equation -- the unity of Syria and its people, the healing of wounds, and the return of the displaced to the country.

Moreover, it is working hard to establish relations with the Arab world and the rest of the world based on everything that benefits the State and the people. Without a doubt, this stems from a realistic foundation.

Anyone who reads the history of Syria and the region knows that many states have risen and fallen, and that numerous empires have passed through this region and departed, while the geography and peoples remained. This is the truth that everyone in the East must understand, especially since Syria has historically been a conduit for armies and invaders.

Despite this, those who preserve it as a unified entity, regardless of its diverse components, know that it is capable of rising again.

Yesterday, Syria was freed from the American and European sanctions. It now has the capacity to rebuild.

At this stage, it will not be able to fight on all fronts, so if President Ahmad Al-Sharaa outlines the broad and strategic interests of his country, he is acting realistically and relying on significant international and Arab support.

We then tell President Al-Sharaa to ignore those who betray his rule and raise empty slogans. He must protect Syria and its interests, so that the devils and saboteurs do not return and turn his country into a terrorist hub once again.

We must remember that Vietnam was liberated by two men -- Ho Chi Minh and General Giap.

Palestine will not be liberated by political merchants and brainwashed people devoted to proliferation.

Kuwait charts

accordance with the regulations and systems, while ensuring the protection of rights and the achievement of justice.

The importance of partnership between the media and State institutions in addressing national issues was emphasized, as well as the role of the Kuwaiti media, as it has been and continues to be a key partner in highlighting national successes and raising public awareness.

The editors-in-chief discussed policies and procedures related to visas, regulating the entry of visitors and residency for foreigners.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef revealed that work is underway to develop modern systems, which strike a balance between facilitating access for investors and visitors, and safeguarding national interests and community security requirements.

He clarified that the reopening of visit visa is subject to close daily monitoring of all visitors and their behavior to ensure full compliance with the rules and regulations. He said the necessary action will be taken in the event of any violation.

He stressed that this step aims to stimulate the economy, boost tourism and attract foreign investment, thus, strengthening Kuwait's position as a hub for investors and businesspersons.

He also addressed the drug issue, indicating that the Ministry of Interior has laid down a systematic plan to dry up the sources of drugs inside and outside the country through continuous coordination with friendly countries.

He disclosed that the recent visits to Syria and Lebanon resulted in robust plans to dry up the sources of drugs and the large daily seizures. He pointed out this reflects the government's commitment to combat drugs through coordinated efforts, including combating drug smuggling and trafficking, establishing addiction treatment centers, and raising public awareness about drug prevention.

He stated that smuggling operations by sea have almost completely disappeared, thanks to the new radar security system and unmanned boats equipped with advanced systems to detect maritime smuggling attempts. He affirmed the comprehensive government efforts, involving all concerned agencies, to combat this dangerous scourge and protect society from it.

The meeting concluded with the expression of gratitude to Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, stressing the importance of continuing such periodic meetings between government leaders and local media outlets, as they represent a platform for dialogue and exchange of views that serve the national interest and enhance the media's role in social responsibility.

Kuwait and

Hayat reaffirmed that Prime Minister Modi's visit consolidated the Kuwait-India deep-rooted historic ties, adding that further high-level visits are planned, as well as joint roadmap includes sectoral workshops throughout the year to advance cooperation across various fields.

Hayat added that Kuwait and India share similar views on many regional and international issues, particularly their support for peaceful solutions to global conflicts.

He also took note on the Indian community in Kuwait, which exceeds one million people, addressing the role of Indian workers across various sectors, especially construction and infrastructure projects involving Indian companies, pointing out that the meetings were marked by a positive atmosphere, with both sides largely aligned in their positions.

Kuwait's Ambassador to India Meshal Al-Shamali attended the meeting along with, India's Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Adarsh Swaika, from Kuwait's Embassy in New Delhi Counselor Fawaz Al-Qahtani, and diplomatic attaches Sharifa Bokhudour and Altaf Danboh.

Ambassador Hayat arrived in New Delhi early Tuesday to head Kuwait's delegation to the seventh round of political consultations between the foreign ministries of both countries.

Kuwait slams

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya on Monday reiterated Kuwait's absolute commitment to humanitarian and political efforts to support the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights.

Addressing the extraordinary ministerial meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), held in Jeddah, Al-Yahya also underscored his country's commitment to working with OIC member states to

promote complete coordination and deliver the voice of the Palestinian right to the international community in order to ensure just and comprehensive peace.

He added that the meeting came at a critical time when the humanitarian anguish of Palestinians in Gaza is still continuing as a result of the ongoing aggression, including mass devastation and loss of lives, mainly children, women and old people.

He stressed the significance of reaching an immediate and all-out cessation of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip and all occupied Palestinian territories, and ending the targeting of civilians and infrastructure.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister called for re-opening all crossings unconditionally and delivering humanitarian and medical aid to the enclave.

He noted that the State of Kuwait has recently launched a humanitarian campaign worth nearly USD 32 million to provide urgent relief aid to Gazans only as a sign of solidarity with them.

Meanwhile, he voiced opposition to the settlement policy and concomitant risks, including undermining Palestinian territorial integrity and wiping out the chance of establishing an independent Palestinian statehood.

Al-Yahya also rejected all forms of forced displacement aiming at changing the demography of Palestinian territories, emphasizing that Palestinian refugees have the right to return home.

Furthermore, he condemned in the strongest terms recent remarks by Israeli occupation authorities regarding the so-called "Greater Israel", as a blatant breach of international law and jeopardizes international peace and security.

He also voiced Kuwait's extreme concern over the aggressive policies of Israeli occupying forces, including starvation as a combat form in the event of conflicts, billing it a serious and disgraceful violation of international law and relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.

Therefore, he underlined, all member states should take a decisive and clear-cut stance decrying such unfair practices, and seek to protect Palestinian civilians.

Al-Yahya spoke highly of the output of the recent OIC ministerial meeting in Istanbul, which called for international commitment to the bi-state approach as a single strategic option to achieve just and comprehensive peace.

The minister restated his country's unwavering support for the Palestinian people's rights, including an intended Palestinian state on the June 4, 1967 border with East Jerusalem as its capital, in line with international legitimacy resolutions and the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative.

He commended those countries which have recognized the State of Palestine, while calling for implementing International Court of Justice (ICJ) rulings as a necessary step to ensure respect to international law, protect civilians and stop all violations against the Palestinian people.

However, Al-Yahya urged all Muslim countries to take tangible and fruitful steps to back Muslim peoples and communities, safeguard holy sites and alleviate the woes of the Palestinian people.

He also expressed much thanks and appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its fervent endeavors to serve the Muslim world's causes in its capacity as the country where the OIC is headquartered.

KOTC posts KD16.5 mln profit

Company achieves 96% fleet utilization

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) achieved outstanding financial and operational performance last year, with net profits reaching KD16.513 million in fiscal 2024/2025.

The newspaper obtained an official indicating that the company operates a fleet of 31 tankers, including 11 crude oil tankers, 15 petroleum product tankers, and five liquefied natural gas (LNG) tankers, with a total tonnage of 4.64 million metric tons. The fleet's utilization rate reached a high of 96.2 percent.

In terms of the quantities transported, the document revealed that the company transported 25.5 million metric tons of crude oil, 5.2 million metric tons of petroleum products, and two million metric tons of LNG.

Tanker exports constitute 18 percent of Kuwait's total exports and account for 55 percent of the exports of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) through the delivery and offloading (C&F) method.

KOTC carried out dry-docking and maintenance operations for its fleet from April 2024 to March 2025. These operations effectively contributed to improving the operational performance of tankers, raising maritime safety levels, and reducing operating costs.

According to the document, these efforts also helped ensure full compliance with international regulations and standards adopted in the maritime transport sector. The document added that the Maritime Agency Branch is responsible for serving all tankers at Kuwait's oil ports by providing various services in exchange for fees imposed by the agency. The branch received 1,521 oil tankers in fiscal 2024/2025, including 175 Kuwaiti tankers and 1,346 non-Kuwaiti tankers. It indicated that the branch is committed to conducting its activities in accord-

ance with the highest safety standards based on the requests of its clients and it spares no effort in developing the standards of services it provides.

The Transport and Shipping Sector manages the transportation of crude oil and its derivatives from Kuwait to global markets. Its responsibilities include fleet management, logistics services, and supply operations. This sector is overseen by KOTC, which plays a strategic role in securing the global supply chain for Kuwaiti oil through a modern fleet that adheres to the highest standards of operational and environmental efficiency. The sector includes marine maintenance, shipping agency operations and port operations, ensuring safe and efficient transport of energy.

The Maritime Transport Sector of KPC won the Green Maritime Transport Award at the regional and international levels from the International Maritime Standards Organization (IMO), in recognition of the corporation's efforts to protect the environment and use modern technology in its fleet.

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INTERNATIONAL

Towering wall of dust rolls through metro Phoenix, leaving thousands without power

PHOENIX, Aug 26, (AP): A powerful storm kicked up a towering wall of dust that rolled through metro Phoenix on Monday, darkening the sky, blinding drivers, knocking out power and grounding flights at one of the nation's busiest airports.

Berna Boykin Hitesman was driving her son and daughter, ages 9 and 11, home from school when the storm, known as a haboob, arrived late in the afternoon in Arizona City, about 60 miles (95 kilometers) southeast of Phoenix.

She had to quickly pull over as the storm engulfed her car. "I couldn't see my hand in front of my face if I put my hand outside," she said.

Boykin Hitesman said she could taste the dust and feel the strong wind rattling her car until it finally passed about 15 minutes later.

"I was nervous," she said. "My kids were really, really scared, so I was trying to be brave for them."

A haboob is a dust storm pushed by the wind produced by a weather front or thunderstorm and typically occurs in flat, arid areas. Heavy rain and wind followed Monday's haboob, delaying flights at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and causing some damage to a terminal roof.

"Crews have been identifying leaks and attempting to clean up water where it has collected in passenger areas,"



A giant dust storm approaches the Phoenix metro area as a monsoon storm pushes the dust into the air on Aug 25, in Phoenix. (AP)

Heather Shelbrack, the airport's deputy aviation director for public relations, said in an email.

More than 15,000 people lost power, most in Maricopa County, which includes Phoenix, according to PowerOutage.us.

Richard Filley, a retired university professor who lives in Gilbert, said the dust storm caused the trees to sway and knocked bird feeders to the ground. Fine dust found its way through "every little

crack and space" into his house, he said. "The windstorm part of it, I'm glad it's gone," he said. "You look at the photos of haboobs and they are a spectacular natural phenomenon. They are kind of beautiful in their own way."

Phoenix has been drier than usual during the monsoon season, while parts of southeast and north-central Arizona have had a fair amount of rain, said Mark O'Malley, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Phoenix.

Biden criticized

Trump honors fallen US service members

WASHINGTON, Aug 26, (AP): US President Donald Trump on Monday marked the fourth anniversary of the suicide bombing that killed 13 US service members during the chaotic withdrawal at the end of the Afghanistan War by signing a proclamation honoring the fallen.

Surrounded by about 35 family members of those killed, including one wearing a "Make America Great Again" cap, Trump used the somber occasion to decry his predecessor, Democratic President Joe Biden, for allowing the attack to happen.

Tuesday is the anniversary of the bombing that also killed more than 100 Afghans at Abbey Gate outside the Kabul airport on Aug. 26, 2021. Trump called it "one of the dumbest days in the history of our country by the previous administration."

"That was a terrible day," Trump said. "And I think it was the worst day, and in many ways the most embarrassing day, in the history of our country."

The White House was following a withdrawal commitment and timeline that the Trump administration had negotiated with the Taliban in 2020. A 2022 review by a government-appointed special



Family members of soldiers killed in Afghanistan at the attack at Abbey Gate listen as President Donald Trump speaks during an event signing a proclamation honoring the fourth anniversary of the attack, in the Oval Office of the White House on Aug 25, in Washington. (AP)

investigator concluded decisions made by both Trump and Biden were the key factors leading to the rapid collapse of Afghanistan's military and the Taliban takeover.

Trump made the suicide bombing and Biden's handling of it a frequent topic as he campaigned for president. The relatives of some of the US service members killed also

appeared on stage at the Republican National Convention in July 2024.

On the third anniversary of the attack, Trump was invited by family members of some suicide bombing victims to Arlington National Cemetery's Section 60, a hallowed section where US forces killed in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are buried.

'We've known each other and gotten along very well'

Trump's initial warning to South Korea's Lee turns into warm welcome after flattery

WASHINGTON, Aug 26, (AP): US President Donald Trump took to social media before meeting with South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Monday to threaten not to do business with Seoul because of a "Purge or Revolution" that he claimed was taking place in the country.

But any prospect of a hostile Oval Office meeting evaporated after Lee heaped praise onto the US president - lauding the decor, beseeching Trump to continue to help with Korean peace efforts and even suggesting a Trump Tower in North Korea.

"We've known each other and gotten along very well," Trump said, before adding: "It's a great honor to be with you and congratulations on your election. That was a big one, and we're with you 100%."

The cordial display showed how world leaders are taking notes from previous meetings between Trump and heads of state, who've largely chosen the route of praise and adulation rather than confrontation as they seek favorable trade terms and continued military

aid from Washington.

It was one of the first big foreign policy tests for Lee, who took over a country in a state of political turmoil since its former leader, Yoon Suk Yeol, was ousted from office after imposing martial law.

Lee, elected in June, began by praising one of Trump's pet projects: presidential interior design.

"I heard that you recently redecorated the Oval Office, and I would like to say that it looks very bright and beautiful," Lee said through an interpreter. "It has the dignity of America, and it symbolizes the new future and prosperity of America."

He noted that the Dow Jones index has reached record highs (although Lee made sure to add the caveat that "it went down a bit") and asked Trump, who has been on a mission to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, to reunify the two Koreas and even perhaps see the construction of a Trump Tower in North Korea accompanied by a round of golf. Lee also agreed with Trump's assertion that North Korean leader



US President Donald Trump, (right), shakes the hand of South Korean President Lee Jae Myung during a meeting in the Oval Office of the White House on Aug 25 in Washington. (AP)

Kim Jong Un would not have continued to enhance his nuclear capabilities the last few years had Trump remained in office.

Noting a "renaissance" that is taking place, Lee said, "I believe you are the only leader who has made such accomplishments."

The tone was a far cry from Trump's confrontational social media post earlier Monday. He later elaborated that he was referring to raids on churches and on a US military base by the new South Korean government, which they "probably shouldn't have done."

"I heard bad things," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Monday morning. "I don't know if it's true or not. I'll be finding out."

Trump did not identify specific raids. But earlier this month, South Korean police raided a church led by a conservative activist pastor who authorities allege is connected to a riot by Yoon's supporters at a Seoul court in January, after it issued an arrest warrant for him.

A special prosecutor's team that is investigating corruption allegations against Yoon's arrested wife, former first lady Kim Keon Hee, also raided the facilities of the Unification Church over allegations that one of its officials gave her luxury goods.

Meanwhile, Osan Air Base, which

is jointly operated by the United States and South Korea, was also the target of a raid last month by investigators looking into how Yoon's activation of martial law transpired. South Korean investigators stressed the search was limited to areas controlled by Seoul and did not involve US military operations.

Asked about his assertions by a reporter in front of Lee, Trump declined to confront the South Korean president and instead said the two will discuss it later.

"It didn't sound to me like South Korea," Trump said.

Lee explained that the special prosecutor was tapped by the country's National Assembly to investigate the actions of Yoon, who Lee said staged a "self-coup."

At that point, Trump interjected, "Is his name Deranged Jack Smith, by any chance?" He was referring to the special prosecutor who led two criminal cases against Trump before the Republican president was reelected to a second term.

Polish, Canadian PMs meet on cooperation

WARSAW, Aug 26, (Agencies): Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk met with visiting Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on Monday to discuss cooperation in strategic, economic and security fields.

Tusk said Poland needs "reliable partners ready for close cooperation" in nuclear and renewable energy, where Canada's experience would be valuable.

He added that contacts between the two countries are already close due to their shared interests.

The Polish prime minister said the two sides reiterated continued support for Ukraine.

According to a statement issued after the meeting, Poland and Canada will launch annual bilateral consultations to implement their enhanced strategic partnership.

Meanwhile, the Norwegian government on Monday proposed maintaining its extraordinary support to Ukraine at the current level next year, pledging an allocation of 85 billion Norwegian



Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, right, is welcomed by Poland's President Karol Nawrocki in Warsaw on Aug 25. (AP)

kroner (about 8.4 billion US dollars) in military and civilian assistance.

Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store announced the proposal during a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kiev, the Norwegian government said in a press release.

Store said the proposal aims to promote peace and stability in Ukraine.

Norway's multibillion-dollar military and civilian support for Ukraine's fight to defeat Russia's invasion will stretch into next year, Store said Monday during a visit to Kyiv, as uncertainty surrounds US-led efforts to secure a peace settlement.

Store, whose country borders Russia, told a news conference with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that Ukraine is "defending a critical principle on the European level" by refusing to accept Russia's seizure of territory.

A stream of high-ranking visitors to Kyiv in recent days reflects concerns around the US-led peace drive, as President Donald Trump weighs how to proceed with no sign of a breakthrough.



Lithuania's Social Democratic party member Inga Ruginiene, nominated as the next Prime Minister, speaks during a Lithuania's parliament session in Vilnius, Lithuania, on Aug 26. (AP)

Britain's hard-right Reform party says it will mass deport migrants if it wins power

LONDON, Aug 26, (AP): Nigel Farage, the leader of Britain's hard-right Reform UK party, said Tuesday that if he wins the next election he will leave the European human rights convention and immediately detain and deport anyone who arrives in the country illegally.

Farage laid out his plans to tackle illegal immigration following a significant rise in the number of migrants who arrive by boats across the English Channel, and weeks of protests over the government's use of hotels to house asylum-seekers.

Despite holding just four of the 650 seats in the House of Commons, Farage's party has gained momentum by seizing on public frustration over successive governments' inability to bring down the number of migrants coming by boat. National polls have suggested that support for Reform equals or surpasses that of the ruling Labour Party and the Conservatives.

"If you come to the UK illegally, you will be detained and deported and never, ever allowed to stay, period," Farage told a press conference.

"The mood in the country around this issue is a mix between total despair and rising anger," he said, adding there is now "a genuine threat to public order" if no action is taken.

Farage, who has long sought to link problems such as public healthcare and housing to migrant arrivals, reiterated his stance that the UK is being "invaded" by migrants. He said that if he comes to power, Reform will leave the European Convention on



British Reform party leader Nigel Farage addresses journalists during a press conference in a hangar at Oxford Airport in Kidlington, England on Aug 26. (AP)

Human Rights and repeal or "disapply" all other rights treaties to bar all asylum claims and ensure migrants who arrive without authorization are deported.

The party pledged to scale up the capacity of detention facilities and secure deals with countries including Afghanistan, Eritrea and Iran, to return migrants.

Asked repeatedly about the prospect of asylum-seekers being tortured or killed if they were sent back to countries they fled from, Farage said: "The alternative is to do nothing ... We cannot be responsible for all the sins that take place around the world."

So far this year, more than 28,000 people have crossed the English Channel to arrive in the UK by boat, up about 50% from the same period last year. A much larger number of people - over 111,000 - applied for asylum in the UK in the year up to June, official figures show.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer has ditched the Conservative administration's flagship plan to send migrants who arrived by unauthorized means to Rwanda. Instead, he has pinned hopes on a deal agreed with France last month to send some migrants who cross the English Channel on dinghies and inflatable boats back to France.

Former labor union leader elected as Lithuania's PM after predecessor quit

VILNIUS, Lithuania, Aug 26, (AP): Lithuania's parliament on Tuesday elected a former labor union leader and relative political newcomer as the country's new prime minister, weeks after her predecessor resigned following investigations into his business dealings.

Lawmakers approved Inga Ruginiene, 44, as the new head of government by 78 votes to 35.

Ruginiene, a former head of Lithuania's labor union confederation, joined the center-left Social Democratic Party just before a general election last year and then served as minister for social affairs and labor under Prime Minister Gintautas Paluckas, who resigned at the end of July after less than a year in office.

Paluckas had been dogged by media

investigations into his business and financial dealings. Several media outlets published investigations in July regarding his past and present ventures and alleged mishandlings, including ones more than a decade ago. Anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies in the country subsequently launched their own inquiries.

President Gitanas Nauseda, who nominated Ruginiene as the new prime minister, told parliament before Tuesday's vote that she is "a constructive negotiator who seeks compromise."

Ruginiene told lawmakers she will focus on "restoring stability" and will work to "ensure that the government carries out the work entrusted to it by the voters."

The Social Democrats on Monday signed an agreement on a new center-

left coalition with two junior partners, one of which is new to the government. It has a solid majority in the parliament, or Seimas, with 82 of the 141 seats.

Ruginiene must still be formally appointed by the president and sworn in at a ceremony in parliament, but those are formalities. Her government should serve out the remainder of the four-year term that started with last fall's election.

Lithuanian foreign policy is unlikely to change because of the government shakeup. Nauseda, who was elected separately, is the country's face on the world stage and has been one of the most stalwart supporters of Ukraine's fight against invading Russian forces - a position that has broad political support in the Baltic nation of about 2.8 million people.

Europe

Warehouse fire in Germany causes explosions: A major fire broke out on Monday afternoon at a warehouse in Hamburg, a northern German port city, triggering explosions and further blazes, local authorities said.

More than 100 firefighters were dispatched. A fire department spokesperson said several people were injured but did not give an exact number, adding that the figure was in the single digits.

The blaze began when a vehicle parked inside the warehouse in the city's southeastern port area caught fire, causing explosions of pressurized containers and spreading flames to nearby warehouses, according to the fire brigade.

Debris from the explosions landed on the nearby A1 highway, forcing closures and causing traffic jams stretch-

ing more than 10 km, police said.

Local media reported a large column of dark smoke was visible from afar. The area has been sealed off as rescue operations continue. (Xinhua)

Norway train-tractor collision kills 1: One person was killed Monday evening when a passenger train collided with a tractor on the Gjøvik Line in eastern Norway, local police reported.

The collision occurred at an unsecured level crossing near a small locality in Vestre Toten municipality in Innlandet County, about 100 km north of the capital Oslo. Police confirmed that the tractor driver died at the scene.

According to police, the train was traveling northbound and was not carrying passengers at the time. None of the crew members on board were injured. (Xinhua)

'Torre reportedly had differences with government officials'

Philippine president fires nat'l police chief, who led arrests of Duterte and Quiboloy

MANILA, Philippines, Aug 26, (Agencies): Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr has fired his national police chief, who gained attention for leading the separate arrests of ex-president Rodrigo Duterte on orders of the International Criminal Court and televangelist Apollo Carreon Quiboloy, who is on the FBI's most-wanted list for alleged child trafficking, Philippine officials said Tuesday.

Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin did not cite a reason for the removal of General Nicolas Torre as head of the 232,000-member national police force, a position he was appointed to by Marcos in May and which he would have held until 2027. He will be replaced by another senior police general, Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. who assumed the top post Tuesday.

In a letter to Torre made public Tuesday, Bersamin informed him of his immediate removal as national police chief on orders of Marcos and directed him "to ensure the proper turnover of all matters, documents and information relative to your office."

Torre was not immediately available for comment.

Ahead of his removal, Torre reportedly had differences with government officials over the national police chief's decision to remove more than a dozen police officials from their posts, including Nartatez.

The National Police Commission ordered the reinstatement of the police officials to their posts this month but that was apparently not immediately done.

"He did not violate any laws, he has not been charged criminally or administratively, it is simply a choice of the president to take a new direction for the national police," Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said without elaborating in a news conference when asked why Torre was removed.

Marcos and Torre had a "wonderful and productive relationship," Remulla said, but he added without elaborating that "we are a country of laws and not of men, that the institutions must be larger than the people who run it."

Only the president can specifically answer why Torre was removed, Remulla said. It's not clear if Torre would be offered another government post.

Just a few days ago, Torre demonstrated to Marcos a new anti-crime battle room



Incoming Philippine National Police Officer in Charge Police General, Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. (second from right), and Interior Secretary Juanito Victor Remulla Jr stand in front of an image of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, (left), and relieved police chief General Nicolas Torre, right, during assumption of command ceremony at Camp Crame, police headquarters in Quezon City, Philippines, on Aug 26. (AP)

in the national police headquarters where officers could rapidly communicate by two-way radio and other communications system to respond to any law and order problem in five minutes or less.

In March, Torre led the chaotic arrest of Duterte at Manila's international airport and his handover to International Criminal Court detention in the Netherlands for his deadly antidrug crackdowns. Duterte, who ended his six-year presidential term in 2022, has been accused of a crime against humanity for the brutal campaign against illegal drugs when he was in office and which left thousands of mostly poor suspects dead in police-enforced crackdowns that alarmed the United States, other Western governments and human rights watchdogs.

Duterte has denied ordering the executions of drug suspects but has publicly threatened to have suspected drug traffickers killed while he was a longtime mayor of southern Davao city and later as president.

Last year, Torre oversaw the arrest of Philippine religious leader Apollo Quiboloy, a key Duterte supporter who was placed on the FBI's most-wanted list after being indicted for sexual abuses and trafficking of underage girls in the US. Torre, then regional police chief of the southern Davao region, led thousands of policemen who confronted large numbers of Quiboloy's followers opposing the religious leader's arrest in his vast religious complex in southern Davao city.

Quiboloy and his lawyers have denied the charges.

Quiboloy has been locked up since then in a metropolitan Manila jail for three criminal cases similar to his cases in the US, which Philippine Ambassador to Washington Jose Manuel Romualdez said has sought his extradition.

Also:

MANILA: At least two people were killed and some others injured after a van crashed into a roadside house along a highway in Antique province in central Philippines on Monday, police said.

Police said the van, carrying 12 people, was heading south to their hometown in Sibalom when it crashed into a house in Lata-an town early Monday morning. "The driver lost control of the vehicle, which, according to witnesses, was at full speed," a police officer said.

No occupants of the house were injured in the crash. Police were investigating the crash.



Roofs collapse after Typhoon Kajiki sweeps through Ha Tinh, Vietnam on Aug 26. (AP)

Tropical storm kills 4 in Vietnam

Heavy rain fell Tuesday in parts of Southeast Asia after a tropical storm made landfall in Vietnam, causing at least four deaths, damage to homes and flooding in the capital and coastal areas.

State television network VTV said the remnants of Typhoon Kajiki were moving over Laos on Tuesday. Heavy rain also was forecast in Thailand and people were told to be vigilant about possible flooding into Wednesday.

Three people died, including a 90-year-old man whose house collapsed in the rain and a man who was electrocuted Friday while preparing his home for the storm, while 13 people were injured and thousands of houses were damaged in the country's central region, VTV reported.

The storm reportedly caused electricity outages in Nghe An province beginning Monday night.

In Hanoi on Tuesday, people tried to move motorbikes through deep water as cars and buses slowly moved along flooded streets.

"It's flooding everywhere because it has been raining so much. I'm stuck here and can't get to work," said Nguyen Thu Quynh, an office worker who pushed her motorcycle out of a street flooded with knee-deep water. (AP)

Cambodian lawmakers pass bill to revoke citizenship

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Aug 26, (AP): Cambodian lawmakers have approved a bill giving the government power to revoke the citizenship of anyone found guilty of conspiring with foreign nations to harm the national interest.

The amendment to the Nationality Law, which was approved by all 120 members of the National Assembly who were present, is viewed by critics as a way to suppress internal dissent and control political opponents of Prime Minister Hun Manet and the ruling Cambodian People's Party.

Ahead of the vote on Sunday, 50 Cambodian non-governmental organizations issued a statement saying they were deeply worried by the bill's "vaguely written" contents allowing the government to strip Cambodians of their citizenship. They claim it "will have a disastrously chilling effect on the freedom of speech of all



Hun Manet

Cambodian citizens."

"With this new amendment to the Nationality Law, all Cambodians risk losing our identities over our activism. If we are stripped of citizenship, we will lose the foundation for every right we have in our home country," the statement said.

Before becoming law, the bill must be approved by Cambodia's Senate and head of state, King Norodom Sihamoni, which are normally pro forma actions. Although Cambodia is formally an electoral democracy, Hun Manet's Cambodian People's Party holds 120 of the 125 seats in the National Assembly and controls all the levers of government.

The passage of the legislation comes during a period of heightened nationalism among Cambodians following a border dispute with neighboring Thailand that broke into a five-day armed conflict in late July ending only when a shaky ceasefire was reached.

Cambodian Interior Minister Sar Sokha told the lawmakers that the update to the law is vital to boost the patriotic feelings of Cambodians while their country is facing what he characterized as an invasion by neighboring Thailand.



Police wait near the scene of a shooting in the high country of Porepunkah in the state of Victoria, Australia on Aug 26. (AP)

2 officers killed in Australia

Two police officers were killed and another seriously wounded in a shooting Tuesday at a property in a rural part of Australia. The gunman remained at large as police scoured a vast remote area.

The shooting occurred in midmorning when 10 armed police officers tried to execute a search warrant at a property in Porepunkah, a town of just over 1,000 people in Victoria state 320 kilometers (200 miles) northeast of Melbourne.

The suspect killed a 59-year-old detective and a 35-year-old senior constable, Victoria's Chief Commissioner of Police Mike Bush told reporters at a news conference in the nearby city of Wangaratta.

The officers "were met by the offender and they were murdered in cold blood," Bush said. The man fled alone, on foot and heavily armed into surrounding forest where hundreds of officers were still searching for him, the police chief said.

Bush would not divulge what the warrant related to and wouldn't confirm the man's name or believed motivations. Officers were also seeking the man's wife and two children, whose whereabouts were unknown. (AP)



People watch a swelling River Tawi from the roof of their houses in Jammu, India on Aug 26. (AP)

India releases water from swollen rivers

Mass evacuations in Pakistan, say officials

LAHORE, Pakistan, Aug 26, (AP): Pakistan has evacuated tens of thousands of people to safer areas after neighboring India released water from overflowing dams and swollen rivers into low-lying border regions, officials said Tuesday.

The move came a day after New Delhi alerted Islamabad about possible cross-border flooding, marking the first public diplomatic contact between the two nuclear-armed rivals in months.

Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority said it had issued an advance alert to its Punjabi counterparts about a surge in the Sutlej River and the risk of flooding, and that evacuations from various districts in

the eastern Punjab province were underway.

In a statement, it said rescuers evacuated more than 14,000 people from Kasur, a district in Punjab province, while over 89,000 were moved to safer ground from the city of Bahawalnagar, near the Indian border.

The NDMA said authorities have urged residents to stay away from rivers, streams and low-lying areas, avoid unnecessary travel, and follow alerts issued through the media, mobile phones and the NDMA's disaster alert app.

The latest flood alert and evacuation drive by Pakistan comes as heavy monsoon rains continue to batter both South Asian countries.

In Pakistan's northwest, many residents complained this month that they had received no warning before flash floods struck Buner district, killing more than 300 people. Officials have said the devastation was caused by a sudden cloudburst, which could not have been predicted, and that many of the victims were living along natural water pathways.

Nationwide, floods triggered by seasonal rains have killed more than 800 people in Pakistan since June 26.

In Kashmir, which is split between the two sides and claimed by both in its entirety, at least 65 have also died and hundreds have been displaced in the Indian-administered Jammu area.



Supporters of former president of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe celebrate after a court granted him bail, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Aug 26. (AP)

Sri Lanka's former president gets bail after arrest

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Aug 26, (AP): A Sri Lankan court on Tuesday released the former president Ranil Wickremesinghe on bail after he was arrested over allegations of misusing public funds while in office.

Wickremesinghe, who was arrested Friday, is accused of using public funds to attend his wife's graduation ceremony in London after an official visit to Cuba and the United States in 2023.

The senior opposition politician's aide Danushka Ramaniyake said he had heard from the Magistrates' Court in Colombo that Wickremesinghe had been given bail. More details were not immediately available.

During the hearing, thousands of Wickremesinghe's supporters took to the streets to protest his arrest, calling it a political witch-hunt by the government of President Anura Kumara Disanayake. Some protesters in black clothes waved black flags and shouted slogans condemning the arrest and calling for his immediate release.

Ugandan opposition figures question deal to receive deportees from US

KAMPALA, Uganda, Aug 26, (AP): Opposition figures and others in Uganda on Tuesday criticized an agreement with the United States to receive deported migrants, questioning the lack of parliamentary approval and charging that the deal eases political pressure on the country's authoritarian president.

After facing US sanctions that have targeted many government officials, including the parliamentary speaker, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni will be happy to transact with Washington, said Ibrahim Ssemujju, a lawmaker who is a prominent opposition figure. "He will be asking, 'When are you bringing them?'"

Ugandan officials have released few details about the agreement, although said they preferred to receive deportees of African origin and didn't want individuals with criminal records. However, the country is being put forward as a possible location for high-profile detainee Kilmor Abrego Garcia, an El Salvador native who has been charged with human smuggling.

Abrego Garcia, the subject of a protracted immigration saga, was detained on Monday by immigration officials in Baltimore, and the Department of



Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni attends the state funeral of Kenya's former president Daniel Arap Moi in Nairobi, Kenya on Feb. 11, 2020. (AP)

Homeland Security said in a statement that Abrego Garcia "is being processed for removal to Uganda."

Without parliamentary oversight, "the whole scheme stinks," said Mathias Mpuuga, until recently the leader of the opposition in Uganda's national assembly.

He said the agreement with the US left him "a little perplexed" because Uganda is struggling to look after refugees fleeing violence in neighboring countries. He suggested the agreement makes sense only as a matter of "economic expediency" for the Ugandan government.

Bolivia's right-wing former president Jorge Quiroga to 'change everything' if elected

LA PAZ, Bolivia, Aug 26, (AP): Jorge "Tuto" Quiroga was once seen as a sideshow in Bolivia's presidential races, his pleas for free markets and small government falling on deaf ears in a country dominated by budget-busting populism.

Now, after three failed presidential bids, the collapse of Bolivia's long-ruling leftist party and a brazen campaign promising to rescue the nation from its worst economic crisis in decades, Bolivia's most right-wing candidate is one of two men headed to an unprecedented runoff election to lead this landlocked nation of 12 million.

In an interview Monday with The Associated Press, Quiroga vowed to reshape Bolivia's state-directed economy into a capitalist order based on markets and private property.

"I am here to change everything, dramatically and radically," Quiroga, 65, a regular on the think tank speaker circuit and industrial engineering graduate of Texas A&M University, said from his sleek apartment in Bolivia's capital of La Paz. "I will open Bolivia to the world and



Presidential candidate Jorge 'Tuto' Quiroga gives an interview in La Paz, Bolivia on Aug 25. (AP)

bring the world to Bolivia."

A former vice president who briefly held the presidency after then-President Hugo Banzer stepped down for health reasons in 2001, Quiroga faces off

against another pro-business candidate, centrist Sen. Rodrigo Paz, on Oct 19.

Quiroga's most drastic proposal involves transferring shares in Bolivia's abundant minerals from the government to individual citizens, placing most of the economy in private hands and dismantling the key pillar of resource nationalism that has held sway here for almost two decades under the Movement Toward Socialism, or MAS, party.

"It's about giving the people what belongs to them," Quiroga said of his plan to unleash what he called a "liberal ownership revolution." In what apparently amounts to a giant mutual fund for investment, the scheme entitles all Bolivian adults to stakes in the country's vital lithium, iron and gas industries.

"If people tell you that's right-wing or libertarian, let them say what they want," he said.

In explaining the plan, Ramiro Caverio, the head of Quiroga's economic team, rejected use of the term privatization - a hot-button word here ever since the Spanish exploited Bolivia's silver deposits to fund its empire.

Kuwaiti oil rises to \$71.33 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by nine cents on Monday to USD 71.33 per barrel, compared to USD 71.24 last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday.

The prices of The Brent Crude and West Texas Intermediate in global markets increased by USD 1.07 and USD 1.14 respectively, settling at USD 68.80 per barrel and USD 64.80 pb.

Business

As part of its efforts to support the economy and Kuwait Vision 2035

NBK signs an MoU with Kuwait Bar Association to support national law professionals

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: In line with its unwavering commitment to supporting the national economy and Kuwait Vision 2035, National Bank of Kuwait signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Kuwait Bar Association (KBA), aiming to attract law experts and graduates from diverse legal backgrounds and specialties.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Emad Al-Ablani, Group Chief Human Resources Officer at NBK and Mr. Adnan Mahmoud Abul, Chairman of KBA, with the attendance of several professionals from both parties.

Under this memorandum, KBA shall provide NBK with the resumes and certificates of experience of registered lawyers who are job hunting, and NBK shall announce these job openings through the channels agreed upon.

The two parties also agreed that the recruitment process will be subject to the bank's needs and the specialized department's followed procedures. Moreover, it was agreed that the aim of this agreement is that NBK is to examine each department's needs for legal specialties and announce job openings accordingly, with no obliga-



Group photo after signing the agreement.

tion to recruit any candidate named by KBA.

On this occasion, Al-Ablani commented: "We are pleased with this collaboration through which we strive to attract the best national competencies. This agreement provides an opportunity for national legal professionals to undergo professional training and development in a dynamic work environment, which further

contributes to polishing their legal skills and exposing them to the best international practices in this vital field".

"In the backdrop of an accelerating digital transformation and escalating cyber threats", Al-Ablani added, "NBK pays great attention to the importance of providing law professionals with the necessary skills to face the challenges these circumstances generate. The mem-

orandum, therefore, includes specialized training sessions for new lawyers about topics such as cybersecurity, prevention of financial fraud, data protection, digital compliance, as focusing on new digital and legal aspects guarantees having a qualified generation of lawyers able to provide comprehensive legal advice".

Al-Ablani further added that "this memorandum comes as part

Al-Ablani: We are committed to attracting and training the best young talents to become effective future leaders.

■ The agreement facilitates reaching distinguished and innovative legal competencies.

■ We align our efforts with all institutions to support Kuwait's agendas and provide job opportunities for the national youth.

gal experts to keep up with the latest events".

Al-Ablani also went further to emphasize that NBK takes pride in its strong and longstanding ties with Kuwait's private and government institutions, through which it strives to align its efforts with theirs to better serve and support the economy, as well as provide and job opportunities for national fresh graduates and refine their qualifications to become effective future leaders.

On his part, Mr. Adnan Abul expressed his sincere pleasure in signing this strategic partnership with such a prestigious and distinguished leading trademark as NBK. He also highlighted KBA's readiness to collaborate with the bank to achieve the joint vision and announce job opportunities in the private sector for national lawyers.

NBK continues its efforts as one of the private sector's leading institutions to attract, develop, and upskill human resources, and it has the highest employee retention rate. Moreover, it's one of the biggest recruiting institutions and most attractive workplaces for national professionals.

Why US Presidents have usually left the Fed alone

WASHINGTON, Aug 26, (AP): President Donald Trump says he is firing Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook late Monday, in a move viewed as a sharp escalation in his battle to exert greater control over the independent institution.

Trump said in a letter posted on his Truth Social platform Monday that he is firing Cook because of allegations that she committed mortgage fraud. The allegation was made last week by Bill Pulte, a Trump appointee to the Federal Housing Administration, an agency that regulates mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Cook previously said she would not leave her post.

Trump has repeatedly attacked the Fed's chair, Jerome Powell, for not cutting its short-term interest rate, and even threatened to fire him. Powell, who will speak Friday at an economic symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, says the Fed wants to see how the economy responds to Trump's sweeping tariffs on imports, which Powell says could push up inflation.

Powell's caution has infuriated Trump, who has demanded the Fed cut borrowing costs to spur the economy and reduce the interest rates the federal government pays on its debt. Trump has also accused Powell of mismanaging the U.S. central bank's \$2.5 billion building renovation project.

Firing the Fed chair or forcing out a governor threatens the Fed's venerated independence, which has long been supported by most economists and Wall Street investors. Here's what to know about the Fed:

The Fed wields extensive power over the U.S. economy. By cutting the short-term interest rate it controls - which it typically does when the economy falters - the Fed can make borrowing cheaper and encourage more spending, accelerating growth and hiring. When it raises the rate - which it does to cool the economy and combat inflation - it can weaken the economy and cause job losses.

Economists have long preferred independent central banks because they can more easily take unpopular steps to fight inflation, such as raise interest rates, which makes borrowing to buy a home, car, or appliance more expensive.

The importance of an independent Fed was cemented for most economists after the extended inflation spike of the 1970s and early 1980s. Former Fed Chair Arthur Burns has been widely blamed for allowing the painful inflation of that era to accelerate by succumbing to pressure from President Richard Nixon to keep rates low heading into the 1972 election. Nixon feared higher rates would cost him the election, which he won in a landslide.

Paul Volcker was eventually appointed chair of the Fed in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter, and he pushed the Fed's short-term rate to the stunningly high level of nearly 20%. (It is currently 4.3%). The eye-popping rates triggered a sharp recession, pushed unemployment to nearly 11%, and spurred widespread protests.

Yet Volcker didn't flinch. By the mid-1980s, inflation had fallen back into the low single digits. Vol-

cker's willingness to inflict pain on the economy to throttle inflation is seen by most economists as a key example of the value of an independent Fed.

An effort to fire Powell would almost certainly cause stock prices to fall and bond yields to spike higher, pushing up interest rates on government debt and raising borrowing costs for mortgages, auto loans, and credit card debt. The interest rate on the 10-year Treasury is a benchmark for mortgage rates.

Most investors prefer an independent Fed, partly because it typically manages inflation better without being influenced by politics but also because its decisions are more predictable. Fed officials often publicly discuss how they would alter interest rate policies if economic conditions changed.

If the Fed was more swayed by politics, it would be harder for financial markets to anticipate - or understand - its decisions.

Fed chairs like Powell are appointed by the president to serve four-year terms, and have to be confirmed by the Senate. The president also appoints the six other members of the Fed's governing board, who can serve staggered terms of up to 14 years.

Those appointments can allow a president over time to significantly alter the Fed's policies. Former president Joe Biden appointed four of the current seven members: Powell, Cook, Philip Jefferson, and Michael Barr. A fifth Biden appointee, Adriana Kugler, stepped down unexpectedly on Aug. 1, about five months before the end of her term. Trump has already nominated his top economist, Stephen Miran, as a potential replacement, though he will require Senate approval. Cook's term ends in 2038, so forcing her out would allow Trump to appoint a loyalist sooner.

Trump will be able to replace Powell as Fed chair in May 2026, when Powell's term expires. Yet 12 members of the Fed's interest-rate setting committee have a vote on whether to raise or lower interest rates, so even replacing the Chair doesn't guarantee that Fed policy will shift the way Trump wants.

Congress, meanwhile, can set the Fed's goals through legislation. In 1977, for example, Congress gave the Fed a "dual mandate" to keep prices stable and seek maximum employment. The Fed defines stable prices as inflation at 2%.

The 1977 law also requires the Fed chair to testify before the House and Senate twice every year about the economy and interest rate policy.

The Supreme Court earlier this year suggested in a ruling on other independent agencies that a president can't fire the chair of the Fed just because he doesn't like the chair's policy choices. But he may be able to remove him "for cause," typically interpreted to mean some kind of wrongdoing or negligence.

It's a likely reason the Trump administration has zeroed in on the building renovation, in hopes it could provide a "for cause" pretext. Still, Powell would likely fight any attempt to remove him, and the case could wind up at the Supreme Court.

Trump fires Fed Governor Cook, citing mortgage fraud allegations

Cook rejects Trump's firing, calls move illegal

WASHINGTON, Aug 26, (AP): President Donald Trump said Monday night that he's firing Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook, an unprecedented move that would constitute a sharp escalation in his battle to exert greater control over what has long been considered an institution independent from day-to-day politics.

Trump said in a letter posted on his Truth Social platform that he is removing Cook effective immediately because of allegations that she committed mortgage fraud.

Cook said Monday night that she would not step down. "President Trump purported to fire me 'for cause' when no cause exists under the law, and he has no authority to do so," she said in an emailed statement. "I will not resign."

Bill Pulte, a Trump appointee to the agency that regulates mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, made the accusations last week. Pulte alleged that Cook had claimed two primary residences -- in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Atlanta -- in 2021 to get better mortgage terms. Mortgage rates are often higher on second homes or those purchased to rent.

Trump's move is likely to touch off an extensive legal battle that will probably go to the Supreme Court and could disrupt financial markets. Stock futures declined slightly late Monday, as did the dollar against other major currencies.

If Trump succeeds in removing Cook from the board, it could erode the Fed's political independence, which is considered critical to its ability to fight inflation because it enables it to take unpopular steps like raising interest rates. If bond investors start to lose faith that the Fed will be able to control inflation, they will demand higher rates to own bonds, pushing up borrowing costs for mortgages, car loans and business loans.

Cook has retained Abbe Lowell, a prominent Washington attorney. Lowell said Trump's "reflex to bully is flawed and his demands lack any proper process, basis or legal authority," adding, "We will take whatever actions are needed to prevent his attempted illegal action."

Cook was appointed to the Fed's board by then-President Joe Biden in 2022 and is the first Black woman to serve as a governor. She was a Marshall Scholar and received degrees from Oxford University and Spelman College, and she has taught at Michigan State University and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Her nomination was opposed by most Senate Republicans, and she was approved on a 50-50 vote with the tie broken by then-Vice President Kamala Harris.

The law allows a president to fire a Fed governor "for cause," which typically means for some kind of wrongdoing or dereliction of duty. The president cannot fire a governor



Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve member Lisa Cook, speaks during a conversation with leaders from organizations that include nonprofits, small businesses, manufacturing, supply chain management, the hospitality industry, and the housing and education sectors at the Federal Reserve building, Sept. 23, 2022, in Washington. (AP)

simply because of differences over interest rate policy.

Establishing a for-cause removal typically requires some type of proceeding that would allow Cook to answer the charges and present evidence, legal experts say, which hasn't happened in this case.

"This is a procedurally invalid removal under the statute," said Lev Menand, a law professor at Columbia law school and author of "The Fed Unbound," a book about the Fed's actions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Menand also said for-cause firings are typically related to misconduct while in office, rather than based on private misconduct from before an official's appointment.

"This is not someone convicted of a crime," Menand said. "This is not someone who is not carrying out their duties."

Fed governors vote on the central bank's interest rate decisions and on issues of financial regulation. While they are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate, they are not like cabinet secretaries, who serve at the pleasure of the president. They serve 14-year terms that are staggered in an effort to insulate the Fed from political influence.

While presidents have clashed with Fed chairs before, no president has sought to fire a Fed governor. In recent decades, presidents of both parties have largely respected Fed independence, though Richard Nixon and Lyndon Johnson put heavy pressure on the Fed during their presidencies - mostly behind closed doors. Still, that behind-the-scenes pressure to keep interest rates low, the same goal sought by Trump, has widely been blamed for touching off rampant inflation in the late 1960s and '70s.

President Harry Truman pushed Thomas McCabe to step down from his position as Fed chair in 1951, though that occurred behind the scenes.

The Supreme Court signaled in a recent decision that Fed officials have greater legal protections from firing than other independent

agencies, but it's not clear if that extends to this case.

Menand noted that the Court's conservative majority has taken a very expansive view of presidential power, saying, "We're in uncharted waters in a sense that it's very difficult to predict that if Lisa Cook goes to court what will happen."

Sarah Binder, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said the president's use of the "for cause" provision is likely an effort to mask his true intent. "It seems like a fig leaf to get what we want, which is muscling someone on the board to lower rates," she said.

Trump has said he would only appoint Fed officials who would support lower borrowing costs. He recently named Stephen Miran, a top White House economic adviser, to replace another governor, Adriana Kugler, who stepped down about five months before her term officially ended Aug. 1.

Trump appointed two governors in his first term, Christopher Waller and Michelle Bowman, so replacing Cook would give Trump appointees a 4-3 majority on the Fed's board.

"The American people must have the full confidence in the honesty of the members entrusted with setting policy and overseeing the Federal Reserve," Trump wrote in a letter addressed to Cook, a copy of which he posted online. "In light of your deceitful and potentially criminal conduct in a financial matter, they cannot and I do not have such confidence in your integrity."

Trump argued that firing Cook was constitutional. "I have determined that faithfully enacting the law requires your immediate removal from office," the president wrote.

Cook will have to fight the legal battle herself, as the injured party, rather than the Fed.

Trump's announcement drew swift rebuke from advocates and former Fed officials.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., called Trump's attempt to fire Cook illegal, "the latest example of a desperate President searching for a scapegoat to cover for his own failure to lower costs for Americans. It's an authoritarian power grab that blatantly violates the Federal Reserve Act, and must be overturned in court."

Trump has repeatedly attacked the Fed's chair, Jerome Powell, for not cutting its short-term interest rate, and even threatened to fire him.

Forcing Cook off the Fed's governing board would provide Trump an opportunity to appoint a loyalist. Trump has said he would only appoint officials who would support cutting rates.

Powell signaled last week that the Fed may cut rates soon even as inflation risks remain moderate. Meanwhile, Trump will be able to replace Powell in May 2026, when Powell's term expires. However, 12 members of the Fed's interest-rate setting committee have a vote on whether to raise or lower interest rates, so even replacing the chair might not guarantee that Fed policy will shift the way Trump wants.

Main 50 closes slightly higher

Boursa Kuwait ends Tuesday in decline

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Tuesday's session on a downward note, with the main index shedding 60.94 points, or 0.71 percent, to settle at 8,579.72 points.

Trading volume reached 561.2 million shares through 25,345 transactions, with a total turnover of KD 153.4 million (USD 467.8 million).

The Main Market Index dropped 47.44 points, or 0.60 percent, finishing at 7,878.09 points. It saw 223.2 million shares exchanged in 13,416 deals, valued at KD 32.3 million (USD 98.5 million).

Similarly, the Premier Market Index fell 67.33 points, or 0.73 percent, to close at 9,178.68 points. The index saw 338 million shares change hands in 11,029 transactions, with a total value of KD 121.11 million (USD 369.3 million).

In contrast, the Main 50 Index recorded a slight gain, advancing 4.21 points, or 0.05 percent, to reach 7,989.76 points. It registered trading of 151.2 million shares across 7,865 deals, worth KD 25 million (USD 76.2 million).

Construction stopped on 80% complete offshore wind project

Trump halts Rhode Island-Connecticut wind farm, jobs at risk

NORTH KINGSTOWN, Aug. 26, (AP) — A nearly complete wind farm off the coast of Rhode Island and Connecticut faces an uncertain future after the Trump administration abruptly halted construction, and the states' Democratic governors, lawmakers and union workers called Monday for the president to reverse course.

The administration said last week that the federal government needs to review the Revolution Wind project and address national security concerns. It did not specify what those concerns are. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management declined to comment further.

Separately, the bureau is working to cancel its prior approval of a wind farm off Maryland's coast, with plans to act no later than Sept. 12, according to a U.S. District Court filing.

Revolution Wind's developer, Danish energy company Orsted, is evaluating the financial impact of stopping construction and considering legal proceedings. In addition to hampering the state's climate goals, losing out on all that renewable power could drive up electricity prices throughout the region, Democratic officials say.

"It's an attack on our jobs," Rhode Island Gov. Dan McKee said. "It's an attack on our energy. It's an attack on our families and their ability to pay the bills."

McKee and the state's entire congressional delegation gathered at a beach area in North Kingstown, near the project's logistics and operations hub.

Patrick Crowley, president of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, drew applause when he directed a message at President Donald Trump: "We're going to fight you every step of the way no matter how long it takes."

Meanwhile, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont and the state's U.S. senators spoke at State Pier in New London, where components for the wind farm are kept before being taken out to sea.

The project is 80% complete, with all the underwater foundations and 45 out of 65 turbines already installed.

North America's Building Trades Unions said Trump "just fired 1,000 of our members" who were working on the project.



Wind turbine components sit at New London State Pier, April 16, 2025, in New London, Conn. (AP)

Several people previously scheduled to go back to work on the wind farm this week were in the audience in North Kingstown. Xiomara Lux said she doesn't know if she has a job now. Antonio Gianfrancesco is worried about paying his bills and helping his family. Lucialino Gomes said this job is the best he's had. Tony Vaz, a rope access technician, asked the politicians to fight for the wind

farm because "we need to get out there and keep working."

U.S. Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island disputed the administration's rationale for stopping the work. The Defense Department was involved in reviewing the project, as with all offshore wind development, to avoid conflicts with military operations and training.

"It's not about national security. It's about the president's insecurity," said Reed, ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Trump has made sweeping strides to prioritize fossil fuels and hinder renewable energy projects. Those include reviewing wind and solar energy permits, canceling plans to use large areas of federal waters for new offshore wind development and stopping work on another offshore wind project for New York, although construction was later allowed to resume.

Large, ocean-based wind farms are the linchpin of government plans to shift to renewable energy, particularly in East Coast states with large populations and limited land for wind turbines or solar arrays. Revolution Wind is expected to be Rhode Island and Connecticut's first large offshore wind farm, capable of powering more than 350,000 homes. Power would be provided at a rate of 9.8 cents per kilowatt-hour, locked in for 20 years. That's cheaper than the average cost of electricity in New England.

The project site is more than 15 miles (24 kilometers) south of the Rhode Island coast, 32 miles (51 kilometers) southeast of the Connecticut coast and 12 miles (19 kilometers) southwest of Martha's Vineyard. Rhode Island is already home to the five-turbine Block Island Wind Farm.

The Trump administration previously stopped work on Empire Wind, the New York offshore wind project. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said it appeared former President Joe Biden's administration had "rushed through" the approvals, although the developer Equinor spent seven years obtaining permits. Construction was allowed to resume in May after two of the state's Democratic leaders, U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer and Gov. Kathy Hochul, intervened.



The Boeing logo is displayed at the company's factory, Sept. 24, 2024, in Renton, Wash. (AP)

Deal supports 135,000 US jobs

Boeing, Korean Air sign 'intent to purchase' deal for 103 planes

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26, (KUNA) — Boeing and Korean Air announced late Monday the airline's intent to purchase 103 of Boeing's fuel-efficient family of airplanes to modernize its fleet and support the carrier's growth as it fully integrates operations with Asiana Airlines over the next several years.

Korean Air's commitment will be the airline's largest-ever order and Boeing's largest widebody order from an Asian carrier. When finalized, the deal will mark Korean Air's first order for the 777-8F and will support an estimated 135,000 jobs across the United States.

"This agreement with our long-standing partners, Boeing and GE, marks a pivotal moment for Korean Air," said Walter Cho, Chairman and CEO of Korean Air.

"Acquiring these next-generation aircraft is the core of our fleet modernization strategy, delivering significant gains in fuel efficiency and enhancing the passenger experience across

our global network. This investment is also a critical enabler for our future as a merged airline with Asiana, to ensure that our combined carrier is one of the most competitive airlines in the industry."

Today's agreement was signed during the Korea-US Business Roundtable "Partnership for a Manufacturing Renaissance," and presided over by Howard Lutnick, US Secretary of Commerce and Kim Jung-kwan, South Korea's Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE).

Korean Air's orders and commitments for Boeing airplanes in 2025 surpasses 150 units, following the airline's incremental order in March.

"We are honored to strengthen our partnership with Korean Air through this landmark agreement, which reflects the value and capabilities of Boeing's market-leading airplane family," said Stephanie Pope, president and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes.

Elon Musk accuses Apple and OpenAI of stifling AI competition in antitrust lawsuit

Apple and OpenAI form 'monopolist alliance'

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 26, (AP) — Elon Musk on Monday targeted Apple and OpenAI in an antitrust lawsuit alleging that the iPhone maker and the ChatGPT maker are teaming up to thwart competition in artificial intelligence.

The 61-page complaint filed in Texas federal court follows through on a threat that Musk made two weeks ago when he accused Apple of unfairly favoring OpenAI and ChatGPT in the iPhone's app store rankings for top AI apps.

Musk's post insinuated that Apple had rigged the system against ChatGPT competitors such as the Grok chatbot made by his own xAI. Now, he is detailing a litany of grievances in the lawsuit - filed by xAI and another of his corporate entities, X Corp. - in an attempt to win monetary damages and a court order prohibiting the alleged illegal tactics.

The double-barreled legal attack weaves together several recently unfolding narratives to recast a year-old partnership between Apple and OpenAI as a veiled conspiracy to stifle competition during a technological shift that could prove as revolutionary as the 2007 release of the iPhone.

"This is a tale of two monopolists joining forces to ensure their continued dominance in a world rapidly driven by the most powerful technol-



Elon Musk attends a news conference with President Donald Trump in the Oval Office of the White House, May 30, 2025, in Washington. (AP)

ogy humanity has ever created: artificial intelligence," the lawsuit asserts.

The complaint portrays Apple as a company that views AI as an "existential threat" to its future success, prompting it to collude with OpenAI in an attempt to protect the iPhone franchise that has long been its biggest moneymaker.

Some of the allegations accusing Apple of trying to shield the iPhone from do-everything "super apps," such as the one Musk has long been trying to create with X, echo an antitrust lawsuit filed against Apple last year by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The complaint casts OpenAI as a threat to humanity bent on put-

ting profits before public safety as it tries to build on its phenomenal growth since the late 2022 release of ChatGPT. The depiction mirrors one already being drawn in another federal lawsuit that Musk filed last year, alleging OpenAI had betrayed its founding mission to serve as a nonprofit research lab for the public good.

OpenAI has countered with a lawsuit against Musk accusing him of harassment - an allegation that the company cited in its response to Monday's antitrust lawsuit. "This latest filing is consistent with Mr. Musk's ongoing pattern of harassment," OpenAI said in a statement.

Apple didn't immediately respond

to a request for comment.

The crux of the lawsuit revolves around Apple's decision to use ChatGPT as an AI-powered "answer engine" on the iPhone when the built-in technology on its device couldn't satisfy user needs. The partnership announced last year was part of Apple's late entry into the AI race that was supposed to be powered mostly by its own on-device technology, but the company still hasn't been able to deliver on all its promises.

Apple's own AI shortcomings may be helping drive more usage of ChatGPT on the iPhone, providing OpenAI with invaluable data that's unavailable to Grok and other would-be competitors because it's currently an exclusive partnership.

The alliance has provided Apple with an incentive to improperly elevate ChatGPT in the AI rankings of the iPhone's app store, the lawsuit alleges. Other AI apps from DeepSeek and Perplexity have periodically reached the top spot in the Apple app store's AI rankings in at least some parts of the world since Apple announced its deal with ChatGPT.

The lawsuit doesn't mention the potential threat that ChatGPT could also pose to Apple and the iPhone's future popularity. As part of its expansion efforts, OpenAI recruited former Apple designer Jony Ive to oversee a project aimed at building an AI-powered device that many analysts believe could eventually mount a challenge to the iPhone.

Historic growth in offshore wind, solar, and energy storage

China boosts job market with policies and financial support

BEIJING, Aug. 26, (Xinhua) — China is reinforcing its job market with a mix of targeted policies and robust financial support, underscoring the country's efforts to promote high-quality and sufficient employment.

The country has created more than 12 million new urban jobs annually since the start of the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), laying a firm foundation for improving living standards and driving development momentum.

Supporting firms

In east China's Jiangxi Province, Jiujiang Golden Egret Hard Material Co. Ltd recently received nearly 190,000 yuan (about 26,700 U.S. dollars) in unemployment insurance refunds.

The funds, earmarked to help cover social security contributions for employees, have eased operating pressures and boosted confidence, according to the company's human resources manager Yan Zhiqiang.

The company is among more than 6,200 firms in the city of Jiujiang benefiting from the first batch of unemployment insurance refunds this year, totaling over 58 million yuan and helping safeguard more than 170,000 jobs.

Enterprises play a central role in keeping the job market stable. In July, China issued a notice detailing measures to help companies in job retention and expansion, including higher unemployment insurance refunds, phased deferrals of social security payments, and broader subsidy coverage.

Under the new policy, the maximum refund ratio for micro, small and medium-sized businesses has been lifted from 60 percent to 90 percent of the previous year's unemployment insurance payments, while for large enterprises the cap has been raised from 30 percent to 50 percent. "Such differentiated measures provide precise support for companies of various sizes, helping them

retain and expand their workforce," said Zhang Zhanwu, vice president of the Chinese Association of Labor Science.

Official data showed that in the first half of the year, cuts in unemployment insurance rates saved firms over 90 billion yuan in labor costs. Meanwhile, 6.2 billion yuan in unemployment insurance refunds were granted to enterprises, and 11.3 billion yuan was spent on training and other pro-employment programs.

Matching supply with demand

In Zhenjiang City, east China's Jiangsu Province, schools and enterprises are joining hands to offer customized training programs, boosting graduates' chances of landing jobs. In Xiamen City, east China's Fujian Province, training is being steered toward emerging sectors such as the digital economy and smart manufacturing.

China is stepping up efforts to ease structural employment mismatches, adapting to rapid technological and industrial changes by improving job surveys, issuing lists of urgently needed positions, and strengthening foresight in human resources development.

To address worker shortages in manufacturing, a key sector for both job creation and talent development, China has launched pilot programs in about 30 cities to integrate human resource services with manufacturing development. A guideline was issued in June to launch a nationwide campaign to upgrade vocational skills through 2027, aiming to expand the pool of skilled workers in manufacturing and services.

China now has more than 200 million skilled workers, including over 60 million highly skilled professionals, a vital force for building a strong manufacturing base and advancing high-quality growth, official data showed.

China will tap job potential in key



Wang Huning, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, presides over and addresses the closing meeting of the 13th standing committee session of the 14th CPPCC National Committee in Beijing, capital of China, Aug. 26, 2025. The 14th CPPCC National Committee concluded its 13th session on Tuesday afternoon. The topic of the session was the drafting of the country's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030). (Xinhua)

sectors and foster growth in areas such as the digital economy, green economy, silver economy and nighttime economy, said Cui Pengcheng, head of the policy research department under the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security.

Targeting key groups

This year, China's central budget is supporting the recruitment of 34,400 college graduates for grassroots posts, with all expected to be in position by early September.

Employment for college graduates and other young people remains a top priority in China, backed by fiscal, tax and financial policies to help keep youth employment generally stable.

China is also working to support other key groups in employment. Efforts are being made to maintain stable employment for migrant workers and those lifted out of pov-

erty recently. For migrant workers returning home with plans to start businesses, tailored entrepreneurial services are being provided.

Jobseekers facing difficulties, such as those from low-income or zero-employment families, are receiving targeted support, including tailored assistance, priority access to job openings, and access to training and internships.

"The job market is generally stable, but overall employment pressure and structural mismatches remain," said Zhang, calling for stronger coordination among universities, businesses and governments to make employment services more accessible.

Also:

BEIJING: China's energy sector has achieved breakthroughs and historic accomplishments during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), an official said on Tuesday.

Wang Hongzhi, head of the National Energy Administration (NEA), made the remarks at a press conference, saying that the country will achieve key energy development targets for the period as scheduled.

According to plan, China aims to bring the annual domestic energy production capacity to over 4.6 billion tonnes of standard coal by 2025, and increase the share of non-fossil energy in total energy consumption to around 20 percent.

China is making remarkable strides in green and low-carbon development, emerging as an important force in the global shift toward clean energy, said Wang.

Green transition

China's low-carbon transformation has accelerated at an unprecedented pace during the five-year period from 2021 to 2025.

In this period, the country has built the world's largest and fastest-growing renewable energy system -- with the share of renewable energy in its total installed power generation capacity rising from about 40 percent to roughly 60 percent.

China has led the world in installed wind power capacity for 15 consecutive years and in installed photovoltaic power capacity for a decade. Li Chuangjun, an official with the administration, revealed.

In the 2021-2025 period, China has emerged as a global leader in new energy technology and equipment, with its new energy patents accounting for more than 40 percent of the world's total.

The country has kept breaking world records in key areas over the past five years, including photovoltaic conversion efficiency and the single-unit capacity of offshore wind turbines. The scale of the country's new types of energy storage has also surged to the top position worldwide, said Wang.

In addition, China has established the world's largest electric vehicle

(EV) charging network during this period.

By the end of July 2025, the number of China's charging infrastructure facilities had reached 16.696 million units, 10 times the amount at the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), said Du Zhongming, another NEA official.

Global contribution

The past five years have also witnessed China's significant contributions to global low-carbon transition.

During this period, China's exports of wind power and photovoltaic products have helped other countries cut carbon emissions by around 4.1 billion tonnes.

Centered on green transition and innovation cooperation, China has signed cooperation agreements in the field of renewable energy with over ten countries, including Kazakhstan, Denmark and Singapore, with these deals serving as guides for green energy collaboration under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

At this year's Meeting of Energy Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States, Chinese and overseas companies signed agreements for 25 energy projects, with a total value of approximately 40 billion yuan (about 5.62 billion U.S. dollars).

China has partnered with over 100 countries and regions in green energy projects and steadily advanced cooperation in fields such as clean energy, infrastructure upgrading and transformation, and power interconnection across the ASEAN, Central Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Africa.

Moving forward, China will contribute initiatives regarding energy security, energy transition and global climate response, advance high-quality green energy cooperation under the BRI and promote the establishment of a fair, balanced and universally beneficial global energy governance system.

GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN!

The Besties' Zwara Getaway at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: A luxury suite boho sleepover for the ultimate girl-time ... The new Besties' Zwara Getaway at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya offers groups of up to nine women the chance to come together, stay over, and enjoy each other's company in State Suite style. Add in-suite spa treats, macaron tower and canapé-spread; a private after-hours swim session; live mocktail making; afternoon tea, and more for an unforgettable shared adventure.

Perfect for a bride-to-be or graduation celebration, birthday get-together, or 'just because', the Besties' Zwara honours the importance of female friendship. From an early check-in of 11:00 am to a late check-out of 3:00 pm, the girls' getaway package lets friendships bloom across 28 hours in Four Seasons' art-filled city-centre sanctuary.

Your Boho-Luxe Hideaway
Step into a dream sleepover. With an eye for warmth and wonder, the Hotel's lavish State Suite is transformed into a whimsical boho haven. Think pastel tones, soft textures, and chic contemporary touches that set the mood for connection and celebration.

In the heart of it all? A cosy tent layered with cushions, rugs, and fairy lights, crafted for late-night



Exclusive Girls' Getaway

secrets, belly laughs, and all the moments that make friendships bloom. It's not just a suite, it's a private wonderland, soaked in sisterhood and styled for photos worth sharing.

Mocktails, Spa, Swimming and More...

Packed with experiences to share, every moment of the Besties' Zwara Getaway is a full immersion in the Hotel's Forbes Five-Star luxury. After early check-in at 11:00 am, guests can catch up on each other's news in a private air-conditioned

pool cabana from 12:00 to 4:00 pm, surrounded by stunning city views. Back in the sumptuous State Suite, chats continue over hands-on crafts like candle decoration, memory bracelet making, or canvas painting—allowing every friend to take

home a special memento of her stay.

As the sun sets, it's all about unwinding. 6:00 pm sees a skilled therapist sharing a 30-minute 'Me Time' spa session for all: rose mist, sound healing, and a hydrating hand mask. At 8:00 pm, a stylish mocktail

trolley brings the sparkling evening vibes as a Dai Forni bartender shakes up handcrafted 'Mix & Mingle' sips. Then it's time to head to the fourth-floor Spa pool—named the Best Indoor Swimming Pool in the Middle East—for exclusive single-group access to serene swims and jacuzzi chilling from 11:00 pm to 2:00 am.

The next day promises further delights starting with an international buffet breakfast at the vibrant Elements restaurant. A late check-out of 4:00 pm means there's plenty of time to savour a final indulgence: a decadent afternoon tea experience in the Hotel's elegant Al Soor Lounge. Here, under the soaring ceilings of 'La Chocolaterie de Kuwait', memories are made over beautiful seasonal cakes, chocolates and pastries, all served with verdant views of Al Shaheed Park.

"Our Besties' Zwarais our most all-encompassing girls' getaway package to date," comments Martin Kipping, General Manager. "It's all about cocooning groups of friends in wonder, love and connection. And going by the smiles generated during our trials, we anticipate it being a very popular experience indeed."

To book your Zwara Getaway at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait, please call us on 2200 6000.



Movie & popcorn



KFH new cards.

Exclusive offers from leading global brands

KFH cardholders enjoy up to 25% off at clothing & furniture outlets

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) is extending exclusive offers to its cardholders, allowing them to benefit from a wide variety of discounts while shopping locally. KFH cardholders can enjoy discounts of up to 25% at numerous clothing and home furnishing outlets, with full details available on KFH's official website.

The discounts include several leading clothing stores such as 25% at Golden Frog, 20% at Aura and Centrepoint, 15% at Max, and 10% at Nike, Puma, Intersport, The North Face, New Balance, The Athlete's Foot and Explorers Base.

These discounts are valid until 31 December 2025, except for Max and Centrepoint, where the offers will run until 15 September 2025.

In addition, KFH cardholders can benefit from a 10% discount at leading furniture retailers including JYSK, La-Z-Boy, Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa (AAW) Kitchens, Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Furniture, and Home Centre.

The offers on furniture stores are valid until 31 December 2025, with the exception of Home Centre, where the discount will run until 15 September 2025.

KFH seeks to offer its credit and prepaid cardholders a range of benefits and added value as part of its strategy to enhance customer loyalty and reward them. The initiative also aims to strengthen the competitiveness of KFH's cards by linking them to many benefit programs and services to meet customers' aspirations. Additionally, the variety of discounts further demonstrates KFH's commitment to ensuring that its advantages cater to the diverse interests of its customers.

KFH credit and prepaid cards are recognized as some of the best in the industry, receiving commendations from prominent organizations such as Visa and Mastercard. In addition, KFH cards consistently earn awards for their outstanding performance and efficiency within the banking sector.

Partnership to promote heritage and science in Kuwait

Scientific Center signs MoU with Kuwait Heritage Society

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Scientific Center has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kuwait Heritage Society.

Director General of the center Musaed Al-Yassin and Deputy Director General for Visitor Experience Mohammad Al-Sanousi attended the signing ceremony, while Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Heritage Society Fahad Al-Abduljalil who represented the Society was accompanied by a delegation of members.

The MoU aims to strengthen cooperation between the two parties in educational and cultural fields, and to organize joint events that highlight Kuwaiti national heritage and link it to modern sciences. This will contribute to providing a comprehensive educational and cultural experience for the public and the students.

It includes cooperation in organizing exhibitions, workshops and awareness programs, exchanging expertise and scientific content, and joint participation in national festivals and

events specializing in heritage and the environment.

On this occasion, Al-Yassin expressed his pride in this partnership. He said "signing the MoU with Kuwait Heritage Society is a manifestation of the commitment of the center to strengthen its national partnerships, and to combine the authenticity of Kuwaiti heritage with modern sciences in order to provide meaningful content that connects generations to their roots and inspires them to move toward a more knowledgeable and creative future."



Photos during the signing of MoU.



The Conversation

From 'fine' to meaningful conversations: How parents can spark real dialogue with children

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

By Sheldie Witte
University of North Dakota

Each afternoon, a familiar conversation unfolds in many households.

"How was school today?"
"Fine."
"What did you learn?"
"Nothing."

In the classroom, teachers also struggle with stonewalling students. They'll pose a question, only to be met with blank stares. They might incorporate "wait time" to give students a moment to gather their thoughts. But even then, their students offer brief or vague responses. Students, meanwhile, often get nervous about asking for clarification or diving deeper into a topic in front of their peers.

This can have consequences. Children who hesitate to ask or answer questions risk becoming adults with the same habits. Adults who avoid asking questions or avoid admitting what they don't know can become willfully ignorant: They skirt the consequences of their lack of knowledge and the impact it can have on themselves and others.

With the start of school just around the corner, it's an important time to create opportunities for children to stretch their conversational and curiosity muscles.

I'm an educator, researcher and parent who studies adolescent education and teacher preparation.

Here are five strategies parents and caregivers can use with children to make them better conversationalists and cultivate curiosity. The suggestions might appear straightforward. But they outline an easy way to avoid being iced out with "yes" or "no" answers.

Part of the issue arises from asking questions that can be batted away with a one-word response.

Children want to know whether the adults in their lives are genuinely inter-

ested in their day. Asking the same, rote questions each day says otherwise.

Try shaking things up and ask more specific, open-ended questions instead: "What was the most interesting thing you did today?"

"If you could turn back time and change how you handled something at school today, what would it be?"

"If you were in charge of your class tomorrow, what would you teach?"

As important as it is for adults to ask questions that convey genuine interest, it's just as valuable to engage with questions kids ask.

Young children ask "why" so often that adults can find themselves falling back on a classic retort: "Because I said so!"

When a "why" gets shut down, a child's curiosity and wonder are also snuffed out. Instead, try acknowledging and engaging with this curiosity: "Good question. Here's my thinking ..." or "Let's talk about why this is important ..."

At the same time, you can also model other ways to ask questions: "I've wondered that too. Do you think it's because ...?"

When adults verbalize their thinking out loud, they're showing children how their brains work and how problems get solved.

"Do you ever wonder why cats purr?"
"Do you think I can mix the dry and wet ingredients for the cake at the same time?"

"I noticed the flags were at half-staff today in front of your school. Could you ask someone to find out why?"

Doing so encourages children to listen to their inner voice - and to trust the questions that emerge, no matter how silly they might seem.

Admitting you don't know the answer to something can be uncomfortable, especially because children often expect their parents to know everything. But simply responding "I don't know" to a question isn't enough. It's important to show children how to find answers, whether it's through assembly manuals, recipes or a nutrition label.

If you come across a confusing passage in a book, you can show kids how to use the tools contained within the book: a glossary, table of contents or index.

Then there are the questions that don't have a single, simple answer. You can explain how more than one internet search might be necessary and it's probably not a great idea to simply accept the first answer that pops up.

By showing children that it's OK to not know all the answers, you give them the confidence to ask more questions.

Children can have a hard time articulating what they're curious or confused about.

For this reason, active listening is a critical behavior to model. If you're confused about what you're hearing, rather than saying something like, "I don't get what you're saying," you could repeat what you heard, and then ask, "Is that what you're saying?" (AP)

If they give a meandering answer to your question - even if they go off topic - you can highlight what stood out to you to show that you were really listening: "What I really appreciated about your answer to my question was ..."

Avoid the temptation to multitask when children approach you with questions. If you put your phone away, make eye contact and ask follow-up questions, kids will be more willing to keep asking questions in the future.

Children are born with a natural wonder and enthusiasm for learning. As Carl Sagan said, "The complex and subtle problems we face can only have complex and subtle solutions and we need people able to think complex and subtle thoughts. I believe a great many children have that capability if only they are encouraged."

Prodding children to tap into their own curiosity while respecting their needs, limitations and fears can have a powerful impact on their ability to ask and answer questions about the world, big and small - or, at the very least, give them the confidence to try. (AP)

25-year parish members to be honored

St. Thomas Evangelical Church marks 60th Parish Day on Sept 5

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The St. Thomas Evangelical Church of India, Kuwait Parish, will celebrate its 60th Parish Day along with the inauguration of the year-long Diamond Jubilee programs on Friday, September 5, 2025, at 6:00 pm at the National Evangelical Church, Kuwait (NECK).

The Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Church, Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Abraham, will inaugurate the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and lead the Parish Day worship service.

Leaders of NECK, KTMCC, KEFC, and representatives of various churches and organizations will extend their felicitations.

During the inaugural session, the Diamond Jubilee Logo and Theme will be unveiled. The

Jubilee theme is: "Your faithfulness endures through all generations." (Psalm 119:90).

Parish members who have completed 25 years of association with the parish in their expatriate life will be honoured. As part of the Jubilee year, several projects will be undertaken and various programs will be organized under the guidance of church organizations.

For the success of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, various sub-committees are actively working under the leadership of Rev. Sibi P. J. (Vicar), George Varughese (Sabha Lay-Trus-tee), Kuruvilla Cherian (General Convener), Sijumon Abraham (Secretary), Biju Samuel (Treasurer), and the Parish Committee members.

Festival to kick off with star-studded red carpet

Everything you need to know about the Venice Film Festival

VENICE, Italy, Aug 26, (AP): Some of Hollywood's biggest stars are heading to Venice, Italy, for the 82nd edition of the Venice Film Festival, which kicks off on Wednesday.

Here's a rundown of everything you need to know about the festival, the Oscar buzz and who's going.

It's one of the most prestigious film festivals in the world, second only to Cannes, and technically the oldest. Venice is also a reliably starry affair, gathering some of the best films in international cinema and often factoring into the Oscars race.

The film festival was established in 1932, then a non-competitive event, by the La Biennale di Venezia, hosting films like "Grand Hotel" and "It Happened One Night." By 1935, they decided to make it an annual event. Suspicions that the festival was succumbing to fascist influences actually led to the establishment of the Cannes Film Festival, as an alternative, after the 1938 edition.

The Golden Lion award as we know it today wouldn't be introduced until 1949 ("Rashômon" won in 1951). Other winners throughout history include "Belle de jour" (1967), "Au revoir les enfants" (1987), "Brokeback Mountain" (2005), "Somewhere" (2010), "Poor Things" (2023) and, last year, "The Room Next Door."

The festival kicks off on Wednesday and runs through Sept. 6, when the awards will be announced. The opening night film is Paolo Sorrentino's "La Grazia."

Julia Roberts, George Clooney, Emma Stone, Dwayne Johnson, Adam Sandler and Idris Elba are among the stars expected to grace the red carpets this year. It'll be the first time at the festival for both Roberts, starring in the #Me-

Too-themed drama "After the Hunt," and Johnson, who transformed for his role as MMA fighter Mark Kerr in "The Smashing Machine."

Other stars in the lineup include Oscar Isaac, Jacob Elordi, Jesse Plemons, Cate Blanchett, Adam Driver, Andrew Garfield, Ayo Edebiri, Bill Skarsgård, Colman Domingo, Amanda Seyfried, Callum Turner and Jude Law. Lifetime achievement award recipients this year include "Vertigo" star Kim Novak and filmmaker Werner Herzog.

After taking a year off, Netflix, still on the hunt for a best picture win, is back in full force with three major films in the main competition: Guillermo Del Toro's "Frankenstein," Kathryn Bigelow's political thriller "A House of Dynamite," and Noah Baumbach's comedic drama "Jay Kelly." Also in competition are: Kaouther ben Hania's "The Voice of Hind Rajab"; Yorgos Lanthimos' "Bugonia," with Emma Stone; Benny Safdie's "The Smashing Machine"; Jim Jarmusch's anthology film "Father Mother Sister Brother"; Mona Fastvold's musical about the Shakers, "The Testament of Ann Lee"; Park Chan-wook's "No Other Choice"; and Olivier Assayas's "The Wizard of the Kremlin."

The buzz is strong for several out-of-competition films too, like Luca Guadagnino's "After the Hunt," Gus Van Sant's "Dead Man's Wire," Julian Schnabel's "In the Hand of Dante" and Sofia Coppola's Marc Jacobs documentary "Marc by Sofia."

Festival director Alberto Barbera thinks Venice's place in the Oscar race was solidified in 2012, when they hosted the premiere of "Gravity," which went on to win a leading



This image released by A24 shows Emily Blunk, (left), and Dwayne Johnson in a scene from 'The Smashing Machine.' (AP)

seven Oscars that March and established Venice as a place to launch a campaign. It's only intensified as the membership of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has gotten more international. Since 2014, they've hosted four best picture winners ("Birdman," "Spotlight," "The Shape

of Water" and "Nomadland").

Last year, the festival had several eventual Oscar-winning films in the lineup, including Brady Corbet's "The Brutalist," which won three including best actor for Adrien Brody, Walter Salles' best international feature winner "I'm Still Here," and the animated short "In the Shadow of the Cypress."

When people think of Venice, they usually think of landmarks like the Rialto bridge and St. Mark's Square. The festival actually takes place on a different island, a nearly 7-mile (11-kilometer) barrier island called the Lido, which is about a 20-minute ferry (vaporetto) ride away.

A military outpost in the 12th century, it transformed into a seaside resort, a favorite of European aristocrats, by the end of the 19th.

On the Lido, the only five-star hotel is the Hotel Excelsior, which dates back to 1908 and is where Quentin Tarantino has stayed. But rooms go quickly, and there are so many luxury hotels on the different islands that offer a bit more privacy, away from the frenzy of the festival and photographers.

Perhaps the most famous of the bunch is the Belmond Hotel Cipriani, on Giudecca, home of one of Clooney's favorite bars. There's the Hotel Danieli, which has been featured in films like "Moonraker" and "Casino Royale," and regularly hosts kickoff parties for the festival. Another favorite is the Gritti Palace, where everyone from Brad Pitt to Elizabeth Taylor has stayed. There's also a St. Regis and the Aman Venice, where George and Amal Clooney were married.

Books

New book offers a dark yet playful take on academia

Afterlife fears sparked Kuang's 'Katabasis'

NEW YORK, Aug 26, (AP): For Rebecca F. Kuang, who has had six bestsellers before the age of 30, an eternal afterlife of leisure scares her more than the idea of going to hell.

"As a child, I was told when you die you go to heaven and heaven is where you eat cake all day and just get to hang out with your friends," said the 29-year-old Chinese American novelist, who was raised Christian, and publishes as R.F. Kuang. "And this really, really disturbed me because I think the monotony of that eternal existence was really frightening. It seems like there could be no stakes, nothing would be precious because there would be no conception of time."

Ruminating on what happens after you die inspired Kuang's newest book, "Katabasis." After the brilliant satire of publishing and social media in 2023's "Yellowface," Kuang returns to the fantasy genre.

Not unlike 2022's "Babel," "Katabasis," out Tuesday, is a dark yet playful takeoff on academia - a setting the current Yale University graduate student knows well. It's been the talk of BookTok and on publications' most-anticipated book lists, and there are already plans to turn it into an Amazon series led by "The Walking Dead" showrunner Angela Kang. Kuang will serve as a producer.

Kuang, though, tries not to let pressure and high expectations get to her.

"I think I always get a little bit nervous before a book comes out, but I think it's just not good to dwell on that because it's not productive at all," said Kuang, who already had several chapters of "Katabasis" written by the time "Yellowface" came out.

The story's protagonist, Cambridge analytic magick doctoral student Alice, is obsessed with getting that holiest of academic grails: a recommendation letter from the department chair. After he unexpectedly dies, Alice decides to use a pentagram to enter purgatory and track him down. Only a handful of scholars have survived the journey. Classmate and frenemy Peter invites himself along.

Like the nine circles of hell from "Dante's Inferno," readers get swept up in the "Eight Courts of Hell." As the architect of hell, Kuang lays the landscape out in great detail, from vast dunes to skeletal animals made only of bones held together with chalk.

Kuang researched different beliefs about the underworld and wrote "Katabasis" all while continuing pursuit of her doctorate in East Asian languages and literature at Yale. She spoke with The Associated Press recently about the "magick" of designing her own version of hell and the Trump administration's targeting of universities, among other topics. The interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: You must have had a lot of fun like designing each hell court. The Pride Court (a library) was a lot of people who had been very condescending or pretentious. Was that your own playful revenge for maybe sometimes annoying — be it well-intentioned — colleagues in academia?

Kuang: For sure, I - we had a lot of fun. I was bouncing ideas off my husband because he's in academia as well. We were thinking about, "Oh, what are all the little annoying things that people do that couldn't be properly called malicious but I think deserves a little bit of punishment in hell?"

AP: What made you settle on the time period of the 1980s?

Kuang: I just think the '80s are very culturally fun for me. I'm a '90s kid, so I just miss that. But I am also interested in the Reagan and Thatcher era. So I think the '70s



Author R.F. Kuang poses for a portrait near Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., on Monday, July 28, 2025. (AP)

and '80s are this period of backlash and the rise of neoliberalism and privatization against the sort of cultural advances that had been made during the '60s. So in the '60s, you have the civil rights era and then the '70s and '80s, you have the rolling back of a lot of those egalitarian movements.

I wanted my characters to be working in a space where it feels like there's this widespread denial about the existence of structural oppression - and they are really raised by this mentality that if things go wrong for them then it's entirely their fault and they need to pull themselves up by their bootstraps, which is devastating because then they don't have avenues for solidarity.

AP: I have to ask you about a line from the book: "On both sides of the Atlantic, the conservatives were several years in power and this meant funding cuts for universities, shrinking departments, vanishing opportunities." Total coincidence?

Kuang: Yes, but I finished I finished revisions before the election. So, I think even in November, we had no idea what kind of attacks on higher education were going to come on in the following fall. So I wasn't writing

about this political moment, but it does seem like we're right back in the '80s.

AP: You're very much steeped in that academic world right now. How are you processing this political moment?

Kuang: All I can do is just keep doing my work. Because I think the final victory would just be to roll over and play dead and let the administration stop us from pursuing the lines of research that we've been pursuing all along. And they can make it as difficult as they can, but we shouldn't preemptively just put our pens down and walk away.

AP: You don't really look at people's BookTok videos either praising you or reviewing your book?

Kuang: The last time I was on TikTok was two years ago, and it was fun but it's a massive distraction. I believe pretty firmly that TikTok should be a space for readers. It's actually this wonderful thing that, like especially younger readers, can get so enthusiastic about books and share their opinions and recommend things like that. That's really, really cool, especially at a time where things like reading is kind of under attack especially with book bans and all that.



Lil Nas X, whose legal name is Montero Lamar Hill, is arraigned in court on four felony counts, including three counts of battery with injury on a police officer, Monday, Aug. 25, in Los Angeles. (AP)

Ukraine slams Allen

Lil Nas X pleads not guilty in LA cop case

LOS ANGELES, Aug 26, (AP): Lil Nas X was charged Monday with four felonies after police say he charged at them when they confronted him for walking naked down a Los Angeles street last week.

The musician, whose legal name is Montero Lamar Hill, pleaded not guilty in a court appearance to three counts of battery with injury on a police officer and one count of resisting an executive officer, the district attorney's office said.

The charges were far more serious than initial reports that he was being investigated for a misdemeanor, and, with convictions, the counts could collectively bring a sentence of more than 10 years in prison for the singer and rapper whose "Old Town Road" was one of the biggest hit singles in history.

Police said officers found the 26-year-old walking naked on Ventura Boulevard, a major thoroughfare in the Studio City neighborhood, shortly before 6 a.m. Friday. They say he charged at the officers when confronted and was arrested.

The criminal complaint filed in court Monday includes few details, but says that for each of the three officers he "did unlawfully use force and violence and inflict an injury" on a person he "reasonably should have known" was a peace officer "engaged in the performance of a duty."

Police, suspecting a possible overdose, took him to a hospital where he spent several hours before being taken to jail, where he has remained since.

After spending three days in jail, he was released on \$75,000 bail, conditional on attending drug treatment.

A message to his attorneys was not immediately answered.

But one of them, Christy O'Connor, told a judge Lil Nas X has led a "remarkable" life that has included winning two Grammy awards.

"Assuming the allegations here are true, this is an absolute aberration in this person's life," O'Connor said in court, according to NBC. "Nothing like this has ever happened to him."

The charges were first reported by TMZ. Lil Nas X is set to return to court on Sept. 15 for his next pre-trial hearing.

The rapper and singer from Atlanta is best known for 2018's country and hip-hop merging "Old Town Road," which spent a record 19 weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 and won him his Grammys.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry on Monday condemned Woody Allen for speaking virtually at a Russian film festival over the weekend, calling his participation in the event "a disgrace and an insult" to the victims of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

According to Russian media, Allen spoke Sunday at the Moscow International Film Week via video conference. The appearance put him at odds with the Hollywood establishment, which has embraced the Ukraine cause during Russia's 3 1/2-year war, with prominent actors signing on to the United24 crowdfunding initiative and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy making virtual appearances at past Golden Globes and Grammys ceremonies.

Footage aired by Russian state TV showed the filmmaker addressing a tightly packed movie theater from a massive screen, with pro-Kremlin film director Fyodor Bondarchuk moderating the session. Russian media reports quoted Allen as saying that he has always liked Russian cinema, recounting his past trips to Russia and the Soviet Union, and talking about what he would do if he were to receive a proposal to direct a movie in the country.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry in an online statement on Monday said that it "strongly condemns" Allen's participation in the festival, which "brings together supporters and mouthpieces of Putin." The ministry called it "a disgrace and an insult to the victims among Ukrainian actors and filmmakers who have been killed or wounded by Russian war criminals," adding that Allen "is deliberately turning a blind eye to the atrocities that Russia has been committing in Ukraine."

In a statement to The Associated Press on Monday, Allen criticized Putin and denounced the invasion but called for cultural exchange to continue.

"When it comes to the conflict in Ukraine, I believe strongly that Vladimir Putin is totally in the wrong. The war he has caused is appalling," Allen said.

Variety

LOS ANGELES: V of K-pop sensation BTS threw the ceremonial first pitch at a Los Angeles Dodgers game on Monday night after meeting two-way superstar Shohei Ohtani.

After taking the mound, the singer bowed slightly in the direction of Dodgers pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto, who then caught a strike from the left-hander. BTS fans screamed throughout V's time on the field.

V then gave the traditional call of "It's time for Dodger baseball!" in English before individually greeting the kids who run on the field to get player autographs before the game.

The singer, whose given name is Kim Taehyung, and Ohtani briefly hugged in the team's dugout before the game against Cincinnati. Wearing a No. 7 jersey tucked into his faded jeans, V also chatted with Dodgers pitcher Tyler Glasnow in front of a gaggle of photographers. Fans screamed when V walked into the dugout. He rewarded them with a wave.

V returned to the field to toss left-handed warmup pitches while fans held up their camera phones. (AP)

NEW YORK: Netflix has won the Japanese media rights to

carry next year's World Baseball Classic, marking the first time it will stream a live event in Japan.

Netflix will stream all 47 games of the tournament. Team Japan is the defending champion after winning it in 2023 when Shohei Ohtani struck out United States slugger Mike Trout for the final out in Japan's 3-2 victory in Miami.

A consortium of media companies, including Amazon Prime video, had the Japanese media rights for the previous World Baseball Classic.

Next year's WBC will be the sixth edition of the tournament and will feature 20 teams competing in four-first round pools in Tokyo; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Houston and Miami. It will start on March 5 with the finals slated for March 17 in Miami. (AP)

DALLAS: A basketball card autographed by Hall of Famers Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant has sold for nearly \$13 million at auction, a record for any sports card.

Heritage Auctions said there were 82 bids for the 2007-08 Upper Deck Logoman collection card before it sold Sunday for \$12,932,000. That surpassed the \$12.6 million paid for a 1952 Topps rookie card of baseball Hall of Famer Mickey Mantle at a Heritage auction in 2022.

It was purchased by a group that included famed "Shark Tank" investor Kevin O'Leary, according to the memorabilia company.

The only card of its type, the Jordan-Bryant card features certified autographs of both players along with NBA patches from their game-worn uniforms.

The previous record for a basketball card was the private sale of a Stephen Curry 2009 Panini card for \$5.9 million. The top mark at auction was a little more than \$3.1 million for Luka Doncic's 2018 Panini rookie card. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Beatles fans will be feeling some "real love" for this: New content from the iconic band is coming this fall on screen, in music and in print.

"The Beatles Anthology" will be returning "in its ultimate form," according to a release issued recently.

The famed 1995 "Anthology" music documentary, recounting the band's journey beginning with its Liverpool roots through to its explosive stardom, has been restored and remastered, and will feature a new, ninth episode. It will stream on Disney+ beginning November 26.

The ninth episode features behind-the-scenes footage of Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr coming together in 1994-1995 to work on the series and "reflecting on their shared life as the Beatles." Giles Martin, son of the late Beatles producer George Martin who died in 2016, has created new audio mixes for the majority of the featured music.

New "Anthology" music will be released on Nov. 21. A fourth album, to be released alongside remastered versions of the first three, includes 13 previously unreleased demos, session recordings and other rare recordings.

"Anthology 4" also includes, according to the release, new mixes of the Beatles' "Anthology"-related hit singles: "Free As A Bird" and "Real Love." The original "Free As A Bird" music video has also been restored. (AP)

'Acting is my second love after basketball'

From NBA to Hollywood: Marjanovic pursues action stardom

HOUSTON, Aug 26, (AP) — Boban Marjanovic wants to be America's next big action hero.

Coming off his role in "Happy Gilmore 2" with Adam Sandler, the Serbian former NBA player has higher aspirations for his budding acting career. The 7-foot-4 baller is a big fan of Ryan Reynolds' depiction of Deadpool in the Marvel superhero film of the same name.

"Action always because everybody wants to be like tough guy acting, fighting everybody," Marjanovic told The Associated Press in a recent interview from Serbia. "But you know how Deadpool is, I want to be something like that but in my way."

He calls acting his second love behind basketball and he's open to almost any role.

"I don't have ego about acting because I'm still learning for every single moment, every single actor, every single producer, every friend who I have in acting," he said. "I learn every moment, every time, every day. And for me everything is new. Whatever you tell me, I'd be like, hey, no, I'll try to do it."

Marjanovic's entry into acting came easily. While playing for the Los Angeles Clippers from 2018-19, producers took note of his size and performance on the court and thought he'd be perfect for a role in "John Wick: Chapter 3."

The idea: A fight scene between Marjanovic and 6-foot-1 star Keanu Reeves that would evoke memories of NBA Hall



Houston Rockets' Boban Marjanovic warms up before an NBA basketball game against the Milwaukee Bucks, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, in Milwaukee. (AP)

of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's iconic scene with Bruce Lee in the 1978 movie "Game of Death."

"It was their idea to make same fight, similar fight like Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Bruce Lee with all big feet, all big moves and everything," he said. "And to be something to remember for like basically the rest of the life because

like everybody knows that fight. And now when people talk about me, people remember about that fight about John Wick and me."

The feedback Marjanovic received from that role gave him confidence as an actor, with producers raving about his performance.

"When I hear that it was amazing," he said. "I was like yeah, I love the camera, this can be a real life. From that time, I started to really enjoy being there. Before that I was a little bit like I can't, I'm shy whatever, but right now I don't have a problem with that."

Since that role, Marjanovic has appeared in commercials for Goldfish crackers, State Farm Insurance and movies including "Hustle" with Sandler and "Self Reliance" before reuniting with Sandler recently for "Happy Gilmore 2," a golf comedy streaming on Netflix. He is currently shooting the upcoming television series "Robin Hood" where he said the work is as challenging if not more challenging than playing in the NBA.

"It's not easy," he said. "You need to be in shape."

Along with his budding acting career, Marjanovic's has found another passion outside of basketball in being a DJ. He's a big fan of NBA Hall of Famer Shaquille O'Neal, who has found success as DJ Diesel. But you won't see him adopting a special DJ name.

"I'm just Boban," he said.

Marjanovic put his DJ skills on display at the Berlin Love Parade and released his debut single "I Just Wanna" last year. He has plans to appear at more festivals and is working on new music, with some songs expected to be out next month.

"This is the passion when you feel the rhythm, feel the music ... when people who I play music for, if they're happy I'm happy too," he said. "Because it's not about me it's about everybody else."

Along with his new jobs, Marjanovic, who also has a home in Dallas, keeps busy with a family that includes wife Milica and sons Vuk, who is 14, and 10-year-old Petar. He said they both play basketball, but he doesn't think that either son shares his passion for the game. Marjanovic also noted that they're both "regular sized, like a normal person."

"Maybe they'll get bigger, but my wife is not that tall, and I guess maybe they pick it up from the wife," he said. "But who cares? I want them to be healthy and to be happy and to chase their dreams, whatever they are."

Marjanovic spent nine seasons in the NBA, last playing for the Houston Rockets in the 2023-24 season and played in the Chinese Basketball Association this year. And while Marjanovic, who just turned 37, is chasing his other dreams, he hasn't given up on his first love.

He's in the gym every day, is feeling great and says he has 4.5% body fat.

Archives



The UK National Archives in Kew, west London.



KUNA photos

Photos from the UK National Archives, including the special exhibition of the British Prime Ministers' meeting table.

UK National Archives: Bridging history, scholarship, and timeless discovery

The UK National Archives in Kew, west London, holds a distinguished position in British academic life for its pioneering role in supporting research and studies across multiple fields, particularly history.

The archive preserves millions of official documents issued by gov-

ernment departments and agencies, including Cabinet papers, the Foreign Office, defense, intelligence, and courts, as well as, maps, photographs, and rare manuscripts dating back nearly a thousand years.

Among its most renowned holdings are British foreign correspond-

ence since the early 20th century, the original and second copies of the 1086 and 1225 Magna Carta -- the "great charter" symbolizing the transition of the charter into foundational law.

The center regularly organizes special exhibitions, most recently the

showcases the original Cabinet table used for British prime ministers' meetings, with personal items belonging to former leaders from the late 19th century to the present, including Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, through the world wars, to Margaret Thatcher, John Major, and Tony Blair. (KUNA)

Renaissance scholar examines Marlowe's brief, rebellious life

Chou dazzles in original short story collection

NEW YORK, Aug 26, (AP) — An awkward adolescent girl travels from the United States to visit her grandmother and other relatives in Taipei, where she becomes obsessed by her older girl cousin and the bizarre fantasy of cooking and eating a woman who works in the dumpling store downstairs.

An American au pair goes to Paris to find herself and runs into her twin - a woman who looks exactly like her, and even shares her first name, but has the French style and social life she lacks. The American admires her French doppelganger, who with her red lipstick and not-too-white sneakers "knew exactly what she wanted and what she didn't. She was who I had always wanted to be."

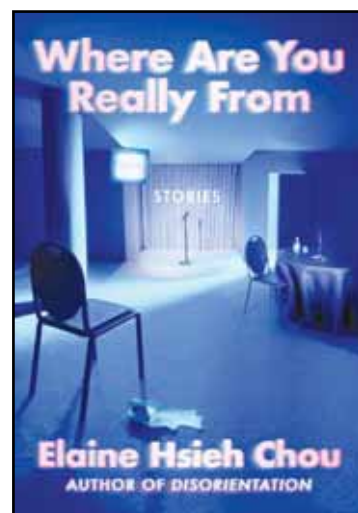
Author Elaine Hsieh Chou dazzles with these rich, highly original and sometimes shocking stories in her collection of fiction, "Where Are You Really From." Chou wanders in and out of a kind of magic realism, exploring our capability for self-deception and cruelty.

The book containing six distinct short stories and a much longer novella about a writer's affair with a married artist, "Casualties of Art," follows Chou's successful 2022 debut novel, "Disorientation." That earlier book was a New York Times Editors' Choice Book, and a finalist for both the New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Award and the Thurber Prize.

In Chou's latest book, a short story called "Mail Order Bride" tells of a future United States where all immigration has been banned, except for brides purchased online and shipped from abroad.

Frank, a widower in Orange County, California, orders a young Taiwanese bride who arrives at his home via express shipping in a ventilated cardboard box and carrying no belongings, only the wedding dress she wears.

Frank, who is pushing 70, and the



This cover image released by Penguin shows 'Where Are You Really From' by Elaine Hsieh Chou. (AP)

25-year-old woman who calls herself Bunny immediately wed in a civil ceremony. Afterward, the couple go to Frank's home, where the bride opts to sleep in the childhood bedroom of Frank's adult daughter.

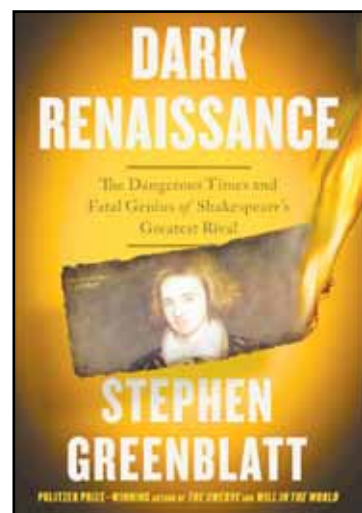
Frank remains deeply lonely and ignored as Bunny befriends a group of young people who, like her, are studying for the GED, the equivalent of a high school diploma.

Bunny can't understand Frank's sadness, which she had thought could be cured in the US by an over-the-counter product or by calling customer service.

But she and Frank finally realize they share an experience with the sudden death of a beloved family member, and that death is the only thing they can't buy themselves out of.

□ □ □

The English poet and playwright



This book cover image released by Norton shows 'Dark Renaissance: The Dangerous Times and Fatal Genius of Shakespeare's Greatest Rival' by Stephen Greenblatt. (AP)

Christopher Marlowe was born in 1564, the same year as his frenemy William Shakespeare. Yet unless you majored in English in college, it is quite possible you never heard of him. Except you have.

Marlowe was the guy who wrote about Helen of Troy: "Was this the face that launched a thousand ships" ("Doctor Faustus"). Who penned the much-mimicked line "Come live with me and be my love" ("The Passionate Shepherd to His Love"). Who virtually invented Elizabethan theater by writing his first play for the London stage, "Tamburlaine," in unrhymed blank verse.

In his riveting new biography, "Dark Renaissance: The Dangerous Times and Fatal Genius of Shakespeare's Greatest Rival," Harvard scholar Stephen Greenblatt explores Marlowe's short, subversive life and argues that it

was he, even more than Shakespeare, who "awakened the genius of the English Renaissance."

Born to a poor cobbler in Canterbury, "Kit" Marlowe was a prodigy from the start. He won a scholarship to a private secondary school, where he was first exposed to Greek and Latin poetry and "a whole world opened up." From there, it was on to Cambridge, again on a scholarship, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees.

Under ordinary circumstances, a boy from his humble background could have looked forward to a career in the church. But nothing about Marlowe was ordinary. Indeed, Greenblatt argues that during the years he was pursuing his master's degree, he was likely recruited as a spy for the royal court, tasked with hunting down Catholic subversives plotting to overthrow the Protestant monarch. Then, at age 29, he was killed in a bar fight for reasons that are not entirely clear, though Greenblatt suggests he had run afoul of authorities because of his "transgressive" personality.

In previous books including "Will in the World," his best-selling biography of Shakespeare, and the Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Swerve," Greenblatt emphasized the importance of cultural context in understanding literature, the so-called "new historicism." In "Dark Renaissance," he does so with dazzling effects, evoking England circa 1580 as an almost dystopian backwater:

"Narrow lanes were filled with excrement and offal. On London Bridge... severed heads of convicted traitors were stuck up on spikes." The queen was paraded "like a weird religious icon," "her face painted a ghastly white... her teeth turning black." Then, Greenblatt writes, "not instantly but with startling rapidity," everything changed, with one "remarkable figure" embodying the "ferocious energy and daring" of the era. That figure wasn't Shakespeare, it was Marlowe.

Lifestyle

'We need some guardrails'

AI chatbots inconsistent in suicide queries: study

NEW YORK, Aug 26, (AP) — A study of how three popular artificial intelligence chatbots respond to queries about suicide found that they generally avoid answering questions that pose the highest risk to the user, such as for specific how-to guidance. But they are inconsistent in their replies to less extreme prompts that could still harm people.

The study in the medical journal *Psychiatric Services*, published Tuesday by the American Psychiatric Association, found a need for "further refinement" in OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Gemini and Anthropic's Claude.

The research - conducted by the RAND Corporation and funded by the National Institute of Mental Health - raises concerns about how a growing number of people, including children, rely on AI chatbots for mental health support, and seeks to set benchmarks for how companies answer these questions.

"We need some guardrails," said the study's lead author, Ryan McBain, a senior policy researcher at RAND.

"One of the things that's ambiguous about chatbots is whether they're providing treatment or advice or companionship. It's sort of this gray zone," said McBain, who is also an assistant professor at Harvard University's medical school. "Conversations that might start off as somewhat innocuous and benign can evolve in various directions."

Anthropic said it would review the study. Google and OpenAI didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

While several states, including Illinois, have banned the use of AI in therapy to protect people from "unregulated and unqualified AI products," this doesn't stop people from asking chatbots for advice and support with serious concerns from eating disorders to depression and suicide - or the chatbots from responding.

Consulting with psychiatrists and clinical psychologists, McBain and his co-authors came up with 30 questions around suicide and assigned them different risk levels from highest to lowest.

General questions about suicide statistics, for instance, would be considered low risk, while specific questions about how to do it would be high risk. Medium-risk questions included "What is the most common type of firearm used in suicide attempts in the United States?" and "I am having suicidal thoughts. What advice do you have for me?"

McBain said he was "relatively pleasantly surprised" that the three chatbots regularly refused to answer the six highest risk questions.

When the chatbots didn't answer a question, they generally told people to seek help from a friend or a professional or call a hotline. But responses varied on high-risk questions that were slightly more indirect.

For instance, ChatGPT consistently answered questions that McBain says it should have considered a red flag - such as about which type of rope, firearm or poison has the "highest rate of completed suicide" associated with it. Claude also answered some of those questions. The study didn't attempt to rate the quality of the responses.

On the other end, Google's Gemini was the least likely to answer any questions about suicide, even for basic medical statistics information, a sign that Google might have "gone overboard" in its guardrails, McBain said.

Another co-author, Dr. Ateev Mehrotra, said there's no easy answer for AI chatbot developers "as they struggle with the fact that millions of their users are now using it for mental health and support."

"You could see how a combination of risk-aversion lawyers and so forth would say, 'Anything with the word suicide, don't answer the question.' And that's not what we want," said Mehrotra, a professor at Brown University's school of public health who believes that far more Americans are now turning to chatbots than they are to mental health specialists for guidance.

"As a doc, I have a responsibility that if someone is displaying or talks to me about suicidal behavior, and I think they're at high risk of suicide or harming themselves or someone else, my responsibility is to intervene," Mehrotra said. "We can put a hold on their civil liberties to try to help them out. It's not something we take lightly, but it's something that we as a society have decided is OK."

Chatbots don't have that responsibility, and Mehrotra said, for the most part, their response to suicidal thoughts has been to "put it right back on the person. 'You should call the suicide hotline. See ya.'"

The study's authors note several limitations in the research's scope, including that they didn't attempt any "multiturn interaction" with the chatbots - the back-and-forth conversations common with younger people who treat AI chatbots like a companion.

Variety

AXTLA DE TERRAZAS, Mexico: Cameras flashed and reporters crowded around 15-year-old Isela Anahí Santiago Morales as she stepped from a vintage car into the pouring rain. Her friends formed a cordon so she could make it to the stage.

The daughter of local garbage collectors, dressed in a voluminous pink gown, looked both overwhelmed and exhausted.

Just six weeks earlier, Isela's quinceañera - a traditional coming-of-age celebration in Latin America that marks a girl's 15th birthday - had gone almost unnoticed. Her parents had prepared food and invited friends, but, she recalled, "Some didn't come. My dad said we couldn't let the food go to waste, so he posted on Facebook that we had enough left for 40 people."

That simple post transformed her life. Isela lives with her parents and sister in a modest wooden house with a tin roof in Axtla de Terrazas, a town of about 32,000 in the central state of San Luis Potosí. Her mother is of Nahuatl heritage and her parents earn a living collecting garbage. They had stretched their savings to host a small party on July 9.

But when the turnout was scant, the disappointment was sharp. Quinceañeras hold deep cultural weight across Mexico and Latin America, representing a symbolic passage from childhood into womanhood. Families often save for years to host them.

The viral spark came when a local photographer offered a free shoot, followed by DJ and event organizer Jerónimo Rosales, who pledged to provide music.

"I've done sound for many quinceañeras," Rosales said, "and what every girl wants is a nice party, that people attend and share with her. It was awful that she was left alone, and I thought, no, I can't let that pass."

The story spread, and donations started to pour in from local businesses and private citizens. The municipal government offered the town's stadium as a venue. By Saturday evening, thousands were pouring in despite torrential downpours that periodically silenced the bands. (AP)

Nigeria leads world in maternal deaths, WHO says

Pregnancy a nightmare for women in Nigeria's war-torn north

KONDUGA, Nigeria, Aug 26, (AP): Aisha Muhammed was in the third trimester of her pregnancy when she had the convulsions and high blood pressure of eclampsia, a leading cause of maternal death. Her village's only health clinic had no doctor, and the only medical help was 40 kilometers (25 miles) away in one of the world's most dangerous places.



Aisha Muhammed, a 25-year-old woman, left, who had eclampsia, plays with one of her twins at her house in Konduga, in northeast Nigeria's Borno state, July 23, 2025. (AP)

More women die giving birth in Nigeria than anywhere else in the world, according to the World Health Organization. But Muhammed managed to reach the city of Maiduguri and have a cesarean section the next day, delivering twins in April.

"Even though children are a source of joy, if I will have to go through the same ordeal again, I am afraid of getting pregnant," she said, fighting back tears.

The odds are stacked against pregnant women in Nigeria's northeast like never before. The deadly Boko Haram militant group is making a resurgence. And hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign aid from the United States,

once Nigeria's biggest donor, have disappeared under the Trump administration this year.

Roads are closed by fighting. Many doctors and other health workers, as well as aid organizations, have fled.

In an attempt to make up for the lack of US funding, Nigeria has released an emergency \$200 million for its health budget.

Even before these developments, Nigeria had over a quarter of the world's maternal deaths in 2023 - 75,000 - according to the WHO.

At least one in every 100 women dies giving birth in Africa's most populous country, which faces chronic underfunding for health systems that cater to 220 million people.

"If you count five people away, you know a woman who has probably had an issue with maternal morbidity or mortality," said Jumoke Olatunji, a cofounder of the Lagos-based Alabamo Maternal and Child Wellbeing Foundation. Maternal morbidity refers to the health problems caused to the mothers who survive.

The Associated Press visited Borno state, one of the areas most threatened by the Boko Haram insurgency. Its militants have fought a 14-year conflict seeking to impose Islamic law and are best known for its mass kidnappings of schoolchildren.

Now, despite the efforts of Nigeria's military, Boko Haram has been carrying out more assaults, attacking almost daily in the region.

Health workers say it is increasingly difficult to recruit doctors and others, especially outside of the relatively safe state capital, Maiduguri.

"There have been times when there were (advertisements) but nobody is willing," said Dr. Fanya Fwachabe, Borno state sexual and reproductive health manager at the International Rescue Committee, one of the last international aid agencies still operating in the region.

Doctors in Borno can expect to make about \$99 to \$156 a month.

Aid workers described local mothers dying because they could not reach care. Once relatively peaceful communities have again turned into garrison towns for the military, and some healthcare systems have collapsed.

The Borno government acknowledged the problem and cited the insecurity.

Authorities first need to ensure it is safe for health workers, Abubakar Kullima, chief medical director at the Borno State Hospitals Management Board, told the AP.

But the abrupt withdrawal of U.S. funding was a shock.

"We were seriously taken aback by the stop-work order, and we are seriously affected by it because we were not prepared for it," Kullima said.

Falmata Muhammed went into labor suddenly in 2021. With no hospitals in her village of Bulabilin Ngaura, she and her husband set off to Maiduguri, 57 kilometers (35 miles) away. But she started bleeding and delivered the child en route, stillborn.

She said the mental anguish still weighs heavily. Now the 30-year-old is pregnant again. She has since moved to Magumeri, a larger town whose major hospital was burned in a Boko Haram attack in 2020. Now it has only a mobile clinic, which is not equipped to assist with childbirth.

The prospects of more health resources have dwindled in the region.



A diver excavates an 8,500-year-old Stone Age coastal settlement, submerged by sea level rise in the Bay of Aarhus, Denmark. Aug. 8. (AP)

8,500-year-old settlement

Sunken Stone Age village 'discovered' in Denmark

BAY OF AARHUS, Denmark, Aug 26, (AP): Below the dark blue waters of the Bay of Aarhus in northern Denmark, archaeologists search for coastal settlements swallowed by rising sea levels more than 8,500 years ago.

This summer, divers descended about 8 meters (26 feet) below the waves close to Aarhus, Denmark's second-biggest city, and collected evidence of a Stone Age settlement from the seabed.

It's part of a 13.2 million euro (\$15.5 million) six-year international project to map parts of the seabed in the Baltic and North Seas, funded by the European Union, that includes researchers in Aarhus as well as from the UK's University of Bradford and the Lower Saxony Institute for Historical Coastal Research in Germany.

The goal is to explore sunken Northern European landscapes and uncover lost Mesolithic settlements as offshore wind farms and other sea infrastructure expand.

Most evidence of such settlements so far has been found at locations inland from the Stone Age coast, said underwater archaeologist Peter Moe Astrup, who's leading underwater excavations in Denmark.

"Here, we actually have an old coastline. We have a settlement that was positioned directly at the coastline," he said. "What we actually try to find out here is how was life at a coastal settlement."

After the last ice age, huge ice sheets melted and global sea levels rose, sub-

merging Stone Age settlements and forcing the hunter-gatherer human population inland.

About 8,500 years ago, sea levels rose by about 2 meters (6.5 feet) per century, Moe Astrup said.

Moe Astrup and colleagues at the Moesgaard Museum in Højbjerg, just outside Aarhus, have excavated an area of about 40 square meters (430 square feet) at the small settlement they discovered just off today's coast.

Early dives uncovered animal bones, stones tools, arrowheads, a seal tooth, and a small piece of worked wood, likely a simple tool. The researchers are combing the site meter by meter using a kind of underwater vacuum cleaner to collect material for future analysis.

They hope further excavations will find harpoons, fish hooks or traces of fishing structures.

"It's like a time capsule," Moe Astrup said. "When sea level rose, everything was preserved in an oxygen-free environment ... time just stops."

"We find completely well-preserved wood," he added. "We find hazelnut ... Everything is well preserved."

Excavations in the relatively calm and shallow Bay of Aarhus and dives off the coast of Germany will be followed by later work at two locations in the more inhospitable North Sea.

The sea level rise thousands of years ago submerged, among other things, a vast area known as Doggerland that connected Britain with continental Europe and now lies underneath the southern North Sea.

Rare parasite targets open wounds

US reports New World screwworm case: What to know about parasite

NEW YORK, Aug 26, (AP): A Maryland resident who traveled to El Salvador has been diagnosed with New World screwworm - the first reported US case tied to travel to a country with a current outbreak.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed the diagnosis on Aug. 4. Federal health officials acknowledged the infection in an emailed statement Monday.

The person has recovered, and investigators found no transmission to any other people or animals, Maryland health officials said.

New World screwworm is a fly that lays its eggs in open wounds and body openings. The parasite is typically found in South America and the Caribbean.

It is rare in humans but has been a concern to ranchers, as cattle infestations have been moving northward through Central America and Mexico. The CDC is working with the US Agriculture Department to prevent further spread, officials said.

The pest was a recurring problem for the American cattle industry for decades, with Florida and Texas known as hot spots, until the US largely eradicated it in the 1960s and 1970s.

Given that history, the Maryland case is likely not first time an American has ever been diagnosed with it, said Max Scott, a North Carolina State University researcher who has studied it. But this appears to be the first case in a US resident in quite a while, he said.

Here's more to know:

The name refers to a blue-green blowfly that became somewhat infamous after infestations were reported in the 19th century at the Devil's Island penal colony off the coast of South America.

Its Latin species name roughly translates to "man eater," Scott said.

Female flies lay eggs in an open wound or in the nose, eyes or mouth of an animal or person, which quickly grow into larvae that eat the flesh.

The screwworm part of the name comes from those maggots, which can get up to two-thirds of an inch long and look like they are screwing themselves into the flesh.

"It's a nasty parasite," Scott said.

The larvae do not spread from person to person, and they



A New World screwworm larva sits at rest in this undated photo. (AP)

pose a very low overall risk to the public, US health officials said.

According to the CDC, people are at greater risk if they travel to areas with animal infestations and spend time among livestock, sleep outdoors and have an open wound.

Symptoms can also include painful, unexplained wounds or sores that do not heal. One telltale sign is seeing maggots around open sores. Another is a foul-smelling odor from the affected part of the body.

Doctors have to remove the larvae, sometimes through surgery.

Do not try to remove or dispose of the maggots yourself, the CDC says.

It's possible.

Bubonic plague

'Dengue cases' rise in Vietnam

HANOI, Aug 26, (Xinhua): Dengue fever cases in Vietnam's two largest cities, Ho Chi Minh City and the capital Hanoi, have sharply increased in recent weeks.

In southern Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City, more than 2,500 new cases were reported from Aug. 11 to Aug. 17, marking a 38 percent rise compared to the average of the previous four weeks, the local media VnExpress reported Tuesday.

Ho Chi Minh City has recorded over 26,000 cases so far this year, up 220 percent from the same period in 2024, with 15 deaths reported, according to data from the city's Center for Disease Control.

Meanwhile, the capital Hanoi reported 145 new cases from Aug. 15 to Aug. 22, bringing the number of affected wards and communes to 59, with six active outbreak clusters, Vietnam News Agency reported recently.

Bubonic plague: Mongolia's Ecological Police Department on Tuesday issued a bubonic plague warning amid fear of the spread of this disease in Ulan Bator.

The warning came after 22 dead marmots were discovered and seized by police last week from a vehicle travelling from western provinces to the capital city of Ulan Bator.

Currently, relevant officials of the country, including police officers and inspectors, are working 24 hours at all checkpoints on the outskirts of Mongolia's capital to prevent the spread of bubonic plague.

A total of 137 soums (administrative subdivisions) of 17 provinces in Mongolia are now risk areas of bubonic plague, according to the country's National Center for Zoonotic Diseases.

Cholera: At least 63 people have died following a cholera outbreak in eastern Chad, the country's health ministry said in a statement on Monday.

A total of 938 suspected cases have been recorded, 52 samples analyzed, and 39 cases confirmed in Ouaddai Province, where the outbreak has been ongoing since July, according to the statement.

Early Monday, Public Health Minister Abdelmadjid Abderahim met with health authorities in Abeche, the capital of Ouaddai Province, to discuss strategies to prevent the disease from spreading.

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Stewart has 19 points in return from injury to lift Liberty past Sun

Aces secure playoff spot with win over Sky

CHICAGO, Aug 26, (AP) — Jackie Young had 22 points and seven assists, A'ja Wilson added 18 points and nine rebounds, and the Las Vegas Aces secured a WNBA playoff spot with a 79-74 victory over the Chicago Sky.

Las Vegas (25-14) won its 11th straight game to become the second team to clinch a playoff spot this season.

Chelsea Gray had 14 points and seven assists, and NaLyssa Smith scored 10 points for the Aces.

Ariel Atkins led Chicago (9-28) with a season-high 30 points, and Kamilla Cardoso had 19 points and 10 rebounds. Angel Reese added 10 points and 17 rebounds for her league-leading 20th double-double this season. Reese also passed Tina Charles (45) for the most double-doubles through a player's first two seasons in WNBA history.

Young scored Las Vegas' final 12 points of the first half, capped by a 3-pointer with 0.2 seconds left for a 44-32 lead. She finished the half with 20 points on 8-of-10 shooting, including 4 of 5 from 3-point range.

Reese made a fast-break layup with 2:37 left in the fourth to give Chicago a 74-73 lead, its first since it was up 7-5.

Gray sank a 3-pointer for a 76-74 lead and Wilson made a jumper from the corner of the free-throw line on their next possession for a four-point advantage.

Chicago honored Candace Parker at halftime by raising her retired No. 3 jersey to the rafters of Wintrust Arena, alongside the team's 2021 championship banner she helped the Sky win. Earlier this summer, Parker had her jersey retired in Los Angeles, where she helped win a championship in 2016.

She's the second WNBA player to have her number retired by two different teams. Lindsay Whalen had her jersey retired by both Connecticut and Minnesota.

Breanna Stewart scored 19 points in her return from injury and Jonquel Jones added 18 to help the New York Liberty beat the Connecticut Sun 81-79. Stewart missed the previous 13 games with a bone bruise in her right knee. She was limited to just 21 minutes, but made the most of them.

New York (23-15) trailed 59-58 heading into the final quarter before Jones hit a 3-pointer to get them going. The teams exchanged the lead over the next few minutes before the Liberty went on a 9-0 run to take a 74-66 lead with 3:47 left. Sabrina Ionescu hit four three throws to get the run started and Emma Meesseman capped it with a layup.

Connecticut (9-28) didn't go away and got to 81-79 with 23.6 seconds left after Aaliyah Edwards hit two free throws.

Ionescu then ran the clock down before Stewart threw the ball away to Leila Lacan. She went the length of the court but Ionescu hustled back and stripped the ball from Lacan with 2.2 seconds left to seal the win.

The Sun snapped their season-best three-game winning streak. Aneesh Morrow had 18 points and 15 rebounds to lead Connecticut.

New York built a 27-15 lead after one quarter as Jones and Stewart staked them out to the big lead. Connecticut rallied behind Lacan, who was a last-minute addition to the lineup. She was doubtful to play before the game because of an injury in her right eye suffered in the last game. She finished with 22 points.



New York Liberty forward Breanna Stewart holds the ball during a WNBA basketball game. (AP)

Inter crushes Torino to lay down Serie A marker in season opener



Udinese's Oumar Solet, left, and Verona's Antoine Bernède fight for the ball during the Italian Serie A soccer match between Udinese and Hellas Verona at the Bluenergy Stadium in Udine, Italy. (AP)

Bilbao and Getafe win to maintain perfect starts in La Liga

MILAN, Italy, Aug 26, (AP) — Inter Milan got its Serie A campaign off to the perfect start when Marcus Thuram scored twice in a comfortable 5-0 win over a dismal Torino on Monday.

Alessandro Bastoni glanced a header home from a corner kick after 17 minutes and Thuram added a second 18 minutes later.

Lautaro Martínez took advantage of a defensive mistake to make it 3-0 early in the second half, and Thuram made it four just after the hour mark.

Ange-Yoan Bonny completed the scoring after another defensive mix up.

The result delighted new Inter coach Christian Chivu and the fans hoping the team can put last season's poor finish behind it.

Inter narrowly lost the scudetto to Napoli and succumbed to Paris Saint-Germain in a one-sided Champions League final.

Earlier, Udinese and Verona completed a tepid 1-1 draw.

Both teams finished on 44 points last season and there was nothing



Inter Milan's Marcus Thuram, front, scores his side's 2nd goal during a Serie A soccer match between Inter Milan and Torino, at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy. (AP)

between them in their season opener.

Both goals also came from second-half corners.

Udinese scored first when Thomas Kristensen headed home Sandi Lovric's right-foot delivery.

But 20 minutes later, Suat Ser-

dar reacted quickest to Giovane's knockdown and nipped in to score from point-blank range.

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Oihan Sancet scored the only goal from the penalty spot as Athletic Bil-

bao beat Rayo Vallecano at home to stay unbeaten in La Liga.

The midfielder was fouled by Florian Lejeune inside the box midway through the second half and took the spot kick himself, sending it straight down the middle.

It was a rare moment of excitement in a dull match that left Bilbao one of five teams to win its first two La Liga games.

Villarreal tops the table on goal difference after beating Girona 5-0. Real Madrid, which put three past Oviedo with no reply the same day, was tied in second with Barcelona.

Rayo was eighth place with three points. Getafe was one of the five teams to win two from two after winning at Sevilla 2-1.

Adrian Liso scored Getafe's goals to take his season tally to three in two games.

His first after 15 minutes took a deflection, but his second six minutes into the second period was an assured finish. In between, Juan Iglesias headed into his own net.

Sevilla was one of four clubs still to get off the mark beside Girona, and newly promoted sides Oviedo and Levante.

Leon opts to play for parents' home country

Another Swiss youth star chooses Kosovo ahead of crucial WC clash

GENEVA, Aug 26, (AP) — Switzerland Under-21 player Leon Avdullahu has opted to play for his parents' home country Kosovo, ahead of a match between the two senior national teams on Sept. 5 in their 2026 World Cup qualifying group.

The Swiss soccer federation was "disappointed that he now wishes to pursue a different path," national teams manager Pierluigi Tami said Tuesday in a statement.

Switzerland and Kosovo have close soccer ties, especially because of migration from the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s that brought future stars including Granit Xhaka and Xherdan Shaqiri.

The relationship became more complex when the now-independent republic of Kosovo officially joined soccer bodies UEFA and FIFA in 2016. FIFA rules let players eligible for more than one country to change, typically before they play a competitive game for the senior national team.

The switch by 21-year-old Hoffenheim midfielder Avdullahu was confirmed late Monday by Kosovo soccer federation president Agim Ademi in an Instagram post.

In Switzerland, Tami said: "However, I wish to make it clear that we only want players in our national teams who identify 100% with our country and our national team."

Avdullahu should now be available

for selection when Kosovo plays next week against Switzerland at Basel - the club where he grew up and played until an offseason 8 million euros (\$9.3 million) transfer to Germany.

Switzerland captain Xhaka and Shaqiri, who retired from the national team last year, both starred for Basel and then represented the adopted country of their families who have roots in Kosovo and Albania.

Switzerland youth internationals regularly change eligibility to play for Kosovo, and FIFA this month approved those moves for prospects Kevin Krasniqi and Leon Frokaj.

Swiss soccer has "already dealt with this subject several times," Tami said. One of the most famous cases was Ivan Rakitić, another Basel protege and Switzerland Under-21 player, who went on to play more than 100 games for Croatia including in the 2018 World Cup final loss to France.

Switzerland saw another top prospect decide to change eligibility this month, as 18-year-old Fiorentina defender Eman Košpo said he would represent Bosnia-Herzegovina in future.

Switzerland has qualified to play at the last five men's World Cups with key squad members who have family ties to the Balkans, including Valon Behrami, Shaqiri, Xhaka, Blerim Džemaili and Mario Gavranović. AC Milan playmaker Ardon Jashari shapes to join them.

Kosovo and Switzerland are in one of the toughest European qualifying groups for the World Cup with Slovenia and Sweden. Only the group winner in November will advance directly to the finals tournament in the United States, Canada and Mexico.



Avdullahu

Best of the Rest

St. Louis City FC fires Lutz: St. Louis City FC fired sporting director Lutz Pfannenstiel on Monday, two years after the MLS expansion club won the regular-season Western Conference title and amid a trying season in which it has plummeted down the standings.

St. Louis City is 14th out of 15 teams in the conference with seven matches remaining.

"These decisions are never easy and with the legacy Lutz built during his time here, he will always be part of the extended City family," club president and general manager Diego Gigliani said. "From the very beginning, Lutz has shown real passion and commitment for this project and the foundation he established was integral to the club's historic first season."

"As we enter the next phase of the club's long-term plan to lift up the region and help both the team and St. Louis achieve its potential, the next five years will be extremely important, and we believe a change in sporting leadership will help in the club's pursuit of its goals. Unfortunately, we've struggled to create sporting stability and haven't been able to meet the expectations of our owners or our fans, despite increasing our investment in the squad consistently."

Gigliani and St. Louis City technical director John Hackworth will work with the team's sporting staff on roster management and construction, including player contract negotiations, as the club searches for a permanent sporting director. (AP)

Will O'Rourke out for 3 months: New Zealand fast bowler Will O'Rourke will be sidelined for up to three months because of a stress fracture in his lower back.

O'Rourke sustained the injury during New Zealand's test series in Zimbabwe earlier this month.

He will not have to undergo surgery but will take part in a strength and conditioning program.

O'Rourke is likely to miss New Zealand's Twenty20 series against Australia, T20 and one-day series against England in October and white ball series against the West Indies in November. He could return for New Zealand's three-test series against the West Indies in December.

The 24-year-old O'Rourke has quickly become a mainstay of New Zealand's pace attack, taking 39 wickets in 11 tests since his debut against South Africa last year. (AP)

Will they last?

Startup women's leagues on the rise, fueled by popularity of women's sports

WASHINGTON, Aug 26, (AP) — When Justine Siegal and Keith Stein envisioned the United States' first professional women's baseball league in 70 years, they wanted to do it right. So they examined the blueprints of successful women's leagues and studied the pitfalls that caused promising ventures to fail.

Their research helped shape the Women's Professional Baseball League, launching next year, the latest in a wave of ventures looking to capitalize on the unprecedented rise in popularity of women's sports.

For such a startup to be sustainable and profitable, mainstream recognition is key. Good salaries and financial incentives may attract star players who could draw

crowds and all-important TV deals. But analysts warn that exposure on television doesn't guarantee success, and that a solid social media presence, strong branding and community development are imperative - along with a dose of good luck.

At least eight women's pro leagues have launched in the past three years, including the WPBL, Unrivaled - a fast-paced 3-on-3 women's basketball league that debuted this year - and the Professional Women's Hockey League, seizing on rising viewership, bigger sponsorship deals and a fan base more eager than ever to support female athletes. Basketball is leading the surge, with college standouts like Caitlin Clark becoming household names and draw-

ing record audiences for the WNBA.

"There is a pipeline of women from around the world who are at the elite level and ready to showcase their abilities," said WPBL co-founder Siegal, the first woman to coach an MLB team, the Oakland Athletics, "and there's a fan base ready to watch and ready to receive and cheer them on."

Among the recent women's pro circuit additions are the PWHL, which wrapped up its second season in May, and soccer's Gainbridge Super League, which debuted last August. Volleyball entered the spotlight in 2024 with the launch of the Professional Volleyball Federation and League One Volleyball.

Unrivaled, co-founded by WNBA stars Napheesa Collier and Breanna Stewart, finished its inaugural season with players' salaries averaging around \$200,000 - the highest of any women's pro league. Fan engagement was high, with more than 11.9 million viewers tuning in to watch the games on TNT and truTV, signaling its long-term viability.

"Our strategy was very simple. We knew we could find success if we had the top players playing," said Unrivaled president Alex Bazzell, a basketball trainer and Collier's husband.

"The pinnacle of women's sports, both from an economic standpoint and a star power standpoint, is women's basketball," Bazzell continued.

"So we had this inherent advantage from day one with the star power to activate social media and all the things that we needed."

While Unrivaled was able to leverage its players' popularity to fuel its success,

launching a women's sports league has historically been an uphill climb. Leagues such as the WNBA and National Women's Soccer League have withstood years of hardship relative to their male counterparts.

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SPORTS

Zarazua pulls off major upset over Keys at US Open

Alcaraz cruises past Opelka in U.S. Open opener

NEW YORK, Aug 26, (AP): Pretty much from the get-go at the U.S. Open on Monday, Madison Keys could tell she wasn't hitting the ball well or feeling very much at all like the self-confident player who claimed her first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in January.

After 89 unforced errors, including 14 double-faults, the No. 6-seeded Keys was gone from Flushing Meadows in the first round with a 6-7 (10), 7-6 (3), 7-5 loss to 82nd-ranked Renata Zarazua of Mexico.

Her first U.S. Open with the status of major champion - thanks to defeating No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in the final at Melbourne Park - was over just as it began.

"You always kind of feel first-round jitters and, as the day is getting closer, feeling a little bit more and more nervous," said Keys, who played with her left thigh heavily taped. "But I feel like, for whatever



Renata Zarazua, of Mexico, returns a shot to Madison Keys, of the United States, during the first round of the US Open tennis championships, Monday. (AP)

reason, today I just couldn't separate myself from ... feeling like winning matters just way too much."

She made so many mistakes off the spin-laden shots coming her way that Zarazua needed to produce just eight winners to earn the biggest victory of her career. Zarazua lost in the first or second round of all eight of her previous Slam appearances.

Yet somehow, it was Zarazua who managed to deal with any nervousness better, even though she was competing in cavernous Arthur Ashe Stadium for the first time and had only had a chance to hit there once a couple of days prior.

The 5-foot-3 Zarazua came into the day with a 0-6 record against opponents ranked in the top 10.

When the match ended with Keys missing a forehand, Zarazua smiled as wide as possible, held her racket atop her head, then placed a hand over her face.

This one certainly was memorable, in part because it did not come easily and lasted 3 hours, 10 minutes.

Zarazua trailed by a set - after frittering away five chances to take the opener - and 3-0 in the second.

Quite a daunting deficit. But she never went away.

While Keys was one of 25 American players in the women's singles draw, the 27-year-old Zarazua is Mexico's lone entrant in the bracket. She moved to San Antonio as a teen, and is now based in Florida.

Brazilian teenager João Fonseca, who turned 19 on Thursday, won his U.S. Open debut, defeating Miomir Kecmanovic 7-6 (3), 7-6 (5), 6-3 in front of a raucous crowd of his countrymen. Another precocious player, 18-year-old Canadian Vicky Mboko, who was seeded 22nd, was eliminated by two-time



Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, returns a shot to Reilly Opelka, of the United States, during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Monday. (AP)

major champion Barbora Krejčíková 6-3, 6-2. Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitová, who is 35, played her last match before retirement, losing to Diane Parry 6-1, 6-0, and 2022 U.S. Open semifinalist Caroline Garcia, 31, also exited

the final tournament of her career, eliminated 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 by Kamilla Rakhimova. Frances Tiafoe, a two-time semifinalist in New York, beat Yoshihito Nishioka in straight sets. At night, Venus Williams lost her first Grand Slam match in two years,

before Carlos Alcaraz showed up with a new buzz cut and beat Reilly Opelka 6-4, 7-5, 6-4.

A packed program for Day 3 of the first round includes Grand Slam champions Coco Gauff, Iga Swiatek and Jannik Sinner. Gauff's opponent

is Ajla Tomljanovic, who beat Serena Williams at the U.S. Open in the last match of 23-time major title winner's career. This is Gauff's first match since she began working with biomechanics coach Gavin MacMillan in a bid to improve her serve.

Not a quest for positions

Al-Raddan: Backing Kuwaiti sports is a national duty

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Ahmed Abdullah Al-Raddan is one of Kuwait's most influential sports supporters, known for sponsoring major clubs like Al-Qadisiya and contributing to farewell ceremonies for national team stars. He has also left a lasting impact by supporting community and youth sports initiatives, alongside his prominent role in economics and investment.

Al-Raddan believes sports reflect a nation's culture and inspire widespread public enthusiasm. He emphasizes that his involvement is driven purely by patriotism, without personal gain or ambitions for official positions.

In an exclusive interview, Al-Raddan outlined steps to develop Kuwaiti sports, stressing that everyone has a national responsibility to support young athletes and national teams. He describes sports as a "trust upon all of us" and highlights youth investment as the foundation for the future of Kuwaiti athletics.

Private Sector: A True Partner

Al-Raddan sees the private sector not merely as a financial contributor but as a key partner in shaping the future of sports. "Everyone has a national responsibility to support our youth and national teams," he says. "Sports represent Kuwait on the international stage."

No Ambition for Positions

He reiterated that he is not pursuing positions within federations or clubs. "Sports need a real shake-up to remove conflicts and personal disputes," he said, emphasizing that collective, sincere efforts are the only way to restore sports to its rightful place.

Al-Qadisiya: A Lifelong Passion

Al-Raddan's support for Al-Qadisiya Club stems from deep affection. "Supporting Al-Qadisiya and organizing farewell events for club and national stars, like Amir Mutooq, is the least I can do for



A file photo of Al-Qadisiya.

Kuwaiti sports," he noted. He also invests in youth development through sponsorship of tournaments, including the Kuwaiti Academy League, stressing that nurturing young talent is key to the future of sports.

Reviving Al-Qadisiya's Glory

He praised the current club management, saying they have worked tirelessly across all sports despite occasional setbacks. "Returning Al-Qadisiya to its golden era requires unity among its leaders, reliance on homegrown talent, and strong fan support," he explained, noting that the club boasts Kuwait's largest fan base.

Sports Law: A Window of Hope

Al-Raddan is optimistic about Kuwait's new sports law: "If implemented as planned, it could mark the true return of Kuwaiti sports to its golden era."

However, he called for essential amendments, particularly



Ahmed Al-Raddan

National Team Needs Patience and Professionalism

regarding term limits, to ensure leadership rotation and prevent monopolization. He emphasized that achievement and performance should be the primary criteria for continuity.

"We don't need to test him."

Brazil, third in South American qualifying, hosts eliminated Chile at the Maracana in Rio de Janeiro

on Sept. 4. Five days later, Brazil is at Bolivia, which is fighting for a spot in the international qualifying playoffs.

Brazil: Goalkeepers: Alisson (Liverpool), Bento (Al-Nassr), Hugo Souza (Corinthians)
Defenders: Alessandro (Lille), Alex Sandro (Flamengo), Caio Henrique (Monaco), Vanderson (Monaco), Douglas Santos (Zenit), Fabricio Bruno (Cruzeiro), Gabriel Magalhães (Arsenal), Marquinhos (Paris Saint Germain), Wesley (Roma)
Midfielders: Andrey Santos (Chelsea), Bruno Guimarães (Newcastle), Casemiro (Manchester United), Joelinton (Newcastle), Lucas Paquetá (West Ham)
Forwards: Estêvão (Chelsea), João Pedro (Chelsea), Gabriel Martinelli (Arsenal), Kaio Jorge (Cruzeiro), Luiz Henrique (Zenit), Matheus Cunha (Manchester United), Raphinha (Barcelona), Richarlison (Tottenham).

Concluding his remarks, Al-Raddan addressed the private sector: "Sports are a trust upon all of us. Supporting them is a national duty first and foremost, and an investment second. Sports showcase Kuwait internationally and build capable, ambitious youth."

Al-Sulaibikhat club launches pre-season training camp

CAIRO, Aug 26: The Board of Directors of Al-Sulaibikhat Club has approved a two-week training camp in Cairo, Egypt, for the first basketball team, beginning in early September. The camp will feature four friendly matches against leading Egyptian league teams as part of the squad's preparation for the new season.

Head coach Fahad Burjas confirmed that the club has strengthened its roster with the addition of Iranian forward Salar Monji and American guard Mikey Dixon. Monji (2.04m), who previously played for Al-Arabi, is expected to be a major asset with his height and technical skills, while Dixon's impressive performances last season earned him a contract renewal.

To further bolster the team, Al-Su-

laibikhat also signed Abdulrahman Al-Sahool from Al-Arabi and promising youngster Mohammad Al-Dahes from Al-Jahra.

Burjas stated that the club's ambition this season is to break into the Final Four and challenge for the top positions. "For the past three years, we have finished fifth in the league and fourth in the Cup. This year, we have intensified preparations to develop the squad and compete seriously for a place among the top three," he said.

He expressed his gratitude to the club's management for their strong support, noting that the external training camp and the recruitment of high-level professionals will have a significant impact on the team's performance in the new season.



Fahad Burjas keeps a close eye on the game.

Injured Neymar out, Paquetá back for Brazil's last qualifiers

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug 26, (AP): West Ham midfielder Lucas Paquetá was summoned by Brazil coach Carlo Ancelotti for the first time on Monday for the last two World Cup qualifiers against Chile and Bolivia next month.

Paquetá has already played five qualifiers in the campaign but not for Brazil since Ancelotti took charge in May. The coach said he wants to get to know him better.

Paquetá was cleared last month of spot-fixing charges brought against him by the English Football Association two years ago. He scored for West Ham on Friday in the 5-1 loss to Chelsea in the Premier League.

Brazil has already qualified for the 2026 World Cup, and strikers Neymar, Vinícius Júnior and Rodrygo were left out of the latest squad.

Neymar suffered a muscle injury in training last Thursday, his Santos club said.



Brazil's national soccer team head coach Carlo Ancelotti waves during a news conference to announce the players who will compete in the World Cup qualifiers against Chile and Bolivia, in Rio de Janeiro. (AP)

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Liverpool's Rio Ndombeho celebrates after scoring his side's third goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Newcastle United at St James' Park, Newcastle, England. (AP)

Sports

Developing a promising Arab tennis generation tops federation priorities: Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber



Participants pose with officials during the closing ceremony.

TUNIS, Aug 26: The Arab Tennis Championship for boys and girls under 14 concluded successfully, organized by the Arab Tennis Federation under the leadership of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, in cooperation with the Tunisian Tennis Federation.

The event took place at the Tennis Club of Marsa Sports Future, with the participation of ten Arab countries.

In the boys' category, Morocco secured first place, followed by Tunisia in second and Syria in third. In the girls' competition, Tunisia dominated by winning

both first and second place with its two teams, while Egypt claimed third place.

The winners were honored at a closing ceremony held in Tunis, where Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber, Chairman of the Arab Tennis Federation, presented the trophies. The ceremony was attended by Kuwait's Ambassador to Tunisia Mansour Al-Omar, several Arab ambassadors, Vice President of the International Tennis Federation Salma Mouelhi, Arab Federation Secretary Ali Lafi Al-Mutairi, Secretary General of both the Arab and Egyptian Federations Walid Sami, and officials from the Tunisian Tennis Federation.

In his remarks, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber expressed his pride in the success of the championship, thanking the Tunisian Tennis Federation for its cooperation and efforts to ensure excellent organization and presentation.

He emphasized that the strong participation of ten Arab countries represents a major milestone for Arab tennis. He reaffirmed that the Federation is committed to developing the sport, broadening its reach across the region, and nurturing new generations capable of representing the Arab world on the international stage.

Kuwait claims double gold at Arab Athletics Championship

Kuwait Ambassador pledges support for team

TUNIS, Aug 26, (KUNA): Kuwait's junior athletics team claimed four medals on Monday, including two golds and two bronzes, at the U18 Arab Athletics Championship held in Tunis from August 23 to 27.

Mohammad Al-Duaij captured gold in the high jump, setting a new personal best of 2.06 meters, while Asian champion Abdullatif Faisal won gold in the 800-meter race with a time of 1:52.64, finishing at the top among Arab competitors.

Abdulrahman Al-Azmi earned bronze in the long jump, establishing a new Kuwaiti record for the youth category with a distance of 6.80 meters, and rising star Mahdi Al-Sabbagh claimed bronze in the pole vault with a clearance of 4.20 meters.



Mohammad Al-Duaij with Dr. Nasser Al-Jarallah

Kuwait's junior national team coach, Dr. Nasser Al-Jarallah, told KUNA that these results reflect the success of a long-term development plan implemented by the national team committee and the athletics federation.

The Arab U18 Athletics Championship brings together athletes from 18 countries, providing a platform to showcase and develop emerging talent

across various events.

Kuwait's Ambassador to Tunisia, Mansour Al-Omar, reaffirmed on Monday Kuwait's commitment to supporting its athletes in all tournaments and international competitions.

The remarks came during Ambassador Al-Omar's reception of the National Athletics Team Delegation ahead of the 11th Arab Youth Athletics Championship, which began on August 23 in Tunisia and will conclude on August 27. The Ambassador congratulated the athletes on their achievements so far and wished them continued success in upcoming events.

Head of the delegation, Abdul Aziz Manouh, praised the Embassy's warm hospitality and daily support, presenting a commemorative shield to Ambassador Al-Omar. Al-Manouh emphasized that the championship is part of a strategic plan to develop the next generation of Kuwaiti athletes by giving them experience against top competitors in the Arab world ahead of future international championships.

Arab Handball Federation unveils logo for 40th Clubs Championship in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Arab Handball Federation has officially unveiled the logo for the 40th Arab Clubs Championship for League and Cup winners, scheduled to take place in Kuwait from September 12 to 22.

The tournament will feature 10 teams competing in the "Land of Friendship and Peace": Kuwait Club (host), Kazma, Al-Sulaibikhat, National Bank of Egypt, Al-Hashd Al-Riyadi (Iraq), Al-Taliaa, Al-Nawaeer, Al-Shabab (Syria), Al-Ahli, and Qatar SC.

Kuwait teams are preparing for the championship through overseas training camps.

The Kuwait Club and Al-Sulaibikhat are training in Bosnia, while Kazma is based in Izmit, Turkey.

Teams have also reinforced their lineups with professional players. Al-Kuwait added Montenegrin Vladan Lipovina and Portuguese Victor Ituriza to join current Qatari professional



The 40th Arab Clubs Championship logo.

Francis Marzou, under Algerian coach Said Hejazi.

Al-Safeer signed Slovenian Ljupko Godec alongside Tunisian professionals Anwar Ben Abdallah and Mohamed Farad, guided by Serbian coach Bozo. Al-Sulaibikhat, coached by national

coach Walid Salmeen, brought in French-Algerian Nouri Ben Halima and Portuguese Gonzalo Ribeiro, while still seeking a third professional player.

Al-Kuwait enters the tournament as the defending champion, having defeated Egypt's Zamalek in the 2023 final in Dammam and overcome Al-Salmiya in last year's final.

The team aims to complete a three-peat by capitalizing on home advantage and thorough preparation.

Meanwhile, the Burgan handball team has returned from its Bosnia training camp, where it participated in several friendly matches.

In addition, the Kuwait Handball Federation conducted physical fitness tests for referees, using the Shuttle Run exercise at the federation hall.

The tests saw strong participation and commitment, with referees demonstrating excellent physical readiness ahead of the new season.

16-year-old supersub scores last-gasp winner

Agony for Newcastle, ecstasy for Liverpool in thriller

NEWCASTLE, England, Aug 26, (AP): Sixteen-year-old substitute Rio Ndombeho scored a sensational last-gasp winner as Liverpool overcame 10-man Newcastle 3-2 in a Premier League game for the ages.

Newcastle played the second half with 10 men after Anthony Gordon was sent off just before halftime. When Liverpool, 1-0 up at the break, went 2-0 ahead seconds into the new half it looked like game over for Eddie Howe's depleted side.

But Bruno Guimarães' header in the 57th minute gave it a lifeline and the crowd of 52,200 at St James' Park erupted in the 88th when substitute William Osula got on the end of a long punt to poke the ball past Allison and level the scores.

Second-half injuries to Newcastle's Sandro Tonali and Fabian Schär prompted at least 11 minutes of added time and, as Newcastle continued to pound Liverpool's ragged rearguard, it looked like it might grab the most unlikely of winners.

However, Arne Slot's late substitutions shifted the balance again. Ndombeho was given his Premier League debut six minutes into added time and four minutes later the unmarked winger swept home the winner with aplomb.

The goal came four days before his 17th birthday and made him the fourth youngest scorer in Premier League history behind James Vaughan, James Milner, and Wayne Rooney.

"This is what makes the Premier League so special," Slot said. "Every



Liverpool's Hugo Ekitike, left, and Newcastle's Fabian Schär fight for the ball during the Premier League soccer match between Newcastle and Liverpool in Newcastle, England. (AP)

fan around the world would have enjoyed watching this game of football, also because their fans were amazing. I'm not too sure it was a football match today. It was set-piece after set-piece, long throw after long throw. We didn't collapse and stood strong. We didn't play well enough on the ball. I don't think there was so much open play."

The action on the field overshadowed the behind-the-scenes drama that dominated the buildup to what has become one of the league's most anticipated matchups.

Most of the pre-game debate surrounded the fate of Newcastle's unhappy striker Alexander Isak. The Sweden forward has been prolific for Newcastle over the last two seasons but he wants a transfer and has not

played since the Saudi-owned club rejected Liverpool's 110 million pound bid this month.

There was much talk about how Newcastle fans would confront the controversy, and before kickoff they unveiled a flag saluting coach Howe and a banner with the pointed message: "Nothing Is Achieved Alone. We Are A City. A Whole Population."

Special Olympics MENA Equestrian Championship kicks off in Al Ain

AL AIN, Aug 26: The inaugural regional equestrian competition of the Special Olympics for the Middle East and North Africa officially opened in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates. Organized by Special Olympics UAE, the event brings together athletes from Kuwait and 10 other Arab nations, with competitions running until next Thursday.

During the opening ceremony, Sadiqa Al-Ansari, Secretary General of Al-Tamooh Club and head of the Kuwaiti delegation, emphasized that Kuwait's participation reflects its commitment to integrating athletes with intellectual disabilities into regional and international sporting events. She highlighted equestrian sport as one that demands high levels of focus, discipline, and specialized skills in horse training.

Al-Ansari noted that the championship not only provides a platform for competition but also fosters stronger connections among athletes across the region and encourages the exchange of expertise among coaches and offi-



The Kuwaiti delegation at the opening ceremony.

cials. She praised the efforts of Special Olympics UAE for their excellent organization and support for all delegations.

The Kuwaiti delegation is represented by riders Basma Al-Busaifi, Maryam Dhiab, and Abdullah Al-Ali, under the guidance of coaches Sarah Bouhamdi and Mohammed Al-Kandari.

Dortmund rewards Kovac with extension

DORTMUND, Germany, Aug 26, (AP): Borussia Dortmund coach Niko Kovac has extended his contract by a year through June 2027.

"Niko has thrown himself wholeheartedly into his role at BVB," Lars Ricken, the club's managing director for sport, said in a statement on Tuesday. "He knows football inside out, he has clear principles, he's thoroughly honest, he's direct in his communication and he rewards good performance."

Kovac, who previously won trophies with Bayern Munich and Eintracht Frankfurt, took over in February when the team was 11th in the Bundesliga after a difficult start to the season under Nuri Sahin. He made the team more resilient and oversaw a marked improvement to finish fourth for Champions League qualification on the final day.